

**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 March 20, 2024**

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

Good morning!

I would like to thank the committee members for inviting me here to present a briefing on Taiwan’s diplomatic work. I would like to thank the Legislative Yuan for supporting steadfast diplomacy and encouraging the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter “the Ministry”) as we worked together to promote Taiwan’s diplomatic work over the past eight years. This report will cover international developments and external challenges facing Taiwan, the Ministry’s achievements in steadfast diplomacy since the previous Legislative Yuan session, and the Ministry’s accomplishments over the last eight years. Your feedback and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

1. Foreword

Over the past eight years, Taiwan has encountered a succession of diplomatic challenges, including drastic changes to the international environment, rampant authoritarian expansionism, political and economic turmoil worldwide, increasing geopolitical risks, the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic, and malicious disinformation campaigns. It has also been confronted with nontraditional and hybrid security threats such as climate change, natural disasters, infectious diseases, food safety, terrorism, cyberattacks, and transnational crime. Furthermore, Taiwan

must constantly respond to heavy-handed suppression from China, China's unilateral attempts to change the cross-strait status quo, and the growing threat China poses to Taiwan's national security, international status, and economic security.

Fortunately, through the concerted efforts of the people and government, Taiwan has been able to do its utmost to overcome these numerous challenges, proactively leverage opportunities, and steadily deepen and enhance cooperation with like-minded democratic partners. As we have worked diligently to expand our diplomatic presence, go global, and gradually implement steadfast diplomacy, *Taiwan* has become a key word in the international community. What's more, a worldwide consensus has emerged on maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. Support for Taiwan from the United States, Japan, European nations, and other democratic partners has increased significantly. Taiwan has continued to achieve breakthroughs in economic and trade diplomacy and strengthen industrial supply chains with other countries, becoming a force for good in the world and increasing its international visibility.

2. Despite serious external challenges, Taiwan continues to advance steadfast diplomacy

Over the past six months, the situation across the Taiwan Strait has attracted a high degree of international attention, the Russia-Ukraine war has remained at an impasse, the Israel-Hamas conflict has continued, the Red Sea crisis has intensified, and tensions in the South China Sea and on the Korean Peninsula have escalated. As geopolitical conflict and risk continue to proliferate across the globe—and especially with authoritarianism on the rise—the Ministry faces ever more variables as it engages in diplomatic work.

Meanwhile, China has continued to relentlessly ramp up attempts to suppress Taiwan. Incursions by People's Liberation Army aircraft and vessels have increased, as have rhetorical and military intimidation. In particular, China sought to interfere in Taiwan's presidential election this year through military intimidation, cognitive warfare, economic coercion, and other hybrid tactics. Just two days after the election, China enticed Taiwan's ally Nauru to switch diplomatic recognition. And, yet again, China misrepresented United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758, falsely linking it to the so-called "one China principle." It then issued an announcement unilaterally adjusting the M503 flight route, further challenging the existence of the median line of the Taiwan Strait. It has also used disputes in the Kinmen-Xiamen waters as a pretext to send coast guard vessels on patrol missions, conduct onboard inspections of Taiwanese vessels, and carry out fisheries patrols in the area in an attempt to pressure Taiwan. China's unilateral, heavy-handed, and unreasonable actions jeopardize security across the Taiwan Strait and the region. It also seeks to erode the cross-strait status quo, undermining regional peace and stability.

Despite serious external challenges, Taiwan successfully completed its eighth direct presidential election, setting another epochal milestone in its democratic development. More than 1,600 prominent political figures from over 100 countries congratulated Taiwan. They hailed from diplomatic allies, the United States, Canada, Japan, the European Union, and European nations such as France, Germany, and Italy. They included the heads of state and government of numerous diplomatic allies, as well as Czech President Petr Pavel, Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., and other government leaders. Taiwan has spared no effort to consolidate and maintain diplomatic alliances; enhance substantive relations with important like-

minded countries such as the United States, Japan, and European nations; steadily promote the New Southbound Policy; and progressively build momentum for international participation. This reflects Taiwan's active contributions to the international community and the fulfillment of its responsibilities as a good democratic partner.

3. Major accomplishments of steadfast diplomacy in the past six months

Since the last Legislative Yuan session, my colleagues at the Ministry and overseas missions have dedicated themselves to implementing steadfast diplomacy and have achieved significant results.

