

Peace Parity

The Government's
Current Cross-Strait Policy

Democracy Dialogue

Foreword

On May 20, 2020, President Tsai Ing-wen was sworn in as the 15th president of the Republic of China (ROC). In her inaugural address, President Tsai outlined the strategic objectives for the next four years: to pragmatically handle cross-Strait affairs, to demonstrate the government's sincerity and determination to maintain the status quo across the Taiwan Strait, and to guide cross-Strait relations down the road of mutual trust, reciprocity, prosperity and peace.



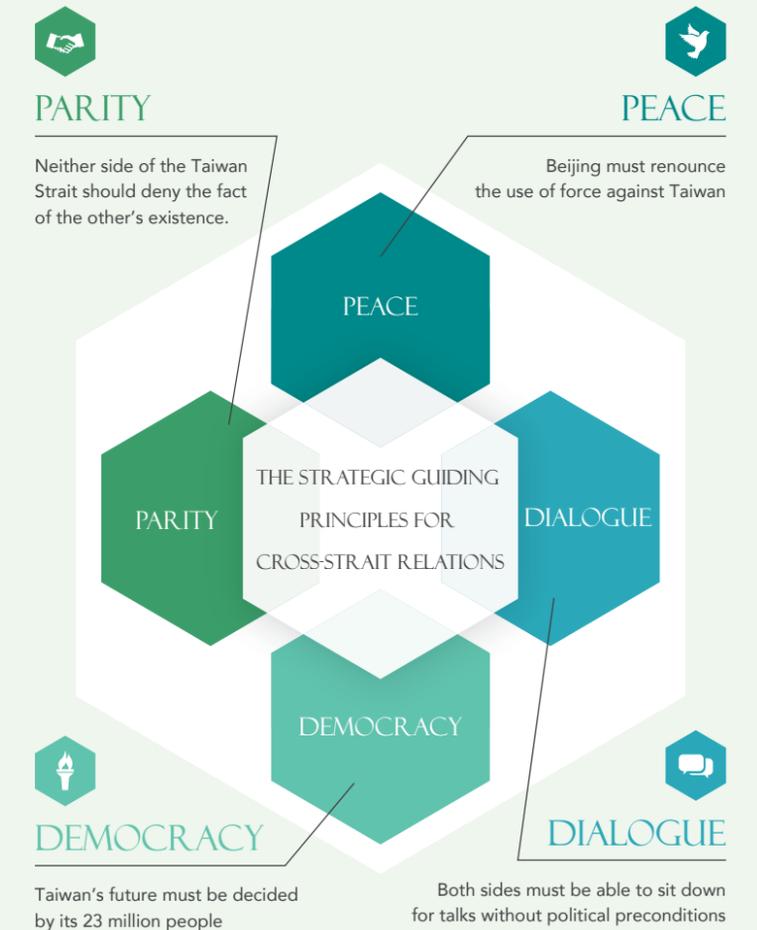
Photo: Office of the President,
ROC (Taiwan)

The government is committed to maintaining the peaceful and stable status quo of the Taiwan Strait under the national strategic goals

In the face of changing global circumstances, President Tsai laid out the overall strategic objectives for the country's survival and development as well as the national development framework over the next four years. The president pledged to proactively develop the industries, foster a safe society, ensure national security, and deepen democracy. Regarding national security, "peaceful and stable cross-Strait relations" was set as the framework to tackle future challenges where the people of Taiwan will, in the spirit of community, stay united to overcome the challenges ahead. The government will continue handling cross-Strait affairs in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of China and the Act Governing Relations between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area. This has been the government's consistent position for maintaining the peaceful and stable status quo of the Taiwan Strait.

"Peace, parity, democracy, and dialogue" are the strategic guiding principles for cross-Strait relations

Cross-Strait relations are not the responsibility of one side alone. Differences should be dealt with rationally and pragmatically by both sides of the Taiwan Strait through communication. The government has called on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) authorities to respect the democratic values embraced by the people of Taiwan and to rationally consider the four principles, proposed by President Tsai, in our management of cross-Strait relations: peace, parity, democracy, and dialogue. "Peace" means that Beijing must renounce the use of force against Taiwan. "Parity" requires that neither side of the Taiwan Strait should deny the fact of the other's existence. "Democracy" means that Taiwan's future must be decided by its 23 million people. "Dialogue" means that both sides must be able to sit down for talks without political preconditions. These four words represent the sole path by which the people of both sides can be brought together and harvest mutual benefit, inasmuch as positive cross-Strait interactions are conducive for the development and the well-being of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.



