

**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 October 21, 2024**

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

Good morning!

It is a great honor to be here again today at the invitation of your esteemed committee to present a briefing on Taiwan's diplomatic work. This report covers the external changes and challenges that the government has faced while engaging in diplomacy, the important accomplishments of integrated diplomacy implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter "the Ministry"), as well as the main direction of our future efforts. Your feedback and suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

**1. Foreword**

In the 155 days since I assumed office as minister of foreign affairs, I have led the Ministry's diplomatic team in committing our utmost to our work. Despite a challenging international environment and constantly changing geopolitical developments and global supply chain structures, this is an optimal time and opportunity for Taiwan to strengthen its diplomatic engagement.

The Ministry has spared no effort in implementing integrated diplomacy, actively promoting policies introduced by President Lai Ching-te so as to realize values-based diplomacy and transform Taiwan into an economy on which the sun never

sets. We will leverage our economic strengths, ensure our nation's defense, and push forward with proactive diplomacy so that Taiwan forges closer ties with the rest of the world and the world embraces Taiwan.

We are pursuing values-based diplomacy centered on democracy, alliance diplomacy grounded in peace, and economic and trade diplomacy geared toward prosperity. On this basis, we will establish democratic value chains, a first island chain that stands against authoritarianism, and non-red reliable supply chains to further deepen and expand Taiwan's global linkages. With allies and like-minded nations, we will ensure regional peace, mutual benefits, and shared prosperity.

We are actively planning and implementing the Diplomatic Allies Prosperity Project. We have put forward seven flagship projects addressing the Five Trusted Industry Sectors, covering semiconductor supply chain resilience, reliable networks and digital governance, smart demonstration parks overseas, smart medicine, smart agriculture, new energy and carbon credit cooperation, and sovereign AI.

We will continue to work steadily to create a new diplomatic landscape so that we can live up to your expectations and those of our fellow citizens.

## **2. External environment and challenges increasingly formidable; initial success in integrated diplomacy**

We face a formidable external environment and daunting challenges in our diplomatic work. China has relentlessly intimidated Taiwan and stepped up diplomatic suppression, military threats, and economic coercion as it seeks to

create a new normal. It has ramped up pressure through legal and information warfare, gray-zone harassment, and other hybrid tactics. It has continued attempts to consolidate a so-called “one China” narrative, misrepresent United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 2758, and employ other means targeting Taiwan. Ignoring Taiwan’s goodwill, China again conducted military drills around Taiwan on October 14, seriously undermining regional peace and stability. We again thank our diplomatic allies as well as the United States, Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, other countries, and the European Union for publicly expressing grave concern over China’s launch of military exercises targeting Taiwan or stressing the importance of maintaining cross-strait peace and stability.

Taiwan is not the only country that is facing a harsh external environment and rigorous challenges. Other democracies around the world are also exposed to the threat of authoritarian expansion. In particular, China has bolstered collaboration with Russia, Iran, and North Korea in recent years, creating an axis of upheaval, or CRINK, aimed at challenging the rules-based international order. Authoritarian expansion has become more aggressive and now threatens the entire world. We have witnessed Russia waging a war against Ukraine, North Korea threatening peace and stability in Northeast Asia, an ongoing war in the Middle East, and China engaging in military expansion and unilaterally disrupting the regional status quo.

Although the external environment and challenges have become more daunting, we have achieved initial success with promoting integrated diplomacy. Since May, more than 2,300 high-ranking officials from diplomatic allies as well as

prominent political figures and friends from like-minded nations have visited Taiwan, taking concrete action to demonstrate support for Taiwan. Taiwan's relations with the United States, Japan, European countries, and other like-minded partners have deepened and grown stronger. Calls from around the world expressing support for Taiwan's international participation have increased steadily. We remain committed to providing humanitarian assistance, showing that Taiwan can help, and to making concrete contributions to the world. We have also actively spoken out in the international arena.

Looking to the future, we will build on this existing solid foundation to consolidate and integrate the strengths of all domestic sectors to promote Taiwan on the global stage.

