

**Report by Lin Chia-lung, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China  
(Taiwan), at the Foreign and National Defense Committee of the Legislative  
Yuan on May 30, 2024**

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

Good morning!

It is a great honor to present my first policy briefing to your esteemed committee since assuming office as minister of foreign affairs. I would like to begin by thanking the Legislative Yuan and the members of the committee for assisting in the government's efforts to expand Taiwan's international presence and for extending support and encouragement to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter "the Ministry"). This report will cover the diplomatic environment and challenges that Taiwan faces as well as its current foreign policy. Your feedback and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

**1. Foreword**

The inaugural ceremony of the 16th-term president and vice president of the Republic of China (Taiwan) was held on May 20. From the successful completion of Taiwan's elections on January 13 to the date of the inauguration, 73 foreign delegations—comprising a total of 687 dignitaries—visited Taiwan to offer their congratulations. Through concrete action, they demonstrated support for Taiwan and commended its completion of yet another round of democratic elections. This once again underscored that for democratic Taiwan, virtue does not dwell alone—it always has neighbors.

Eight years of steadfast diplomacy have laid a solid foundation, and trustworthy diplomacy has helped Taiwan garner greater international support. Taiwan has become a reliable partner in the international community. Moving forward, I will lead the Ministry's diplomatic team, sparing no effort to enhance values-based diplomacy and Taiwan's international links centered on democracy, peace, and prosperity. We will create a democratic community, a security community, and an economic and trade community to elevate and consolidate diplomatic alliances, bolster substantive relations with friendly nations, and, in particular, further deepen cooperation with like-minded countries. We will promote Taiwan on the world stage, burnishing its international image and launching a new era of values-based diplomacy.

At the same time, the Ministry, guided by values-based diplomacy, will advance the mainstreaming of diplomatic work and integrate international cooperation endeavors of various agencies. Employing science and technology diplomacy as well as economic and trade diplomacy, we will capitalize on Taiwan's semiconductor and ICT industries to boost substantive collaboration with diplomatic allies and like-minded countries, strengthen international connections of domestic nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and make concrete contributions to the region and the international community.

In addition, the Ministry will leverage Taiwan's soft power to promote public diplomacy and increase international awareness, fully demonstrating that Taiwan is a force for good in the world and a reliable global partner. The Ministry will send the concrete message that Taiwan, as a member of the international democratic

alliance, stands for peace and will seek support from all sectors. In the future, as we promote diplomatic work, we will be accountable to the Taiwanese people and join the world in facing global challenges together. Taiwan, an important democratic partner and a responsible member of the international community, is willing to work hand in hand with countries worldwide to achieve diplomacy that is trusted internationally and recognized at home.

I am well aware that Taiwan faces a unique and challenging international situation and that diplomacy is critical to Taiwan's survival and development. Our nation's diplomatic work is to safeguard the sovereignty of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and ensure that the entire populace continues to enjoy a free and democratic system. Therefore, I keenly feel the great responsibility that I shoulder, and I will strive to do my very best. Moving forward, I will take a pragmatic, stable, and reliable path, devoting utmost effort to advancing democratic, values-based diplomacy rooted in economic and trade diplomacy as well as alliance diplomacy for national security. And by making full use of our experience in cross-domain integration, we will incorporate the strengths of domestic sectors. It is my sincere hope that we can infuse fresh vitality into Taiwan's diplomacy and create new space for it.

## **2. Current diplomatic environment and challenges facing Taiwan**

In recent years, the international landscape has become highly complex and has undergone drastic changes. As global geopolitical risks and conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war, the Israel-Hamas conflict, and growing tensions in the South China Sea become more pervasive, and as authoritarian expansionism continues unabated, Taiwan faces an ever more daunting diplomatic environment. The Ministry also contends with an increasing number of variables in its diplomatic work.

