

## **Talking points: Countering President Xi Jinping's statement on the 40th anniversary of China's *Message to Compatriots in Taiwan***

### **1. Taiwan's demands**

On January 2, President Xi Jinping delivered a speech to commemorate the 40th anniversary of China's *Message to Compatriots in Taiwan*. His intention was to impose the so-called "One China Principle" and "One Country, Two Systems" on the people of Taiwan, and he stated that China has not relinquished the use of force against Taiwan. Xi's statement not only disregards the existence of the Republic of China (Taiwan), but also the fact that the two sides are under separate rule. At the same time, China refuses to acknowledge the strong opposition of the people of Taiwan to "One Country, Two Systems." As Xi's speech will negatively impact the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, the international community is paying close attention to its effects.

The government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) urges other countries to maintain active relations with Taiwan and to call for the peaceful resolution of issues across the Taiwan Strait whenever the opportunity arises. Taiwan is willing to cooperate closely with like-minded countries so as to better ensure the peace, stability, and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.

### **2. Taiwan's position**

#### **2.1 China's refusal to relinquish the use of force against Taiwan negatively impacts peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region:**

In recent years, China has steadily increased its military power, thereby threatening countries in the region. It has also dispatched military aircraft and navy vessels to circle Taiwan, making China the one to upset the status quo and create problems. Such actions violate the principle of using peaceful means to resolve international disputes as espoused by the United Nations Charter.

#### **2.2 China's oppression of the people of Taiwan violates the core values of democracy, freedom, and human rights, while running counter to their will:** Taiwan shares in common with most other countries respect for democracy, liberty, human rights, freedom of religion, and other core values. Over the years, China's authoritarian state has continuously disrespected human rights, religious freedom, and other core values, thus seriously undermining the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights.

**2.3 The so-called “One China Principle” ignores reality:** The Republic of China is a sovereign and independent country which has 17 diplomatic allies and has developed substantive relations with most other countries around the world. The claim that “the ‘One China Principle’ is the consensus in international society” is absolutely not true. Of China’s 178 diplomatic allies, only 51, or less than one-third, completely and explicitly recognized the so-called “One China Principle” in their respective diplomatic communiqués or other documents establishing relations with China. The US, Japan, EU members and other major advanced democracies around the world have their own “One China Policy,” and do not accept the “One China Principle” proclaimed by the PRC. In testimony before the US Congress, then US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly explicitly stated that “the US ‘One China Policy’ is emphatically not the same thing as the PRC’s ‘One China Principle.’” Having undergone its own process of democratization, Taiwan has its own democratically elected president and legislature, as well as a rich and diverse press that enjoys full freedom. Taiwan has its own military, independently conducts its own foreign affairs, and issues its own currency, passports and visas, exercising absolute and exclusive jurisdiction over its own territory. Taiwan is definitely not a part of China.

**2.4 Taiwan will continue working to uphold the status quo in the Taiwan Strait and seeking to improve cross-strait relations:** While deepening its ties with other democratic countries, Taiwan has not intentionally sought to distance itself from China. Since taking office, President Tsai has repeatedly shown goodwill to China. China, in turn, enticed five of Taiwan’s diplomatic allies to switch recognition, and planes and naval vessels from the People’s Liberation Army have frequently circled Taiwan as a means of intimidation. China continues to obstruct Taiwan’s international participation, has used disinformation to meddle in Taiwan’s election and sensitive policy debates, and has failed to cooperate in reporting details of its response to the African swine fever epidemic under the terms of existing cross-strait agreements. These actions have seriously damaged the Taiwan public’s impression of China, whose stubborn and arrogant approach has only further estranged the two sides of the Taiwan Strait.

**2.5 The existence of a democratic Taiwan is in line with the common**

**interests of international society:** Taiwan is a trustworthy partner, a democratic success story , and a force for good in the world. In a world of growing connectivity, countries should ignore China’s so-called “One China Principle” or “One Country, Two Systems,” which damage their own national interests, and increase interaction with Taiwan.