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民主進步黨
Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan

President Lai Ching-te Launched the Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience Committee

September 26th, 2024

President Lai Ching-te today chaired the inaugural meeting of Taiwan's **Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience Committee**, marking a pivotal moment in the nation's ongoing efforts to strengthen its total defense and resilience. The committee was created to **bolster Taiwan's preparedness and coordination across all sectors**, with a focus on national security, disaster prevention, public welfare, and democratic resilience.

President Lai emphasized three core principles guiding the committee's work:

1. **“Preparedness Through Vigilance”** (居安思危、有備無患): Proactive, comprehensive readiness ensures that both government and society can function effectively in times of crisis or disaster. The goal is to solidify national strength and instill confidence in the people.
2. **“Enhanced Response, Fearlessness in Action”** (強化應變、有恃無恐): The committee will expand civilian training, improve strategic material inventory, and secure critical infrastructure,

including energy and transportation systems, to ensure swift and effective responses during emergencies.

3. **“Orderly Execution, Methodical Action”** (按部就班、有條不紊): A systematic approach will be taken, with extensive drills and validations at all levels of government. Collaboration with civil society is key to identifying and resolving challenges in a professional and organized manner.

President Lai also highlighted the importance of **diverse, cross-sector collaboration**. Given the complexity and wide range of issues the committee addresses, its composition is designed to leverage both public and private expertise. The committee includes **four advisors and 23 members**, with **67.7% from non-governmental sectors** and **32.3% women**, reflecting a commitment to cross-generational, cross-disciplinary, and gender-balanced representation.

Highlighting Taiwan’s strategic role in maintaining regional peace and stability, President Lai reaffirmed that a **stronger, more resilient Taiwan** will contribute significantly to global democracy, peace, and prosperity. He expressed confidence that Taiwan’s **preparedness and determination** will inspire greater international support in addressing challenges and mitigating risks.

The meeting also featured a briefing by the National Security Council (NSC) titled "Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience: Planning and Challenges", which outlined the committee’s objectives, progress, and the challenges Taiwan faces. The briefing emphasized Taiwan’s need to respond to **sudden vs. insidious disasters**, such as natural calamities, and **long-term threats**, including climate change and gray zone warfare.

■ Government Coordination

The NSC oversees policy formulation and guidance, integrating the efforts of the Executive Yuan and its ministries under the framework of the five key pillars of resilience. The All-Out Defense Mobilization Agency (ADMA) of the Ministry of National Defense serves as the secretariat for the Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience Committee, carrying out supporting tasks.

■ Phased Goals and Upcoming Drills

The committee's phased goals include conducting a **tabletop military exercise in December 2024**, followed by **small-scale local drills in March 2025**. In **June 2025**, before the Han Kuang-41 military exercises, the central and local governments will conduct **preparation drills**. These will involve small-scale, unscripted exercises based on the core pillars of the initiative, ensuring coordinated efforts between the central and local governments.

■ **Summary of the Five Line of Efforts (LOEs) of Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience**

1. **Civilian Training and Utilization:** Expanding training for civilian defense forces and integrating their roles in disaster and emergency response.
2. **Strategic Material Inventory and Distribution:** Ensuring essential resources, such as food and energy, are available and properly distributed during crises.
3. **Energy and Critical Infrastructure Maintenance:** Enhancing the resilience of Taiwan's power, oil, water, and other essential infrastructures.
4. **Social Welfare, Medical Care, and Shelter Preparation:** Preparing the medical system and shelters for wartime conditions and large-scale disasters.
5. **Information, Transportation, and Financial Network Security:** Strengthening cybersecurity, communication systems, and transportation network resilience to withstand attacks or emergencies.

President Lai concluded by stating that the purpose of the Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience initiative is to empower every individual to find their optimal role during emergencies, to protect themselves, contribute to society, and deter potential threats. **A united and prepared Taiwan** not only ensures its own security but also contributes to the peace and stability of the international community.

[Press release from the Presidential office >>>](#)

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