

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 22, 2018

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

I am honored to be here at the invitation of the esteemed Committee together with several other senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to present a briefing on Taiwan's diplomatic work. Your feedback and suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

1. Responding to dramatic recent changes in the international arena and dealing with complex challenges

The international political and economic situation is undergoing dramatic changes. Minor changes anywhere can have tremendous consequences worldwide. Indeed, Taiwan and many other countries are facing more complex challenges with regard to the economy and trade and regional security.

The trade standoff between the United States and China continues, and is bound to affect economies and financial markets worldwide. It could also impact the existing economic and trade order. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has kept fully abreast of this issue, and will closely monitor subsequent developments and formulate necessary measures to ensure that our national interests are not harmed and that our external trade can continue to develop steadily.

In response to this new phase in global trade, we will continue to pursue free trade and echo calls for fair trade, while also seeking to sign more bilateral economic and trade agreements with other countries and participate in regional economic integration mechanisms. In particular, we will be actively exploring opportunities

to be part of the second wave of entrants to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

With regard to regional security, although tensions on the Korean Peninsula have recently eased slightly, countries in the Asia-Pacific are still facing the threat of China's military expansionism—especially in the South China Sea—which has already affected peace and stability in the region.

Meanwhile, the strategic competition between the US and China is intensifying and becoming a long-term trend. The dramatic changes and developments in US-China relations are unprecedented and will have a key impact on international and regional developments, relations across the Taiwan Strait, as well as the future of Taiwan. Under these circumstances, we will work even more closely with like-minded countries to jointly maintain peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific.

The framework of the US Indo-Pacific Strategy is gradually taking shape. As a key member of the Indo-Pacific region, we will continue to strengthen cooperation and dialogue with the US, Japan, India, Australia and other countries, as well as align our New Southbound Policy with the Indo-Pacific Strategy, so as to play an active role in and make contributions to this Strategy. We will cooperate with countries concerned to maintain a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

China has continued to promote the One Belt, One Road initiative worldwide, attempting to expand its influence through debt-trap diplomacy and influence neighboring countries with its sharp power, which has aroused great concern and suspicion in the international community. As China is exerting its sharp power, Taiwan is using soft power and warm power, so that the international community squarely faces Taiwan's existence and works with Taiwan to defend common values and foster peace based on freedom and democracy.

Moreover, China has continued to maliciously spread disinformation through online channels in order to influence international public opinion and create internal discord in Taiwan. This new type of political influence operation has already caused a negative impact on the functioning of Taiwan and other democracies. We call on the international community to be more vigilant and jointly address this situation.

2. Responses to China's incessant suppression of Taiwan

Recently, China has taken away several of our diplomatic allies, dispatched military jets and vessels to circle Taiwan and break through the first island chain, interfered with Taiwan's participation in international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), pressured international enterprises such as airlines to adopt demeaning designations for Taiwan, and forced the East Asian Olympic Committee to revoke Taichung City's right to host the 2019 East Asian Youth Games. The incessant efforts to intimidate Taiwan in the military and other spheres have demonstrated that China is exerting more pressure, broadening the scope, and acting with greater frequency in its suppression of Taiwan. Indeed, China is unilaterally undermining the status quo of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

However, Taiwan will not succumb to such pressure. On the contrary, external pressure will strengthen Taiwan's resilience. Attempts to alter the peace across the Taiwan Strait will not be accepted by the 23 million people of Taiwan and the international community. Likewise, any initiative that contradicts common values will not be approved of or supported by the world.

We will continue to implement various tasks related to our steadfast diplomacy, including consolidating relations with diplomatic allies, strengthening ties with like-minded countries, promoting the New Southbound Policy, and expanding our international participation. However, Taiwan will not act rashly and escalate

antagonism. Nor will we give in to pressure and choose the path of conflict and confrontation. We will neither go against popular will nor sacrifice Taiwan's sovereignty. Rather, we will strive to bolster the international community's recognition of Taiwan as an indispensable partner, make our voice more clearly heard, and showcase our contributions to international endeavors.

3. Major recent achievements of our steadfast diplomacy

3.1. Relations with diplomatic allies have deepened.

In August this year, President Tsai Ing-wen attended the inauguration of Paraguay's new President Mario Abdo Benítez, and also traveled to Belize. These visits were very successful and highlighted the cordial diplomatic relations with these countries. President Tsai and her delegation also engaged in interactions with leaders and representatives of other diplomatic allies as well as countries with which we do not maintain diplomatic relations. The trip demonstrated the importance Taiwan attaches to its diplomatic partnerships, emphasized our staunch commitment to values of freedom and democracy, and underscored our determination to further engage with the international community.

