

**Remarks by Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan), at the Foreign Affairs and National Defense Committee of the Legislative Yuan**

**March 4, 2019**

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

Good morning!

With my colleagues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I've come to report on the changes and major challenges in promoting our foreign affairs, as well as our key response strategies. I will also talk about the achievements of our steadfast diplomacy since our last report, and take questions at the end. I look forward to hearing your suggestions later.

**1. Dramatic changes in the international landscape, critical and complex challenges in diplomatic affairs**

The international political and economic landscape is undergoing radical changes and is rife with unpredictable variables. At the same time, unstable conditions are undermining the security of the Asia-Pacific. This has created drastic and complex challenges in all of our efforts to promote diplomatic affairs.

As for Taiwan's development of foreign relations, China has never stopped suppressing our efforts. For instance, it continues to try to influence our diplomatic allies, and opposes our efforts to strengthen our bilateral relations with other countries. Beijing also seeks to block our joining and participating in international organizations and intends to convert its "one-China principle" into the norm throughout the international community. It has even taken action to force transnational enterprises, such as airlines, to downgrade their designation

of Taiwan. In addition, it has resorted to using disinformation to undermine Taiwan's sovereignty, reduce Taiwan's status, and limit our presence on the world stage.

Furthermore, Beijing has recently been relentless in its propaganda attacks and military intimidation against Taiwan. For instance, Xi Jinping gave a speech on January 2 this year, commemorating the 40th anniversary of the so-called "Message to Compatriots in Taiwan." He stated that China would start imposing the "one-China principle" and "one country, two systems" on the people of Taiwan, and that China would not abandon the option of using military force against Taiwan. Xi's statement not only raised a high level of concern throughout the international community, but also ignored the existence of the Republic of China. At the same time, it overlooked the adamant refusal of the people of Taiwan to accept "one country, two systems." Thus, both the Asia-Pacific landscape and cross-strait relations have been negatively affected. Moreover, the speech stands against such core values as democracy, freedom, and respect for human rights, as well as the wishes of the vast majority of the people of Taiwan.

With China also facing severe challenges, we would not be surprised if Beijing were to try to deflect current domestic discontent and external pressure by taking greater steps to wrest away our diplomatic allies and suppress our international participation.

With respect to regional security, China has kept expanding its military activities in recent years, especially in the South China Sea. Its maneuvers have caused unease in several countries in the region, with some even taking action in response. On many occasions, China has had its navy and air force circle Taiwan and has openly threatened to take military action against Taiwan. Thus, it has

unilaterally disrupted the status quo across the Taiwan Strait and severely affected the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

As for the ever-evolving Korean Peninsula situation, the Second Trump-Kim Summit took place on February 27 and 28 in Hanoi, Vietnam. We are pleased to see that the two sides were willing to set aside their antagonism and engage in peaceful and rational discussion in an effort to jointly deduce tension on the Korean Peninsula and in the Asia-Pacific region.

On the other hand, the strategic competition between the United States and China is being extended. The US Indo-Pacific Strategy that is gradually taking shape could have long-term repercussions on the future of the international community, the Indo-Pacific region, the Taiwan Strait, and Taiwan.

The international economic and trade landscape is also facing dramatic changes and brimming with variables and challenges. Most importantly, the world trade powers are gradually becoming more competitive. In particular, the US-China trade war could have far-reaching ramifications. Brexit could also impact world trade. The potential risks of a global downturn and the pressure to maintain economic growth for emerging markets and financial market stability are increasing. These have impacted the current economic and trade order as well as world economic development. As Taiwan is a trade-driven economy, it is more vulnerable to changes in international trade.

The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) entered into effect on December 30 last year. In light of the current international economic and trade situation, the Agreement is important to the economic development of the world and the Asia-Pacific region.

Meanwhile, China has been promoting its “Belt and Road” initiative and using debt-trap diplomacy to expand its influence globally, especially in Africa, Latin America, and Pacific Island nations. It frequently resorts to stealing the secrets of other countries and violating the freedom of religion, while leveraging sharp power to intimidate other countries. Many countries have become greatly alarmed by such actions and have taken steps to counter them.