3.1. Striving to maintain diplomatic alliances and highlighting solid partnerships

Frequent mutual high-level visits: Saint Christopher and Nevis Governor-General Marcella Liburd, Eswatini Prime Minister Russell Dlamini, and Eswatini Foreign Minister Pholile Shakantu were among the high-level officials of diplomatic allies to visit Taiwan since the last Legislative Yuan session. In January, President-elect Lai Ching-te held videoconferences with Paraguay President Santiago Peña Palacios, Palau President Surangel Whipps, Jr., and Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine and invited them to attend this year's presidential and vice presidential inauguration. As special envoy of President Tsai Ing-wen, I led a delegation to the inauguration of Guatemala President Bernardo Arévalo in January. Deputy Foreign Minister Tien Chung-kwang also served as President Tsai's special envoy, leading delegations to the inauguration of Marshall Islands President Heine in January and to the

celebration of the formation of the new Tuvalu government in March. While in Tuvalu, he met with new Prime Minister Feleti Teo and other key political figures.

Signing of cooperation agreements; bilateral projects progressing smoothly: Last October, Taiwan signed an agreement to strengthen metabolic chronic disease prevention and control systems in Belize. We worked with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on a reconstruction project following eruptions of La Soufriere volcano. Other bilateral endeavors with Latin American and Caribbean allies are also progressing smoothly, covering areas such as the development of the agricultural, fisheries, and livestock industries; public health and medical care; ICT; disaster prevention and control; environmental and energy conservation; guidance for small and medium-sized enterprises; and other domains.

3.2. Rock-solid Taiwan-US relations

The US administration continues to demonstrate its commitment to Taiwan: President Joe Biden and high-level US officials from the White House, Department of State, and other government agencies have publicly reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait on multiple occasions. On March 7, President Biden emphasized for the first time in a State of the Union Address that the United States would stand up for peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. The US government also spoke of continuing to normalize arms sales to Taiwan. In a phone call on March 13, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and Czech Foreign Minister Jan

Lipavský discussed deeper cooperation to support Taiwan’s meaningful participation in international fora. The Biden administration announced its 13th arms sale to Taiwan—an approximately US\$75 million package of advanced tactical data link (Link 16) system upgrade planning. And in the US president’s fiscal year 2025 budget request, the Department of State made a historic request for US\$100 million to assist Taiwan. This marked the first time that a dedicated line item on Taiwan had been included in the budget.

The US Congress continues to support Taiwan through concrete action:

The US Senate and House of Representatives have shown bipartisan support for Taiwan. Seven members of Congress have visited Taiwan since last October. Representatives Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) and Ami Bera (D-CA), Cochairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, led a delegation to Taiwan in January. Representative Mike Gallagher (R-WI), Chair of the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, led a cross-party delegation of influential representatives to Taiwan in February. This first-ever delegation from the House Select Committee to visit Taiwan included Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), ranking Democrat on the committee; and Representatives John Moolenaar (R-MI), Seth Moulton (D-MA), and Dusty Johnson (R-SD). Last December, the US Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024, adding impetus to the support provided to Taiwan by previous NDAAAs. The act was signed into law by President Biden, thereby completing the legislative process. In January, the House of Representatives passed this year’s first bills friendly to Taiwan, including the Taiwan Non-Discrimination Act of 2023 (H.R. 540) and the

Pressure Regulatory Organizations to End Chinese Threats to (PROTECT) Taiwan Act (H.R. 803).

Taiwan-US economic and trade relations continue to strengthen:

Following the signing of the first agreement under the Taiwan-US Initiative on 21st-Century Trade last year, the US House of Representatives in January passed the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024, which incorporated a section each on the US-Taiwan Expedited Double-Tax Relief Act and the US-Taiwan Tax Agreement Authorization Act.

Taiwan's relations with US local governments continue to deepen:

Last year, 36 US states and territories adopted 56 resolutions calling for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations and the signing of a Taiwan-US bilateral trade agreement, among other issues. So far this year, three states have passed three resolutions backing Taiwan. Twenty-seven US state legislatures have established Taiwan friendship caucuses, boasting a total membership of over 645 senators and representatives. New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer visited Taiwan last October and this March, respectively, to open state offices.

