

**Report by Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of  
China (Taiwan), at the Foreign and National Defense Committee of the  
Legislative Yuan on October 18, 2023**

Honorable Chairperson, Members of the Legislative Yuan, ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning!

I am pleased to be here today at the invitation of the Foreign and National Defense Committee to present a briefing on Taiwan’s diplomatic work. The following report covers the international developments and external challenges that Taiwan faces, the important accomplishments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter “the Ministry”) in implementing steadfast diplomacy since the previous Legislative Yuan session, as well as our key future directions. Your feedback and suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

**1. Foreword**

Over the past six months, our nation has continued to face formidable international developments and external challenges. China has relentlessly intensified hybrid threats against Taiwan through military intimidation, gray-zone confrontations, economic coercion, and other tactics, including diplomatic, cognitive, media, psychological, and legal warfare. In addition, the powers behind authoritarian expansion have joined forces in Asia, posing security threats to countries in the region, undermining the rules-based international order, and affecting peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. Furthermore, we face escalating confrontation between democracy and authoritarianism, growing strategic competition between

the United States and China, a deadlock in the Russia-Ukraine war, tensions on the Korean Peninsula, increasing tensions in the South China Sea, the resumption of the Israel-Palestine conflict in the Middle East, natural disasters across the globe, threats to ICT security, and more uncertainties throughout the world economy, as well as other traditional and nontraditional challenges that are impacting energy and food security in countries worldwide.

Meanwhile, we have seen Taiwan developing resilience, strengths, friendships, and partnerships in order to overcome these threats and challenges. And we have witnessed Taiwan becoming a force for good in the world. Virtue does not dwell alone; one who practices it will always have friends. Looking to the future, Taiwan will continue to play a proactive role in issues of global concern. We will work with all international democratic partners to advance regional and global peace, stability, and prosperity.

## **2. Overcoming challenges and leveraging opportunities**

Despite the volatile international landscape and formidable external challenges, we have worked diligently to overcome adversity and leverage opportunities, creating a favorable atmosphere and environment for Taiwan in the global arena. Our accomplishments over the past six months are as follows:

### **2.1. Taiwan is working jointly with like-minded partners to counter authoritarian expansion.**

Facing the convergence and expansion of authoritarianism, we have consistently and staunchly upheld democratic values and firmly extended mutual support to international partners that share the values of democracy

and freedom, working with them to counter such expansionist ambitions. At the same time, like-minded democratic partners have steadily bolstered support for Taiwan so that we are never alone in our efforts to counter authoritarianism. This has increased our resolve to firmly safeguard the values of freedom, democracy, and human rights and to demonstrate our strengths as a force for good. We have worked with democratic partners to uphold the rules-based international order and counter all forms of violence and threats, as well as harm to democracy and freedom.

**2.2. A global consensus has developed on maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.**

China has relentlessly attempted to unilaterally change the status quo across the Taiwan Strait and stepped up its threats against Taiwan. Coupled with Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the Israel-Palestine conflict—triggered by violent terrorist attacks by the Palestinian Hamas militant group against Israeli civilians—international concern over the situation in the Taiwan Strait has increased. The Taiwan Strait issue has long risen beyond a cross-strait and regional level to become a focal point for global security and prosperity, with the entire world as stakeholders. On this point, there is a clear consensus worldwide that the Taiwan Strait issue must be peacefully resolved—that war is absolutely not an option, that peace is the only option, and that neither side may unilaterally change the status quo in a nonpeaceful manner.

**2.3. Taiwan has become a force for good that contributes to the world.**

In recent years, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war, and the frequent occurrence of natural disasters in all

parts of the world have posed severe trials for the international community. Despite this daunting environment, we have communicated to all corners of the world the message that Taiwan can help. We have engaged in international endeavors to assist Ukraine, fulfilled our responsibility in fighting the pandemic across the globe, and provided humanitarian assistance. We have readily extended a hand of friendship at all times, underscoring our important contributions to the international community. Taiwan has won global acclaim as a reliable partner and a force for good in the world.

The Ministry works hand in hand with the Taiwanese people to safeguard national sovereignty, dignity, security, and interests. The magnitude of international support for Taiwan has continued to increase in recent months. More and more foreign friends have spoken up for Taiwan. Many heads of state of diplomatic allies and prominent political figures from democratic partners have visited Taiwan. Our efforts have transformed challenges into opportunities.

