Report by Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan), at the Foreign and National Defense Committee of the Legislative Yuan on October 18, 2021

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

Good morning!

I'm pleased to be here today at the invitation of the Foreign and National Defense Committee to present a briefing on Taiwan's diplomatic work. The following report covers the external changes we have faced in our work, the accomplishments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since the previous Legislative Yuan session, as well as key future directions. Your feedback and suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

1. Foreword

The global political and economic landscape has undergone drastic transformations recently, and there have been many changes and constants in our diplomatic work. The main constant is Beijing's relentless rhetorical assault and military intimidation against Taiwan and its launch of diplomatic warfare as it attempts to lure away our diplomatic allies, undermine our relations with other countries, and interfere with our international participation. The most important change is the growing support for democratic Taiwan and increased displeasure with authoritarian China in the international arena. For Taiwan, this is both a challenge and an opportunity. The Ministry will do its utmost to overcome all challenges and take advantage of opportunities, firmly pushing forward with its tasks.

- 2. Major external developments facing Taiwan in its diplomatic work
- **2.1.** With the world still facing many threats and challenges, Taiwan cannot stand on the sidelines: The world continues to face numerous traditional and nontraditional security threats, the major ones including the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, potential risk of conflict in many areas, persistent threat of authoritarianism to democracy around the world, existing threats from international terrorism, all manner of threat worldwide brought on by climate change, challenges to the restructuring of global supply chains, cybersecurity, and disinformation.
- 2.2. As opposition to authoritarianism increases among democratic countries, security across the Taiwan Strait has received greater attention: China's belligerent actions across the Taiwan Strait, East China Sea, South China Sea, Xinjiang, and Hong Kong; lack of transparency as regards the origin of COVID-19; wolf-warrior diplomacy; and other factors have led to growing friction between China and many democracies in Europe and North America. The international community has repeatedly expressed concern over Beijing's continuous military intimidation against Taiwan and recognized that its provocative actions undermining regional stability constitute a serious challenge to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), US-Japan Summit, US-Republic of Korea Summit, European Union-Japan Summit, G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting, Japan-Australia 2+2 Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations, G7 Leaders' Summit, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Summit, and EU-US Summit all reiterated the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, underscoring the fact that security across the Taiwan Strait has become a focus of global concern.

- 2.3. As the Indo-Pacific region has become a global strategic center, Taiwan's strategic position has been enhanced: The Indo-Pacific region has become a global strategic and diplomatic center. The US-China confrontation, South China Sea disputes, security issues across the Taiwan Strait, India-China border conflicts, and tension in Australia-China relations, among other issues, have become a focus of international attention. The US recently withdrew from Afghanistan and shifted its strategic priorities to the Indo-Pacific region, as reflected in the staging of a QUAD summit twice this year; the announcement by Australia, the United Kingdom, and the US of the formation of AUKUS, a trilateral security partnership; and the upcoming release of the latest US Indo-Pacific strategy report this fall. Taiwan occupies a special strategic position in the Indo-Pacific region, stands on the front lines of opposition to authoritarianism, and marks the most important line of defense for the democratic community. Taiwan's strategic position has been enhanced significantly.
- **2.4.** China's relentless suppression of Taiwan in the international arena brings formidable diplomatic challenges: China has never stopped, and has in fact ramped up, its suppression of Taiwan in the international arena, posing the biggest consistent diplomatic challenge to Taiwan. Not only has Taiwan long been excluded from the United Nations system, but under China's growing influence in the UN in recent years, it has also been barred from numerous important international organizations, including the World Health Organization and its annual World Health Assembly, and other UN agencies. However, such suppression has reinforced Taiwan's determination to rejoin international organizations.
- 2.5. Taiwan continues to contribute to the international community and

garner greater support: Taiwan has won widespread acclaim for its continuous contributions to the international community in a number of areas, including the safeguarding of freedom, democracy, human rights, and other values; maintenance of regional peace, stability, and prosperity; cooperation in disease prevention and public health; security in global supply chains; disaster relief and assistance; cybersecurity; climate change; and sustainable development. It has also received greater international support, including donations of COVID-19 vaccines from Japan, the US, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia.