Taiwan's democratic, free, and open society faces myriad challenges. The authoritarian regimes of China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, and other countries have converged to repeatedly challenge the rules-based international order and actively use their manipulative influence to erode our confidence in the democratic system. They have employed disinformation, gray-zone tactics, and cognitive warfare to undermine democracy. Numerous organizations and individuals committed to protecting democracy and human rights have been sanctioned by authoritarian regimes. Democratic Taiwan stands on the front line against an autocratic regime, staunchly safeguarding the values of democracy and freedom and fulfilling an indispensable role in maintaining international security and prosperity. Thus, Taiwan faces ever more difficult challenges.

Taiwan's national sovereignty as well as cross-strait peace and stability are under threat. In addition to the constantly changing regional security landscape, we face relentless hybrid threats from China, including military intimidation; diplomatic suppression; economic coercion; gray-zone incursions; and psychological, media, and legal warfare. Regrettably, on May 23, China once again conducted military drills around Taiwan, threatening Taiwan's democracy and freedom and the regional status quo of peace and stability. Moreover, China continues to consolidate its so-called "one China" narrative in the international arena, misrepresenting United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 2758 in an attempt to extinguish Taiwan's national sovereignty and isolate Taiwan in the international community. Hence, there are now more challenges and threats than ever facing the preservation of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan faces many variables with regard to industrial and economic development. The global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and other major geopolitical conflicts have led to a shift in the economic world order and a restructuring of global supply chains, exposing economic vulnerabilities. Authoritarian regimes have actively used economic tools to achieve the political aim of expanding their power. Among these regimes, China is the most adept at weaponizing trade, resources, and the economy to coerce Taiwan. In the face of such tremendous threats from China, Taiwan—which plays an important role in the global economy and trade—needs to be all the more prepared to respond. Taiwan must bolster cooperation with like-minded countries, enhance the international competitiveness of its industries, and strengthen economic resilience.

### **3. Current diplomatic policy plan**

As for the difficulties I have discussed—regardless of whether they involve enhancing relations with diplomatic allies and friendly countries, building deterrence capabilities to safeguard Taiwan, or demonstrating how Taiwan is a force for good in the world—they must all be resolved through diplomacy. The Ministry will therefore prioritize the following eight foreign policy objectives.

#### **3.1. Deepening and consolidating diplomatic relations**

Diplomatic allies are Taiwan's closest friends, and we are most willing to assist in their development. The government will continue to spare no effort in consolidating diplomatic alliances and deepening partnerships with allies. However, Taiwan will not engage in meaningless checkbook diplomacy competitions with China.

Based on this principle, the Ministry will actively promote head-of-state

diplomacy and advise President Lai Ching-te to make visits to allies at appropriate times, thereby enhancing high-level diplomatic friendships and bolstering mutual trust.

To respond to the assistance needs of diplomatic allies and friendly nations, including disaster prevention technology and other new forms of aid, the Ministry will deepen collaboration with other agencies and increase its budget for international cooperation and development. The percentage of gross national income allocated to Taiwan's official development assistance will be gradually raised to achieve common goals with diplomatic allies and friendly countries.

We will continue to enhance reciprocal cooperation with diplomatic allies in the areas of basic infrastructure, trade, and investment, creating a win-win situation. At the same time, in allied nations we will expand trilateral and multilateral cooperation with the United States, Japan, Australia, and other like-minded countries. We will leverage domains in which we are strong and seek collaboration in investment, the economy, trade, basic infrastructure, and related areas. We will ensure that joint endeavors meet the practical needs of diplomatic allies and have positive and far-reaching impacts on national economies, people's livelihoods, and sustainable development.

Furthermore, we will continue to build a strong network of friends in allied countries through concrete methods such as fully applying ourselves in domains in which we are strong, expanding personnel training with diplomatic allies, and offering more scholarships to students from allied countries so that

they can receive higher education in Taiwan. Within the next two years, the Ministry plans to double the number of Taiwan Scholarships awarded.

### **3.2. Elevating relations with like-minded and friendly countries**

Taiwan has 111 overseas missions, including 12 embassies and 99 representative offices and offices on five continents. This global presence demonstrates the importance that Taiwan places on international connections, be it with neighbors in Asia and Oceania or with distant countries in the Americas, Europe, and Africa.