### **3. Major accomplishments of steadfast diplomacy**

Since the last Legislative Yuan session, my colleagues at the Ministry have achieved significant accomplishments in their dedicated implementation of steadfast diplomacy.

#### **3.1. Great efforts have been made to maintain diplomatic alliances and underscore solid partnerships.**

**Frequent mutual high-level visits:** Eswatini Prime Minister Cleopas Siphon Dlamini and his wife, Guatemala President Alejandro Giammattei, Paraguay

President Santiago Peña Palacios (then president-elect) and his wife, Nauru President Russ Joseph Kun and his wife, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Governor-General Susan Dougan, and Saint Christopher and Nevis Governor-General Marcella Liburd were among the high-level officials of diplomatic allies to visit Taiwan since the last Legislative Yuan session. In March, President Tsai Ing-wen led a delegation to Guatemala and Belize on a trip entitled “Meeting Democratic Partners, Fostering Shared Prosperity.” In September, she traveled to Eswatini for a visit themed “Celebrating Enduring Friendship, Advancing Sustainable Cooperation” to celebrate the 55th anniversary of Eswatini’s independence and the 55th birthday of King Mswati III. Vice President Lai Ching-te led a delegation to Paraguay in August to attend the inauguration of President Peña. Serving as the president’s special envoy, I visited Saint Christopher and Nevis in September to congratulate our ally on the 40th anniversary of its independence and to celebrate 40 years of diplomatic relations between our countries.

**Signing of bilateral cooperation agreements:** In March, Taiwan signed a five-year Protocol on Cooperation with Eswatini covering 2023 to 2027, a Diplomatic Staff Training Cooperation Agreement with the Marshall Islands, and a basic cooperation pact with Guatemala. In April, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the Adaptation and Contingency Fund for Climate Change with the Marshall Islands, a Framework Agreement on Technical Cooperation with Belize, an MOU on Expanding Education Cooperation Projects with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and an MOU on the Mutual Recognition of Organic Agriculture Production Systems with Paraguay. In May, we signed a Diplomatic Staff

Training Cooperation Agreement and a technical cooperation accord with Tuvalu. In June, also with Tuvalu, we signed a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. In August, we signed a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters with Saint Lucia. In September, we signed an MOU regarding Women Business Start-up Microfinance Revolving Fund with Eswatini and an Agreement on Diplomatic Staff Training Cooperation with Saint Christopher and Nevis.

**Smooth progress in bilateral cooperation projects:** In May, Taiwan and the United States convened their first Pacific American Fund (PAF) Grants Review Board meeting in Fiji to award grants designed to assist 12 Pacific island states, including our four diplomatic allies, in strengthening climate change resilience. Bilateral cooperation with Latin American and Caribbean allies is also proceeding smoothly; several workshops have been held under the project for Assisting the Economic Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Post Covid-19 Era. The Ministry assisted the Taichung Veterans General Hospital Mobile Medical Mission in organizing a health clinic in Nauru in June and conducting a Maritime and Port Authority Personnel Training Cooperation Project for Pacific allies in July. These cooperation programs have been widely commended by the governments and peoples of diplomatic allies.

### **3.2. Diverse and rapid advances in the Taiwan-US partnership**

**The US administration continues to support Taiwan through concrete actions:** The United States has underscored the importance of preserving

peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait at numerous bilateral and multilateral events. These have included the US-Canada leaders' summit in March; the Group of Seven (G7) Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the US-ROK leaders' summit in April; the US-Philippines and US-Japan leaders' meetings and the G7 Summit in May; the US-Japan-Australia trilateral defense ministers' meeting and the fifth high-level meeting of the EU-US Dialogue on China in June; the US-Italy leaders' meeting in July; the US-Japan-ROK trilateral leaders' summit in August; and the East Asia Summit, the US state secretary's meetings with the German and Japanese foreign ministers, and the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in September. Since assuming office, the Biden administration has announced 11 arms sale packages to Taiwan. In July, it announced its first provision to Taiwan of US\$345 million of defense articles and services through a Presidential Drawdown Authority. Then, in August, it announced a grant of US\$80 million in Foreign Military Financing to Taiwan.

With regard to US support for Taiwan's participation in international organizations, Secretary of State Antony Blinken issued a statement in May entitled "Taiwan as an Observer in the World Health Assembly," strongly encouraging the World Health Organization (WHO) to invite Taiwan to participate as an observer at this year's World Health Assembly (WHA). This marked the third consecutive year that he has issued a statement backing Taiwan's observership in the WHA. Meanwhile, President Tsai and Vice President Lai were accorded high regard and high-level courtesies while transiting through the United States on their trips to Central American allies in March and Paraguay in August, respectively.