Just a few days ago, Vice President Chen Chien-jen, serving as President Tsai Ing-wen's special envoy, led a delegation to the Holy See to attend the canonization of Pope Paul VI and several others. He also had an audience with Pope Francis. On behalf of the government and people of Taiwan, as well as all the Catholic faithful in our country, Vice President Chen conveyed his admiration for the Pope and invited him to make a pastoral visit to Taiwan to further enhance bilateral interactions and diplomatic ties.

Last month, I led a delegation to the annual meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in Nauru. We interacted with leaders of delegations from our allies, including five Heads of State and one Foreign Minister, as well as delegations from like-minded countries. On behalf of our government, we announced the

establishment of the Taiwan/R.O.C.—Pacific Islands Forum Special Medical Fund, with funds of US\$2 million, so as to strengthen ties with countries in the Pacific and deepen cooperation with allies in the region.

In the meantime, high-levels officials from our diplomatic allies have continued to visit Taiwan recently, proving that they support and value relations with Taiwan. They include Paraguay President Mario Abdo Benítez, Saint Lucia Prime Minister Allen Chastanet, Saint Christopher and Nevis Governor-General Sir Tapley Seaton, Marshall Islands President Hilda C. Heine, King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Haiti President Jovenel Moïse, Nauru President Baron Divavesi Waqa and Solomon Islands Prime Minister Rick Houenipwela.

3.2. Taiwan-US relations are advancing steadily.

The Taiwan-US partnership continues to advance steadily. We again thank the US government for continuing to show staunch support for Taiwan. In a speech at the Hudson Institute in Washington, DC, on October 4, Vice President Mike Pence recognized Taiwan’s democratic achievements and reiterated US commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in a speech at the Indo-Pacific Business Forum of the US Chamber of Commerce in July to unveil the economic vision underpinning the Indo-Pacific Strategy, stated that “in Taiwan, economic development went hand-in-hand with creating an open and democratic society that blossomed into a high-tech powerhouse.” And Secretary of Defense James Mattis, speaking at the Shangri-la Dialogue in June in Singapore, reiterated that the US would uphold the Taiwan Relations Act, voiced US opposition to any unilateral effort to alter the status quo across the Taiwan Strait, and expressed the US insistence that any resolution of differences should accord with the will of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

When President Tsai made transit stops in the US during her trip to Paraguay and Belize, she was accorded high-level courtesy and treatment by the US government.

The US also allowed our traveling media to conduct interviews and publish reports during these transit stops, allowing the public to immediately witness and gain a better understanding of the close and cordial ties between Taiwan and the US.

In August, the White House issued a statement concerning the termination of diplomatic relations between El Salvador and Taiwan, expressing its grave concern and reiterating its opposition to Beijing's destabilization of the situation in the Taiwan Strait. This marked the first time that the White House issued a statement in response to China taking away one of Taiwan's diplomatic allies.

In addition, the US government sent Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce to attend the dedication ceremony of the new AIT office complex in Neihu in June this year, underscoring its firm commitment to and longstanding friendship with Taiwan, and reflecting the importance of the Taiwan-US relationship.

In April, the Trump administration approved marketing licenses that will allow US manufacturers to assist us with our indigenous submarine program. Later, in September, it also announced another arms sales package to Taiwan, worth US\$330 million. This has underscored the priority placed by the US on Taiwan's security.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2019—signed by President Trump on August 13—contains numerous provisions supportive of endeavors to strengthen Taiwan's defense and combat preparedness and conduct exchanges in the areas of national defense and security. This reflects the consensus that exists between the US executive and legislative branches on the issue of enhancing Taiwan-US security cooperation.

In 2018 so far, 13 Members of the US Congress have visited Taiwan, including Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), Cochair of the Senate Taiwan Caucus, and Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO), Chairman of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific and International Cybersecurity Policy. These visits have demonstrated the US Congress's staunch backing of Taiwan.

In addition, under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF), Taiwan and the US in August held the first international course on combating cross-border crime and identifying forged currency and passports. Also under the GCTF, Taiwan and the US last week cohosted an international workshop on defending democracy through media literacy. And in July, senior Taiwan government officials were once again invited to the US Department of State in Washington, DC, to attend the Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom.

3.3. New Southbound Policy continues to bear fruit.

The New Southbound Policy continues to bear fruit. In the first half of this year, citizens from partner countries made 1,288,904 visits to Taiwan, a 17% increase compared to the same period last year. As a result of intensive joint efforts by our Ministry and relevant Representative Offices overseas, our trade with partner countries reached US\$56.83 billion in the first six months of 2018, up 5.8% over the same period in 2017. Furthermore, the number of students from partner countries who came to Taiwan for long- or short-term study in the first half of the year amounted to 40,999, meaning that we have already reached our goal for 2018 of increasing this number by 20%.