## **2. Turning challenges into opportunities, continuing to promote steadfast diplomacy**

Taiwan’s diplomatic security is presently encountering stern challenges, but we are devising ways of turning such challenges into opportunities. For instance, China has applied its measures against Taiwan to other countries, including its attempts to buy political influence, its dissemination of disinformation, and its theft of secret information through hacking into other countries’ computer networks. Indeed, many countries are now becoming alert to this situation, and seeking ways to respond. Taiwan has been countering China’s onslaught for many years, and stands on the frontline of China’s global offensive. We are willing to share these experiences with other countries.

Moreover, China’s brazen threats of force against Taiwan have already crossed the line in terms of what many other countries can tolerate, and violate the international community’s principle of seeking peaceful means to resolve disputes. This is not only raising tensions across the Taiwan Strait, but also jeopardizing regional peace and stability, damaging the interests of countries in the vicinity. By contrast, Taiwan has striven to maintain cross-strait peace and stability, and continues to play a powerful role in maintaining harmony and

prosperity throughout the region. Taiwan is a beacon of democracy in Asia; our existence is closely bound to interests shared across the Asia-Pacific and the international community.

Taiwan will continue to strengthen its close cooperation with such like-minded nations as the United States, Japan, European countries, Canada, and Australia. We will jointly strive to maintain peace and stability throughout the Asia-Pacific, together defending such common ideals and values as democracy, freedom, and human rights. And we will coordinate in responding to China's aggressive influence and uphold the rules-based order, making a concrete contribution toward the harmony, security, and prosperity of both the Asia-Pacific and the world.

To respond to external changes and challenges, MOFA will continue to promote steadfast diplomacy. At present, our key endeavors include:

### **2.1. Consolidating diplomatic alliances**

Taiwan needs diplomatic allies, and has great regard for them. Maintaining relations with our 17 diplomatic allies remains our priority. Working under the principle of mutual assistance for mutual benefit, we will continue to promote mutual high-level visits, and increase investments and procurements. We will also help allies develop their political and economic infrastructure and further their social development, as well as provide humanitarian assistance. At the same time, we will also seek to participate in more expansive infrastructure or assistance projects being operated by the US or other like-minded nations within

our allies' territory, especially in Latin America and Pacific Island nations. However, we will in no way seek to compete with China's dollar diplomacy.

## **2.2. Deepening relations with other countries, including like-minded nations**

In addition to consolidating relations with diplomatic allies, we will actively promote relations with other countries, and engage particularly in further cooperation with like-minded nations such as the United States, Japan, European countries, Canada, and Australia. We will launch even more dialogue, and make an even greater global contribution by sharing Taiwan's experience of democratization with the whole world.

## **2.3. Advancing the New Southbound Policy**

We will continue to promote the New Southbound Policy on all fronts. Our mission at this present stage includes promoting the policy's Five Flagship Projects. We are also sharing our experience of industrial development, assisting New Southbound Policy partner nations in carrying out public constructions, helping SMEs and NGOs invest in such nations, and deepening international cooperation with like-minded nations within the New Southbound Policy region. This is putting into practice the fundamental spirit of the New Southbound Policy—that Taiwan helps Asia, and Asia assists Taiwan.

## **2.4. Expanding international participation**

Taiwanese people have long shared the hope for more international participation. This is something we all know Taiwan deserves. Taiwan will not give up on efforts to expand our international presence. Indeed, we have the ability to make

even greater contributions to international society. Therefore, based on the principles of pragmatism, professionalism, and making contributions, MOFA will integrate a range of potential resources and strengths, and continue to actively seek participation in more international organizations. We will also do all we can to safeguard Taiwan's rights and interests in organizations that we have already joined, broadening and deepening our contributions. And as one of Taiwan's greatest strengths is its NGOs, MOFA will continue to cooperate with leading NGOs, establishing sustainable partner relations and helping them engage in international cooperation and exchange.

#### **2.5. Endeavoring to join regional economic integration mechanisms, strengthening regional cooperation**

Taking an approach that places equal emphasis on multilateral and bilateral participation, MOFA will continue to spare no effort in pushing to join the CPTPP and other regional economic integration mechanisms. Joining the CPTPP would require joint consensus, so we will continue to confer with Japan and the CPTPP's 10 other signatories in a bid to seek their support.