**The US Congress continues to take concrete actions to assist Taiwan, with bipartisan support from both the Senate and the House of Representatives:** Since late March, a total of 34 members of the two chambers of Congress have visited Taiwan. Congress has also passed flagship pro-Taiwan bills and called for Taiwan's participation in the United Nations system. This year, both the Senate and the House of Representatives again incorporated provisions that are strongly supportive of Taiwan in their respective versions of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, explicitly endorsing enhanced military cooperation and partnership between Taiwan and the United States. Moreover, Congress unanimously approved the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade First Agreement Implementation Act, which was signed into law by President Joe Biden, thereby completing the legislative process.

**Taiwan-US economic and trade relations continue to strengthen:** The first agreement under the Taiwan-US Initiative on 21st-Century Trade was signed in June, followed by a new round of negotiations in Washington, DC, in August. With various sectors in Taiwan and the United States expressing a positive stance toward promoting an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation, the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee in July released a discussion draft of legislation to provide related relief. In addition, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed the Taiwan Tax Agreement Act in July and the Senate Finance Committee approved the US-Taiwan Expedited Double Tax Relief Act in September.



**Taiwan's relations with US local governments continue to deepen:** Since the beginning of this year, 52 resolutions backing Taiwan have been passed by 33 US state legislatures and the Guam Legislature, supporting Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations and the signing of a Taiwan-US bilateral trade agreement, among other issues. To date, 26 US state legislatures have established Taiwan friendship caucuses, together boasting a total membership of more than 632 senators and representatives.

**Bilateral cooperation is expanding across all domains in breadth and depth:** Three in-person events have been held since March under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF), covering public health, anticorruption, and sustainable aviation. Together with the United States, Japan, and Australia, Taiwan also organized an international GCTF seminar in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September.

### **3.3. Continued comprehensive enhancement of Taiwan-Japan relations and development of bilateral exchanges and cooperation**

**Further strengthening of substantive partnership:** The government of Japan has reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait at multiple major international events. It explicitly included content calling cross-strait peace and stability an important issue in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Communiqué, the G7 Leaders' Communiqué, and statements released at the Japan-EU summit, the US-Japan-ROK summit, the Japan-France foreign and defense ministers' meeting, and the ASEAN Summit, as well as in its *Diplomatic Bluebook* and the *Defense of Japan 2023* annual

white paper. It also repeated its stance at the Japan-China foreign ministers' meeting.

**Enhancing comprehensive cooperation through parliamentary exchanges:** Legislative Yuan President You Si-kun led a fact-finding mission to Japan's Yonaguni Island in July. Vice Premier Cheng Wen-tsan visited Japan in June to attend a Japan-Taiwan industrial bridging forum. Representative Taro Aso, former Japanese Prime Minister and current Vice President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), led a delegation to Taiwan in August, delivering an opening address at the Ketagalan Forum. Since March, a total of 111 members of the Japanese Diet have visited Taiwan, including a 43-member parliamentary delegation of the Japan-R.O.C. Diet Members' Consultative Council led by Chair and Representative Keiji Furuya to attend the National Day celebrations this month. Representative Norikazu Suzuki led an LDP Youth Division delegation to Taiwan for youth exchanges before joining a cross-party Legislative Yuan delegation on a trip to Palau for parliamentary exchanges between Taiwan, Japan, and Palau. This further expanded parliamentary exchanges between Taiwan and Japan.

**3.4. Rapid development of Taiwan-Europe relations and speedy increase in the scope of bilateral cooperation; support for cross-strait security is being incorporated into government policies of many European countries.**

**Taiwan and European nations continue to deepen exchanges:** On my visit to Europe in June, I attended and delivered a speech at the 2023 European

Values Summit in Prague, where Czech President Petr Pavel was also a keynote speaker. In September, I delivered a prerecorded speech to the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China annual summit in Prague. In March, German Federal Minister for Education and Research Bettina Stark-Watzinger visited Taiwan, the first ministerial-level official from Germany to do so in 26 years. Former UK Prime Minister Liz Truss visited in May, the first former UK prime minister to travel to Taiwan since Margaret Thatcher 27 years ago. Other delegations also visited, led respectively by Markéta Pekarová Adamová, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic; Alain Richard, Chair of the French Senate's Taiwan Friendship Group; Oliver Cadic, Vice President of the French Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces; Els Van Hoof, Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives; and Lord Faulkner, UK Trade Envoy to Taiwan. We also welcomed delegations representing parliamentary friendship groups from the European Parliament (EP) and the United Kingdom, Portugal, Belgium, Sweden, Italy, Poland, Ireland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and other countries, as well as the foreign affairs committees of the EP and the French and Polish Senates.