3. Major accomplishments in steadfast diplomacy since the last Legislative Yuan session

3.1. Stable and cordial ties with diplomatic allies

High-level officials from Taiwan and diplomatic allies have put mutual visits on hold in recent months because of the pandemic but have engaged in interactions through videoconferencing. President Tsai Ing-wen extended birthday wishes to King Mswati III of Eswatini by phone in April. I have spoken with high-level officials of diplomatic allies on many occasions. I held a videoconference with Guatemalan Minister of Foreign Affairs Pedro Brolo in May; made a video call in August to congratulate new Prime Minister of Saint Lucia Philip J. Pierre on behalf of President Tsai; called Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Ralph Gonsalves in August to wish him a speedy recovery; and made a video call in September to congratulate Prime Minister John Briceño on the 40th anniversary of the independence of Belize. In addition, I recorded congratulatory messages for the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Taiwan and Haiti and for

the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Taiwan and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Bilateral cooperation programs are proceeding smoothly. We reactivated the Taiwan-Palau safe travel bubble on August 14; signed cooperation agreements with Nicaragua and Saint Christopher and Nevis; held virtual Partnership Opportunity Delegation meetings with Paraguay and the US; and conducted virtual seminars with the US to discuss joint assistance for Taiwan's Pacific allies in postpandemic economic recovery and sustainable development.

Taiwan proactively assists diplomatic allies with postdisaster reconstruction and combating disease. We provided disaster relief funds of US\$300,000 to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines after it was hit by volcanic eruptions and promoted a consultancy project on disaster management and medical capacity building in the country. We also provided US\$500,000 for earthquake relief in Haiti, supported Eswatini's restoration and reconstruction efforts, and have continued to donate face masks, oxygen concentrators, and other antipandemic supplies to allies.

3.2. Steady advances in Taiwan-US relations

Taiwan-US relations are rock solid and advancing steadily. We have strengthened our partnership through many different channels and expanded cooperation into more domains.

The US government has continued to take concrete actions to support Taiwan. In April, President Joe Biden sent former Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) and former Deputy Secretaries of State Richard Armitage and James Steinberg to visit Taiwan. On April 9, the Department of State formally issued revised guidelines for US government interactions with Taiwan counterparts, emphasizing that Taiwan is a vibrant democracy and one of the closest security and economic partners of the US. In August, the Biden administration announced its first arms package to Taiwan, totaling US\$750 million, continuing the US policy of normalizing military sales to Taiwan followed in recent years. Furthermore, in separate responses in August concerning the US military withdrawal from Afghanistan, President Biden and White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan publicly reaffirmed the US's rocksolid commitment to Taiwan. At a hearing at the House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs in September, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated that the US would honor its commitments under the Taiwan Relations Act. National Security Advisor Sullivan, Secretary Blinken, and Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman have also separately conveyed to Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė and other high-level officials of Lithuania strong US support for the development of Taiwan-Lithuania relations.

The US government staunchly supports Taiwan's international participation. Secretary Blinken issued a press statement in May entitled "Restoring Taiwan's Appropriate Place at the World Health Assembly." Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra spoke up for Taiwan at the WHA and held a bilateral videoconference with Minister of Health and Welfare Chen Shih-chung.

The US Senate and House of Representatives have shown bipartisan support for Taiwan and, through various channels, have continued to urge the US administration to upgrade relations with Taiwan. Senator Scott Perry (R-PA) sponsored the Taiwan PLUS Act in March. Representative Lisa McClain (R-MI) and 22 other Republican Representatives wrote a joint letter to President Biden in March calling for the US to sign a free trade agreement with Taiwan. Both the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and House Committee on Foreign Affairs launched a transnational campaign on social media with the hashtag #LetTaiwanHelp in April; a total of 126 Senators and Representatives voiced their support for Taiwan in response. The US Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 was sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) in May and passed by the Senate in June; it incorporated numerous elements favorable to Taiwan. The Ensuring American and Global Leadership and Engagement Act (or "Eagle Act") was introduced by Representative Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, in May and passed by the Committee in July. Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), and Chris Coons (D-DE) visited Taiwan on a military aircraft in June, highlighting bipartisan congressional support for Taiwan; they announced a US donation of COVID-19 vaccines to Taiwan during their visit. Senator Mark Warner (D-VA), Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and Republican Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), Vice Chairman of the Committee, led 40 other Senators in writing a joint letter in June to US Trade Representative Katherine Tai, affirming the resumption of talks with Taiwan by the Office of the US Trade Representative on a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement

(TIFA). The Senate Committee on Armed Services passed the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 in July and the House Committee on Armed Services voted to approve the House version in September.

Taiwan and the US have steadily broadened and deepened cooperation in many areas. We signed an MOU to establish a Coast Guard Working Group in March. For the third consecutive time, Taiwan sent the largest delegation to the SelectUSA Investment Summit, which was held virtually this year by the US Department of Commerce in June. The 11th round of TIFA talks was held at the end of June. Between March and mid-September, Taiwan, the US, and Japan hosted seven virtual international seminars under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF); Australia, the UK, and Slovakia cohosted some of these events.