MOFA has also established a CPTPP task force. I am serving as the Convener of the group, which comprises Representatives serving in the 11 CPTPP member countries and personnel from the relevant Departments. We are meeting at regular intervals, shaping Taiwan's case, and attempting to resolve associated difficulties as quickly as possible.

Going forward, we will also strive to sign even more bilateral economic and

trade agreements, strengthening Taiwan's economic clout. At the same time, we will continue to expand and intensify cooperation with friendly nations throughout the region by promoting the New Southbound Policy in unity with the Indo-Pacific Strategy, and by endeavoring to join the CPTPP.

## **2.6. Letting the outside world hear the voice of Taiwan**

MOFA will continue to speak out within the international community, playing a role to ensure that Taiwan's voice and position get out into the world. In this way, the international community will understand Taiwan all the better, and support us all the more. In particular, we are strengthening our use of new media platforms—including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube—to strengthen public diplomacy and international outreach.

## **2.7. Fulfilling our international responsibilities**

In addition to supporting diplomatic allies' development, Taiwan will cooperate closely with like-minded nations on such contemporary issues of global concern as regional security, public health and medicine, climate change, religious freedom, charitable affairs and humanitarian assistance, counterterrorism, and information security, putting our soft power and warm power on display. We will also put the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the UNFCCC into practice, fulfilling our responsibilities as a member of the international community and making even more contributions to global society.

## **2.8. Forging ahead with public services and conveniences**

MOFA will continue to forge ahead with a range of public services and

conveniences. This includes a program of 12 reforms, Measures to Strengthen Emergency Responses at Overseas Missions, launched last October. Our two core goals are to be accountable to a fair and reasonable degree, and provide assistance in as efficient a manner as possible.

### **3. Key achievements for steadfast diplomacy since the last Legislative Yuan session**

#### **3.1. Stable alliances**

China remains unrelenting in its efforts to entice away our diplomatic allies, and a number of politicians in these countries have unrealistic expectations about what China can do for them. Against this context, our Ministry and Embassies are striving to safeguard relations with our 17 diplomatic allies and consolidate our ties. At present, relations with all of our diplomatic allies are stable.

Since I presented my last report, numerous Heads of State and high-level officials have continued to visit Taiwan, including: Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of Palau, and Madam Remengesau; Baron Divavesi Waqa, President of Nauru; Silvio Ovelar, President of the Paraguayan Congress and Senate, leading a delegation of six other senators alongside Minister of Tourism Sofia Montiel de Afara; Denis Ronaldo Moncada Colindres, Nicaragua's Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Bosco Martin Castillo Cruz, Minister of Youth; Thulisile Dladla, the Kingdom of Eswatini's new Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Thambo Gina, Minister of Economic Planning and Development, and Moses Vilakati, Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs; Ezechiel

Joseph, St. Lucia's Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives, and Herod Stanislas, Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives; Oscar Hugo Lopez Rivas, Guatemala's Minister of Education; and Archbishop Giampietro dal Toso, Adjunct Secretary of the Holy See's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and President of the Pontifical Mission Societies. These visits attest to our allies' support and regard for Taiwan.

I would especially like to thank Legislative Yuan President Su for representing President Tsai during his visit to participate in St. Lucia's Independence Day celebrations from January 20 to 26. The trip demonstrated the close friendship that Taiwan and St. Lucia enjoy.

In a similar vein, last November I led a delegation to the Marshall Islands to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our nations' diplomatic ties. I met with President Hilda C. Heine and a number of high-level officials, exchanging views on a range of topics relating to our countries' bilateral cooperation, which bears testimony to our profound alliance.

### **3.2. Steady advances in Taiwan-US relations**

Taiwan-US relations continue to advance steadily. With this year marking the 40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), both sides have been advancing mutual trust, continuing to strengthen partner relations through the relevant channels, and expanding areas of cooperation.

The Trump administration has continued to publicly acclaim its friendship with Taiwan, and reiterate its commitments to our nation. In a tweet made shortly after the November 2018 local elections, for example, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stressed that Taiwan’s “constitutional democracy is an example for the entire Indo-Pacific.” More recently, Secretary Pompeo also praised Taiwan as “a democratic success story, a reliable partner, and a force for good in the world.”

The Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 was also signed into law by President Trump in December after having been passed by Congress with unanimous consent. In addition to reiterating the US security commitment to Taiwan consistent with the TRA and the Six Assurances, the act urges the US President to make regular sales of defense articles to Taiwan, and to encourage the travel of high-level officials to Taiwan.

After Xi Jinping touted a “one country, two systems” framework on January 2, and refused to rule out the use of force against Taiwan, US National Security Council Spokesman Garret Marquis responded on January 7 by tweeting that “the US rejects [China’s] threat or use of force to compel the people of Taiwan,” adding that “Beijing should stop its coercion [and] resume dialog [with] the democratically-elected administration on Taiwan.” US Senators and Representatives have been united in publicly voicing support for Taiwan, opposing China’s continued threats against us and offering their staunch support.

On January 22, the US House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill previously introduced by Representative Ted Yoho (R-FL), Chairman of the

House's Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, asking the US Secretary of State to formulate a strategy for assisting Taiwan to regain observer status at WHO.

Since last October, Taiwan and the US have jointly organized three workshops under our Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF): an International Workshop on Defending Democracy through Media Literacy, Achieving 50-50: Empowering Women Leaders in the Indo-Pacific Region, and a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Workshop.

Last December, Legislative Yuan President Su represented the Taiwanese government in attending the memorial service for President George H. W. Bush, paying our highest respects to the former US Head of State.

In December 2018, acting US Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets Ian Steff visited Taiwan. Steff thanked Taiwan for putting together a group to attend the SelectUSA investment summit, and expressed his hope to continue to deepen commercial and investment ties between Taiwan and the US.

### **3. New Southbound Policy continues to yield results**

The New Southbound Policy continues to yield results. In tourism and personnel exchanges, the number of entries by travelers from New Southbound countries into Taiwan reached 2,307,982 in 2018, a 13.6 percent increase on the year prior. Meanwhile, 51,970 individuals from New Southbound countries came to Taiwan in 2018 for study or training, representing year-on-year growth of 25.6 percent. That same year, 21,100 individuals from Taiwan traveled to New Southbound countries for study or training, up 9.5 percent on the year previous.

In trade and investment, the total trade volume between Taiwan and New Southbound countries reached 117.1 billion US dollars in 2018, representing 5.69 percent growth from 2017. Moreover, in 2018, our government approved 643 separate investment projects by New Southbound country-based firms in Taiwan, up 10.86 percent on 2017. The value of those new investments in 2018 totaled approximately 390 million US dollars, a 43.33 percent increase on the year prior.

In terms of trade agreements, an updated Taiwan-India investment agreement was signed in Taipei in December 2018, providing an even higher level of protection for Taiwanese companies investing in India. In addition, Taiwan also signed arrangements on mutual recognition of authorized economic operators with Australia and India, facilitating customs procedures for approved businesses and increasing Taiwan's export competitiveness.

The second annual Yushan Forum was held in October 2018, with 51 speakers (including two Nobel Peace Prize winners) from 17 different countries and more than 1,000 guests in attendance.

#### **4. Taiwan-Japan relations enjoy steady progress, with both sides maintaining good faith and common ground**

Despite the effects of various sources of instability, steady progress is being made in Taiwan-Japan relations, and mutual visits by officials from both sides are continuing unabated at increasingly higher levels.

At the 43rd Taiwan-Japan Economic and Trade Conference held in Taipei in November 2018, our two sides signed a mutual recognition arrangement on authorized economic operators as well as four other memoranda, a considerable achievement.

The third Taiwan-Japan Maritime Affairs Cooperation Dialogue took place in December 2018 in Tokyo, and saw the signing of two memoranda of understanding, one on bilateral cooperation in tackling smuggling, illegal immigration, and cross-border crime, and the other on joint marine science research.

## **5. Taiwan-EU relations maintain healthy momentum**

Taiwan-EU relations have maintained a healthy momentum, with both sides continuing to deepen exchanges and cooperation on the basis of our shared core beliefs and values. Mutual visits by high-level officials from both sides continue to go forward.

After Xi Jinping's January 2 address on "one country, two systems," in which he declined to rule out the use of force against Taiwan, the administrations of the EU, Germany, and the UK, together with the Belgian, European, Scottish and UK parliaments, issued public statements of support for Taiwan.

