

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

UNSC

STUDY GUIDE





# AGENDA

China-Taiwan Conflict





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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council. We are thrilled to have you join us for what promises to be a pivotal session.

At the forefront of our agenda lies the pressing issue of addressing China's assertive strategies regarding Taiwan. The tensions between China and Taiwan highlight the complexities of international relations and the need for diplomatic resolution.

Central to this issue is China's long standing claim over Taiwan, which Beijing perceives as a province destined for eventual reunification with the mainland. However, Taiwan has maintained its autonomy since 1949, presenting a significant challenge to Beijing's territorial ambitions. The United States' support for Taiwan further aggravates the gravity of this situation, with President Joe Biden reaffirming the commitment to defend the island against any aggression from China.

As you step into the shoes of political leaders, it is important to approach this issue with the depth of understanding and the spirit of constructive engagement. Your research, deliberations, and collaborative efforts will be instrumental in charting a path towards a peaceful and equitable resolution.

We extend a warm welcome to SMUN '24 and to our esteemed committee and look forward to witnessing your dedication and ingenuity as you tackle the complex issues on our agenda.

Regards,

Co-Chairperson - Vranda Bansal,

Co-Chairperson - Aaditya Asnani,

Moderator- Vivaan Thakkar.



# INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The 5 permanent members of the UNSC, also known as the P5, are:

1. The United States of America
2. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
3. The People's Republic of China
4. The Russian Federation
5. The French Republic

These permanent members play a crucial role in shaping the Council's decisions and actions, given their veto power. This gives them the power to table any resolution that they do not agree with. By voting against a resolution, a Permanent Five member can stop a resolution from being passed.

The decisions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) are binding on all member states of the United Nations. This binding nature is derived from the authority granted to the Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which empowers the Council to take measures to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Unlike the General Assembly, when the Security Council adopts a resolution, it becomes legally binding under international law. This means that member states are obligated to comply with the provisions outlined in the resolution. Failure to do so may constitute a violation of international law and could lead to various consequences, including diplomatic pressure, economic sanctions, or even the authorization of military action.



# INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

The issue over Taiwan has been one of the greatest hot button issues globally since the end of WW2 and has its roots set in the pre-War era. China was divided between two governments before, during and after World War Two, the Kuomintang or “democratic/nationalist party” and the CCP or the “communist party” which is in power of the “People’s Republic of China” (PRC) constituting the mainland territory of China.

After the end of World War 2, the Communists under Mao Zedong won against the Kuomintang and this party was exiled to the country we now call Taiwan or the Republic of China (ROC).

The Republic of China has limited allies with only 21 UN member states and the Holy See recognizing its sovereignty, since it lost its UN seat to China in 1971. Thus, although both the PRC and ROC claim to be the governors of all China, internationally the ROC is widely recognized as a part of China.

The current Chinese government holds the ‘One-China policy’ as its official stance on this issue. The one-China policy is “the diplomatic acknowledgement of China's position that there is only one Chinese government.” The Mainland party in China also seeks to expand its influence to the South-Eastern Sea and contests the claims of Vietnam, Indonesia and other countries to their maritime borders.

Since Taiwan lies in the American Sphere of Influence (along with South Korea, Japan and the Philippines), the Taiwanese population is more inclined towards the West than the Mainland. Half or more of the mainland Chinese population wants their government to annex



# INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

the island. The CCP has promised to do this, “hoping for peaceful negotiations but not completely removing violence from the table.” The CCP government’s aim, in the end, is to restore to China what it sees as a break-away province. The Taiwanese government is split, with some wanting a two-China policy and some wanting a unified China under the Kuomintang.

# IMPORTANT TERMS

1. Two Chinas: refers to the geopolitical situation where two entities (the PRC and ROC) claim de jure sovereignty over all of China whilst denying the legitimacy of the other.

2. One Country, Two Systems: while initially proposed by Chinese premier Deng Xianping in terms of Taiwanese reunification, the term currently refers to the administration system of the countries of Hong Kong and Macau. These "special administrative regions" of China are allowed distinctly independent economic and political systems from mainland China, despite being a part of the country.