Meanwhile, Taiwan has strengthened relations with US states. New Mexico reopened its office in Taiwan in March, upholding a decision made in late 2020. The Guam Visitors Bureau Taiwan was upgraded and renamed the Guam Taiwan Office in May. On September 1, Montana appointed a new representative to Taiwan and reopened its Taiwan office. As of today, 30 US states and Guam have passed a total of 42 resolutions supporting Taiwan.

3.3. Continued enhancement of Taiwan-Japan relations

Taiwan-Japan relations are stable and cordial. Japan has shown greater support for Taiwan in the international arena in recent years. In its white paper *Defense of Japan 2021*, the Japanese government for the first time explicitly

stated the importance of stability across the Taiwan Strait. It has reaffirmed this position at numerous international events. Then Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, then Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato, and Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi publicly endorsed Taiwan's participation in the WHA on several occasions, while then Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare Norihisa Tamura spoke up for Taiwan at the WHA. The Japanese government reiterated a similar position in its *Diplomatic Bluebook 2021*. Furthermore, in June, the House of Councillors approved for the first time a resolution calling on WHO to resolve the Taiwan issue. As of today, 37 local assemblies have issued related statements.

Taiwan and Japan enjoy close exchanges, with parliamentary interactions in particular growing more frequent. Keiji Furuya, Member of the House of Representatives and Chairman of the Japan-R.O.C. Diet Members' Consultative Council, initiated in July a virtual trilateral strategy forum for parliamentarians from Taiwan, the US, and Japan. President of the Legislative Yuan You Si-kun and legislators of various political parties participated in the event, while former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivered an address as a special guest. In addition, the fourth videoconference for young Taiwanese and Japanese academics conducting joint research was held this year.

Japan has donated a total of five batches of COVID-19 vaccines to Taiwan, amounting to over 3.9 million doses, and is considering donating a sixth batch. In order to express gratitude and enhance antipandemic cooperation, our government donated a total of 10,000 pulse oximeters and 1,008 oxygen

concentrators to Japan in September and October, creating a virtuous cycle in our bilateral friendship.

During the Tokyo Olympic Games, 28 local governments in Japan volunteered to host the Taiwanese delegation, the highest for any delegation, while the Taiwanese and Japanese people supported athletes from each other's countries. All this demonstrates the cordial friendship between the two countries.

3.4. Steady advancement of Taiwan-Europe relations

Relations between Taiwan and Europe have maintained a healthy momentum, with both sides continuing to deepen exchanges and cooperation based on such shared values as democracy, freedom, and human rights. Taiwan has become an important partner in the Indo-Pacific region for European nations.

Taiwan and the EU have fortified bilateral cooperation through the Human Rights Consultations, the Labor Consultation, and other existing platforms. Early this year, we cohosted the EU-Taiwan Supply Chains Forum in response to new global challenges.

In early September, Taiwan was included for the first time in a joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council, entitled *EU* strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. The EU announced that it would bolster cooperation with Taiwan in the semiconductor industry and other value chains, engage Taiwan in data protection dialogue, and deepen bilateral economic, trade, and investment relations.

Taiwan and Europe have achieved breakthroughs in substantive relations in a number of domains. A Taiwanese representative office will be set up in Lithuania, the first new representative office to be established in Europe in 18 years. A scientific cooperation agreement was signed remotely by Taiwan and Finland in June and August, respectively. An aviation service agreement was signed with Germany in July. And a pact on judicial cooperation in criminal matters was signed with Slovakia in August, the second such agreement with a European country after Poland.

The EP and the national parliaments of many European countries have been staunch supporters of Taiwan. As of today, the EP has passed 11 resolutions backing Taiwan this year. In early September, the EP's Committee on Foreign Affairs passed with a high number of votes a Taiwan-EU political relations and cooperation report and related amendments, recommending that the EU's representative office in Taiwan be renamed the European Union Office in Taiwan. This month, the French National Assembly will vote on a resolution advocating Taiwan's inclusion in working and multilateral mechanisms under international organizations. The Formosa Club in Europe welcomed 89 crossparty members of the Canada-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group into its fold in August; it also backed Taiwan's participation in the WHA through concrete action and expressed strong support for Lithuania's development of relations with Taiwan. Senator Alain Richard, Chairman of the French Senate's Taiwan Friendship Group, led a cross-party delegation to Taiwan this month, undaunted by intimidation and interference from the Chinese government and showing his friendship for Taiwan through action. Minister

of the National Development Council Kung Ming-hsin will be leading an economic and trade mission to the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Lithuania to deepen substantive exchanges between Taiwan and European nations.