The Ministry will build on the existing foundation of solid bilateral relations to further elevate substantive ties with like-minded countries, including the United States, Japan, European nations, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as with such friendly countries as India, the Philippines, and the Republic of Korea. We will also continue to foster ties with nations in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and other regions. Allow me to give some examples.

#### **3.2.1. Taiwan-US relations**

3.2.1.1. Further deepening Taiwan-US economic and trade relations: We will make appropriate use of existing economic and trade cooperation and dialogue mechanisms to steadily advance collaboration and reinforce the close partnership between Taiwan and the United States. We will seek US support for Taiwan's participation in regional economic cooperation mechanisms. We will promote the integration of human resources and industry to enhance connections between Taiwan and the region. We will strengthen regional

economic, trade, and investment ties by building supply chains with democratic partners, thereby contributing to stability across the Taiwan Strait and the region and consolidating Taiwan's geostrategic importance. Under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF), we will increase multilateral cooperation with like-minded countries, including in personnel training.

3.2.1.2. Continuing to promote Taiwan-US cooperation in allied countries and other nations: Taiwan and the United States will continue to explore cooperation opportunities in such domains as health care, women's empowerment, ICT, agriculture, climate change, energy, small and medium-sized enterprises, and basic infrastructure. In particular, we will bolster substantive collaboration and exchanges with diplomatic allies and like-minded countries, integrating the Digital New Southbound initiative and highlighting the value of the Taiwan-US global partnership through regional demonstration projects. Taiwan and the United States will work with the private sector to promote development and cooperation opportunities in third countries through more creative and diverse ways, building sustainable momentum for foreign aid policy and further expanding Taiwan's international presence.

3.2.1.3. Continuing to promote Taiwan-US security cooperation: Faced with China's military buildup and provocative actions in the region, the US administration and friends from both sides of the aisle in Congress have steadily advocated stronger Taiwan-US security cooperation, employing diverse policy tools and taking concrete action. They have also provided



policy tools and funding to bolster Taiwan's overall defense resilience. Moving forward, Taiwan and the United States will continue to engage in close coordination on security cooperation issues.

3.2.1.4. Further deepening global partnerships: Taiwan and the United States have established dialogue platforms for numerous domains, ranging from regional democratic governance and education to coast guard patrols, public health, and international development assistance. This has facilitated institutionalized bilateral exchanges on various issues. Looking ahead, Taiwan and the United States will continue to build on this foundation to enhance substantive cooperation and jointly respond to challenges worldwide, reinforcing their global partnership.

### 3.2.2. Taiwan-Japan relations

3.2.2.1. Deepening Taiwan-Japan official dialogue mechanisms: The governments of Taiwan and Japan have already established dialogue and exchange platforms for a number of issues, such as the economy, trade, oceans, fisheries, and science and technology. The Ministry will build on these platforms to raise the level of mutual visits and open up dialogue channels for other issues, creating a mechanism for regular dialogue and deepening substantive official cooperation between Taiwan and Japan.

3.2.2.2. Proactively boosting and cultivating friendly support in the Japanese Diet: Parliamentary diplomacy is one of the main priorities of Taiwan's engagement with Japan. The Ministry will focus on issues of common concern between Taiwan and Japan in order to strategically establish a network of

parliamentary contacts with development potential.

3.2.2.3. Elevating tangible outcomes of Taiwan-Japan local government exchanges: The Ministry will continue to assist the local governments of both countries in implementing bilateral development cooperation projects that leverage their respective industrial strengths and pave the way for more reciprocal and mutually beneficial substantive relations.