With the support of our Ministry, the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation officially began operations on June 1 this year. In addition to organizing the Yushan Forum and promoting institutionalized and multitrack regional dialogue platforms, the Foundation also strives to consolidate ties between domestic and overseas think tanks, foster the development of young leaders, and bolster cooperation and

exchanges among NGOs.

The second edition of the Yushan Forum was held a few days ago in Taipei, attended by representatives from 30 countries hailing from both the public and private sectors. They included two Nobel Peace Prize recipients, namely Kailash Satyarthi and former South African President Frederik Willem de Klerk. The event allowed attendees to witness Taiwan's commitment and efforts in carrying out the New Southbound Policy.

3.4. Taiwan-Japan relations continue to gain momentum.

Relations between Taiwan and Japan continue to advance. Over the past year, Taiwan and Japan have faced many similar issues, including challenges brought about by extreme weather. In addition to expressing concern for and condolences to each other, the two countries have become heavily involved in improving disaster prevention and rescue work.

A committee established to jointly develop potential markets overseas by Taiwan and Japan held its first meeting this June in Tokyo. The two countries started promoting comprehensive cooperation on trade, intellectual property and tariffs, which will constitute a friendly environment for cooperating Taiwanese and Japanese businesses to explore third-country markets. They pledged as well to continue to enhance bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

The Fourth Summit on Taiwan-Japan Exchanges was held in Kaohsiung on July 7, the first time the event was held in Taiwan. While 118 councilors from 22 of Taiwan's city and county councils attended the summit, 323 members from 42 of Japan's regional assemblies participated in the event. This marked a record high level of Japanese participation. Together, the participants issued the Kaohsiung Proclamation, in which they declared that Taiwan and Japan would work together to promote tourism and that Japan would support Taiwan's participation in the

Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTTP) and related international organizations.

3.5. Taiwan-Europe relations continue to move forward stably.

Relations between Taiwan and Europe continue to enjoy stable growth. To date, Taiwan has signed 16 agreements, MOUs, and joint statements or proclamations with European countries. This includes the first bilateral industrial cooperation agreement, namely the Administrative Arrangement on Cluster Cooperation.

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on May 30, 2018, calling on the European Commission to expedite preparations for negotiations with Taiwan on a bilateral investment agreement. In September, the European Parliament approved the *Report on the State of EU-China Relations* calling on the EU and its member states to urge China “to refrain from further military provocations towards Taiwan and endangering peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.” It also reiterated support for Taiwan’s meaningful participation in international organizations and the launch of negotiations on a bilateral investment agreement with Taiwan.

Moreover, in a first, President Tsai delivered a prerecorded speech in September during a seminar at the European Parliament organized by the European Federation of Taiwanese Associations. In July, President of the Legislative Yuan Su Jia-chyuan led a delegation to visit the United Kingdom, France and Sweden to engage in parliamentary diplomacy. He was accorded high-level courtesy during these trips, and became the first ROC Legislative Yuan President to visit the French National Assembly.

With regard to our relations with the Holy See, in addition to another visit to the Vatican by Vice President Chen Chien-jen, His Holiness Pope Francis sent a congratulatory message to President Tsai Ing-wen on the occasion of the 2018 National Day through a Note Verbale of the Apostolic Nunciature in Taiwan.

3.6. Striving for international participation

MOFA continues to press for participation in international organizations. As for our goal to participate in the United Nations, this year we continued to adopt a multipronged approach to convey our 23 million people's strong desire and hope to take part in the UN system. This year, 17 of our allies lent support to our cause. In all, 12 made remarks in support of Taiwan at this year's UN General Debate, while 12 submitted a joint letter to the UN Secretary-General. Honduras, Guatemala and Paraguay sent individual letters, while the Holy See dispatched a representative to participate in the delivery of the joint letter. The Guatemalan foreign ministry tweeted an affirmation of our contributions to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I penned an op-ed entitled "UN Global Goals: Taiwan Can Help," and our overseas offices released several other similar articles. These were published 176 times in major media worldwide, a new record in comparison with past years' efforts. I also spoke on our appeal for our UN participation in an interview with the *New York Times*. We released a short video entitled *An SDG A Day* to showcase Taiwan's commitment to the SDGs. This video has been viewed over 14 million times worldwide, and has been shared by the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association and the Australian Office in Taipei. We are therefore spreading our appeal effectively to the international community.

Taiwan is a full member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC). We have always been an active participant in APEC, as it is the most important economic forum in the Asia-Pacific region. The theme of this year's APEC Meeting is "Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future." President Tsai Ing-wen has asked Dr. Morris Chang, the founder of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd., to serve as her Representative at the 2018 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Papua New Guinea in November.