Taiwan will never accept the "one country, two systems" which downgrades Taiwan and undermines the status quo of the Taiwan Strait

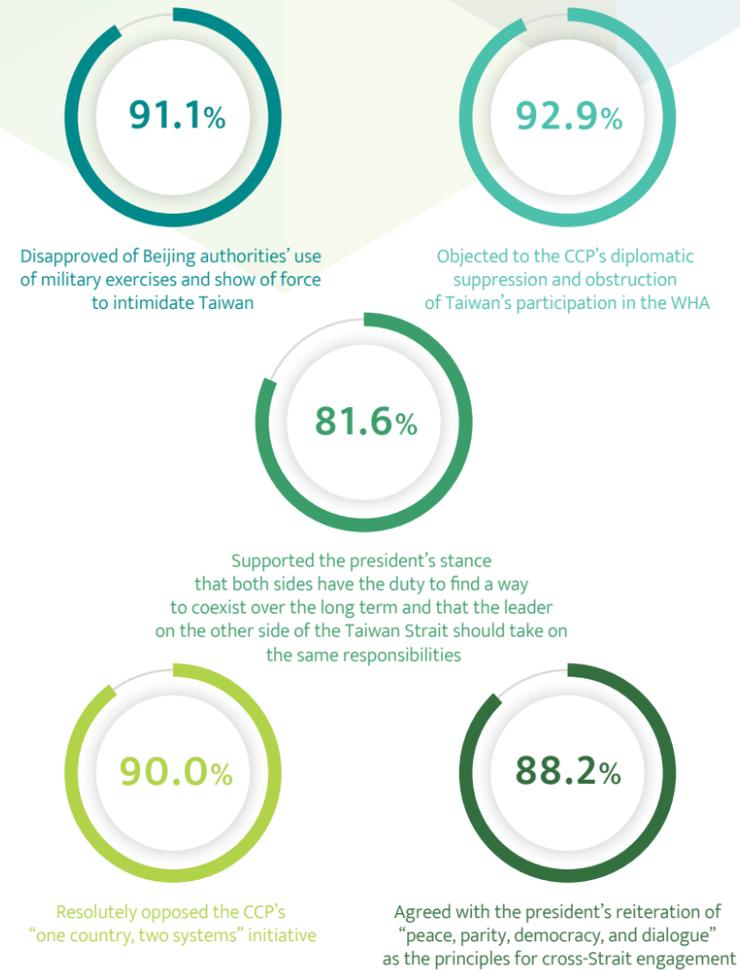
President Tsai has firmly stated that Taiwan absolutely will not accept the "one country, two systems model for Taiwan" framework, or the democratic consultation initiative proposed by the mainland Chinese leader Xi Jinping as part of the "Xi's five points." The people of Taiwan firmly object to the denigration of Taiwan and undermining of the status quo of the Taiwan Strait under the CCP's "one country, two systems" initiative. This is both the government's firm principle and bottom line in handling cross-Strait affairs. We will not act provocatively or rashly, neither will we waver from the position to safeguard Taiwan's sovereignty. The government is committed to safeguard the nation's sovereignty and uphold the universal values of democracy, freedom, human rights and the rule of law. We call on the other side to cease unilaterally imposing its will on Taiwan and face the reality that the ROC is a sovereign state. Taiwan has never been part of the People's Republic of China.

Both sides of the Taiwan Strait hold the responsibility to maintain stable cross-Strait relations: Taiwan calls on the Mainland's leader to shoulder equal responsibility

President Tsai stressed that cross-Strait relations have reached a historical turning point. Both sides have the duty to find a way to coexist over the long term and prevent the intensification of antagonism and differences. The president also reiterated the commitments to hold firm to the principles of handling cross-Strait affairs, adopt an open attitude to resolve issues, and shoulder responsibilities as the president. We call upon the Mainland's leader to take on the same responsibilities and work with Taiwan to jointly stabilize the long-term development of cross-Strait relations. Beijing authorities should read into President Tsai's statements on cross-Strait relations pragmatically, rationally, and positively; adjust their confrontational mindset; and respect the will of the Taiwanese people. Only through communication and consultations without set political preconditions can the two sides settle the differences and usher in a mutually beneficial future.