3.5. Further deepening the New Southbound Policy

Taiwan has continued to deepen its diverse exchanges with New Southbound Policy partner countries and has achieved considerable success.

In terms of economic and trade exchanges, in the first half of this year, trade between Taiwan and New Southbound Policy partner countries reached US\$68.4 billion, for year-on-year growth of 32.14 percent, while 255 cases of inbound investments from these partners were approved, up 57.5 percent year-on-year. Industrial Collaboration Forums were held virtually with six partners, namely India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. In addition, talks were held with halal businesses, market developments and needs of New Southbound Policy partners were studied, and assistance was provided to Taiwanese companies seeking business opportunities, such as drawing up plans for collaboration with India in semiconductors and the internet of things.

In terms of people-to-people exchanges, more than 50,000 individuals from New Southbound Policy partner countries came to Taiwan to study or attend workshops last year, with the number of students in degree programs registering a slight increase. Related programs and lectures were organized to recruit talented personnel in science and technology and the social sciences from these nations. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has caused tourist

numbers to fall this year, we have maintained our momentum for tourism through new media and plan to attract visitors from among the region's large Muslim population. The Ministry announced that the trial visa-waiver program for three New Southbound Policy partner countries—Brunei, the Philippines, and Thailand—would be extended from August 1, 2021, through July 31 of next year.

In terms of resource sharing, under the One Country, One Center initiative and in coordination with eight partner countries, including India, Indonesia, and Vietnam, 32 virtual conferences and lectures were held and training was provided to 14 healthcare professionals between January and June. Exchanges were conducted in such areas as health insurance information systems and dengue fever prevention and control. Taiwan has also continued to donate medical supplies to partner countries.

As for regional connectivity, the fifth Yushan Forum was convened on October 8 as a virtual and in-person event in Taipei. Former Prime Minister of Australia Tony Abbott was invited to deliver an opening address, and exchanges and discussions on common regional concerns were held.

3.6. Increasing momentum for Taiwan's international participation

Owing to China's interference, Taiwan has been unable to participate in the UN system, but the international community widely recognizes that Taiwan can help. An ever-increasing number of nations, including their executive and legislative branches of government, media, and citizens, have acknowledged that Taiwan's appeal for international participation is both appropriate and

legitimate. The magnitude of support for Taiwan has increased steadily year after year.

Taiwan's bid to attend the WHA this year again received unprecedented worldwide support. The G7 Foreign and Development Ministers and the EU issued a communiqué clearly stating their support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in WHO and the WHA. Fourteen diplomatic allies raised proposals, wrote letters, or spoke up for Taiwan. Australia, Canada, Japan, the US, five other like-minded countries, and the Sovereign Order of Malta voiced their support for Taiwan's campaign during a plenary session of the WHA. The Prime Ministers of Japan, Canada, and Sweden were among leaders and high-level officials of more than 40 countries and the EU who publicly endorsed Taiwan's bid. Furthermore, more than 3,000 parliamentarians from more than 100 countries backed Taiwan in diverse ways.

This year Taiwan adopted innovative and diverse approaches in seeking broader attention and support from the international community for its UN bid. All 14 of our diplomatic allies that are UN Member States either jointly or individually wrote to the UN Secretary-General, urging him to include Taiwan in the UN system. Heads of state of several allies spoke up for Taiwan during the UN General Debate. In addition, the US, Japan, Australia, and other likeminded nations have continued to show staunch support for Taiwan at various events in different ways. Parliamentarians of 13 countries—namely, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Eswatini, Ireland, Italy, Peru, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Uruguay, the UK, and the US—endorsed Taiwan's UN bid through parliamentary motions, joint statements, or letters to the UN Secretary-

General or to the Foreign Minister or Permanent Representative to the UN of their respective countries, among other actions. I wrote an op-ed on our UN bid, which was published at least 226 times by prominent media outlets in the US, Japan, France, the UK, and other countries. *To Freedom*, a short film produced for this year's UN campaign, was well received, gaining 11.89 million views online. On the newly created *GiveTaiwanAVoice.com* website, nearly 4,500 prominent political figures, parliamentarians, and private citizens from 76 countries expressed support for Taiwan. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York hosted seven side events in coordination with Taiwan's UN bid. Overall, this year's campaign received much broader international support.

Taiwan continues to bolster its participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. Our Leader's Representative, Morris Chang attended the APEC Informal Leaders' Meeting in July, sharing our experience in containing COVID-19. Between March and September, Taiwan participated in 10 APEC meetings for senior and higher-level officials, including the Senior Officials' Meetings, Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting, and Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting. During this same period, we received more than US\$1 million in APEC funding for 15 initiatives—the highest number among member economies—and hosted 14 APEC seminars and activities.

