

Minister's Foreword

Since taking office, President Ma Ying-jeou has been implementing various new policies, pursuing fundamental reforms, improving foreign relations, and, in particular, resuming dialogues across the Taiwan Strait. President Ma's pragmatic efforts at improving interactions with the PRC have dramatically eased cross-strait tension to the benefit of security in the Strait and across the Asia-Pacific region. As far as defense policy is concerned, President Ma has repeatedly emphasized building a "Hard ROC" defense and consolidating the military strategic concept of "resolute defense and credible deterrence", so that the Republic of China would act as a peacemaker in the Asia-Pacific region. Under this conceptual guidance, the Ministry of National Defense (MND) has initiated a series of reviews and consolidated measures aimed at building a "small but smart and strong" modern force capable of deterring potential military aggressors from taking reckless actions and serving as a solid buttress for the Government in cross-strait negotiations.

The Amendment to Article 31 of the National Defense Act passed by the Legislative Yuan on July 17, 2008 mandates the MND to submit a Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) within ten months after every new president takes office in order to review and confirm defense strategy and military strategy, and provide a vision for future development. The MND has thus established a task force and a consultant group of experts and scholars from the private sector. Elements of defense studies—including defense strategy review, military strategy revision, force structure adjustment, defense organization re-structure, implementation of an "all-volunteer force", and joint warfighting capability assessment—were combined into



this project to form a comprehensive review of our national defense. The purpose is to identify the roadmap for defense reform and force development in the QDR and provide a clear and responsible explanation to the Legislative Yuan and the public.

This first publicly announced QDR describes the prospects and reform directions of the ROC Armed Forces in the face of challenges in an evolving strategic environment. The Armed Forces will make a concerted effort to implement comprehensive reforms and conduct a full-scale transformation, and thereby ensure that the measures to improve organizational structure, force structure, planning procedures, human resources development, resource allocation, and warfighting capability buildup can effectively meet the objectives of the defense strategy.

The ROC stands at a historic turning point, confronted by many difficulties and barriers. It is vital that the entire nation reach a consensus, achieve unity of purpose, face up to the challenges, and build a new future with wisdom and courage. The Armed Forces bear a heavy responsibility of safeguarding national security and creating peaceful, stable conditions that allow us and future generations to enjoy a peaceful and secure environment, as well as a bright future of sustainable development.

As there may inevitably be some shortcomings in this first-ever QDR of the ROC, I sincerely invite all to share their advice and support with us. The Armed Forces will maintain an open-minded thinking and listen to a wide range of views concerning defense strategy and force planning. The ultimate goal is to ensure deliberated and feasible defense policies and thereby safeguard our national security.

Minister of National Defense

Chen Chao-min

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