3.2.2.4. Continuing to seek Japanese support for Taiwan's early accession to the CPTPP and promoting a bilateral economic partnership agreement: The government of Japan has stated that it would welcome Taiwan's accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). We will continue to urge the Japanese government to take concrete action to support Taiwan's early accession to the CPTPP. In recent years, Taiwan and Japan have signed a number of important economic and trade accords, laying a solid foundation for a bilateral economic partnership agreement. Moving forward, we will urge Japan to sign an economic partnership agreement with Taiwan as soon as possible.

### 3.2.3. Taiwan-Europe relations

3.2.3.1. Further deepening Taiwan-Europe relations: Taiwan has established numerous dialogue mechanisms with the European Union and like-minded countries focusing on trade, investment, the digital economy, education, culture, science, technology, labor issues, ICT security, countering disinformation, and human rights. In the future, we will continue to work toward creating more institutional dialogue mechanisms and jointly deepen

cooperation and exchanges in areas of common concern.

3.2.3.2. Continuing to urge like-minded European countries to focus on security across the Taiwan Strait: The Ministry will continue to call on like-minded European nations to recognize that China’s misrepresentation of UNGA Resolution 2758 constitutes the legal weaponization of its “one China principle” and an attempt to alter the cross-strait status quo, which jeopardizes peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. We will also ask these countries to incorporate Taiwan into their Indo-Pacific strategies and identify Taiwan as an indispensable economic and security partner.

3.2.3.3. Urging the European Union to sign an economic and trade accord with Taiwan: Substantive actions will be taken to reflect the increasingly close economic, trade, and investment relations between Taiwan and the European Union. We will maintain the momentum from the signing of the Taiwan-UK Enhanced Trade Partnership Arrangement last November.

3.2.3.4. Further deepening ties with Central and Eastern European and Baltic countries and other nations on the democratic front line: The Ministry will continue to strengthen democratic supply chains and collaboration initiatives that include semiconductors and other critical industries.

3.2.3.5. Continuing to implement humanitarian assistance and reconstruction projects through multiple channels: The Ministry will continue to uphold the concept that safeguarding democracy anywhere is safeguarding democracy everywhere. It will continue to provide humanitarian and reconstruction

assistance to Ukraine either directly, via third countries, or through multilateral mechanisms. This will demonstrate that Taiwan, as a member of the democratic community, acts in a spirit of solidarity and mutual assistance with democratic partners.

#### 3.2.4. Relations between Taiwan and New Southbound Policy partner countries

3.2.4.1. Given the restructuring of global supply chains and the growth of emerging markets in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Asia, Taiwan—as a regional hub in the Indo-Pacific—should continue to pursue reciprocity and coprosperity with these countries and prioritize them as investment and export partners. Through the Digital New Southbound initiative, we will bolster cooperation and exchanges with friendly countries in the Indo-Pacific.

3.2.4.2. We will build on the solid foundation and achievements of the New Southbound Policy. In the spirit of Taiwan helps Asia and Asia helps Taiwan, we will effectively promote the cycle of goodwill between Taiwan and neighboring partner countries and continue deepening relations with Southeast Asian and South Asian nations.

3.2.4.3. We will also seek to expand cooperation in the region with the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and other like-minded countries through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms such as the GCTF.

### **3.3. Expanding international participation and making concrete**

## **contributions**

Guided by the Ministry's values-based diplomacy, Taiwan will stand shoulder to shoulder with other democracies to form a community to implement deterrence, prevent war, and augment strengths—all toward the ultimate goal of peace. Taiwan will continue to seek participation in specialized international organizations and forge stronger substantive ties with other countries through numerous connections with multilateral organizations.

The Ministry will steadily deepen participation in intergovernmental organizations that Taiwan has already joined, as well as seeking greater support for Taiwan's international engagement. We will continue to uphold the principles of professionalism, pragmatism, and making contributions to actively play a constructive role in the global community across a wide range of domains. In recent years, Taiwan's bids for international participation have garnered growing support worldwide. Not only does Taiwan receive staunch backing from diplomatic allies, but more and more like-minded countries have advocated in various ways at bilateral and multilateral events for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations, including the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the International Criminal Police Organization.

