



Building Consensus Around Four Commitments

The Government's
Current Cross-Strait Policy

Foreword

President Tsai Ing-wen was sworn in as the 15th president of the Republic of China (ROC) on May 20, 2020, and began her second term amid the complicated and dynamic situation in the Taiwan Strait and across the region. The government continues to handle cross-Strait affairs with a pragmatic approach, demonstrates its sincerity and determination to maintain the status quo across the Taiwan Strait, and strives to guide cross-Strait relations down the road of mutual trust, reciprocity, prosperity, and peace.



Photo: Office of the President, ROC (Taiwan)

Taiwan will “neither bow to pressure nor act rashly when gaining support” and is committed to maintaining the peaceful and stable status quo of the Taiwan Strait

President Tsai emphasized that when it comes to cross-Strait relations, Taiwan’s consistent position is to “neither bow to pressure nor act rashly when gaining support.” The government is committed to maintaining the peaceful and stable status quo of the Taiwan Strait, and will do our utmost to prevent the status quo from being unilaterally altered. The government will continue to handle 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. In response to the new development of global circumstances, President Tsai states that maintaining cross-Strait stability is in the interest of both sides. The two sides across the Taiwan Strait should uphold the attitude of mutual respect and goodwill understanding and jointly discuss ways to coexist peacefully.

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

President Tsai proposed four guiding principles for the future development 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. We believe that “peace, parity, democracy, and dialogue” represent the sole path to the benign interaction, reciprocity, and mutual benefit between the two sides; they are also conducive to each other’s development and public welfare. As long as the Beijing authorities are willing to resolve antagonisms, Taiwan will work together to facilitate meaningful dialogue while parity and dignity are maintained.



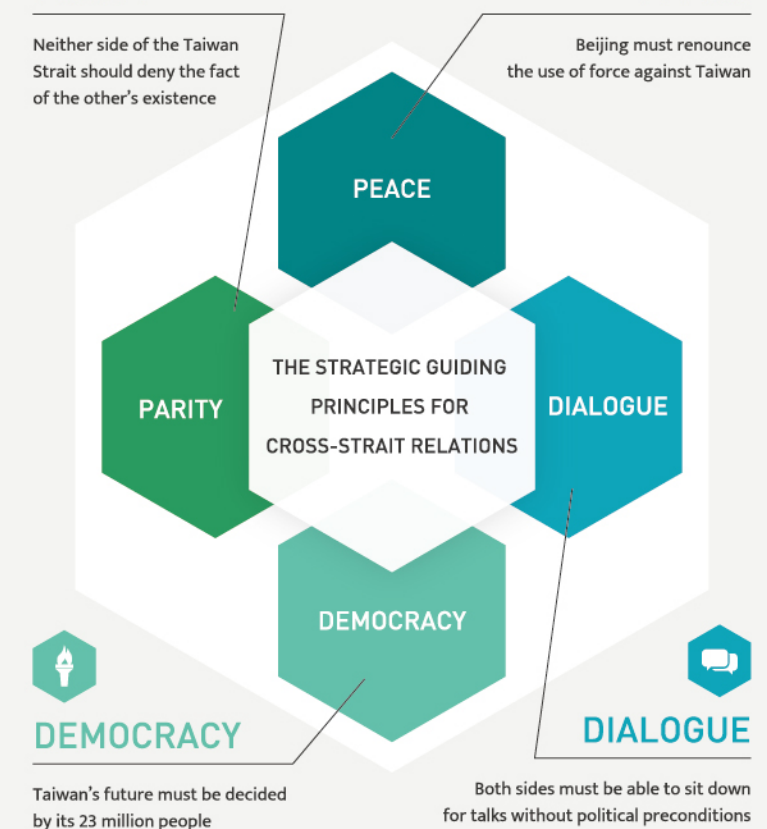
PARITY

Neither side of the Taiwan Strait should deny the fact of the other’s existence



PEACE

Beijing must renounce the use of force against Taiwan



The “four commitments” are the common denominator of Taiwan. Taiwan will never take the path China has laid out for the development of cross-Strait relations

President Tsai has firmly stated that Taiwan absolutely will not accept the "one country, two systems model for Taiwan" or the democratic consultation initiative proposed by 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 "one country, two systems" initiative proposed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). This is both the government's firm principle and bottom line in handling cross-Strait affairs. President Tsai presented the “four commitments” on her National Day address on October 10, 2021, emphasizing the commitment to a free and democratic constitutional system, the commitment that the Republic of China and the People’s Republic of China should not be subordinate to each other, the commitment to resist annexation or encroachment upon our sovereignty, and the commitment that the future of the Republic of China (Taiwan) must be decided in accordance with the will of the Taiwanese people. We call on the other side of the Taiwan Strait to cease unilaterally imposing its will on Taiwan and face the reality that the ROC is a sovereign state.

Both sides of the Taiwan Strait hold the responsibility to maintain stable cross-Strait relations; Taiwan calls on mainland China’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 antagonisms and widening of differences. The president also reiterated her pledge to hold firm to the principles, adopt an open-minded attitude towards resolving issues, and shoulder responsibilities. We call upon the leader of mainland China to take on the same responsibilities and work with Taiwan to jointly stabilize cross-Strait relations. History and past events have already proved that diplomatic offensives and military intimidation against Taiwan are not constructive for the development of cross-Strait relations. The Beijing authorities should interpret President Tsai’s statements pragmatically, rationally, and positively; adjust their confrontational mindset; and respect the will of Taiwanese people. Resolving cross-Strait differences requires the two sides of the Taiwan Strait to engage in dialogue on the basis of parity; only through dialogue will the two sides be able to 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

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 a recent (September, 2021) public opinion survey conducted on behalf of the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC), more than 80% of the public supported President Tsai’s emphasis that Taiwan's only option is to become stronger, more united, and more determined to defend itself (83.9%). A similar percentage also applauded the government's approach of strengthening national security and self-defense capabilities (81.3%) and its pledge to safeguard national sovereignty and Taiwan's democracy (82.8%). Mainstream public opinions also sided with the position that the future of Taiwan and the development of cross-Strait relations must be decided by Taiwan's 23.5 million people (85.1%). In addition, nearly 90% of the public opposed the CCP’s "one country, two systems" initiative (87.5%) and diplomatic suppression of Taiwan (89.4%). Going forward, the government will remain 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.