3.7. Proactive steps to make our voice heard internationally

MOFA continues to employ a variety of approaches to help the world hear Taiwan's voice. Since taking office, I have been active in this effort, giving 25 interviews to such mainstream international media as the *Washington Post*, CNN, BBC, National Public Radio, Sankei Shimbun, *The Economist*, and Reuters.

In the realm of social media, MOFA launched a Facebook page last July and has since attracted over 27,500 followers, a number that continues to grow steadily. MOFA started its official Twitter account April 16, and has sent 923 tweets as of today. We now have 12,000 followers and post an average of five tweets per day. The account has caught the attention of the international media and reached more than 6.5 million users, among them key international journalists and scholars at think tanks. We launched an Instagram account July 21 aimed at attracting younger people and promoting Taiwan's beauty and soft power. This account has gained over 3,000 fans; our images are regularly viewed by 10,000 people.

4. Promoting current elements of steadfast diplomacy

Today, we face a complex international landscape and a variety of severe challenges. MOFA will continue to push forward with items related to steadfast diplomacy such as:

4.1. Consolidating ties with our diplomatic allies

Our current priority is to maintain ties with our 17 diplomatic allies. We will continue to promote mutual visits by high-ranking officials and increase our investments in these countries, including through official development assistance (ODA). Such investment will help their economic, political and social development. We will not, however, engage in pointless competition with China through checkbook diplomacy.

4.2. Strengthening relations with like-minded countries

We will continue to strengthen relations with like-minded countries such as the United States, Japan, European nations, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and continue to engage them in dialogue on trade, investment, security, health care, environmental protection, information security, and antiterrorism. We will work with them to address challenges arising from China's military expansion, use of sharp power and dissemination of disinformation.

4.3. Advancement of the New Southbound Policy

MOFA will make an all-out effort to implement projects for the current phase of the New Southbound Policy. These are directed at the development of human resources, innovation-based industries, regional agricultural cooperation, medical cooperation and industrial supply chains. The creation of policy forums and youth exchange platforms, such as the Yushan Forum and Five Flagship Programs, is part of such efforts. Our efforts will also encompass the five commitments made by President Tsai at the Yushan Forum, namely, helping to nurture and empower the talent this region needs, sharing our experience of industrial development with New Southbound countries, helping New Southbound countries with infrastructure and major development projects, bringing on board our SMEs and NGOs to have them help us realize the Policy, and joining forces with other like-minded countries to strengthen international cooperation in the region. We believe this will contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

4.4. Increasing international participation

Based on the principles of professionalism and pragmatism, and hoping to contribute to the international community, we will use all available resources and strengths to bring our creativity into full play in a continuing, active bid to join more international organizations. In the meantime, we will strive to maintain our rights within those organizations to which we already belong. We will also work to expand and deepen our participation in them.

4.5. Involvement in regional economic integration mechanisms and strengthening regional cooperation

MOFA will continue to cooperate with the public and private sector in a bid to participate in regional economic integration mechanisms. Our focus is participating in the second round of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) accession negotiations.

We will also seek to sign more bilateral economic and trade agreements, and continue to make an all-out effort to promote trade diplomacy to enhance our economic power. We will also continue to expand and strengthen cooperation with friendly countries in the region by promoting the New Southbound Policy and aligning with the Indo-Pacific strategy, even as we work to join the CPTPP.

4.6. Having our voice heard internationally

We will continue to promote Taiwan's soft power and warm power in the international arena. We will help the world gain a better understanding of Taiwan, and let our voice be heard by the international community. In particular, we will make better use of new media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. This will strengthen our public diplomacy and help Taiwan's voice be better heard internationally.

4.7. Fulfilling our international obligations

In addition to continuing to assist the development of our diplomatic allies, MOFA will also continue to work with other democracies to contribute to the international community on global issues of shared concern such as regional security, health care, climate change, humanitarian care, humanitarian relief, antiterrorism and information security.

4.8. Improving our services to the public

Serving the people has always been one of the most important tasks of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We understand that most of our compatriots have high expectations of our Ministry. We at MOFA were deeply saddened by the unexpected death of Su Chii-cherng, the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Osaka, Japan. We are responding to this unfortunate incident by conducting a thorough review of the emergency aid measures offered to our compatriots in foreign lands by our overseas offices. We are crafting a plan based on this experience that will empower us to better serve our citizens in the days ahead.

5. Conclusion

Finally, in addition to thanking the Legislative Yuan and the members of the Committee for your support of and encouragement to our Ministry, I would like to thank all of my colleagues in the Ministry for their hard work and for their consistent dedication to our country. Our Ministry will spare no effort to overcome difficulties, carry out our tasks, and strengthen and consolidate the nation as we promote and work for a united Taiwan. For these efforts, we very much look forward to the Legislative Yuan's continued support and assistance. Thank you!