Taiwan proactively participates in international organizations. The Country Office in Taiwan of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration began operation in July as the first branch office of an intergovernmental

organization to be established in Taiwan. Taiwan was reelected as a member of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions and named Second Vice Chair of the Asian Productivity Organization. The Executive Secretary of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, Gordon Hook, was invited to serve as speaker at a GCTF international seminar for the first time.

3.7. Taking proactive steps to make our voice heard internationally

The Ministry continues to employ a variety of approaches to speak up and let Taiwan's voice be heard throughout the world. We arranged interviews with international media for President Tsai and former Vice President Chen Chienjen. Since January, I have given 23 interviews to international media outlets, leading to the publication or broadcast of 154 news reports. I also met with foreign journalists stationed in Taiwan at special receptions, and more than 100 news reports were issued as a result. In collaboration with television companies in New Southbound Policy partner countries, we produced and broadcasted the fourth series of the *Embracing Taiwan* program. We also provided assistance to journalists dispatched or relocated to Taiwan by the *Washington Post*, British Broadcasting Corporation, and other prominent international media outlets.

The Ministry's official Facebook page has attracted more than 220,000 followers since its launch, and the Facebook pages of our overseas missions have a combined total of more than 640,000 followers. The 105 Facebook accounts and 230 websites of these overseas missions join in concerted campaigns to promote Taiwan's bids to participate in important international

organizations. Meanwhile, our official Twitter account has been viewed more than 200 million times, effectively raising Taiwan's international visibility.

4. Further advancing steadfast diplomacy

The Ministry will continue to forge ahead with steadfast diplomacy, focusing on the following priorities:

4.1. Consolidating ties with diplomatic allies

We are doing our utmost to consolidate relations with diplomatic allies. Once the pandemic has eased, we will continue to promote high-level mutual visits and expand bilateral cooperation. We will also work with democratic partners to support diplomatic allies; however, Taiwan will not engage in pointless checkbook diplomacy competition with China.

4.2. Deepening relations with like-minded and friendly nations

We will make good use of the favorable international climate and friendly forces worldwide and continue to bolster partnerships with such like-minded nations as the US, Japan, European countries, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand to jointly counter threats and challenges and advance regional peace, stability, and prosperity.

4.3. Increasing international participation and making proactive contributions

Based on the principles of professionalism, pragmatism, and making contributions, we will combine public- and private-sector resources and strengths to seek greater international participation through diverse approaches, while safeguarding our rights and interests in organizations to which we already belong.

4.4. Strengthening implementation of the New Southbound Policy

To implement this policy, our government is focusing on four pillars: economic and trade cooperation, human resource exchanges, resource sharing, and regional connectivity. Taiwan's soft power is creating new mutually beneficial cooperation models as we seek to make substantive contributions to regional development.

4.5. Endeavoring to join regional economic integration mechanisms and strengthening regional cooperation

Our highest priority is joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Our government officially submitted an application for CPTPP accession in late September. The Ministry will continue to actively seek the support of CPTPP members through bilateral and multilateral channels. Japan has already said that it welcomes our bid.

4.6. Making our voice heard internationally

We continue to employ diverse approaches toward speaking out among the international community so that the world can gain a better understanding of and further support Taiwan. In particular, we will increase our use of new media platforms to highlight Taiwan's positive image.

4.7. Fulfilling our international responsibilities

Taiwan continues to work closely with like-minded nations to counter challenges and threats, and we will further implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We will staunchly uphold the worldwide consensus on maintaining the status quo of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and safeguard democratic values and the rules-based international order.

4.8. Improving public services and facilitating greater travel convenience

The Ministry will continue to improve public services and facilitate greater travel convenience. Taiwanese nationals are granted visa exemptions, landing visas, or electronic visas by 170 countries and territories, and can enter many of these countries via automated customs clearance systems. During the pandemic, the Ministry has provided a wide range of services and related travel updates to expatriates. On July 1, we introduced a measure that affords greater convenience in passport application, saving time and money for citizens.

5. Conclusion

I would like to once again thank the Legislative Yuan and the distinguished Members of the Committee for the support and encouragement you give to the Ministry. Despite the formidable changes in the international landscape, the challenges and threats to regional security, and China's continued suppression of Taiwan, the Ministry will firmly promote steadfast diplomacy; safeguard Taiwan's sovereignty, dignity, rights, and interests; protect the values of freedom and democracy; and show the world Taiwan's vitality, professionalism, and resilience. We very much look forward to your continued support and assistance. Thank you!