Bilateral cooperation is expanding:

Since last October, Taiwan has hosted three international workshops under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) focusing on maritime disaster measures and human rights in the digital age. GCTF workshops and seminars have also been held overseas in the European Union, Eswatini, Saint Lucia, Palau, Belize, India, and other nations. Taiwan and the United States signed a memorandum of

understanding (MOU) on international development cooperation in February and held the fourth high-level dialogue under the Taiwan-US Education Initiative in March.

3.3. Stable and cordial Taiwan-Japan relations

The government of Japan has reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait: Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi stated in March that the government of Japan hoped that the Taiwan issue could be peacefully resolved through dialogue and that it would convey this position directly to China. In January, in a speech to the National Diet, Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoko Kamikawa reaffirmed the paramount importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, marking the third consecutive year that a Japanese foreign minister has mentioned cross-strait peace in an opening address to the National Diet. In addition, Japan reiterated the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait at the Japan-China foreign ministers' meeting last November as well as at the US-Japan-ROK trilateral dialogue and the US-Japan foreign ministers' meeting in January.

Prominent Japanese political figures congratulated Taiwan and visited following presidential election: Japanese Foreign Minister Kamikawa extended felicitations to Taiwan immediately following the presidential election. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Chief Cabinet Secretary Hayashi stated that Taiwan and Japan were important partners. More than 80 key political figures from Japan's governing and opposition parties congratulated

Taiwan on the smooth completion of the election. Since the last Legislative Yuan session, 48 members of the Japanese Diet have visited Taiwan. The Japan-R.O.C. Diet Members' Consultative Council Chair Keiji Furuya and Acting Chief Executive Yasushi Kaneko visited to observe Taiwan's election in January. That same month, Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association Chairman Mitsuo Ohashi also visited, meeting with President Tsai, President-elect Lai, and Vice President-elect Hsiao Bi-khim.

3.4. Taiwan-Europe relations reach new heights

Europe is increasing the frequency and magnitude of its support for Taiwan: The Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC) launched Operation Measure the Impact of a Shock in the Taiwan Strait (Operation MIST) in March, emphasizing the fact that maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait was the joint responsibility of all countries. It called on governments worldwide to collectively prevent a cross-strait conflict. In February, the European Parliament (EP) adopted resolutions to approve the annual implementation reports of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, which reiterated concern over China's escalation of tensions across the Taiwan Strait and called for further deepening of the comprehensive Taiwan-EU partnership. Last November, cochairs of the Formosa Club in Europe wrote a joint letter to the executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) expressing strong support for Taiwan's inclusion in the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. EP Vice-President Nicola Beer led 31 members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in making a similar appeal. Nearly 350

prominent political figures from the European Union and 31 European countries—including the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy—congratulated Taiwan after its presidential election. The European External Action Service; UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs David Cameron; and the foreign ministries of Germany, the Netherlands, France, Italy, and other countries issued statements congratulating Taiwan on the successful completion of the election.

Taiwan and European nations continue to deepen exchanges: During my visit to Europe in November, I attended the Future of Democracy: High-Level Forum on Defending Against Authoritarianism held in Lithuania. I also delivered public speeches at two think tanks—the Latvian Institute of International Affairs and the International Centre for Defence and Security in Estonia. Last October, Seimas Speaker Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen became the first parliamentary speaker from Lithuania to lead a delegation to Taiwan. Lithuania-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group Chairperson Matas Maldeikis led a cross-party delegation to Taiwan this January. MEPs and parliamentary foreign affairs committee members as well as key political figures from Belgium, Norway, the Czech Republic, and other countries have also organized delegations to Taiwan.

Continuing to promote economic and trade links between Taiwan and Europe: The Taiwan and UK heads of mission signed the Enhanced Trade Partnership arrangement by videoconference last November. The EP has adopted multiple resolutions staunchly backing the signing of a Taiwan-EU bilateral investment agreement. In January, it overwhelmingly passed a

resolution on a related report that draws particular attention to Taiwan's significant role in global supply chains and reiterates the EP's long-standing support for deepening economic, trade, and investment cooperation between Taiwan and the European Union.

Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarship and Taiwan-Europe Semiconductor Talent Incubation Program contribute to enhanced talent exchanges and industrial cooperation: A total of 495 recipients of the Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarship pursued studies in Taiwan last year. This year, 150 outstanding individuals from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Lithuania, and Italy attended a semiconductor training program in Taiwan, further deepening Taiwan-Europe exchanges and cooperation.