3. One China Policy: refers to the foreign policy of the United States where it recognizes the PRC as the sole legal government of China but only "acknowledges" (notably, it does not "recognize") the Chinese position that Taiwan is part of China, thus maintaining formal relations with the PRC and unofficial relations with Taiwan.

4. One Country on Each Side: is a concept first proposed by Chen Shui-bian, the former President of the Republic of China, stating that the PRC and the Taiwan are two different countries, namely "One China, one Taiwan", as opposed to two separate political entities within the same country of "China".

5. United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758: In 1971, the UN General Assembly passed UN Resolution 2758 (XXVI) which stated that the People's Republic of China is the only legitimate government of China, replacing the ROC with the PRC as the permanent member of the Security Council in the United Nations.



# IMPORTANT TERMS

6. Nine-dash line: At first, the nine-dash line was actually an eleven-dash line, drawn by the Chinese in 1947, but in 1950, two dashes were removed. China claims that all areas within the nine-dash line should be under its sovereignty. The nine-dash line surrounds almost 90% of the disputed area and runs 2000 kilometres from the Chinese mainland to within a few hundred kilometres of Philippines, Malaysia and Vietnam.

7. Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) : The DPP was founded in 1986 by those who wanted self-determination for ethnically Taiwanese people, a multiparty system and the initiation of economic relations with the PRC. After years as opposition to KMT, it is currently the main party in Taiwan.



# HISTORY / TIMELINE

1943: After Japan lost in WWII, the Chinese Nationalist government took control of Taiwan because of the Cairo Agreement signed in 1943.

1949: Following the Nationalists' flee to Taiwan after the Communists won in the mainland, Taiwan fought to be recognized as the only government of the Chinese people.

1949: The Communists established the People's Republic of China (PRC) on the mainland, and the government of the Republic of China (ROC) retreated to Taiwan, the ROC continued to hold China's UN seat representing the entire nation. The PRC could never join as a new member because membership decisions required approval by the Security Council, where the US and ROC could have used their veto power. However, in 1971, the PRC was able to replace the ROC as China's representative in the UN because credentials only required approval by the General Assembly, where the US and ROC did not yield any veto power.

1954: The United States of America and the ROC later signed the Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty in 1954, which pledged the US to defend Taiwan and the Pescadores/Penghu Islands.

1971: UN Resolution on Admitting Peking solidifies the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the sole legitimate government of China, replacing the Republic of China (ROC) and expelling Taiwan from the United Nations. The resolution prohibits Taiwan from displaying any national symbols suggesting sovereignty.

Mid 1980s: Taiwan undergoes a significant political transformation, gradually transitioning towards a democratic system from its previous authoritarian regime.



# HISTORY / TIMELINE

1995–1996: Tensions escalate as China conducts missile exercises in waters surrounding Taiwan. The United States responds by deploying two aircraft carrier battle groups to demonstrate its commitment to Taiwan's security.

July 1, 2019: Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech emphasising "peaceful national reunification" with Taiwan while warning against any attempts at "Taiwanese independence."

August 2022: Former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan prompts a strong reaction from China, leading to military exercises near the island and the cessation of official military dialogues with the United States. Taiwan experiences heightened provocations, including missile launches and cyber attacks.

September 2022: President Biden's remarks suggesting U.S. defence of Taiwan in case of Chinese aggression stir controversy, later clarified by the White House as "hypothetical". Biden's administration marks the first to invite Taiwanese representatives to a presidential inauguration.

November 2023: The United States provides significant military assistance to Taiwan, offering an \$80 million grant for the purchase of American military equipment. China condemns this move, viewing it as interference in its internal affairs.

January 2024: The victory of the Democratic Progressive Party's Lai Ching-Te in Taiwan's Presidential elections was marked by him mentioning the "scope for open talks" with China.



# 2024 TAIWANESE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

## **History:**

Following the death of Taiwan's leader Chiang Ching-kuo in 1988, Taiwan began progressing towards political democratisation. In the elections of 1989, parties other than the KMT were allowed to be involved. Due to the Soviet Union's collapse, Taiwanese-US relations became better and Taiwan began the process of normalising diplomatic relations with China. In the beginning of the 21st century, the DPP began rising as a political force in Taiwan and fully removed the KMT from power in the government. In the elections of 2008, the KMT regained full government control and relations with China started to improve. Nevertheless, there were many protests from pro-independent forces in Taiwan as regards KMT leader's Ma Ying-jeou's way of dealing with the PRC. In 2016, Taiwan elected Tsai Ing-wen, leader of the DPP, as their first female president.

