

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

(March 18~22, 2016)

- **More than 80% of the public support the government's continued promotion of peaceful and stable development across the Taiwan Strait (81.9%), normalized official cross-strait interactions (85.3%), and institutionalized negotiations (87%) while firmly maintaining the cross-strait status quo of "no unification, no independence, and no use of force" under the ROC Constitution framework.**
- **More than 60% of the public approve the statement that, "Existing cross-strait economic and trade, culture and education exchange activities should not be affected by changes in the cross-strait situation" (60.3%); and near 75% (75.3%) of the public support the government's position that contents of the Cross-Strait Agreement Supervisory Act should comply with the provisions of the ROC Constitution and must be pragmatic and feasible.**
- **Over 70% of the public do not identify with the Mainland's statement that "both sides are part of one China" (72.7%) and support the government's strong expression of dissatisfaction over the Mainland's announced establishment of diplomatic relations with former ROC ally Gambia (70.8%). Nearly 80% of the public feel that, if the Mainland were to face the reality of separate governance across the Taiwan Strait and respect public opinion in Taiwan, it would help benign development in cross-strait relations (78.6%).**
- **The great majority of the people (86.7%) 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, 45.1% of the public feel that the pace is "just right," while 21.5% and 21%, 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 (MAC) 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 March 18 to 22, 2016. A total of 1,108 valid samples were collected, with a sampling error of minus or plus 2.94% at a 95% level of confidence.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on overall Mainland policy

Nearly 50% (48.9%) of the public agree with the statement that, "Over the past eight years, the government's Mainland policy has been to endeavor to maintain the peace and stability of cross-strait relations," while 44.1% disagree. More than 80% (81.9%) support the government's policy of insisting on maintaining the cross-strait status quo of "no unification, no independence, and no use of force" under the ROC Constitution framework while promoting peaceful and stable development across the Taiwan Strait.

(2) Views on cross-strait official interactions and institutionalized negotiations and exchanges

More than 80% of the people support continued promotion of normalized official interactions across the Strait to advance peaceful and stable cross-strait relations (85.3%) and also support the promotion of institutionalized cross-strait negotiations to pragmatically resolve exchange-related problems and maintain positive interaction (87%). About 60% (60.3%) of the public approve the statement that, "in order to develop institutionalized cross-strait relations, the current cross-strait exchange activities in the economic, trade, culture, education, and other fields (for example: reducing the number of Mainland tourists visiting Taiwan) should not be affected by changes in the cross-strait situation." Near 75% (75.3%) of the public support the government position that the content of the Cross-Strait Agreement Supervisory Act should comply with provisions of the ROC Constitution and must be pragmatic and feasible.

(3) Views on the Mainland's recent Taiwan policy

The vast majority of the public (72.7%) do not identify with the Mainland's statement stressing that "the two sides belong to one China." Moreover, about 70% (70.8%) of the public support the government's actions of expressing strong dissatisfaction over the Mainland's announcement of resumed diplomatic relations with former ROC ally Gambia, and also support the statement that the Mainland's actions undermine the mutual trust painstakingly built between the two sides over the past eight years and negatively affects cross-strait relations. 43.3% of the public feel that there has been "no change" in the Mainland's Taiwan-related work following the presidential election, while the percentages feeling the Mainland "has become

more hardline" and "has become friendlier" are 35.1% and 4.5%, respectively. Moreover, nearly 80% (78.6%) of the public feel that, if the Mainland can face the reality of separate governance across the Taiwan Strait and respect public opinion in Taiwan, it would be conducive to positive development in cross-strait relations.

(4) Views on the future of cross-strait relations

Concerning future cross-strait relations, compared to the current situation, 37.5% of the public feel that ties will "not be influenced," while 15.9% and 25.7% of the public feel that ties will "improve" and "worsen," respectively.

(5) Views on unification or independence

An overwhelming majority of the public (86.7%) still support "maintaining the status quo defined in a broad 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 (31.8%), followed by "maintaining the status quo indefinitely" (26.5%).

(6) Views on the pace of cross-strait exchanges

Regarding the current pace of cross-strait exchanges, 45.1% of the public believe the pace to be "just right", while 21.5% and 21.0% believe it is "too fast" "too slow," respectively.

(7) Public perception on the attitude of the Mainland government toward Taiwan

59.3% of the public believe that the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the ROC government is "unfriendly," higher than the percentage believing it is "friendly" (20.9%). Regarding the Mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the people of Taiwan, 50.6% of the public believe it is friendly, higher than the 34.1% believing it is unfriendly.