### **3. Major accomplishments**

Since President Lai took office, my colleagues at the Ministry and at our overseas missions have put in a great effort to implement integrated diplomacy, as a result of which they have achieved the following:

#### **3.1. Stable diplomatic ties; allies demonstrate support for Taiwan**

**Visits to Taiwan by high-ranking officials from diplomatic allies:** Eswatini King Mswati III and his queen consort; Marshall Islands President Hilda C. Heine and her husband; Palau President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr., and his wife; Paraguay President Santiago Peña; Belize Prime Minister John Briceño; Saint Lucia Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves and his wife; Tuvalu Prime Minister Feleti Penitala Teo and his wife; Saint Christopher and Nevis Deputy Prime Minister

Geoffrey Hanley; and Guatemala Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Ramiro Martinez were among the heads of state and high-ranking officials of diplomatic allies who traveled to Taiwan to attend the inauguration of the 16th-term president and vice president of the ROC (Taiwan) in May. In October, Tuvalu Prime Minister Teo and his wife; Belize Deputy Prime Minister Cordel Hyde; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Deputy Prime Minister Montgomery Daniel; Saint Lucia Senate President Alvina Reynolds and House of Assembly Speaker Claudius J. Francis; Guatemala First Lady Lucrecia Peinado; and Palau's special presidential envoy Minister of State Gustav N. Aitaro attended National Day celebrations in Taiwan.

**Speaking up for Taiwan in the international arena:** All 11 diplomatic allies that are members of the World Health Organization (WHO) proposed that Taiwan be invited to attend the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA) convened in May. They also spoke up for Taiwan at the WHA plenary. During the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held in September, the permanent representatives to the UN of 10 diplomatic allies jointly or individually sent a letter to the UN secretary-general refuting China's and the UN Secretariat's misrepresentation of UNGA Resolution 2758.

**Smooth progress in signing agreements and bilateral cooperation projects:** While on a visit to Taiwan in late September, Palau President Whipps joined President Lai in witnessing the signing of a joint statement on the promotion of tourism development and investment in Palau, which will pave the way to deeper bilateral economic and trade cooperation. In May and

June, Taipei, Taoyuan, and Kaohsiung signed sister-city agreements with cities in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Belize, and Saint Christopher and Nevis, respectively. Meanwhile, bilateral cooperation projects between Taiwan and its diplomatic allies are proceeding smoothly.

### **3.2. Rock-solid Taiwan-US relations**

**US administration continuing to demonstrate commitment to Taiwan:** A special bipartisan US delegation attended the inauguration of the 16th-term president and vice president of the ROC (Taiwan), while US Secretary of State Antony Blinken issued a congratulatory statement on the day of the inauguration. High-ranking US officials have on numerous occasions publicly reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. President Joe Biden underlined staunch US support for maintaining cross-strait peace and stability in his address to the UNGA in September. Speaking at the ASEAN-US Summit and the East Asia Summit held this month, Secretary of State Blinken again pledged US commitment to maintaining cross-strait peace and stability and stressed that China should not use President Lai's National Day speech as a pretext for provocative actions. The Biden administration has continued to emphasize at bilateral and multilateral events that cross-strait peace and stability are indispensable to international security and prosperity and that the United States opposes any change to the status quo through the use of force. Among such major events were the US-Japan-ROK Vice Foreign Minister-Level Dialogue and the US-Italy Consultation on the Indo-Pacific held in May; the Group of Seven (G7) Leaders' Summit in June; the US-Japan Security Consultative Committee meeting and the Philippines-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in July; the

Australia-US Ministerial Consultations, the joint statement on the anniversary of the trilateral US-Japan-ROK summit at Camp David, and the New Zealand-US Strategic Dialogue in August; and the UK-US Strategic Dialogue and the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held on the UNGA's sidelines in September. Furthermore, the United States has continued to convey to China its unchanging position on preserving peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

To date, the Biden administration has announced 16 rounds of arms sales to Taiwan, including three since May. Time and again, it has underscored the US government's efforts to honor its security commitments to Taiwan in line with the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances.