**European countries are voicing support for Taiwan at a rapidly rising frequency and volume:** European countries have reaffirmed the importance of security across the Taiwan Strait at numerous multilateral and bilateral meetings. These include the G7 Summit, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Summit, the France-Japan foreign and defense ministers' meeting, the France-Australia foreign and defense ministers' meeting, and the 36th UK-France summit. The French government announced the 2024-2030

Military Programming Law in August, making France the first major country to enact legislation calling for the defense of freedom of navigation in the Taiwan Strait. The *Integrated Review Refresh 2023*, published by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in March, expressed concern over the situation across the Taiwan Strait. The first-time publication of a *Strategy on China* by the German government in July contained 13 references to Taiwan.

The importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait was further affirmed in the US-Italy summit joint statement, the UK-Italy summit MOU, the UK-Sweden joint statement, and the UK-Poland 2030 strategic partnership joint declaration. President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, and 30 chairs and key members of parliamentary caucuses all stressed the importance of cross-strait peace and stability during a plenary session of the EP in April.

The German Bundestag overwhelmingly adopted a resolution in May to back Taiwan's participation in WHO. The foreign affairs committees of the Slovak Parliament and the Czech Chamber of Deputies approved resolutions and the Polish-Taiwanese Parliamentarian Group issued a statement endorsing Taiwan's meaningful participation as an observer in UN-related international organizations.

**Efforts continue to be made to promote economic, trade, and technological connectivity between Taiwan and Europe:** Minister without

Portfolio Deng Chen-chung, concurrently serving as chief negotiator at the Office of Trade Negotiations under the Executive Yuan, and UK Minister for International Trade Nigel Huddleston announced in July that official talks on a bilateral Enhanced Trade Partnership would be launched. In promoting the signing of a bilateral investment agreement with the European Union (EU), Taiwan has continued to hold bilateral trade talks with a number of European countries. These include the third session of the Taiwanese-Slovak Commission on Economic Cooperation held in June, as well as the Taiwan-Germany Joint Business Council (JBC) meeting and the Taiwan-Sweden JBC meeting in September. Furthermore, Taiwan signed a scientific and technological cooperation agreement with Germany, the first-ever such accord with a European country. A direct flight route between Taipei and Prague became operational in July. The Czech government has since allowed R.O.C. (Taiwan) passport holders arriving on direct flights to enter through the automatic immigration clearance system, facilitating bilateral trade and technological exchanges between Taiwan and the EU.

**Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarship and Taiwan-Europe Semiconductor Talent Incubation Program contributing to deeper talent exchanges and industrial cooperation:** A total of 511 recipients of the Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarship have arrived for studies in Taiwan this year. The Ministry, in collaboration with National Taiwan University, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, and the Taiwan Semiconductor Research Institute, organized the first short-term training program for Europeans in August. Seventy outstanding individuals from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Lithuania, and Italy attended. In September, five

Czech students were awarded the Taiwan-Europe Semiconductor Scholarship.

**Taiwan has donated supplies to assist in Ukraine’s reconstruction:** The Russia-Ukraine war has inflicted heavy socioeconomic losses on Ukraine. In June, the Ministry announced a US\$5 million fund for reconstruction projects in Ukraine. We also donated more than 100 ambulances, fire trucks, and paratransit vehicles in cooperation with civic groups. In July, we signed an MOU to assist Ukraine with Bucha Mayor Anatoliy Fedoruk, the Future for Ukraine Foundation, the Polish Center for International Aid, and Slovak charitable organizations.