## **Existing Political System of Taiwan:**

Two major parties dominate the political landscape of Taiwan: the (Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) - a centre-to-left to centre party and the Kuomintang (KMT). The KMT ruled China from 1928 to 1949 and then ruled Taiwan and won most of the elections until 2016.

1992 Consensus - For a long time, the DPP has maintained that there was no consensus in 1992 because no joint document was issued, while the KMT has held that a tacit agreement did exist - leading to some dialogue with the mainland when it held power.

Both the DPP and the KMT, have, in recent years aligned themselves with a moderate position to counter ever-growing Chinese aggression and present a unified "Taiwanese" front.



# 2024 TAIWANESE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

## **2024 Presidential Elections:**

On January 13, 2024, the Taiwanese Presidential Elections were held to elect the 16th President of Taiwan. In line with polling predictions, voters chose DPP presidential candidate and incumbent Vice President Lai Ching-te (40% of the vote) over KMT's Hou Yu-ih (33.5% of the vote) and the Taiwan People's Party (TPP) candidate Ko Wen-je (36.5% of the vote)

## **China's Response to the elections:**

Branding DPP's Lai as "destroyer of peace" and sending military ships, balloons, and aircraft across the Taiwan Strait – China expectedly interfered in the weeks preceding and following the election.

On election day, the PRC flew a high-altitude balloon over Taiwan's northern coast, and Taiwan subsequently reported nighttime patrolling by aircraft. In reaction to the election, China undertook several diplomatic actions. Most notable is the example of Nauru, a tiny nation of Pacific Islands, cutting diplomatic ties with Taiwan and forging new ones with the PRC – a declaration that came just two days after the election.

PRC authorities also criticised the Western nations for sending delegations to Taiwan in the wake of the election and the U.S. State Department and the Philippines for issuing congratulatory statements to Lai, while stating that "the Chinese government's position of ... opposing 'Taiwan independence' separatism, 'two Chinas' and 'one China, one Taiwan' will not change."

Unlike significant milestones in the past, such as Nancy Pelosi's 2022 visit to Taiwan and President Tsai's visit to the U.S. in 2023, no military action was taken. The reason for this is possibly the lack of an outright majority (secured by Tsai in the previous elections) and the softening of the DPP's independence stance.

# CHINA'S STANCE

China claims the biggest part of home in the disputed Area grounding its claims substantially for literal reasons. According to the PRC, it should have sovereignty over the islets because of the nine-dashed line it drew in 1947. still, the nation doesn't abide by the International protocols of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea( UNCLOS) and it has preliminarily had military conflict with Vietnam and the Philippines because of the Paracels and Spratlys.

Since the 1970s, countries have claimed islets and zones in the South China Sea, like the resource-rich Spratly islets. The area is pivotal for global trade, with over 21(\$3.37 trillion) passing through it, and hosts over half of the world's fishing vessels. Despite limited disquisition, there is estimated to be around 11 billion barrels of oil painting and 190 trillion boxy bases of gas, making it economically promising.

The PRC has preliminarily proposed the " one country, two systems " system( The same system was applied to Hong Kong). With this system, there are two systems coinciding in one country; the PRC remains under communist rule, while Taiwan will be under a commercial system( like Hong Kong). According to the Chinese, should the " one country, two systems " be enforced, also this would not change the lives of the Taiwanese, still, the ROC denied this offer.

China has increased the frequency and scale of details of PLA bombers, fighter spurts, and surveillance aircraft over and around Taiwan. It has also decreasingly sailed its warships and aircraft carriers through the Taiwan Strait in shows of force. Beijing has also used nonmilitary measures to press Taiwan. In 2016, China suspended across-strait communication with the main Taiwan liaison office.



# CHINA'S STANCE

It confined tourism to Taiwan, and the number of landmass excursionists visiting Taiwan fell from a high of over 4 million in 2015 to 2.7 million in 2019.