**US Congress continuing to support Taiwan through concrete action:** The US Senate and House of Representatives have shown bipartisan support for Taiwan. Fifteen members of Congress have visited Taiwan since May, including Representative Michael McCaul, Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, on behalf of Speaker Mike Johnson; Senators Tammy Duckworth and Dan Sullivan; and Representatives Marilyn Strickland, Debbie Lesko, and Brad Wenstrup.

In recent years, the US Congress has continued to extend strong support to Taiwan via the National Defense Authorization Act. This year, it approved the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 and the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024. These laws include specific provisions granting Taiwan not less than US\$300 million in foreign military financing assistance, allocating more than US\$26 million for US Department of Defense

international security cooperation programs with Taiwan, and earmarking not less than US\$4 million for the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF). They also include provisions prioritizing reform of arms sales procedures to expedite delivery to Taiwan and endorsing Taiwan's international participation.

**Further enhancement of Taiwan-US economic and trade relations:** A delegation of Taiwanese business leaders visited the United States in June to showcase Taiwan's economic strengths at the SelectUSA Investment Summit organized by the US Department of Commerce. The delegation proactively promoted the Taiwan-US Initiative on 21st-Century Trade and advocated for an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation, among other pressing matters.

**Deepening relations between Taiwan and US local governments:** Since the beginning of this year, 44 resolutions supporting Taiwan have been passed by 37 US states. When Texas Governor Greg Abbott visited Taiwan in July, he announced that a State of Texas Taiwan Office would be opened and signed an economic development statement of intent with the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Since May, in addition to Texas, the states of New Jersey and Indiana have either established or announced a plan to set up an office in Taiwan. To date, a total of 23 US states as well as Guam have opened offices in Taiwan, while 27 US state legislatures have formed Taiwan friendship caucuses that in aggregate have a total membership of more than 645 senators and representatives.



**Expanding scope of cooperation:** Canada joined the GCTF in August, becoming its fifth official partner. Since May, three GCTF workshops have been held in Taiwan, while Tuvalu and Lithuania have hosted one each. Taiwan, the United States, Japan, Australia, and Canada also cohosted a GCTF international seminar in New York during the UNGA in September.

### **3.3. Stable and cordial Taiwan-Japan relations**

**Japanese government reaffirms importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait:** When attending the ASEAN-Japan Summit and the Japan-China Summit Meeting in October, newly appointed Prime Minister of Japan Shigeru Ishiba underscored the paramount importance of cross-strait peace and stability to the international community. Then-Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida and US President Biden reiterated their countries' resolve to maintain peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait in a meeting in September. A joint statement issued following the fourth Quad Leaders' Summit, held in the United States that same month, stressed that maintaining regional peace and stability was an indispensable element of global security and prosperity. At the Australia-Japan Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations, also held in September, then-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoko Kamikawa and then-Minister of Defense Minoru Kihara reiterated the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

**Enhancing comprehensive Taiwan-Japan cooperation through parliamentary exchanges:** Since May, more than 60 members of the Japanese Diet have visited Taiwan. Yoshihiko Noda, former Prime Minister of Japan, Chief Executive Advisor of the Constitutional Democratic Party, and

current member of the House of Representatives, in August led a delegation to Taiwan, where he delivered a keynote address at the Ketagalan Forum—2024 Indo-Pacific Security Dialogue. Before being appointed prime minister, Shigeru Ishiba led a cross-party delegation of Diet members focused on security issues on a visit to Taiwan, including former Foreign Minister and current Representative Seiji Maehara. Additionally, a delegation from the House of Councillors' TY Group led by Councillor Hirofumi Takinami visited in July, while a study delegation from the Liberal Democratic Party's Youth Division led by Director Takako Suzuki visited in August. Both delegations called on Legislative Yuan President Han Kuo-yu, expanding bilateral parliamentary exchanges. Meanwhile, the sixth Taiwan-Japan Maritime Affairs Cooperation Dialogue was successfully convened in Taipei in August.

### **3.4. Further strengthening of Taiwan-Europe relations**

**European support for Taiwan increasing in frequency and magnitude:** Following China's military drills targeting Taiwan in May and again last week, the European External Action Service (EEAS) issued statements reiterating that peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait were of strategic importance to regional and global security and prosperity. These reaffirmed the European Union's direct interest in the preservation of the status quo across the Taiwan Strait and opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion. Many European government officials, political leaders, and friends, as well as the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC), also condemned China's military exercises targeting Taiwan via public statements, social media, and other avenues.

The importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait was further underscored in joint statements issued at several events held in September. These included the seventh high-level meeting of the EU-US Dialogue on China and the sixth meeting of the EU-US High-Level Consultations on the Indo-Pacific cohosted by EEAS Secretary General Stefano Sannino and US Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell; the UK-US Strategic Dialogue held in London by UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy and US Secretary of State Blinken; and the fourth US-Lithuania Strategic Dialogue on the Indo-Pacific convened by US Deputy Secretary of State Campbell and Lithuania Minister of Foreign Affairs Gabrielius Landsbergis.

**Deepening exchanges between Taiwan and European nations:** At the invitation of the Forum 2000 Foundation, former President Tsai Ing-wen delivered a public address at the organization's annual conference in the Czech Republic in October. She then visited France and met with members of the European Parliament. National Security Council Secretary-General Jaushieh Joseph Wu visited the Czech Republic in August to deliver a keynote address at the GLOBSEC Forum. IPAC convened its fourth annual summit in Taiwan in July, which was attended by 49 parliamentarians and key political figures from 23 countries and the European Parliament. It also announced Taiwan's accession to IPAC. Since May, parliamentary delegations from Germany, Ireland, and Sweden have visited Taiwan. A Lithuanian delegation led by Vice-Minister of the Economy and Innovation Karolis Žemaitis visited in September.

**Continuing efforts to promote Taiwan-Europe economic and trade links:**

Taiwan-UK relations have flourished in recent years. Following the conclusion of the Enhanced Trade Partnership arrangement in November last year, Taiwan and the United Kingdom signed a memorandum of understanding on organics equivalence in May, thereby strengthening bilateral economic, trade, and agricultural exchanges. During a visit to Taiwan in June, Czech Senate First Vice President Jiří Drahoš attended the launch of the Advanced Chip Design Research Center—a collaborative bilateral effort—as well as a seminar held by the Supply Chain Resilience Center.

**Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarship, Taiwan-Europe Semiconductor Scholarship Program, and Taiwan-Europe Semiconductor Short-term Training Program contribute to talent exchanges and industrial cooperation:** The Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarship, implemented in collaboration with 22 Taiwan universities, was awarded to 587 recipients from 29 countries this year. Ten students from Lithuania and the Czech Republic are studying in Taiwan this year under the Taiwan-Europe Semiconductor Scholarship Program. A total of 80 university students and professionals from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania, Poland, Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, and Kosovo participated in two courses held in July and August under the Taiwan-Europe Semiconductor Short-term Training Program, which was organized in collaboration with the Taiwan Semiconductor Research Institute, National Taiwan University, and National Cheng Kung University.

**Assisting with Ukraine’s reconstruction and donating related supplies:** Taiwan donated US\$200,000 in July to assist with the restoration and

reconstruction of a national children's hospital in Ukraine damaged by Russian air strikes. In cooperation with the Czech government, we provided mobile water treatment facilities and energy cogeneration systems so that displaced people could prepare potable water and have access to heat and electricity. These two projects benefited 100,000 Ukrainians.

### **3.5. Leveraging Taiwan's economic strengths and expanding economic and trade diplomacy**

**Leveraging Taiwan's economic strengths:** Taiwan has advantages in digital technology and economics and trade. The Ministry will leverage Taiwan's industrial strengths; integrate technological, funding, and human resources of various ministries; and, through exports related to the Five Trusted Industry Sectors and strategic industries, stimulate industrial development and create jobs in diplomatic allies and like-minded countries.

**Using the economic diplomacy task force as a platform:** The Ministry will utilize the Executive Yuan's economic diplomacy task force as a cross-ministerial coordination platform to promote economic, trade, and technological diplomacy through themed projects; integrate and coordinate cross-ministerial work; and thereby realize the policy objective that every ministry should serve as a foreign ministry. We will export the expertise, services, and smart solutions of Taiwan's competitive domains to help Taiwanese businesses expand their global presence and develop markets around the world.