### **3.5. Coordinating with related ministries to comprehensively advance the New Southbound Policy**

The Ministry has done its utmost to integrate efforts by related government agencies in promoting the New Southbound Policy (NSP), broadening and deepening cooperation across all domains with major NSP partner countries. After seven years of efforts in implementing the NSP, Taiwan’s trade with NSP partners has increased more than 80 percent—a much higher rate than its trade with other areas over the same period. Taiwan has also enjoyed significant growth in exchanges with NSP partners in such domains as education, agriculture, healthcare, disaster prevention, investment, finance, and culture. Trade with the NSP region exceeded US\$180 billion in 2022, while Taiwanese investments made either from Taiwan or via a third country topped the US\$100 billion mark, creating millions of job opportunities in NSP partner countries. These countries have now surpassed China as the top

destination for Taiwan's overseas investments. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Ministry of Economic Affairs established the Taiwan-Australia Health and Biotechnology Partnership with the Australian Office in May. Taiwan and Thailand signed an Implementing Arrangement on Fisheries Cooperation in June.

**Personnel exchanges and humanitarian assistance are being strengthened:**

In August, 49 young farmers from the Philippines arrived for 11-month internships under the bilateral MOU for the Filipino Young Farmers Internship Program in Taiwan, which was signed in November 2020. Seventy college students from NSP partner countries have also been accepted for the second round of the New Southbound Policy Elite Study Program, held in cooperation with Taipei Medical University and three other universities. Taiwan donated US\$60,000 to Malaysia for flood relief in March. The Taiwan Technical Mission to the Philippines completed its first demonstration farm cooperation project in Tarlac Province in July.

**3.6. Bolstering momentum for Taiwan's international participation**

Owing to China's unwarranted interference, Taiwan is unable to participate in the UN system. However, international support for and affirmation of Taiwan's involvement in the global arena have been gaining momentum year after year.

During the 76th WHA in May, 12 diplomatic allies submitted a proposal to invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA as an observer. Belize, Nauru,

Eswatini, and the Marshall Islands spoke up for Taiwan at the General Committee or the plenary session. Like-minded nations also extended unprecedented support for Taiwan. Thirteen countries—namely, the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France, Germany, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Estonia, New Zealand, and Latvia—voiced support for Taiwan at the WHA plenary session. This was the first time that Estonia made a clear reference to Taiwan. For the third consecutive year, the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Communiqué, jointly issued with the European Union, incorporated text backing Taiwan. For the second year running, the G7 Health Ministers’ Communiqué explicitly endorsed Taiwan’s meaningful participation in the WHA and WHO technical meetings.

With China blatantly attempting to interfere in Taiwan’s international participation by citing UNGA Resolution 2758, we continue to call on the global community to duly recognize that the resolution has been erroneously interpreted and that China is acting to obstruct Taiwan in the international arena with malicious intent and purpose. The US House of Representatives passed the Taiwan International Solidarity Act in July, emphasizing that the UNGA resolution addresses only the issue of China’s representation at the UN and has nothing to do with Taiwan. During the UNGA in September, 12 diplomatic allies spoke up for Taiwan, while the chair of the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, incorporating the endorsement of the EU high representative, issued a statement advocating for the first time Taiwan’s meaningful participation in international organizations. Parliamentarians of the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, Hungary, Ireland, Spain, Slovakia, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Brazil, and other countries expressed support



for Taiwan through diverse channels, including laws, statements, questions to the executive branches of government, letters to the UN secretary-general, and social media posts. For the first time, alumni from Spain and 10 other nations who had studied in Taiwan sent open letters to the UN secretary-general or media outlets in support of Taiwan.

Taiwan continues to exert international influence through its participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. Since March, it has attended 10 high-level meetings and two senior officials' meetings, including a Transportation Ministerial Meeting and a Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting. Taiwan hosted 27 APEC meetings and events.

Taiwan continues to push to participate in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). In April, the US House of Representatives adopted the Upholding Sovereignty of Airspace Act, calling for ICAO to facilitate Taiwan's participation. The parliaments of Belize and Saint Christopher and Nevis and the Czech Senate adopted motions or resolutions backing Taiwan's participation in ICAO and other international organizations.

### **3.7. Taking proactive steps to make our voice heard internationally**

The Ministry continues to employ a variety of approaches to speak out in the international community, including arranging interviews for President Tsai with international media. Since the last Legislative Yuan session, I have given 34 interviews to international media outlets, promoting Taiwan's cause and underscoring Taiwan's contributions to the world.