Beijing has dragooned countries not to subscribe to free trade agreements with Taiwan. A sprinkle of countries have inked free trade pacts with the islet; New Zealand and Singapore are the only developed husbandry to subscribe to similar agreements. Beijing has also pushed for Taiwan's rejection from multinational trading blocs, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). (China is included in the RCEP but not in the CPTPP.) Taiwan also isn't part of the Biden administration's Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.



# TAIWAN'S STANCE

Poll results show that the majority of the Taiwanese oppose reunification, but numerous are also drawn to the vibrant frugality, participating language, and culture of China. The Taiwan public overwhelmingly supported near profitable and political ties with the U.S. By a nearly two- to- one periphery, people in Taiwan rate the U.S. more favourably than landmass China.

The ROC claims islets within the nine- gusto/U-shaped line, including Spratly, Paracel, Pratas, and Macclesfield Bank. Taiwan administers Taiping Island( largest in Spratlys) and Pratas islets. In 1990, Taiwan's Executive Yuan agreed to Kaohsiung's short- term governance over Taiping and Pratas. In 1992, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense declared defined air and ocean zones, with advising shots fired at a Vietnamese vessel trespassing Taiping's interdicted ocean zone to assert Taiwan's station.

Taiwan's frugality remains reliant on trade with China, which is the islet's largest trading partner. Still, their profitable relationship has endured dislocations in recent times, incompletely due to Beijing's pressure on the islet and Taiwanese officers ' growing concern about its overreliance on trade with China. The DPP has tried to diversify Taiwan's trade connections, with mixed results. It has had some success boosting trade with countries in Southeast Asia and the Indo- Pacific through a hand action, the New Southbound Policy. Trade between Taiwan and the eighteen targeted countries nearly doubled between 2016, when the action was unveiled, and 2022.

One of Taiwan's previous chairpersons, Ma Ying- jeou( KMT, 2008- 2016) had mentioned a Three- Noes policy that he'd apply if he won the 2008 election. More specifically, the Three- Noes stand for " no junction, no independence, no use of force ".



# TAIWAN'S STANCE

There also exists an additional identification of the citizens of Taiwan as 'Taiwanese' rather than 'Chinese'. People who are linked as Chinese, or indeed Taiwanese and Chinese, constituted a much larger chance of the population decades ago than those who considered themselves to be completely Taiwanese. Still, the drift seems to be turning. According to a recent check, 70 - 80% of Taiwanese citizens identify as Taiwanese.



# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Possible Treaty Violations: Taiwan's rejection from the UN, specifically the WHO during COVID-19. President Joe Biden's commentary on the station of the U.S. during an implicit Chinese irruption of Taiwan

In October 2022 the People's Republic of China held its 20th Party Congress. China's President Xi Jinping stated in his opening speech to the Congress that "Reunification of the motherland must be achieved and will be achieved". In line with the anti-secession law, Xi said "we will continue to strive for peaceful reunification with the topmost sincerity and the utmost trouble, but we will not promise to renounce the use of force, and we reserve the option of taking all measures necessary".

Since 2020 China has increased its military exercises around Taiwan, and since late 2020 has been transferring, on a near diurnal basis, military aircraft across the "median line", an unofficial marker between the two shores in the Taiwan Strait. In August 2022, in response to the visit of the US Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, to Taiwan, China held a series of military drills that transcended the exercises that took place during the 1995 - 1996 Taiwan Strait Crisis.

Taiwan has been increasing spending on its service and in December 2022 announced it was adding the required period of mandatory military service from four months to one year for new recruits in response to the lesser trouble posed by China.



# THE UN'S INVOLVEMENT

The People's Republic of China( PRC) has been trying to reinterpret UN Resolution 2758 to support its" One China" Principle. The PRC has also been spreading the idea that the resolution determined that Taiwan is part of the PRC.

Resolution 2758 was passed by the UN General Assembly on October 25, 1971. The resolution gave the PRC the UN China seats and expelled Taiwan's representatives. The resolution also honoured the PRC's government representatives as the only licit representatives of China to the UN.

As an independent and peace- loving country, Taiwan should take the action to apply for admission as a new member of the United Nations, in agreement with Composition 4 of the Charter of the United Nations. Composition 4, paragraph 1, prescribes the substantial conditions for a new member in these terms" Class in the United Nations is open to all other peace- loving countries which accept the scores contained in the present Duty and, in the judgement of the Organization, are suitable and willing to carry out these scores."

