

**MAC: The public highly affirms the operation of the mechanism for institutionalized cross-strait negotiations and identifies with the government's position of the "1992 Consensus — one China with respective interpretations," with “one China” meaning the Republic of China**

Date: 2011-09-25

Press Release No. 069

The Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) announces today the results of its latest public opinion survey. The survey indicates that the public highly affirms the mechanism for institutionalized cross-strait negotiations, with nearly 80 percent of the public supporting the handling of cross-strait exchange issues through institutionalized negotiations. Moreover, as high as 74.8 percent of the public support the government's Mainland policy over the past more than three years which maintains the status quo in the Taiwan Strait under the framework of the ROC Constitution and is in line with the principle of "no unification, no independence, and no use of force," demonstrating that the government's Mainland policy is on the correct course.

On the high profile issue of the "1992 Consensus," the survey results indicate that nearly 50 percent (49.4 percent) of the public identify with the government's position on the "'1992 Consensus — one China with respective interpretations,' with “one China” meaning the Republic of China." Moreover, 48.4 percent of the public approve the government's promotion of institutionalized cross-strait negotiations on the foundation of the "1992 Consensus — one China with respective interpretations." Furthermore, over 50 percent (51.7 percent) of the public disagree with the statement that "the 1992 Consensus is a consensus between the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) and the Communist Party of China

(CPC)." The MAC states that the survey results reflect that the Ma Administration's position over the past more than three years of maintaining the cross-strait status quo of "no unification, no independence, and no use of force" under the framework of the ROC Constitution and promoting institutionalized cross-strait negotiations on the basis of the "1992 Consensus — one China with respective interpretations" has led to positive development in cross-strait relations. It is the correct course and has earned the majority public support in Taiwan.

Regarding other cross-strait issues long observed by the MAC, the survey indicates that the great majority of the public (87.2 percent) still advocate "maintaining the status quo defined in a broader sense," a figure that has remained highly stable. As for the current pace of opening up cross-strait exchanges, the highest percentage of the public (46.4 percent) still believe the pace is "just right," followed by the percentages believing it is "too fast" (29.5 percent) and "too slow" (14.4 percent). As to views on overall cross-strait relations, over 50 percent of the public (55.2 percent) believe that relations under the Ma Administration have become "more relaxed," higher than the percentages believing relations are "unchanged" (30.2 percent) and "more tense" (9.0 percent). This indicates that the majority of the public affirms the government's current Mainland policy and believes it has eased past tension in cross-strait relations.

The 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 September 2 to 5, 2011. A total of 1,069 effective samples were collected, with a sampling error of 3 percent based on a 95 percent confidence level.

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

(September 2 to 5, 2011)

- Nearly 80 percent of the public support the continued handling of cross-strait exchange issues through institutionalized negotiations.
- As high as 74.8 percent of the public support the government's policy of maintaining the status quo in the Taiwan Strait under the principle of "no unification, no independence, and no use of force."
- 49.4 percent of the public identify with the government's position on the "1992 Consensus", and 48.4 percent of the public agree with basing institutionalized cross-strait negotiations on the "the 1992 Consensus — one China with respective interpretations."
- Over 55 percent of the public believe that cross-strait relations have become more relaxed under the Ma Administration.
- The overwhelming majority of the public (87.2 percent) still supports 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 unification later," "Maintaining the status quo and independence later," and "Maintaining the status quo indefinitely").

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

To understand the Taiwan people's views on issues related to cross-strait relations, the 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 September 2 to 5, 2011. A total of 1,069 effective samples were collected, with a sampling error of 3 percent based on a 95 percent confidence level.

### **II. Major Findings**

#### **(1) Views on institutionalized cross-strait negotiations**

77.6 percent of the public support the handling of issues related to

cross-strait exchanges through institutionalized negotiations, while 10.0 percent do not support this.

## **(2) Views on Mainland policy**

As high as 74.8 percent of the public support the government in maintaining the status quo in the Taiwan Strait under the principle of "no unification, no independence, and no use of force," while only 16.6 percent do not support this.

## **(3) Views on the government's position on the "1992 Consensus"**

49.4 percent of the public identify with the government's position on the "1992 Consensus — one China with respective interpretations," with "one China" meaning the Republic of China. Moreover, 48.4 percent of the public approve the government's approach of resuming institutionalized cross-strait negotiations on the basis of the "1992 Consensus — one China with respective interpretations." Furthermore, 51.7 percent of the public disagree with the statement that "the 1992 Consensus is a consensus between the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) and the Communist Party of China (CPC)," higher than the percentage (25.1 percent) agreeing with this formulation.

