BEIJING, May 20 (Xinhua) -- The Chinese mainland's Taiwan affairs authorities on Friday issued an English-language statement on cross-Strait relations.

Following is the full text of the statement.

Remarks on Current Cross-Strait Relations by Head of the Taiwan Work Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council

The current developments across the Taiwan Straits are becoming complex and grave. The Chinese on both sides of the Taiwan Straits are following closely the prospect of the growth of cross-Strait relations.

Since 2008, the two sides of the Straits, acting on the common political foundation of adhering to the 1992 Consensus and opposing "Taiwan independence", have embarked on the path of peaceful growth of cross-Strait relations. Situation across the Straits has been kept free from tension and instability and peace and stability have reigned. Maintaining this favorable environment is the shared desire of Chinese on both sides of the Straits as well as overseas Chinese and the international community.

The key to ensuring peaceful growth of cross-Strait relations lies in adhering to the 1992 Consensus, which constitutes the political basis of cross-Strait relations. The 1992 Consensus explicitly sets out the fundamental nature of relations across the Taiwan Straits. It states that both the Mainland and Taiwan belong to one and the same China and that cross-Strait relations are not state-to-state relations. The 1992 Consensus was reached with explicit authorization of the two sides and has been affirmed by leaders of both sides. It thus constitutes the cornerstone of peaceful growth of cross-Strait relations.

We have noted that in her address today, the new leader of the Taiwan authorities stated that the 1992 talks between the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) and the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) reached some common understanding, and that she will handle affairs of cross-Strait relations in keeping with the existing defining document and related regulations and continue to advance the peaceful and stable growth of cross-Strait relations on the basis of the established political foundation. However, she was ambiguous about the fundamental issue, the nature of cross-Strait relations, an issue that is of utmost concern to people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. She did not explicitly recognize the 1992 Consensus and its core implications, and made no concrete proposal for ensuring the peaceful and stable growth of cross-Strait relations. Hence, this is an incomplete test answer.

A choice of different path leads to different future. This is a choice between upholding the common political foundation that embodies the one China principle and pursuing separatist propositions of "Taiwan independence" such as "two Chinas" or "one country on each side". This is a choice between staying on the path of peaceful growth of cross-Strait relations and repeating the past practice of provoking cross-Strait tension and instability. And this is a choice between enhancing the affinity and well-being of people on both sides and severing their blood ties and undermining their fundamental interests. The Taiwan authorities must give explicit answer with concrete actions to all these major questions and face the test of history and the people.

Our general policy toward Taiwan is both clear and consistent. We will continue to adhere to the political foundation of the 1992 Consensus, resolutely oppose "Taiwan independence", firmly uphold the one China principle, and work with the Taiwan compatriots and all political parties and groups in Taiwan who recognize that both sides of the Taiwan Straits belong to one and the same China to safeguard peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits, maintain and advance the peaceful growth of cross-Strait relations and strive for the prospect of China's peaceful reunification.

"Taiwan independence" remains the biggest menace to peace across the Taiwan Straits and the peaceful growth of cross-Strait relations. Pursuing "Taiwan independence" can in no way bring peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits. The common will
of people on both sides of the Straits are not to be defied. Today, we remain as determined as ever to uphold national sovereignty and territorial integrity and have ever stronger ability to do so. We will resolutely forestall any separatist moves and plots to pursue "Taiwan independence" in any form.

Both the mechanism of contact and communication between the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council and the Mainland Affairs Council of Taiwan and the mechanism of ARATS and SEF are based on the political foundation of the 1992 Consensus. Only affirmation of the political foundation that embodies the one China principle can ensure continued and institutionalized exchanges between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits.

The Taiwan compatriots share blood ties with us and there is no force that can separate us. We will further expand exchanges between compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Straits, advance cross-Straits exchanges and cooperation in various fields, deepen the integrated economic and social development of the two sides and improve the well-being and strengthen the close bond of people across the Straits, so that the two sides of the Taiwan Straits will build a community of shared future and join hands to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.