

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

(July 29~August 3, 2016)

- The vast majority of the public support the government's cross-Strait policy commitment to maintaining peaceful and stable cross-Strait relations (83.8%), the ongoing handling of cross-Strait affairs through communication, contact and negotiation mechanisms (89.1%), and the handling of cross-Strait relations by democratic mechanisms and in keeping with public opinion (77.5%).
- Over 70% support the continued implementation of the 21 cross-Strait agreements currently in effect to solve cross-Strait exchange issues and protect the public's well-being, life and property (77.1%). Over 80% of the public approve the statement that "existing cross-Strait exchange activities should not be affected by changes in the cross-Strait situation" (80.2%) and believe that ongoing contact and exchanges between the people on both sides is conducive to promoting positive interaction between the two sides (83.5%).
- Regarding resolution of the South China Sea dispute, over 70% (75.3%) of the public support the inclusion of Taiwan in the multilateral dialogue mechanism and resolution of differences among stakeholders through peaceful dialogue. Additionally, over half of the public (56.6%) agree that the involved parties should jointly develop cooperation unrelated to sovereignty concerns under the principle of "shelving disputes and joint development."
- The great majority of the public (88.9%) still insist on "maintaining the status quo defined in a broader sense," a figure that has remained highly stable. On the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 39.6% of the public feel that the pace is "just right," while 12.6% and 33.7%, respectively, feel the pace is "too fast" and "too slow."

I. Survey Background and Methods

To understand the views of the public 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 July 29 to August 3. A total of 1,075 effective samples were collected, with a sampling error of plus or minus 2.99% and 95%

level of confidence.

II. Major Findings

(1) Views on cross-Strait policy, interactions and exchanges

Nearly 90% of the public support the ongoing handling of cross-Strait affairs through communication, contact and negotiation mechanisms (89.1%). The majority of the public agree with the statement that "recent cross-Strait incidents highlight the importance of communication and liaison mechanisms between the two sides and help to reduce misunderstanding and misjudgment" (65.9%). Over 70% (77.1%) of the public support the continued implementation of the 21 cross-Strait agreements currently in effect to solve cross-Strait exchange issues and protect the public's well-being, life and property.

Regarding cross-Strait contact and exchanges, more than 80% of the public agree with the statement that "existing cross-Strait economic, trade, travel and culture and education exchanges should not be affected by changes in the cross-Strait situation to protect the peace and stability of cross-Strait relations" (80.2%), and believe that ongoing contact and exchanges between the people on both sides is conducive to promoting positive interaction between the two sides (83.5%). Regarding the signed Cross-Strait Agreement on Joint Crime-Fighting and Judicial Mutual Assistance, more than 60% (62.1%) of the public agree that Taiwan suspects should be repatriated to Taiwan to undergo investigation and trial during the handling of telecommunications fraud cases in third countries.

(2) Views on cross-Strait relations, South China Sea arbitration, and other regional issues

Over 70% (77.5%) of the public support handling cross-Strait relations by democratic mechanisms and in keeping with public opinion, while more than 80% (83.8%) of the public support the government's cross-Strait policy commitment to maintaining peaceful and stable cross-Strait relations (83.8%) since May 20, 2016. On the resolution of the South China Sea dispute, over 75% (75.3%) of the public support the government's stand that Taiwan should be included in the multilateral dialogue mechanism and that differences among stakeholders (including mainland China) should be resolved through peaceful dialogue. Additionally, over half of the public (56.6%) agree that, under the principle of "shelving disputes and joint development," the involved parties should jointly develop cooperation unrelated to sovereignty concerns and develop resources in the South China Sea.

(3) Views on unification or independence

An overwhelming majority of the public (88.9%) 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 (33.4%), followed by "maintaining the status quo indefinitely" (31.3%).

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

Regarding the current pace of cross-Strait exchanges, 39.6% of the public believe the pace to be "just right", while 12.6% and 33.7% believe it is "too fast" "too slow," respectively.

(5) Public perception on the attitude of the mainland Chinese government toward Taiwan

60.7% of the public believe that the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the ROC government is "unfriendly"(60.7%), higher than the percentage believing it is "friendly" (20.9%). Regarding the mainland Chinese government's attitude toward the people of Taiwan, 42.7% of the public believe it is unfriendly, higher than the 40.1% believing it is friendly.