The Ministry has convened a cross-ministerial meeting with the Ministry of

Environment. Together, we will form a cross-ministerial task force to explore new energy and carbon credit cooperation in depth. With the guidance of the Executive Yuan's economic diplomacy task force, we will examine and assess domestic and foreign laws currently in force, transnational carbon credit trading systems, the potential development of carbon rights in diplomatic allies, and other factors in order to draft a feasible transnational cooperation action plan.

**Organizing investment fact-finding missions to diplomatic allies:** In July, the Ministry organized a delegation of business leaders in the electric bus, food processing, 5G networking, AI computing, smart production and management, and other sectors for an investment fact-finding mission to Paraguay. The delegation explored opportunities for industrial exchanges and technical cooperation and called on President Peña. President Peña welcomed the delegation, encouraged Taiwanese businesses to invest in Paraguay, and promised to provide all necessary assistance to Taiwanese investors. He expressed hope of assisting Taiwan's competitive industries with establishing operations worldwide, creating opportunities for Paraguay's industrial upgrade, and thereby bolstering democratic supply chain partnerships.

The Ministry has invited the Industrial Technology Research Institute to organize a semiconductor and AI fact-finding delegation to Paraguay and Guatemala to conduct an industrial assessment. It has also requested telecommunications companies to form a 5G clean network and information security delegation for a fact-finding tour of Belize, Guatemala, and other countries. We look forward to working with the United States to promote the

establishment of reliable 5G networks or information security cooperation.

**Public-private collaboration to bolster allies' prosperity:** Through the private sector's alignment with the public sector or public-private partnerships, the Ministry plans to employ investment and financing policy tools to help Taiwanese companies set up facilities in diplomatic allies. The government will play a leading role in investments in diplomatic allies and will work with businesses to address any issues that may arise with regard to the long-distance transport of raw materials, operations, language, and culture. At the same time, we will consider using plans of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration as a source of funding and make concrete responses to allies' appeals for joint industrial development. Based on Taiwan's successful experience with a twin transformation centered on digital and net-zero technologies, we will provide integrated solutions and bolster Taiwan's economic links with allies and like-minded countries to realize the vision of the Diplomatic Allies Prosperity Project.

### **3.6. Continuing to promote the New Southbound Policy to create mutual benefits and win-win outcomes**

The Ministry is exploring the possibility of participating in the Luzon Economic Corridor, a third-country cooperation initiative between the United States, Japan, and the Philippines. Our plan is to open a demonstration farm in the Philippines and introduce Taiwan's smart agricultural technology to bring production more in line with product value chains and increase productivity.

Since July, the government of Thailand has offered visa-free entry to visitors from 93 countries, including Taiwan. The government of Malaysia announced that, starting in June, visitors from 36 low-risk countries and territories, including Taiwan, would be able to use its automated immigration clearance system when entering and leaving the country. After several years of negotiations, the Taiwan-Thailand bilateral investment promotion and protection agreement was renewed in June. In May, Taiwan signed a science and technology cooperation agreement with Australia.

In September, Taiwan and the Philippine Bureau of Fire Protection co-organized a fifth special search and rescue training camp. A total of 49 Philippine search and rescue officials participated in the program in Taiwan. The Ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture have so far arranged for a total of 138 farmers to visit the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, India, and Indonesia under the Young Agricultural Ambassadors New Southbound Policy Exchange Program. This includes two teams comprising a total of 24 ambassadors selected in August for exchange tours in Malaysia and Thailand. To date, the Ministry has selected 175 participants for the Filipino Young Farmers Internship Program in Taiwan, including a fourth group of 50 farmers who served internships on Taiwanese farms this year. The Ministry will uphold the people-centered concept and foster more diverse industry, government, and academic cooperation with New Southbound Policy partner countries under the Digital New Southbound initiative.