In other words, the conditions of admission of a new member are( 1) the aspirant must be a state( country);( 2) it must be peace- loving;( 3) it accepts the scores of the United Nations Charter; and( 4) it's suitable and willing to carry out the Charter scores in the judgement of the United Nations.

Judged by these conditions, Taiwan, of course, is unstintingly good to come a new member of the United Nations



# THE UN'S INVOLVEMENT

Meanwhile, China's most recent eruptions go beyond their former flyovers in both compass and size, raising the possibility that these conduct constitute a taboo trouble to use force against Taiwan. The U.N. Charter requires member countries to "refrain in their transnational relations from the trouble or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations."

# POSSIBLE TREATY VIOLATIONS

In this case, China's show of force was unknown — 40 irruptions across the centre line by 19 combat aircraft( two Xian H- 6 bombers, four Chengdu J- 10 fighters, four Shenyang J- 11 fighters, eight Shenyang J- 16 fighters, and a Shaanxi Y- 8 anti-submarine warfare aeroplane ). The sheer number of combat aircraft crossing this line raises the question of whether China's conduct were a licit exercise of their right of overflight in transnational airspace or whether these irruptions could be viewed as a trouble of the use of force in violation of the U.N. Charter.

Likewise, China's territorial claims in the South China Sea have been a source of pressure with neighbouring countries. The Permanent Court of Arbitration ruled in 2016 that China's claims to literal rights in the South China Sea were invalid under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea( UNCLOS). Still, China rejected the ruling.

Another notable issue is the 2002 protest on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea( DOC), which China and ASEAN member countries agreed to. The DOC emphasises the commitment to peaceful resolution of controversies, respect for freedom of navigation, and abstain from conduct that could escalate pressures. Still, despite this protestation, China's conduct in the South China Sea, similar to the construction of artificial islets and demilitarisation of certain features, have been seen by some as violating the spirit of the DOC.

Meanwhile, Taiwan seems to have come under the spotlight after its recent military exercises near Taiping Island, which Vietnam claims, were ' illegal ' and a ' serious ' territorial violation. still, spectators say the drills were aimed more at Beijing, as Taipei fears its far- flung islets could be easy pickings for landmass China's service

# POSSIBLE TREATY VIOLATIONS

In this instance, China's show of force was unprecedented—40 incursions across the centre line by 19 combat aircraft (two Xian H-6 bombers, four Chengdu J-10 fighters, four Shenyang J-11 fighters, eight Shenyang J-16 fighters, and a Shaanxi Y-8 anti-submarine warfare plane). The sheer number of combat aircraft crossing this line raises the question of whether China's actions were a legitimate exercise of their right of overflight in international airspace or whether these incursions could be viewed as a threat of the use of force in violation of the U.N. Charter.

Furthermore, China's territorial claims in the South China Sea have been a source of tension with neighbouring countries. The Permanent Court of Arbitration ruled in 2016 that China's claims to historical rights in the South China Sea were invalid under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). However, China rejected the ruling.

Another notable issue is the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), which China and ASEAN member states agreed to. The DOC emphasises the commitment to peaceful resolution of disputes, respect for freedom of navigation, and refraining from actions that could escalate tensions. However, despite this declaration, China's actions in the South China Sea, such as the construction of artificial islands and militarization of certain features, have been seen by some as violating the spirit of the DOC.

Meanwhile even Taiwan seems to have come under the limelight after its recent military exercises near Taiping Island, which Vietnam claims, were 'illegal' and a 'serious' territorial violation. However, observers say the drills were aimed more at Beijing, as Taipei fears its far-flung islands could be easy pickings for mainland China's military



# RESPONSES OF MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS

Taiwan only maintains formal ties with 14 countries, and not a single nation simultaneously maintains relations with both the PRC and the ROC.

## **The European Union :**

The EU and Taiwan enjoy a close trade and economic partnership. Europe's stance on the conflict, however, is rather inconsistent. The EU supports the status quo of the 'One China Policy' and peaceful resolution of differences. In 2023, Germany released its first-ever 'China Strategy', which emphasised that any military escalation in the Taiwan Strait would be detrimental to German and European interests. In response to the 2024 Taiwanese Presidential Elections, Germany expressed its wish to expand relations "within the framework of its One-China policy".