## **(4) Views on the pace of cross-strait exchanges**

Regarding the current pace of cross-strait exchanges, 46.4 percent of the public believe the pace is "just right," while 29.5 percent believe it is "too fast" and 14.4 percent believe it is "too slow."

## **(5) Views on overall cross-strait relations**

Over 50 percent of the public (55.2 percent) believe that cross-strait relations under the Ma Administration have become "more relaxed," higher than the percentages believing relations are "more tense" (9.0 percent) and "unchanged" (30.2 percent).

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

The overwhelming majority of the public (87.2 percent) supports 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 unification later," "Maintaining the status quo and independence later," and "Maintaining the status quo indefinitely"). Of the six possible positions on this issue, "Maintaining the status quo and deciding on

independence or unification later" enjoys the highest level of support (33.6 percent), followed by "Maintaining the status quo indefinitely" (25.9 percent).

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

51.5 percent of the public believe the Mainland government's attitude toward the ROC government is "unfriendly," higher than the percentage (31.2 percent) believing it is "friendly." Regarding the Mainland government's attitude toward the Taiwan people, 44.7 percent of the public believe it is friendly, while 41.5 percent believe it is unfriendly.

# Percentage Distribution of the Questionnaire for the Routine Survey on "the Public's View on Current Cross-Strait Relations"

Survey Date: September 2 to 5, 2011

Number of Effective Samples: 1,069

Survey Commissioned by: Mainland Affairs Council, Executive Yuan

Survey Unit: Election Study Center of National Chengchi University

1. Do you believe that the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the ROC government is friendly or unfriendly?

Extremely friendly	Friendly	Unfriendly	Extremely unfriendly	Don't know / No opinion
3.6%	28.6%	34.4%	17.1%	16.3%
31.2%		51.5%		16.3%

2. Do you believe that the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the Taiwan people is friendly or unfriendly?

Extremely friendly	Friendly	Unfriendly	Extremely unfriendly	Don't know /No opinion
3.9%	40.8%	27.4%	14.1%	13.8%
44.7%		41.5%		13.8%

3. Do you feel that the pace of current cross-strait exchanges is too fast, too slow or just right?

Too fast	Just right	Too slow	Don't know / No opinion
29.5%	46.4%	14.4%	9.7%

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4. Regarding relations between Taiwan and mainland China, there are the following different views: 1. Unification as soon as possible; 2. Independence as soon as possible; 3. Maintaining the status quo and unification later; 4. Maintaining the status quo and independence later; 5. Maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later; and 6. Maintaining the status quo indefinitely. Which of these positions do you lean toward?

Unification as soon as possible	Maintaining the status quo and unification later	Maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later	Maintaining the status quo indefinitely	Maintaining the status quo and independence later	Independence as soon as possible	Don't know / No opinion
1.4%	10.6%	33.6%	25.9%	17.1%	5.6%	5.8%
1.4%	87.2%				5.6%	5.8%

5. Overall, do you believe that cross-strait relations have become more relaxed, more tense, or have been unchanged under the Ma Administration?

More relaxed	Unchanged	More tense	Don't know / No opinion
55.2%	30.2%	9.0%	5.6%

6. Do you support or not support the continued handling of cross-strait exchange issues through institutionalized negotiations between the two sides?

Strongly Support	Support	Do not support	Strongly do not support	Don't know / No opinion

support		support	support	No opinion
19.4%	58.2%	6.1%	3.9%	12.4%
77.6%		10.0%		12.4%

7. The government's position on the "1992 Consensus" is "one China, respective interpretations," with "one China" meaning the Republic of China. Do you identify or not with this position?

Strongly identify	Identify	Do not identify	Strongly do not identify	Don't know /No opinion
14.9%	34.5%	19.4%	15.3%	15.9%
49.4%		34.7%		15.9%

8. The government has resumed institutionalized cross-strait negotiations on the foundation of the "1992 Consensus — one China with respective interpretations." Do you agree or disagree with this approach?

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know /No opinion
11.7%	36.7%	19.9%	13.0%	18.7%
48.4%		32.9%		18.7%

9. Some people say that the "1992 Consensus" is a "consensus between the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) and the Communist Party of China (CPC)." Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know /No opinion
9.5%	15.6%	30.8%	20.9%	23.2%
25.1%		51.7%		23.2%

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10. Over the past three years, the government has maintained the status quo in the Taiwan Strait based on the principle of "no unification, no independence, and no use of force." Do you support or not support this principle?

Strongly support	Support	Do not support	Strongly do not support	Don't know /No opinion
29.8%	45.0%	8.8%	7.8%	8.6%
74.8%		16.6%		8.6%