### **3.7. Bolstering momentum for Taiwan's international participation**

International support for and affirmation of Taiwan's involvement in the



global arena have been gaining momentum steadily. As mentioned earlier, 11 of our diplomatic allies proposed that Taiwan be invited to the WHA and spoke up for Taiwan at the event this year. In addition, the European Union and 15 like-minded countries—the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, New Zealand, Luxembourg, Latvia, Israel, the Netherlands, and Estonia—also voiced support for Taiwan at the WHA. New Zealand made a specific reference to Taiwan for the first time, while the Netherlands backed Taiwan for the first time by indirectly stating that no one should be left behind. For the fourth consecutive year, US Secretary of State Blinken issued a statement endorsing Taiwan’s participation as an observer at the WHA. During a WHA plenary session, several allies strongly refuted the malicious misrepresentation of UNGA Resolution 2758 and WHA Resolution 25.1 by China and countries deferring to its stance. The United States pointed out at the WHA for the first time that UNGA Resolution 2758 did not preclude Taiwan’s meaningful participation in the UN system, including WHO, or any other international fora.

At the 79th session of the UNGA in September, diplomatic allies expressed staunch support for Taiwan’s UN participation campaign. At a US House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, Deputy Secretary of State Campbell stated that UNGA Resolution 2758 did not address the issue of Taiwan’s status and that China was using the resolution as a diplomatic tool to delegitimize Taiwan’s status in the UN. The Australian Senate and the Dutch House of Representatives adopted motions in support of Taiwan based on a model resolution passed by IPAC for its members’ reference. The Italian

Chamber of Deputies Committee on Foreign Affairs for the first time approved a resolution backing Taiwan's international involvement.

Taiwan continues to exert international influence through its participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. Since May, it has attended 12 high-level meetings and 145 subfora events and workshops, including two Senior Officials' Meetings, the High Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy, and a Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting. Taiwan has implemented 11 self-funded projects approved by APEC and seven APEC-funded initiatives. As a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Taiwan has taken action and commenced negotiations related to dispute settlement reform and other issues in accordance with the WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference resolutions and Ministerial Declaration.

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

The Ministry expanded its publicity campaign to promote Taiwan at the 33rd Summer Olympic Games in Paris. In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, it funded performances in Paris by Taiwanese performing art groups, produced a short film entitled *Taiwan: Win Over the World*, and stepped up publicity efforts on new media platforms, gaining widespread response and achieving significant success.

The Ministry continues to employ a variety of approaches to make Taiwan's voice heard in the international community, including arranging interviews for the president with international media. Since the last Legislative Yuan session, President Lai and Vice President Hsiao Bi-khim have both given

interviews to *Time* magazine. And I have held five press briefings—for foreign media based in Taiwan, industrial supply chain reporters, Japanese journalists, and political and economic journalists, and on the occasion of National Day. More than 50 news reports have subsequently been published. The Ministry provided assistance to 247 foreign journalists representing 132 media outlets from 34 countries to cover the inauguration of our 16th-term president and vice president.

With regard to social media, the official Ministry Facebook page has garnered over 276,000 followers since its launch, while those of our 105 overseas missions have a combined total of 1.193 million followers. Meanwhile, the Ministry's official X account now has over 450,000 followers and has received more than 351.2 million views. The Ministry's Instagram account has over 106,000 followers, while its Threads account has accumulated 65,000 followers.

Taiwan's international publicity campaigns during the 77th WHA and the 79th UNGA session elicited widespread attention. A total of 385 news reports on our WHA bid were published, while interviews given by and letters to the editor from the heads of Taiwan's overseas missions appeared 175 times in media outlets. As regards our UN bid, my op-ed was published 247 times by media outlets in 51 countries, including in *The Diplomat*; letters to the editor from overseas missions appeared 130 times; and reports on media interviews with heads of missions and other friendly reports appeared 85 times.

In September, the Ministry produced a short National Day film entitled *A*

*democratic, peaceful, and prosperous new Taiwan*, which drew positive reviews from all sectors.

### **3.9. Actively providing humanitarian assistance to other countries and more efficient services to the Taiwan people**

In addition to providing reconstruction aid and donating supplies to Ukraine as mentioned earlier, Taiwan actively assists other countries in the aftermath of natural disasters. Our government donated US\$200,000 to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and US\$100,000 to Saint Lucia to support relief efforts following a hurricane in July. We also donated reconstruction funds of US\$100,000 each to Vietnam, Thailand, and Myanmar after they were hit by Typhoon Yagi. A donation of US\$800,000 was made to the United States to assist with recovery efforts in states affected by Hurricane Helene. The Ministry, in collaboration with the Agriculture and Food Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture, continues to donate rice to Eswatini, Somaliland, South Africa, and other countries. We will continue to encourage nongovernmental organizations to engage in international assistance cooperation endeavors.