Assisting with Ukraine's reconstruction and donating related supplies: The heads of mission of Taiwan and the Czech Republic signed MOUs by videoconference last year to establish a partnership to help Ukraine—one in November on critical infrastructure reconstruction and another in December on rebuilding primary healthcare capacity. Last November, Taiwan's representative to Poland signed six cooperation MOUs with Ukrainian partners on behalf of the Taiwan government.

3.5. Continuing to advance the New Southbound Policy and creating mutual benefit and win-win outcomes

Last November, the government of Thailand introduced a six-month temporary visa exemption program to R.O.C. (Taiwan) nationals. That same month, the Ministry hosted the annual meeting of the Formosa Club in the

Indo-Pacific for the first time in Taiwan. This second annual event was attended by 11 parliamentarians from Palau, Nauru, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and the Philippines. Taiwan and the Philippine Bureau of Fire Protection coorganized a special search and rescue training camp last September and a workshop for senior firefighters in November. A total of 70 Philippine fire officials participated in these two programs, which were held in Taiwan.

3.6. Bolstering momentum for Taiwan's international participation

International support for and affirmation of Taiwan's involvement in the global arena have steadily gained momentum. Last November, Taiwan's bid for participation in the 91st General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) was endorsed by the executive and legislative branches of government and prominent individuals from over 60 countries. The foreign ministers and police commissioners of 10 nations wrote letters and took various other actions to publicly express support. Representatives of seven diplomatic allies spoke up for Taiwan at the INTERPOL General Assembly on three consecutive days. Moreover, 19 national delegations from diplomatic allies and friendly countries held bilateral meetings with the Taiwan delegation on the sidelines of the event.

Haiti, Paraguay, Eswatini, and Guatemala called for Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization (WHO) at the 154th session of the WHO Executive Board held in January. Taiwan also received unprecedented support from like-minded partners, which spoke up a total of 17 times on this issue. In addition to the European Union, they included the United States and

Japan—both of which specifically mentioned Taiwan—as well as the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France, and Germany.

Taiwan continues to exert international influence through its participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. For the sixth time, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company founder Morris Chang served as President Tsai’s representative at the APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting last November. Since October, Taiwan has attended the APEC Finance Ministers’ Meeting and the APEC Ministerial Meeting, in addition to hosting nine APEC meetings and events.

3.7. Taking proactive steps to make Taiwan’s voice heard internationally

The Ministry continues to employ a variety of approaches to make Taiwan’s voice heard in the international community, including arranging interviews for President Tsai with international media. And since the last Legislative Yuan session, I have given more than 20 interviews to international media outlets.

The Ministry provided assistance to 519 journalists representing 206 media outlets from 34 countries in covering the elections for the 16th-term president and vice president and the 11th Legislative Yuan. The Ministry also held a briefing for foreign media and arranged international press conferences for the three presidential candidates and their running mates.

With regard to social media, the Ministry’s official Facebook page has garnered over 270,000 followers since its launch and over 185 million views.

The Facebook pages of Taiwan's 105 overseas missions have a combined total of approximately 1.01 million followers. Meanwhile, the Ministry's official X account now has over 440,000 followers and has received more than 326 million views. The Ministry's Instagram account has over 97,000 followers, while its Threads account has accumulated 27,000 followers since its inception in July 2023.

Taiwan's publicity campaigns during the INTERPOL General Assembly and the 28th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC last November drew widespread attention. A total of 469 related news reports were published. Letters to the editor from the heads of Taiwan's overseas missions were published 94 times.

3.8. Actively providing humanitarian assistance and fulfilling Taiwan's role as a responsible member of the democratic community

Taiwan actively assists other countries in the aftermath of natural disasters. When an earthquake struck Japan's Noto Peninsula, the Taiwan government donated ¥60 million and Taiwan civil society raised more than ¥2.5 billion (approximately NT\$540 million) to support Japan's reconstruction efforts. Last November, the Ministry donated US\$100,000 to Acapulco, Mexico, in the wake of Hurricane Otis. Also last year, the Ministry implemented four aid programs for emergency humanitarian assistance, health care, education, food safety, and water supply and sanitation in parts of Türkiye and Syria that were devastated by an earthquake. As of January, we have signed agreements and disbursed funds for a total of nine relief programs in Türkiye and Syria.

