

# MAHAMAYA MODEL UNITED NATIONS



GA1

STUDY GUIDE

Dear Delegates,

We, the Chairpersons of the First General Assembly, would like to warmly welcome you to the inaugural session of the Mahamaya College Model United Nations Conference 2023.

We present you with this study guide as a starting point for your research, hence, the debate won't be limited to the topics listed and delegates have the freedom to discuss numerous subjects that fall under the scope of our mandate.

The Taiwan Crisis is not as clear-cut as it appears. Built on global bureaucracy, control of resources, sovereignty and nationalism, its final ramifications will be much greater than it is right now. Thus, it is high time that our delegates step forward to come up with solutions to address a discreet, but pertinent global challenge seizing our world today.

We look forward to seeing detailed solutions, accurate foreign policy representation and an interesting mix of constructive (and destructive) debate, which would reflect your knowledge and understanding of the topic.

All the best for the conference!  
Till then!

Your Chairs,  
Pesala Welangalle, Naveera Abhayawickrama and Parinda Ratnayake

### The First General Assembly

The General Assembly (GA), comprising all 193 members of the United Nations (UN), occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policy-making representative organ of the UN. It provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of international issues covered by the charter and plays a central role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.

The First General Assembly (GA1), also known as the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), is one of the main committees in the GA, dealing with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks to add solutions to these challenges. It is the only committee of the GA entitled to verbatim records coverage.

The GA1 considers all such matters within the scope of the Charter ([UN Charter | United Nations](#)) or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ in the UN.

Matters include

- General principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security
- Principles governing disarmament and the regulation of arms
- Promotion of cooperative arrangements
- Measures to strengthen stability through lower levels of arms

### Conference Topic:

Discussing ramifications of the involvement of the Chinese military in the region of Taiwan

### The Problem

Strained relationships between China and Taiwan stretch back to the end of the World War II. This is based primarily on Taiwan's struggle for global recognition and independence from China. Following US Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei, the conflict has taken a more acute military facet in the last quarter of '22.

### A bit of History - An Emotional Political issue

Taiwan first came under full Chinese control in the 17th century but gave up the island to Japan after losing the first Sino-Japanese War. China, however, took the island again in 1945 after Japan lost WW2. The victory was short-lived when civil war erupted in the mainland between the nationalist government forces and the Communist Party. When Communists took over Beijing in 1949, the nationalists fled to Taiwan and started ruling.

On April 28, 1952, Japan formally renounced its sovereignty over Taiwan in the treaty of San Francisco.

The CCP that controlled the mainland, renamed it the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Nationalists clinging to Taiwan called it the Republic of China (ROC) ending in a stalemate. Although the fighting was seized in 1979, the conflict was never declared officially over and no peace treaty has ever been signed

The nationalist government of Taiwan was initially considered the legitimate government of China. Taiwan was given China's seat at the UN and was diplomatically recognised by many UN member nations. However, over time, the Communist CCP government ruling mainland China established a convincing claim that it was the legitimate government of China, by bringing out its strongest evidence - which was that more than 98% of Chinese citizens live on the mainland roughly 540 million in 1950, compared to only 8 million in Taiwan.

With increasing evidence, most countries in the UN eventually switched diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to mainland China. As a result, the UN expelled Taiwan in 1971 and instead recognise the PRC as the official government of China.

In 1978, China began opening up its economy. Recognising opportunities for trade and the need to develop relations, the US formally established diplomatic ties with Beijing in 1979.

The dispute of sovereignty and interdependence occurs when China points out to history to say Taiwan was originally a Chinese province as opposed to the Taiwanese pointing to the same history, stating on the contrary, that they were never a part of the Modern Chinese State (PRC) that was established in 1949.

ROC is the *de facto* government of Taiwan; there is the PRC is the *de facto* government of mainland China. However, each government claims to be the legitimate government of all of China *de jure*.

De facto: A government that comes into, or remains in, power by means not provided for in the members' constitution or other applicable laws of the country

De jure: According to rightful entitlement

### Current Status

The Taiwan issue is both complicated and simple.

On the surface, the conflict is merely a case of a nation struggling for its independence against another.

But then again, Taiwan (ROC) doesn't always *just want* independence. They have, numerous times, wanted complete sovereign recognition as 'China', the entity they are seeking independence from.

Mainland China (PRC), on the other hand, does not recognise Taiwan as anything other than a 'rogue' province.

This has led to both military and economical uneasiness in the region.