## **The United States of America:**

In 2022, a statement issued by the Department of State clarified "We oppose any unilateral changes to the status quo, we do not support Taiwan independence", while maintaining that the U.S. would continue to provide military aid to Taiwan. The 2023 Federal Budget allocated \$345 million for aid to Taiwan. In 2024, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken praised Taiwan's commitment to democracy and congratulated Lai on his victory in the presidential election. However, when President Biden was asked for a reaction, he explicitly stated that "We do not support (Taiwanese) independence". Blinken reiterated the U.S.'s consistent 'One-China Policy' and the need for a peaceful and stable Taiwan strait.

# RESPONSES OF MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS

## **ASEAN:**

The Southeast Asian regional bloc has opposed “provocative” actions in Taiwan Strait while backing the “One-China policy” and proposing to play its role to facilitate peaceful dialogue between all parties. Almost half the bloc's members are involved in territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea. Furthermore, ASEAN states would come under pressure from China and the United States to take sides in the conflict, especially if the Americans decide to provide direct military assistance to the Taiwanese.

One primary concern that is likely to impact ASEAN states is the security of their nationals working in Taiwan. According to data from Taiwan’s Ministry of Labor, there were more than 730,000 Southeast Asian workers in Taiwan as of April 2023. However, any operation to repatriate their nationals from Taiwan would be complex, considering several issues.

In its recent statement on cross-Strait tensions, ASEAN made no mention of Taiwan, China, and the U.S. Instead of voicing support for or criticism against the parties involved, ASEAN expressed its concerns “with the international and regional volatility,” called for “maximum restraint,” and demonstrated its willingness “to play a constructive role in facilitating peaceful dialogue between all parties including through utilising ASEAN-led mechanisms.”

## **UK:**

In 2023, the U.K. broke custom and referred to Taiwan as an ‘independent country’ in a parliamentary committee report, which also criticised the government’s approach towards maintaining a stable U.K.-Taiwan relations, breaking a political taboo as Foreign Secretary James Cleverly visited China in August, 2023.



# RESPONSES OF MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS

The new language, adopted in a report published Wednesday by the influential foreign affairs committee of the House of Commons, risks a stinging backlash from Beijing and comes as Cleverly becomes the first top British envoy to visit Beijing in five years amid a frosty relationship.

In response to the report, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin criticised it for “reversing right and wrong and confusing black and white.” “China urges the British parliament to adhere to the ‘one China’ principle and stop sending the wrong signals to pro-independence Taiwanese secessionist forces,” Wang said.

## **Japan:**

Japan's stance on Taiwan has been ambiguous for many years. This is the result of complex internal politics rather than strategic ambiguity. Taiwan is a sensitive issue in Japan's relations with both the United States and China.

Tokyo also urged Beijing to stop its coastguard ships entering Japanese waters, adding that it was deeply concerned about Beijing's military activity near Japan and its coordination with Russia. Coastguard ships of both nations regularly confront each other around the islands known in Japan as the Senkaku and in China as the Diaoyu. They are controlled by Japan.

Beijing also demanded that Tokyo stop "all words and deeds" that violate China's territorial sovereignty, undermine its maritime rights and interests, and refrain from meddling in the Taiwan issue, the Chinese ministry said.



# RESPONSES OF MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS

## **Russia:**

Russia: Russia affirms its commitment to the 'One China' principle; it recognizes that Taiwan is an inseparable part of the People's Republic of China, it opposes Taiwan's independence in any form, and firmly supports the Chinese side's actions to protect its state sovereignty and territorial integrity. The growing trade with Taiwan did not alter Moscow's commitment to the One China principle. Russia supported China's 2005 anti-secession law, and torpedoed all Taiwanese attempts to regain membership in the UN, WHO, and other international organisations.

While, a statement by the Taiwanese government on Wednesday 'strongly' condemned 'Russia's attempt to sing and dance to China's tune for its conspiracy of aggression and expansion.'