4. Review of the accomplishments of steadfast diplomacy over the past eight years

Despite daunting challenges over the past eight years, the Ministry has worked with commitment and fortitude to steadfastly advance diplomacy and protect Taiwan. At this juncture, as the current administration is preparing to hand over the reins to a new government, I would like to discuss our many important accomplishments.

4.1. International consensus on peace across the Taiwan Strait

The global community is placing greater importance on maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait: Major countries around the world have stated that cross-strait peace and stability are critical to global security and prosperity. They have also opposed China's unilateral attempts to change the status quo of peace across the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan-US security cooperation continues to grow: To date, the United States has announced 24 arms sales to Taiwan. And, for the first time, the United States used presidential drawdown authority to expedite emergency military assistance to Taiwan. Also for the first time, the Biden administration approved a provision under the Foreign Military Financing Program to provide Taiwan with grants and loans for Taiwan-US military personnel training and exchanges. Just this month, President Biden underscored in his State of the Union address for the first time that the United States would be standing up for peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. The US government also stated that it would continue to normalize arms sales to Taiwan. In addition, the United States included a specific line item on Taiwan

in the US president's budget for fiscal year 2025 for the first time—with a historic request for US\$100 million.

Taiwan-friendly statements issued at important international meetings:

Statements friendly to Taiwan were issued at numerous international fora, including the Group of Seven (G7) summit; the North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit for leaders of 31 member countries; the European Council summit for leaders of the 27 EU members; the US-Japan-ROK summit at Camp David; the Australia-UK-US trilateral security partnership summit; the US-Philippines leaders' summit; the Japan-France leaders' telephone conversation; the US-Italy leaders' summit; and the high-level meeting of the US-EU Dialogue on China.

Unprecedented European support of Taiwan and recognition of importance of cross-strait peace in line with global democratic consensus:

EU leaders have continued to underscore their concern for cross-strait peace and stability, urging European nations to conduct patrols to protect freedom of navigation in the Taiwan Strait. France promulgated the 2024-2030 Military Programming Law, making it the first country in the world to enact legislation calling for the defense of freedom of navigation in the Taiwan Strait. German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Annalena Baerbock spoke in support of Taiwan at the closing plenary session of the UNFCCC COP28, marking the first time that a like-minded nation had done so.

4.2. Democratic partners staunchly support Taiwan

Rock-solid Taiwan-US relations: Since May 2016, 38 US senators and 119

members of the US House of Representatives have visited Taiwan. Among them was then House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who led a delegation of prominent congressional leaders to Taiwan in 2022. More recently, President Tsai also met with then House Speaker Kevin McCarthy. US congressional support for Taiwan is at an all-time high, as reflected in legislation passed by the US Congress in recent years. This includes the Taiwan Travel Act; the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act; and the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act. Provisions for funding the Taiwan Fellowship Program, the Taiwan Assurance Act, and the Foreign Military Financing Program were incorporated into the Consolidated Appropriations Act and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

Taiwan-Europe relations are at historic highs: The level and number of European dignitaries visiting Taiwan have continued to reach new highs, with over 2,200 visiting Taiwan since 2017. Visitors have included Czech Senate President Miloš Vystrčil, Czech Chamber of Deputies Speaker Markéta Pekarová Adamová, former UK Prime Minister Liz Truss, and Lithuania Seimas Speaker Čmilytė-Nielsen. A ministerial-level official from Germany visited Taiwan for the first time in 26 years. Then Czech President-elect Pavel set a precedent for Europe when he held a phone conference with President Tsai. We established an overseas mission in Lithuania that has the word *Taiwanese* in its name. We also opened offices in Aix-en-Provence, France, and Milan, Italy. Moreover, the EP passed more than 40 resolutions friendly to Taiwan.

Taiwan-Japan relations are a model of coprosperity: In 2017, the

Association of East Asian Relations, which was responsible for our government's engagement with Japan, was renamed the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association. That same year, the Japanese government sent its parliamentary vice-minister for internal affairs and communications on a visit to Taiwan for the first time since diplomatic ties were terminated in 1972. Since then, former Prime Ministers Yoshiro Mori and Taro Aso, as well as other prominent Japanese leaders, have also visited, further elevating the level of bilateral engagement. Japan listed peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait as an important issue in its 2023 edition of the *Diplomatic Bluebook* and the *Defense of Japan 2023* annual white paper. A record total of 115 Diet members visited Taiwan in 2023, a several-fold increase over previous years.