### Mainland China (PRC)

#### Discourse

The PRC, formed as detailed in the history of the conflict, has complete control over mainland China and 98% of the Chinese Population. Thus PRC is the internationally recognised 'China' and the entity that holds its seat in the UN.

Presently, China portrays Taiwan as merely a rogue province of China.

Consistently standing by the 'One China Principle', China's political discourse considers China as a single, indivisible sovereignty explicitly including Taiwan as well.

This discourse was further subtly highlighted in Xi Jinping's New Year Address.

Many states acknowledge the 'One China Principle' without explicitly supporting or rejecting the inclusion of Taiwan.

China has further tightened its hold on the 'One China Principle'. This is by mandating that any country that wants to have diplomatic relationships with China has to cease all such relationships with Taiwan.



### Stance and actions

In August, China conducted large-scale military drills around the Taiwan Strait- and in late December, had statistically their largest cross-state air incursion of around 71 aircrafts flying into Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ).

China has, over the entire year, sent 1727 planes into Taiwan's ADIZ, double the amount from the previous year, and sending out a clear message.

Military analysts say China has used the incursions to probe Taiwan's defences, exhaust its ageing air force and voice displeasure over Western support for Taipei, especially the United States.

While China intends to collect crucial intelligence and "readiness parameters", such as how quickly and from where Taiwan's interceptions take place, an invasion remains a hugely risky and costly endeavour.

The mountainous island would be a formidable challenge for any military to conquer.

China has also used fake information and news to deter the people of Taiwan. Taiwan's National Security Bureau revealed that a significant volume of disinformation that had circulated on Taiwan's social media networks came from "content farms" with China's Communist Party.

Beijing has, ultimately, refused to rule out the option of taking military action to resolve the Taiwan conflict.

### *Taiwan (ROC)*

#### Discourse

Taiwan's main political parties, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and the Kuomintang (KMT), hold two differing views regarding Taiwan's relationship with mainland China.

The first is the more radical 'One China, different interpretations', based on an agreement signed in 1992 between KMT and Beijing, where both parties acknowledged there was only one 'China', but differed on what "China" means. Pan-Green administrations have generally been in favour of this.

The other, favoured by Pan Blue administrations, is the '2 Chinas Concept', where Taiwan and Mainland China are recognised as 2 separate countries. The current president of Taiwan, Tsai Ing-wen, is a supporter of this concept. As a result, the PRC cut off official communication in 2016 and has sought to punish Tsai through economic sanctions, diplomatic pressure, and heightened military activities.

#### Stance

Even in light of the recent developments, Taiwan has decided to take a peaceful stance, repeatedly proclaiming that "war is not an option."

In Tsai Ing-wen's New Year speech, she further went on to note that similar challenges are buffering both sides of the Taiwan Strait- from the pandemic to global political and economic changes, and called for a peaceful approach to de-escalate tensions.

Nevertheless, Taiwan has implemented defence reforms to strengthen its military, further calling for public support for the same.

### *Globally*

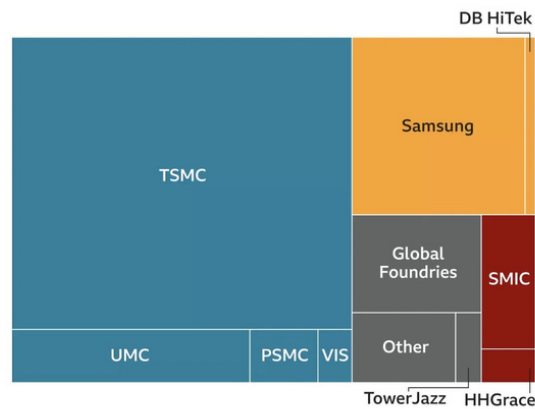
The damage that a fully-fledged Taiwan Strait war can cause is horrifying.

Economically, both China (being a global superpower and market driver in many industries) and Taiwan (World's 16th largest economy and a key player in global electronics) pose a significant threat to global markets.

### Taiwan dominates the global production of computer chips

Global foundry market share, by country and company 2021

■ Taiwan 65% ■ South Korea 18% ■ China 5% ■ Other 12%



Source: Trendforce 2021

BBC

It could also lead to an almighty shift in the global political landscape, something that was expected out of the Russo-Ukraine War as well.