## **North Korea:**

North Korea aligns itself with the "One China" policy and believes that Taiwan should be a part of China. North Korea on Friday criticised a U.S. weapons aid package to Taiwan, state media reported on Friday, accusing the United States of driving tensions in the region to "another ignition point of war".

In a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency, Maeng Yong Rim, director general of the North Korean foreign ministry's Chinese affairs department, said the plan is a "dangerous political and military provocation" and a "flagrant violation" of the One China principle.

# RESPONSES OF MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS

"The Asia-Pacific region, including the Korean peninsula and the Taiwan Strait, is neither a theatre of the U.S. military activity nor a test site of war," the statement said, warning that the U.S. will have to "pay a high price" for "provoking the core interest of China".

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met a Chinese delegation in Pyongyang last week and vowed to develop the two countries' relations to a "new high".

## **India:**

Although India follows the 'One China' principle, its 'Act East' policy aimed at countering Chinese influence in the subcontinent, has caused it to strengthen ties with Taiwan. In February 2024, the two nations signed a migration and mobility MoU (Memorandum of Understanding).

India has not directly confronted China and transgressed the redline by openly batting for Taiwan, but has dropped feelers to make its stance known to Beijing. Most recently, in an eye-catching development, three former Indian military service chiefs- Admiral Karambir Singh of the Indian Navy, General M.M. Naravane of the Indian Army, and Chief of Air Staff R.K.S. Bhadauria of the Indian Air Force - attended a security dialogue in Taipei, hosted by Taiwan's Foreign Ministry.

India is a direct stakeholder in a scenario of war across the Taiwan Strait. That's not only because of the recent turmoil in China-India bilateral ties owing to the ongoing tension along their disputed border, but also due to the role India seeks for itself, regionally and globally.



# PLAUSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE AGENDA

## **One China, Two Systems:**

China uses the constitutional principle “One country, two systems” to govern the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau. According to the principle, Hong Kong and Macau, both former colonies, will be allowed to have independent economic and political systems from that of mainland China, while still being a part of the country.

The policy was originally proposed by the former paramount leader of the People's Republic of China (PRC) Deng Xiaoping in the late 1970s after he took over the reins of the country. While promising higher autonomy to Taiwan, Deng planned to unify China and Taiwan under the one country two systems policy.

## **Two Independent, Sovereign Nations:**

It is not surprising that the Taiwanese people, who have not been ruled by China for more than 125 years and whose system of government is very different from that of China, should want to determine their own future. Taiwan is now a self-governing democracy. In response to the escalation of cross-strait relations in 2021, Taiwanese former President Tsai Ing-wen laid down four commitments on the future of Taiwan in a speech on the Double Ten National Day – a public holiday commemorating the Wuchang uprising against the Qing dynasty and founding of the Republic of China in 1912.

First- Taiwan is not subject to the jurisdiction of China. Second- it is to remain a liberal democracy with constitutional government. Third- Taiwan’s sovereignty is to be protected. And finally, its future will be decided by the majority of Taiwan’s residents.



# PLAUSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE AGENDA

## **The One- China Policy:**

It is the diplomatic acknowledgement of China's position that there is only one Chinese government. Under the policy, the US recognises and has formal ties with China rather than the island of Taiwan, which China sees as a breakaway province to be unified with the mainland one day. Taiwan is not recognised as an independent country by much of the world nor even the United Nations. It undergoes extraordinary naming contortions just to participate in events and institutions like the Olympic Games and the World Trade Organization. The One China policy is a delicate balancing act that the US has perfected over the decades. How Washington can continue doing remains to be seen.



# QUESTIONS DELEGATES ARE EXPECTED TO TACKLE

- What diplomatic initiatives have been taken to resolve the conflict between China and Taiwan?
- What steps can be taken to stop the Taiwan Strait tensions from getting worse?
- What steps can be taken to ensure the protection of democratic values and human rights in relation to the China-Taiwan Conflict?
- What is the interpretation of the "One-China" policy by your nation, and how does it affect your stance on the China-Taiwan Conflict?
- What is the perception of Taiwan's status in the international community in your nation, and what actions would you suggest to improve Taiwan's international recognition?
- What steps would you suggest to stop a military escalation in the Taiwan Strait? How does your nation evaluate the risk of such an escalation?

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