In particular, we will step up efforts to counter China's attempts to suppress Taiwan's global participation through a distorted interpretation of UNGA Resolution 2758. In recent years, China has continuously misrepresented the resolution, linking it to its so-called "one China principle" and falsely

claiming that Taiwan has no right to participate in the UN system or other international organizations. The Ministry will ramp up efforts to explain the resolution and continue to use a variety of methods to ensure that the global community has an accurate understanding of its content. In this way, we can jointly counter China's malicious schemes to suppress Taiwan's international participation and open up more space for Taiwan's efforts to engage with the world. In addition, the Ministry will integrate all resources to increase international awareness and send the concrete message that Taiwan is a global democratic ally on the front line defending world peace. We will especially seek ever more supportive international narratives to counter China's misrepresentation of UNGA Resolution 2758.

#### **3.4. Bolstering and expanding Taiwan's global economic and industrial links**

Economic and trade diplomacy and science and technology diplomacy are Taiwan's strengths. They will also be among the Ministry's priorities. We will integrate the semiconductor and ICT industries and promote exports related to the Five Trusted Industry Sectors, smart cities, and system integration to enhance substantive cooperation with diplomatic allies and like-minded countries. Taiwan most definitely has the ability and strength to become a country on which the economic sun never sets. No matter where the sun rises, it will shine on Taiwanese enterprises, promote local development, and ensure that the Taiwanese people live a more prosperous life!

We will also continue our efforts to gain accession to the CPTPP and other important regional economic integration mechanisms. Under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity, we will engage in the Taiwan-US

Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue to create greater room for multilateral international cooperation through bilateral collaboration mechanisms.

Moreover, we will steadily pursue bilateral agreements with other countries, building on the groundwork laid by the Taiwan-US Initiative on 21st-Century Trade, the Taiwan-UK Enhanced Trade Partnership Arrangement, and a foreign investment promotion and protection arrangement with Canada, all while deepening and expanding the GCTF platform. At the same time, the Taiwan-US Technology Trade and Investment Collaboration framework and other technology cooperation accords signed with Canada, France, Germany, and Australia will serve as the foundation for our efforts to bolster economic, trade, and technological collaboration with like-minded nations.

Additionally, we will continue with the New Southbound Policy, elevating it to the Digital New Southbound initiative. This will connect Taiwan's digital power with its Indo-Pacific strategy, facilitating industrial system integration and cross-domain innovation. By combining software and hardware with virtual and real technologies and by leveraging Taiwan's advantages in ICT and smart manufacturing, we will form an international fleet to provide comprehensive services and solutions for smart city innovation to New Southbound Policy countries, thereby enhancing links with important partners in the Indo-Pacific.

### **3.5. Burnishing Taiwan's favorable international image**

The Ministry will leverage Taiwan's soft power to promote public diplomacy,

step up international information campaigns, and further enhance Taiwan's international image.

3.5.1. Public diplomacy: The Ministry will strengthen the integration of traditional media and social media, employing a variety of promotional materials and communication channels to increase public diplomacy synergy. We will enhance international youth exchange initiatives, such as the Teen Diplomatic Envoys selection program, the Young Agricultural Ambassadors New Southbound Policy Exchange Program, working holiday schemes, and the International Youth Ambassadors Exchange Program. These will be incorporated into an overseas dream realization program for youth now being planned by the Ministry to implement the Ten Billion Foundation for Youth Overseas Dream Fulfillment initiative proposed by President Lai. In addition, we will capitalize on Taiwan's strengths to promote international academic, educational, and cultural exchanges and cooperation. We will also harness the resources and strengths of the private sector, civil society, and other government agencies for public diplomacy efforts.