The Ministry in September launched a trial conditional service for online passport renewal application for the convenience of the people. Mobile consular services are provided to citizens on outlying islands and in remote townships. Visa facilitation measures for foreign nationals are also in place. All these are part of streamlining the administrative process and providing convenience to the public.

#### **4. Committing our utmost to promoting integrated diplomacy**

When I presented my first foreign policy report to you on May 30 after I assumed office, I outlined my vision and blueprint for future diplomatic work, as well as eight priority foreign policy objectives. Let me again address them briefly.

We will steadily deepen and reinforce diplomatic alliances. We hope to shift from consolidating diplomatic ties to bolstering the prosperity of allies, making them proud partners of Taiwan.

We will further elevate substantive ties with like-minded and friendly countries, be they neighbors in the New Southbound Policy region, Asia, and Oceania, or distant countries in the Americas, Europe, and Africa. We will stand firm in the Indo-Pacific, expanding our horizons to the rest of the world.

We will steadily increase international engagement and make concrete contributions. We will particularly intensify efforts to counter China's attempts to suppress Taiwan's global participation by misrepresenting UNGA Resolution 2758. We will hold to the principles of professionalism, pragmatism, and making contributions to actively do our part in global society across a wide range of domains.

We will bolster and expand Taiwan's global economic and industrial links, do our utmost to promote economic and trade diplomacy and science and technology diplomacy, and seek accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and other regional economic integration mechanisms. We will promote the people-centered New Southbound 2.0

initiative, using our digital strengths and soft power as a bridge and nexus to connect Taiwan with the rest of the world and to New Southbound Policy partners.

We will work steadily to elevate Taiwan's positive international image, leveraging our soft power to promote public diplomacy and stepping up information campaigns. We will expand our global presence and market Taiwan to the world.

We will further strengthen the combined diplomatic momentum of the private sector, civil society, and government agencies so that every citizen will be a diplomat and every ministry will be a foreign ministry. We will coordinate interagency resources, combine the strengths and vitality of the public and private sectors, and integrate all diplomatic assets.

We will continue to improve the efficiency and quality of services we provide to the public so that these services have a tangible and positive impact on people's lives. We will optimize passport application and issuance procedures, streamline overseas emergency assistance and service mechanisms, and improve travel advisories for citizens going overseas.

We will enhance the cross-domain professional and functional capabilities of our diplomats, especially in areas such as the economy, trade, science, and technology. We will be flexible in employing senior personnel and empowering young colleagues. Our overseas missions will also strengthen their professional functions and the roles they play in their respective regions.

We will steadily advance science and technology diplomacy, human rights diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, urban diplomacy, parliamentary diplomacy, health care and public health diplomacy, environmental diplomacy, sports diplomacy, indigenous diplomacy, religious diplomacy, gender equality diplomacy, and other forms of diplomacy in diverse ways. With our assistance, Taiwanese groups have promoted cultural diplomacy through participation in international music competitions in Europe and New Zealand and the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture in the United States. Together with the Ministry of Education's Sports Administration and our Olympic Committee, we also provided assistance to the Taiwanese teams taking part in the 33rd Summer Olympic Games and the 17th Paralympic Games in Paris. This month, President Lai appointed 10 ambassadors-at-large, who will work with the Ministry to promote the various forms of diplomacy.

## **5. Conclusion**

The Ministry will commit itself to implementing integrated diplomacy, demonstrating Taiwan's unshakeable resilience and confidence to the global community, and enhancing the concerted efforts of Taiwan and other democratic countries to counter authoritarianism. We will win greater international affirmation that Taiwan is a responsible and reliable partner that is willing to contribute. We will show that Taiwan can help through concrete action and work together with other countries to advance democracy, peace, and prosperity across the globe. I look forward to the continued support and guidance of the committee members. Thank you.