Contemporary Practice and Judicial Decisions of the Republic of China (Taiwan) Relating to International Law, 2013

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Explanatory Note

Items reported here primarily cover the period of 2013. This report does not claim to be exhaustive for the period it intends to cover, and the compilers will add more items when available in future volumes.

Items included in this report are classified according to the following sections:

I  International Law in General
II  Subjects of International Law
III  International Organizations
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V  Territory and Territorial Jurisdiction
VI  State Responsibility
VII  The Law of the Sea, Environment, Health, and Aviation
VIII  The Law of Treaties
IX  Diplomatic, Consular and Similar Relations
X  Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes
XI  Arms Control, Use of Force and International Criminal Law
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I  International Law in General

Foreign Policy Report, 8th Congress of the Legislative Yuan, 3rd Session (March 18, 2013)

On March 18, 2013, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. David Y. L. Lin was invited by the Foreign and National Defense Committee of the Legislative Yuan to report on the foreign policy of the Republic of China. The report is as follows:¹

I  Foreword

It is an honor for me to present a briefing on the most recent activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) to the Foreign and National Defense Committee. On behalf of MOFA and all my colleagues, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to President Wang Jin-pyng and all other members of the Legislative Yuan for their staunch support of our work, and to congratulate President Wang on his successful trips to the United States in January and the Republic of Korea (ROK) in February of this year.

The aim of the foreign policy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) is to safeguard national sovereignty and security and create an international environment that is conducive to national development. Since 2008, the government has promoted the “viable diplomacy” policy in an effort to consolidate the foundation for protecting sovereignty, expanding international space, and sustaining national development. Today, the ROC enjoys solid relations with 23 diplomatic allies, with which we share frequent high-level interactions. With the United States, Japan, members of the European Union, Southeast Asian nations, Australia, New Zealand, and other non-diplomatic partner countries, we have forged cooperative relations in the areas of security, economy, trade, tourism, technology, culture, aviation, agriculture, and fishery.

In order to maintain the momentum of viable diplomacy and build public trust, MOFA will continue to monitor international developments, formulate counterstrategies, allocate resources, clarify our policies, and thereby create a friendly, convenient, and beneficial global environment.

Today, I will discuss the opportunities and challenges in the current international political and economic climate, the progress and concrete successes we have achieved with viable diplomacy, as well as our priorities and future prospects. Your comments and suggestions are very much appreciated.