Robust Taiwan-Australia partnership: The government of Australia has repeatedly expressed support for peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait in high-level joint statements. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese publicly called for maintaining the cross-strait status quo during a visit to China last year. Former Prime Ministers Tony Abbott, Malcolm Turnbull, and Scott Morrison have visited Taiwan. In addition, Australia has continued to endorse Taiwan's participation in international organizations and activities. In 2022, Australia officially joined the GCTF and cosigned the Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement with Taiwan, New Zealand, and Canada.

Formosa Club chapters worldwide bolster friendly support: Since 2019, friendly parliamentarians have launched six regional chapters of the Formosa Club covering Europe and Canada; Latin America; Africa; West Asia; the

Indo-Pacific; and the Caribbean. To date, more than 1,300 lawmakers from over 80 countries have joined the Formosa Club and continue to staunchly speak up for Taiwan.

Taiwan signs bilateral agreements on mutual legal assistance: Since 2016, Taiwan has concluded 14 bilateral treaties and agreements on mutual legal assistance with Poland, Slovakia, Germany, and other countries. Taiwan has also worked with numerous law-enforcement agencies abroad, such as ones in Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Poland, to have Taiwanese suspects extradited to Taiwan.

4.3. Expanding Taiwan’s international presence through economic and trade diplomacy

Taiwan-US economic and trade cooperation has further strengthened: Taiwan and the United States launched the Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue, which has been held for four consecutive years. The two countries also established the Technology Trade and Investment Collaboration framework and the Science and Technology Cooperation Dialogue, as well as signing the first agreement under the Taiwan-US Initiative on 21st-Century Trade. In addition, there has been consensus among all sectors regarding double taxation in Taiwan and the United States, and progress has been made toward addressing the issue.

Taiwan’s economic and trade relations with Canada, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea, and Japan continue to advance: Last year, Taiwan signed the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Arrangement with

Canada and the Enhanced Trade Partnership Arrangement with the United Kingdom. The Taiwan-ROK Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income was signed in 2021 and took effect in 2023. Taiwan and Japan concluded the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters in 2017. The Taiwan-Japan Commission on Cooperation in Third Country Markets was launched in 2018 and has since been convened six times.

Promoting the New Southbound Policy (NSP) for the benefit of all parties:

Total trade between Taiwan and NSP partner countries has increased more than 80 percent since 2016, and the region has become the top destination for Taiwan's overseas investments. Taiwanese nationals enjoy visa-free entry into New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand. Other NSP countries offer preferential treatment to Taiwan passport holders. And over 200,000 students from NSP partners have studied in Taiwan.

Proactive efforts to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP): Taiwan formally submitted an application to join the CPTPP in September 2021 and amended related laws by 2022. All CPTPP members now understand Taiwan's determination to accede to the agreement and the preparations that Taiwan has made.

Bolstering Taiwan's participation in the World Trade Organization (WTO): Taiwan played an active role in the 11th and 12th WTO Ministerial Conferences, substantively enhancing its economic interests. Taiwan's permanent mission to the WTO has strived to see that Taiwanese delegates

become chairpersons and serve in other important positions on WTO committees and in working groups, deepening involvement in WTO operations and raising Taiwan's visibility.

4.4. Creating a virtuous cycle by contributing to the world

Promoting antipandemic diplomacy and contributing to the international community: During the COVID-19 pandemic, Taiwan donated more than 50 million surgical masks to over 80 countries. The United States, Japan, and European nations reciprocated by donating over 9.05 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Taiwan, creating a virtuous cycle.

Humanitarian assistance to Ukraine: The government and people of Taiwan made monetary donations totaling nearly US\$120 million and in-kind donations of more than 950 tons to assist Ukraine. Moreover, we donated ambulances, assisted a children's hospital in performing 3,000 surgeries, and provided other forms of humanitarian aid. Taiwan also signed joint statements with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Union, and a number of countries to support wartime resilience and postwar reconstruction in Ukraine.

Taiwan's compassion and concern for the world: Taiwan made generous donations totaling more than US\$42 million to Türkiye and Syria in the aftermath of a powerful earthquake, to Morocco following an earthquake, and to Libya in the wake of severe flooding. Taiwan also dispatched a search and rescue team in two batches to Türkiye to provide humanitarian assistance after the earthquake.