In December 2018, the European Parliament approved its 2018 annual report on the implementation of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, upholding support for Taiwan's democracy. And on January 30, the European Parliament held a Plenary Debate on the latest developments in the relations between China and Taiwan. At the debate, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides laid out the EU's "one China policy," calling Taiwan "like-minded" and praising Taiwan's accomplishments. This marked the first time that the European Parliament included cross-strait political issues in a plenary debate, a meaningful step.

On January 20, European Parliament-Taiwan Friendship Group Chair Werner

Langen presented to President Tsai a “Statement on Promoting Peace and Stability in the Taiwan Strait,” signed by 155 MEPs from a range of political groups, expressing firm support for Taiwan.

Over this period, we have signed five agreements, memoranda of understanding, and joint statements with European countries, including a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Higher Education between the Ministry of Education (MOE) – Taipei and the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) – Vienna, an Administrative Arrangement Between the Taipei Representative Office in the European Union and Belgium and the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the European Commission on Cluster Cooperation, and an Agreement on Cooperation between the ROC (Taiwan) Ministry of Science and Technology and the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research. These agreements all promote Taiwan’s substantive relations with Europe.

## **6. Active efforts to participate in international organizations**

At the past APEC Leaders’ Summit in November 2018, Taiwan’s Leader’s Representative Morris Chang and his wife led a delegation to attend, with impressive results. During the APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting, Chang as President’s Representative exchanged views with other economic leaders on responses to current global economic trends. Chang also held bilateral discussions with US Vice President Mike Pence, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and interacted with other leaders during the course of the summit.

In addition, Executive Yuan Minister without Portfolio John Deng and Minister of National Development Chen Mei-ling represented Taiwan at the APEC Ministerial Meeting, where they had an in-depth discussion with representatives

of other economies on how to strengthen sustainable and inclusive growth in the digital era. During the meeting, they also held a number of bilateral dialogues with ministerial-level representatives of other economies.

At the meeting of the World Health Organization's Executive Board this past January, representatives of nine countries – Japan and the US as well as our diplomatic allies Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Eswatini, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Solomon Islands – all spoke up in support of Taiwan's wish to participate. Moreover, our allies Nicaragua, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia expressed their support for Taiwan's inclusion in writing.

In our bid for participation in the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), 11 diplomatic allies submitted letters of support to the INTERPOL Secretary General ahead of the organization's General Assembly in November 2018, with one ally speaking up at the assembly and four allies personally lobbying the Secretariat for our inclusion. The administrations and/or legislatures of France, Germany, Italy, the UK, and the US publicly declared their support for Taiwan's inclusion.

As regards our efforts to take part in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs planned a number of international campaign events during November 2018, and arranged more bilateral discussion sessions (38 sessions) and media interviews (14 interviews) than in any previous year. These efforts have been effective in conveying our requests to the international community, and I personally would like to once again thank the UK government for its public support for Taiwan's UNFCCC participation.

## **7. Actively speaking up in the international arena**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to use a variety of means to actively speak up in the international community. Since I started this job in February 2018, I have accepted a total of 36 interviews from CNN and other mainstream online and print media outlets based in Canada, Germany, Japan, the UK, and the US, generating 78 articles.

Since it was set up in July 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Facebook fan page has been liked by more than 44,000 users and followed by more than 46,000 users. The Ministry's Twitter account came online on April 16, 2018; since then, it has published more than 1,200 tweets, gained more than 34,000 followers, and accumulated more than 17 million engagements. In addition, since its start in July 2018, the Ministry's official Instagram page has gained 13,000 followers and has averaged 100,000 impressions per week. These statistics together demonstrate our considerable public diplomacy capabilities.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Over the past year, amid abrupt changes in international politics and economics as well as with the security challenges we face in the Asia-Pacific and continued suppression from China, Taiwan has had no choice but to stand united, face this external situation with unity, and cooperate with our partners and friends across the world. Only in this way can we overcome these challenges and create a new playing field for Taiwan's foreign engagement.

In this new year, I will lead my team of diplomats in continuing to advance our steadfast diplomacy programs, by which we will uphold our national sovereignty and security, and protect our country's interests. I hope that all of you, as Legislators, will continue to support us and provide feedback. Thank you all!