

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

(January 12~16, 2017)

More than 80% of the public agree with the position that "Maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait is the common responsibility of both sides. The two sides should promptly resume official interaction and dialogue" (80.6%), as well as support the government's emphasis that its commitment and goodwill in promoting cross-Strait peace and stability are unchanged and position that the two sides should jointly seek a new model for cross-Strait interaction (84.6%).

The vast majority of the public approve the government's position that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait should put the rights, interests and well-being of the people on both sides first and promote positive interaction, exchanges, and cooperation between them (86.2%). The majority also agree with the position that "There should be no political considerations in cross-Strait exchanges. Mainland China should engage with Taiwan in comprehensive, diverse, normal, and healthy exchanges" (83.1%).

More than 80% of the public approve the statement: "Taiwan's participation in international organizations and activities, concerns the rights and safety of the people of Taiwan and should not be subject to interference from mainland China based on political factors" (83.4%). The majority of the people approve the statement: "Any attempts by mainland China to create pressure or tension on Taiwan's international space and security in the Taiwan Strait would be unhelpful to cross-Strait relations, interaction, and long-term development" (73.6%).

The great majority of the people (83.8%) still insist on maintaining the status quo defined in the broader sense, a figure that has remained highly stable. On the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 37.6% of the public feel that the pace is "just right," while 12.8% and 34.7%, respectively, feel the pace is "too fast" and "too slow."

I. Survey Background and Methods

To understand the views of the Taiwanese people on issues related to cross-Strait relations, the Mainland Affairs Council commissioned the Election Study Center of National Chengchi University to conduct a telephone survey of adults aged 20 and over in the Taiwan Area from January 12 to 16, 2017. A total of 1,073 valid samples were collected, with a sampling error of plus or minus 2.99% at a 95% level of confidence.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on the government's cross-Strait policy and exchange and interaction subjects

80% of the public agree with the position that "Maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait is the common responsibility of both sides. The two sides should promptly resume official interaction and dialogue" (80.6%). More than 80% of the public approve the government's position that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait should put the rights, interests and well-being of the people on both sides first and promote positive interaction, exchanges, and cooperation between them (86.2%); and 80% of the public agree with the view that "There should be no political considerations in cross-Strait exchanges. Mainland China should engage with Taiwan in comprehensive, diverse, normal, and healthy exchanges" (83.1%). Additionally, nearly 80% of the public believe that strengthening safety management for contact between the people of the two sides would be conducive to maintaining the order of cross-Strait exchanges (79.8%).

(2) Views on Taiwan's international participation, security in the Taiwan Strait, and cross-Strait relations

More than 80% of the public approve the statement: "Taiwan's participation in international organizations and activities, concerns the rights and safety of the people of Taiwan and should not be subject to interference from mainland China based on political factors" (83.4%). Over 70% of the public approve the statement: "Any attempts by mainland China to create pressure or tension on Taiwan's international space and security in the Taiwan Strait would be unhelpful to cross-Strait relations, interaction, and long-term development" (73.6%). Furthermore, over 70% of the public approve the government's position that the promotion of cross-Strait ties and foreign relations are equally important: the two are beneficial to peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and region and are not contradictory

(72.7%). In addition, more than 80% of the public support the government's emphasis that its commitment and goodwill in promoting cross-Strait peace and stability are unchanged and position that the two sides should put prejudices aside and jointly seek a new model for cross-Strait interaction (84.6%).

(3) Views on unification or independence

An overwhelming majority of the public (83.8%) still support "maintaining the status quo defined in the broader sense" (including "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later," "maintaining the status quo and unification later," "maintaining the status quo and independence later," and "maintaining the status quo indefinitely"). Of the six possible positions, "maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later" enjoys the highest level of support (33.0%), followed by "maintaining the status quo indefinitely" (25.6%).

(4) Views on the pace of cross-Strait exchanges

Regarding the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 37.6% of the public believe the pace to be "just right", while 12.8% and 34.7% believe it is "too fast" "too slow," respectively.

(5) Public perception on the attitude of the Mainland government

The percentage of the public believing that the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the government of the Republic of China is "unfriendly" (68.9%) is higher than the percentage believing it is "friendly" (18.5%). Regarding the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the people of Taiwan, 49.5% of the public believe it is unfriendly, higher than the 35.8% believing it is friendly.