Working with diplomatic allies to ensure national sustainability: Taiwan worked with diplomatic allies on bilateral cooperation projects covering agriculture, medicine, public health, education, technology, women's empowerment, climate adaptation, and basic infrastructure to promote allies' national development. The assistance, based on the Taiwan model, has brought practical benefits to local peoples.

Publishing a new edition of the white paper on international cooperation and development policy: Last year, the Ministry published a new edition of the white paper on Taiwan's international cooperation and development policy. The paper discussed Taiwan's adherence to steadfast diplomacy based on the principle of mutual assistance for mutual benefit. It also covered important developments in Taiwan's foreign aid efforts over the past eight years and future prospects.

4.5. Making Taiwan's voice heard in the global arena and raising Taiwan's visibility

Raising Taiwan's visibility: President Tsai delivered remarks at the Forum 2000 Conference, the Copenhagen Democracy Summit, the Concordia Annual Summit, and other major international fora. She was named among the 100 most influential people of 2020 by *Time* magazine and honored with the Hudson Institute's Global Leadership Award.

Significant achievements of high-level diplomacy: President Tsai was the first head of state of our country to engage in a phone conversation with the

presidents-elect of the United States and the Czech Republic since 1979. In the past eight years, President Tsai, Vice President Lai, and then Vice President Chen Chien-jen made a total of 17 trips overseas to visit diplomatic allies.

Actively speaking up for Taiwan: We arranged interviews with prominent international media outlets for President Tsai, Vice President Lai, then Vice President Chen, the premier, and other high-level government officials. From the time I assumed office to the end of this January, I gave 315 interviews to international media organizations, met with foreign media outlets 1,031 times, and spoke with their journalists 1,292 times. More than 1,539 related news reports were published.

International media stationing more reporters in Taiwan to gain a head start on Taiwan news: International media presence and the number of foreign journalists stationed in Taiwan have more than doubled over the past eight years. Today, 174 journalists representing 82 international media organizations from 20 countries are stationed in Taiwan, helping the world better understand the situation across the Taiwan Strait and raising Taiwan's international visibility.

4.6. Expanding Taiwan's diplomatic presence and bringing Taiwan closer to the world

Diplomatic engagement with friendly nations in continental Europe: I have visited Italy, Belgium, Denmark, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and other European countries.

Establishment of seven new overseas missions: The Ministry opened representative offices or offices in Lithuania; Somaliland; Côte d’Ivoire; Aix-en-Provence, France; Milan, Italy; Montreal, Canada; and Mumbai, India.

Enhanced and more convenient connections to Europe: Taiwanese airlines launched direct flights to three new destinations in Europe—Milan, Munich, and Prague.

Expanding participation in international organizations: Taiwan has successfully gained membership to 12 intergovernmental organizations over the past eight years. These include the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities; the Safer Skies Consultative Committee; the Global Financial Innovation Network; and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement.

Significant increase in vocal support for Taiwan’s international participation: In 2016, Taiwan’s bid for participation in the United Nations was endorsed by diplomatic allies and a few like-minded nations. Our campaigns for international participation have since gradually garnered greater support and are now widely backed by the global community. In 2023, 13 like-minded countries spoke up in support of Taiwan’s bid to participate in the World Health Assembly (WHA)—up from four in 2017. For three consecutive years, the G7 foreign ministers’ meeting has issued a communiqué explicitly endorsing Taiwan’s participation in the WHA, as has the G7 health ministers’ meeting for two consecutive years. While speaking

at the UN General Debate in 2022, US President Biden and European Council President Charles Michel expressed support for peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, echoing Taiwan's appeal. In 2023, Czech President Pavel spoke up for Taiwan at the UN General Debate. Also last year, the chair of the meeting of G7 foreign ministers and the EU high representative for foreign affairs and security policy issued a statement during the UN General Assembly that advocated Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations for the first time.

5. Conclusion

The Ministry will build on its past accomplishments, continuing to do its utmost to promote diplomatic work and projects. In particular, the Ministry will consolidate diplomatic relations with allies and enhance substantive ties with like-minded countries to safeguard national sovereignty and security, protect the rights and interests of the Taiwanese people, expand Taiwan's international presence, and further Taiwan's advancement in the world arena. My colleagues at the Ministry will continue to overcome challenges, leverage opportunities, and fully strive to meet the expectations of the public. We look forward to the continued support and guidance of the committee members. Thank you!