

# Summarized Results of the Public Opinion Survey on the "Public's View on Current Cross-Strait Relations"

(April 3-8, 2024)

- About 90% of the public disapprove of the CCP's military aircraft and warships continuing to operate around Taiwan, and even deliberately crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait (92.6%). The people disapprove of the CCP's suppression of Taiwan's international space (90.1%) and its "one country, two systems" formula (89.6%). About 80% of the respondents disagree with the CCP's statement that "the results of Taiwan's presidential election cannot change the basic fact that Taiwan is part of China" (84.7%). They also disapprove of the CCP's insistence that cross-Strait dialogue can only be resumed under the "1992 Consensus embodying the one China principle" (78.8%).
- More than 90% of the public support the Coast Guard Administration's law enforcement against or expulsion of trespassing mainland Chinese ships in the waters around Taiwan's Kinmen area to safeguard national security and fishermen's rights (90.9%). Nearly 70% of the public agree with the statement that the completion of ports and terminals on Taiping Island in the Nansha Islands during President Tsai's tenure is sufficient to show the world that Taiping Island is a territory of the Republic of China (69.2%). More than 80% of the public support the government's call for two-way cross-Strait travel by tour groups to be allowed based on the "principle of reciprocity" (80.4%).
- The vast majority of the public advocate for "maintaining the status quo defined in a broader sense" (88.8%). More than 90% of the people support the government's position of continuing to enhance Taiwan's self-defense capabilities to safeguard national sovereignty and Taiwan's democracy

(93.3%). A similar percentage of respondents support the proposition that Taiwan's future should be decided by the 23 million people of Taiwan (91.1%).

## **I. Survey Background and Methods**

In order to understand the views of the Taiwanese people on issues related to cross-Strait relations, the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) commissioned Taiwan Real Survey to conduct a telephone survey of adults aged 20 and over in Taiwan from April 3 to 8, 2024. A total of 1,080 valid samples were obtained, with a sampling error of plus or minus 2.98% at a 95% confidence level.

## **II. Major Findings**

### **(1) Views on the CCP's Taiwan-related talks at the "Two Sessions" and its recent actions toward Taiwan**

About 90% of the public disapprove of the CCP's military aircraft and warships continuing to operate around Taiwan, and even deliberately crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait (92.6%). The CCP recently wielded checkbook diplomacy to lure Taiwan's diplomatic ally, the Republic of Nauru, into severing diplomatic relations with Taiwan. It also blocked Taiwan's bid to host the Men's Asian U20 Volleyball Championship as part of its suppression of our international space (90.1%). The public also disapprove of the CCP's "one country, two systems" that views Taiwan as a local government and special administrative region under its rule and with no space for the existence of the Republic of China (89.6%). About 80% of the people disagree with the CCP's statement that "Taiwan's presidential election is merely a local election in China, and its results cannot change the basic fact that Taiwan is part of China" (84.7%). They also disagree with the CCP's insistence that cross-Strait dialogue can only

be resumed under the "1992 Consensus embodying the one China principle" (78.8%).

## **(2) Views on the government's cross-Strait policies**

In view of the recent trespassing of mainland Chinese ships in the waters around Taiwan's Kinmen area, more than 90% of the public support the Coast Guard Administration's law enforcement or expulsion to safeguard national security and fishermen's rights (90.9%). The people support the government's continued enhancement of self-defense capabilities in defense of national sovereignty and Taiwan's democracy without making provocations in cross-Strait relations so as to maintain the peaceful status quo across the Taiwan Strait (93.3%). A similar percentage of the public support the government's call for the future of Taiwan and the development of cross-Strait relations to be decided by the 23 million people of Taiwan (91.1%). More than 80% of the people support the government's proposition that two-way cross-Strait travel by tour groups should be allowed based on the "principle of reciprocity." That is, if Taiwan allowed tour groups to visit mainland China, the CCP should reciprocate by allowing its tour groups to visit Taiwan (80.4%). Nearly 70% of the public agree that "The completion of expansion and renovation of the ports and terminals of Taiping Island in the Nansha Islands during President Tsai's tenure has strengthened security and protection capabilities. These projects are sufficient to show the world that Taiping Island is a territory of the Republic of China" (69.2%).

## **(3) Views on cross-Strait exchanges and interactions**

In light of the CCP's recent revision of the "Counterespionage Law" that expanded the scope of espionage activities and led to increasing cases of Taiwanese people being detained for long periods of time for interrogation when visiting mainland China, nearly 70% of the public believe that it will affect their

willingness to visit mainland China (69.9%). As for views on the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 39.2% of the public believe it to be "too slow," followed by the percentages believing the pace to be "just right" and "too fast" at 37.8% and 7.3%, respectively.

#### **(4) Views on unification or independence**

An overwhelming majority of the public (88.8%) continue to support "maintaining the status quo defined in a broader sense" (including "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later," "maintaining the status quo and moving towards unification later," "maintaining the status quo and moving towards independence later," and "maintaining the status quo indefinitely"). Among the six possible positions, "maintaining the status quo indefinitely" and "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later" enjoyed the highest level of support (37.9% and 26.3%, respectively), followed by "maintaining the status quo and moving towards independence later" (19.5%). Less than 10% of the public support "maintaining the status quo and moving towards unification later," "declaring unification as soon as possible" or "declaring independence as soon as possible" (5.1%, 2.2%, and 5.4%, respectively).

#### **(5) Attitude of the mainland Chinese government toward the Republic of China**

The percentage of the public believing that the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the government of the Republic of China is "unfriendly" (72.4%) is higher than the percentage believing it is "friendly" (17.5%). Regarding the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the Taiwanese people, 56.6% of the public believe it is unfriendly, higher than those who believe it is "friendly" (33.3%).