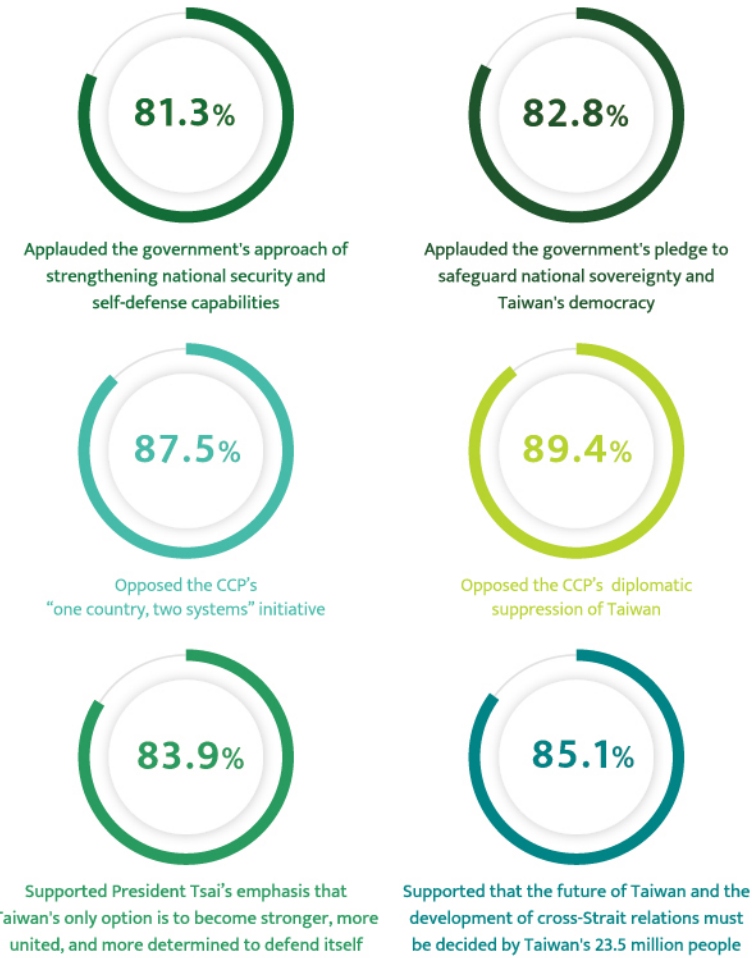


Photo: Office of the President, ROC (Taiwan)

Taiwan strongly supports freedom in Hong Kong and upholds universal values with the world

The CCP has scrapped its promise for Hong Kong to “remain unchanged for 50 years.” With the Hong Kong National Security Law, the CCP has been brutally cracking down on dissidents and severely curtailing freedom of speech and judicial independence in Hong Kong. As a result, Hong Kong’s "high degree of autonomy" has been completely destroyed. Witnessing the downward spiral of the situation in Hong Kong, 77.7% of respondents approved of the government’s continuous support for Hong Kong people in their fight for democracy and freedom and of its supply of humanitarian care and essential services to the Hong Kong people entering Taiwan through legal channels, according to a survey released by the MAC on July 16, 2021. The government will firmly defend democracy, freedom, and other universal values as it joins hands with the global democracy camp to keep implementing the “Hong Kong Humanitarian Aid Project” and further improve assistance and management measures. In the future, the government will also proactively enforce laws, amend regulations, and adopt appropriate countermeasures in response to the development of situation in Hong Kong to safeguard national sovereignty and public good.



Photo: Office of the President, ROC (Taiwan)

The government will enhance cooperation with the international community to establish regional peace and prosperity

Given the CCP’s incessant military intimidation and diplomatic suppression of Taiwan, there has recently been increasing international attention to the situation in the Taiwan Strait. Major countries and meetings such as the US, Japan, South Korea, Australia, European Union, and the G7 have all underscored the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and expressed concern over potential risks in the area. The US has reiterated on numerous occasions that its support for Taiwan is rock-solid, encouraged mutual visits by US and Taiwan officials at all levels, and announced new guidelines on engagement. Moreover, the US has urged the World Health Organization to invite Taiwan to participate in the World Health Assembly as an observer and continued to sell arms to Taiwan. Taiwan’s steadfast position on democracy, freedom, and other values is indispensable for the collective security and prosperity of the international community. As a proactive contributor of the international community, Taiwan is also willing to work with like-minded countries such as the US to jointly safeguard the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region; it will also promote international affairs and participation in international organizations in a constructive manner. Furthermore, 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 security of the Indo-Pacific region. Taiwan is both capable of and resolute in playing a more active role in the peace, stability, and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region. We hope that the international community would support Taiwan’s democracy and freedom. The Beijing authorities should interpret Taiwan's cross-Strait policies precisely, refrain from imposing political preconditions on Taiwan, reduce chances of misjudgment, create a favorable external environment for the development of each other, and pragmatically promote the peaceful and stable development across the Taiwan Strait.



Photo: Office of the President, ROC (Taiwan)