The government will respect the prevalent will of the people, unite Taiwan, and deepen its democracy

President Tsai pointed out in her inaugural speech that the ROC can be united and Taiwan can be safe. Facing challenges ahead, the government will continue handling cross-Strait affairs in accordance with democratic principles and procedures to unite



Taiwan and deepen democracy. According to surveys conducted in March and June of this year, on behalf of the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC), the mainstream public opinion in Taiwan resolutely opposed the CCP's "one country, two systems" initiative (90.0%). Over 90% of the respondents objected to the CCP's diplomatic suppression and obstruction of Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly (92.9%). Moreover, the respondents also disapproved of Beijing authorities' use of military exercises and show of force to intimidate Taiwan (91.1%).

On the other hand, nearly 90% of the public agreed with the president's reiteration of the principles of "peace, parity, democracy, and dialogue" when it comes to cross-Strait engagement (88.2%). More than 80% supported the president's stance that both sides have the duty to find a way to coexist over the long term and that the leader on the other side of the Taiwan Strait should take on the same responsibilities and work with Taiwan to jointly stabilize the development of cross-Strait relations (81.6%). The government remains committed to consolidating domestic consensus, working together with all sectors of the society to build a better constitutional democracy, and maintaining peaceful and stable relations across the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan supports the people of Hong Kong to safeguard democracy and other universal values

The CCP has walked back from its promise that Hong Kong would remain "unchanged for 50 years" with a "high degree of autonomy." Through a reshuffle of personnel involved in the Hong Kong affairs and organizational upgrading, the CCP has undertaken mass arrests and prosecutions of pro-democracy protesters. Moreover, at the 20th session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), the arbitrarily drafted Hong Kong National Security Law was passed, bypassing Hong Kong's own elected Legislative Council.

President Tsai stated that these events prove that "one country, two systems" is simply not viable. The government will continue supporting Hong Kong people and their efforts to fight for freedom, human rights, and democracy down the road. With the announcement of the Hong Kong Humanitarian Aid Project by the MAC, the Taiwan-Hong Kong Office for Exchanges and Services was established and began formal operation on July 1, 2020. The Office is set to provide consultation and assistance to Hong Kong people coming to Taiwan for study, employment, investment, entrepreneurship, immigration and residency.

Taiwan will closely watch developments in Hong Kong and formulate dynamic responses as the situation unfolds. In the meantime, the government will spare no effort to protect the personal safety of Taiwanese people in Hong Kong and urge the people of Taiwan to keep a wary eye on the potential risks when traveling to Hong Kong.

The government will closely cooperate with the international community to establish regional peace

Taiwan is a responsible member of the international community and a reliable force for good in the region. The US firmly supports Taiwan's resistance to threats by mainland China and affirms Taiwan's democracy. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and US Deputy National Security Advisor Matt Pottinger, among other political figures, have stated that Taiwan is a reliable partner

of the US. They have also commended Taiwan's achievements as a model for the world regarding its democratization and success in the global battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of its staunch support for Taiwan, the US has not only urged the World Health Organization to invite Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer but also continued to sell arms to Taiwan. Furthermore, US President Donald Trump has signed into law the TAIPEI Act, the Taiwan Travel Act, and the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (ARIA), encouraging mutual visits by US and Taiwan officials at all levels, supporting Taiwan's international participation, and reiterating the US security commitment to Taiwan. Japan and the European Union also believe that a peaceful and stable cross-Strait relationship is in the interests of both sides across the Taiwan Strait as well as all parties in the region and beyond.

In the future, the government will continue playing an active role in the peace, stability, and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region. We will actively engage with and seek support from all parties in order to proactively attend to international affairs and constructively participate in international organizations. Taiwan is also willing to exchange views with mainland China on issues related to joint participation in regional development to bring regional peace and prosperity.

Conclusion

A stable development of cross-Strait relations is critical to the peace of the Taiwan Strait and the security of the Asia-Pacific region as a whole. In her May 20 inaugural address, President Tsai laid out the nation's strategic development goals in the face of the current international dynamics. The president vowed that Taiwan will play a more active role in the peace, stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region; also, she hoped that the international community would support Taiwan's democracy and freedom. We call on Beijing to properly read into Taiwan's cross-Strait policy, reduce chances of misjudgment, create a favorable external environment for the respective development of the both sides, and pragmatically promote the peaceful and stable development across the Taiwan Strait.