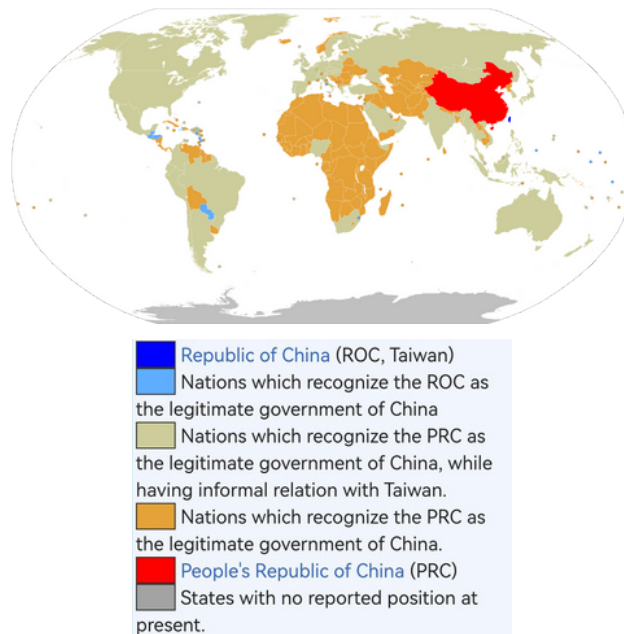
As per usual, the USA is the main 3rd party in this conflict. Historically, this is signified by the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which commits the United States to “make available to Taiwan defence articles and defence services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defence capability.”

China's renewed aggression against Taiwan could be traced back to August when Nancy Pelosi (Speaker of the US House of Representatives) visited Taipei. USA is further, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, due to providing US\$12 billion in military aid to Taiwan. It also authorises a regional contingency stockpile for Taiwan that consists of munitions and other appropriate defence articles costing up to US\$100 million a year for use in the event of a conflict. While the TRA does not obligate the United States to come to Taiwan’s defence, President Biden has further stated that the United States would do so if China were to launch an unprovoked attack.

On the flip side, Russia has unequivocally stated that Taiwan would return to its "native harbour" on time. This is built on the foundation of a deepening "no limits" partnership between China and Russia.

Russia has repeatedly warned the United States against meddling in China's affairs while President Vladimir Putin has explicitly backed Xi over the fate of Taiwan.

Further, more nations have been rifted over the recognition of the PRC and ROC.



### The UN

Owing to UNGA Resolution 2758, the ROC was stripped of its seat at the UN and was replaced by the PRC in 1971. In 2007, then Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon further rejected a bid by Taiwan to rejoin the UN, citing Resolution 2758 as acknowledging that Taiwan is a part of China.

The UN has thus far not made any statements regarding Chinese military action or any deterrent policies to be taken.

### Closing remarks

Although missile technology is sophisticated, existing research and recent events suggest misses happen, leaving the odds of an accidental hit a commercial and diplomatic consideration. Any conflict in and around Taiwan would entail major economic, financial, diplomatic and reputational costs for Beijing both directly and indirectly.

Even if China is to “win” in the military domain and thus accrue additional regional military benefits, its economic and diplomatic position would likely be substantially worse off; a Pyrrhic victory.

### Final Remarks



What do we expect?

1. Good understanding of the topic that is to be discussed in committee
2. Understanding the foreign policy of the nation that the delegate will be representing
3. Identification of the key areas of discussion
4. Presenting creative and innovative solutions concerning the problems that need to be addressed within the committee.
5. Diplomacy

Fulfilling these requirements would undoubtedly help you present yourself as a competent delegate in the eyes of the chairs and would be instrumental in helping you achieve the various awards on the committee.

### Reference links

Here are some links that might help you with your research. Happy researching!

[What's behind China-Taiwan tensions? | BBC News](#)

[China-Taiwan: why tensions are rising and what could happen in 2023 | Reuters](#)  
[Sechin praises China's Ruling Party decisions | Reuters](#)

[US sending 'dangerous signals' on Taiwan, China tells Blinken | News | Al Jazeera](#)  
[Taiwan extends military service as China dials up pressure | Conflict News | Al Jazeera](#)

[How the crisis over Taiwan will change US-China relations | Economist](#)

[Faced with a threat from mainland China, Taiwan holds its breath | France24](#)

[U.S. Relations With Taiwan - United States Department of State](#)  
[Supporting Taiwan's Participation in the UN System - United States Department of State](#)

[Why Taiwan Matters | CSIS](#)

[While Pledging to Defend Taiwan from China, Biden Shifted on Taiwan Independence. | CFR](#)

[Taiwan Strait - What to expect in 2023 | DW](#)

<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/confrontation-over-taiwan>