A series of documentaries on Taiwan coproduced by the Ministry and the world-renowned Discovery Channel premiered in Taiwan on June 22 before being released in nearly 20 Asia-Pacific countries and territories from July 5. The Ministry’s official Facebook account has attracted over 269,000 followers since its launch, with a total of more than 173 million views. The Facebook accounts of 104 overseas missions have a combined total of approximately 965,000 followers. Meanwhile, our official Twitter/X account now has over 415,000 followers and has attracted an accumulated total of more than 300 million views. Our Instagram account has over 91,000 followers, and our Threads account has accumulated 13,000 followers since its launch in July.

Taiwan’s publicity campaigns during the UNGA in September elicited widespread attention. My op-ed was published 227 times, up from 202 last year. Letters to the editor from the heads of Taiwan’s overseas missions were published 162 times. Two short films produced to promote Taiwan’s UN bid—*To Equality* and *Global Peace with Taiwan*—garnered 19.01 million and 12.91 million views online, respectively, a significant increase from the 10.23 million views of last year’s film.

### **3.8. Actively contributing to global issues and fulfilling our international responsibility as a constructive partner of the democratic community**

Taiwan and its four Pacific allies signed the Joint Statement on Combating Climate Change at the 2023 Pacific Climate Change Forum. Taiwan also actively assists other countries in responding to natural disasters. When Türkiye and Syria were struck by a massive earthquake in February, all sectors of Taiwan made generous contributions to the relief effort, with civil society

donations to a dedicated Ministry of Health and Welfare account and government aid totaling US\$40.72 million. In September, the Ministry donated US\$500,000 to Morocco for postearthquake reconstruction and US\$1 million to Libya for flood relief.

#### **4. Further advancing steadfast diplomacy**

The Ministry continues to implement steadfast diplomacy, focusing on the following priorities:

##### **4.1. Consolidating ties with diplomatic allies**

We continue to consolidate diplomatic alliances, promote mutual high-level visits, and engage in comprehensive exchanges aimed at expanding and deepening cooperation that benefits bilateral relations and improves people's livelihoods in allied nations. However, we most certainly will not engage in checkbook diplomacy.

##### **4.2. Deepening relations with like-minded and friendly nations**

By inviting foreign officials to visit Taiwan and engaging in dialogue and exchanges, we continue to bolster partnerships with such like-minded nations as the United States, Japan, and European countries. We are also seeking to expand global strategic deployments and reach agreements on the mutual establishment of representative offices.

##### **4.3. Expanding international participation and making proactive contributions**

Based on the principles of pragmatism, professionalism, and making

contributions, we are combining public- and private-sector resources and strengths to expand Taiwan's space for international participation. At the same time, we are doing our utmost to safeguard our rights and interests in organizations to which we already belong.

#### **4.4. Strengthening the implementation of the NSP**

We continue to implement the NSP, which serves as the core of our Indo-Pacific strategy, by focusing on four pillars: economic and trade cooperation, talent exchanges, resource sharing, and regional connectivity. By leveraging our strengths in high-tech domains, we have incorporated a Digital New Southbound initiative. We have also integrated the strengths of the government, business sector, and civil society to substantively deepen diverse relations with NSP partners. We have proven to the region and the world that Taiwan is a reliable and trustworthy cooperative partner.

#### **4.5. Fully endeavoring to join regional economic integration mechanisms and sign bilateral free trade agreements**

In particular, our priority is to gain accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, as well as enhance the content of the Taiwan-US Initiative on 21st-Century Trade so as to lay a more solid foundation for the future signing of a bilateral free trade agreement.

#### **4.6. Making our voice heard internationally**

We continue to employ diverse approaches to communicate our message to the international community and increase Taiwan's visibility. In particular, we have strengthened our use of new media platforms and encouraged

international media outlets and nongovernmental organizations to set up offices in and engage with Taiwan. This will further bolster the impact in terms of international publicity.

#### **4.7. Fulfilling our international responsibilities**

Taiwan will continue to adhere to international norms, safeguard democratic values, uphold the rules-based international order, and contribute to the world as a force for good.

#### **4.8. Continuing to enhance services and convenience for the public**

The Ministry will continue to enhance services to meet citizens' needs, such as raising the quota for online appointments for passport applications and optimizing consular delivery procedures. To protect the rights and interests of Taiwanese people, we will also strengthen emergency assistance mechanisms for citizens traveling overseas.

### **5. Conclusion**

I would like to once again thank the Legislative Yuan and the distinguished members of the Committee for your support and encouragement of the Ministry. Despite formidable external challenges—escalating threats and suppression from China, in particular—the Ministry will continue to do its very best in all it does. We very much look forward to the Committee members' continued support and guidance. Thank you!