3.5.2. Raising international awareness about Taiwan: Our main tasks include continuing to publicize Taiwan's values, increasing Taiwan's visibility in international mainstream media, proactively promoting digital diplomacy, and combining resources to create a national brand. We will also raise Taiwan's profile through large international events. For the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, which will attract global attention, the Ministry and the Ministry of Culture have jointly funded 22 Taiwanese performing arts groups. They will hold 75 shows between July 27 and August 10 at the Parc de la Villette, the



officially designated arts and cultural venue for the Paris Cultural Olympiad. We also have plans for the Taipei Representative Office in France to host a series of promotional activities. Through social media, publications, international promotional websites, and other channels, the Ministry will enhance the comprehensive impact of global campaigns centered on democracy, peace, and prosperity, as well as elevating Taiwan's international image. From our solid base at home, we will expand our global presence and market Taiwan to the world.

### **3.6. Strengthening the combined diplomatic momentum of private sector, civil society, and government agencies**

The Ministry will coordinate interagency resources to advance the establishment of an interagency economic and trade diplomacy task force, guide the mainstreaming of diplomatic work among central government agencies, and assist the Five Trusted Industry Sectors—semiconductors, AI, military, security and surveillance, and communications—in expanding their strategic presence overseas.

We will also continue to integrate public- and private-sector strengths and resources; draw on businesspeople's rich industrial experience and capital, technology, and connections; and leverage Taiwan's economic and trade might to increase diplomatic momentum—all toward the ultimate goal of transforming Taiwan into a country on which the economic sun never sets.

In addition, we will step up efforts to integrate the strengths of domestic NGOs to expand Taiwan's international presence. The Ministry will continue to

proactively support their participation in international conferences and activities through subsidies, training, and other means. We will strengthen and expand their alignment with international trends and establish cooperation networks on issues such as democracy, humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, gender equality, and international rescue and relief.

The Ministry will also continue to encourage international NGOs (INGOs) to set up offices in Taiwan, helping transform Taiwan into an important INGO base in the Indo-Pacific region and facilitating Taiwan's ability to make greater contributions to the international community.

### **3.7. Raising the efficiency and quality of services to the public**

Raising the efficiency and quality of services to the public has always been the focus of the Ministry's work. Moving forward, the Ministry will continue to uphold the principles of administration in accordance with the law, the pursuit of efficiency, and the provision of convenient services to the public. This empathetic approach will provide the highest-quality services, achieving our policy goal of having a tangible and positive impact on people's lives.

Our main priorities at the current stage are to further optimize passport application and issuance procedures; actively cooperate with prosecutorial and law enforcement agency investigations; prevent passport fraud and other illicit activities; and streamline the APEC Business Travel Card review, approval, and issuance procedures. Most importantly, the Ministry will streamline emergency assistance and service mechanisms and improve travel advisories for citizens going overseas.

### **3.8. Enhancing cross-domain professional and functional capabilities of diplomatic personnel**

The Ministry will make better use of diplomatic human resources, especially by enhancing diplomats' professional capabilities in economics, trade, science, and technology. We will integrate diplomatic resources and information in these and other domains to enhance overall effectiveness.

Moreover, our overseas missions will strengthen their professional functions and the roles they play in the relevant region. They will promote substantive localized interactions and advance human rights diplomacy, science and technology diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, urban diplomacy, parliamentary diplomacy, environmental diplomacy, sports diplomacy, and indigenous diplomacy in diverse ways.

## **4. Conclusion**

Taiwan's new world, and the world's new Taiwan! Looking to the future, the Ministry will do its utmost to implement values-based diplomacy and transform Taiwan into a key player in the democratic community, a pilot for global peace, and a force for global prosperity. We will show that Taiwan can help and Taiwan can lead. As Taiwan embraces the world, we welcome the world to embrace Taiwan.

I am confident that through sustained, concerted efforts of the people and the government, as well as full collaboration between government agencies, every citizen will be a diplomat and every ministry will be a foreign ministry. In the future, Taiwan will build on the existing solid foundation of past diplomatic

accomplishments to move steadily forward, step by step. Our diplomatic team will devote every effort to ushering in a new era of Taiwan's diplomacy and continuing to achieve excellent results in order to meet the expectations of the people.

This concludes my report. I look forward to the continued guidance of the committee members. Thank you.