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SPECPOL

S T U D Y G U I D E



Addressing the Diplomatic
Complexities Between China v. Taiwan



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Secretary General’s Letter

Dear Delegates,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to MHIMUN. As the Secretary-General, I am truly honored to witness your enthusiasm and dedication toward diplomacy, global affairs, and meaningful dialogue. Model United Nations is more than just a simulation; it is a platform that empowers youth to become critical thinkers, compassionate leaders, and responsible global citizens.

The Study Guides you are about to explore have been carefully prepared by our passionate and knowledgeable chairs to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of your committee’s agenda. These documents aim to equip you with the background, context, and key points needed to engage in fruitful debate, draft well-informed resolutions, and challenge ideas with diplomacy and respect.

I encourage you to not only read these guides thoroughly but to question, research, and bring your own perspective to the table. MHIMUN is a space for collaboration, growth, and innovation and your participation is what makes it truly meaningful.

Wishing you a productive preparation and an unforgettable conference experience.

With warm regards,

Kyaw Zin Lat

Secretary-General of MHIMUN '25



Under Secretary General’s Letter

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I welcome you to the SPECPOL committee at this year’s Model United Nations conference. As your Under-Secretary-General, I am thrilled to be working alongside such talented and passionate individuals, and I look forward to the impactful and stimulating debates we will have together

The theme of this year’s committee, “Addressing the Diplomatic Complexities Between China and Taiwan,” presents a unique opportunity for all of you to delve deeply into one of the most important and sensitive issues in international relations today. The decisions made in this committee will shape the future of diplomacy, international law, and global peace.

As delegates, your preparation, knowledge, and dedication will be critical in navigating the intricacies of this complex issue. Remember that diplomacy is not only about discussing positions but also about building bridges and finding solutions through dialogue and compromise. I encourage each of you to approach the topics with respect, humility, and an open mind, as we work together to find viable, sustainable solutions.

I have no doubt that, through collaboration and hard work, we will make this committee an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. I am looking forward to your contributions and the exciting discussions that will unfold.

Best wishes for the journey ahead,

Atfaal Haji Kipenda

Under-Secretary-General of MHIMUN '25



1. About Committee: Special Political And Decolonization Committee (Specpol)

The United Nations hosts six main committees under the "General Assembly" to address global challenges, with the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) being one of the key bodies. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), known as the Fourth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, was established through Resolution 47/233 on August 17, 1993. SPECPOL, despite its name, addresses a wide range of global issues, focusing on the promotion of peace, human rights, and international cooperation. This committee holds a crucial role in managing global political concerns, dealing with matters such as decolonization, disarmament, and the protection of vulnerable nations and peoples.

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee addresses a variety of issues, including international peacekeeping, the advancement of human rights, and the process of decolonization. It plays a key role in advocating for the rights of people in regions affected by colonial legacies and strives to find solutions to current global conflicts and issues, including territorial disputes and humanitarian crises. It also tackles political matters related to the maintenance of global peace and security. Being part of this committee means understanding global politics, diplomacy, and international relations. It requires working with other nations to uphold the principles of the United Nations, focusing on creating sustainable solutions for conflict resolution and human rights. Delegates must use their diplomatic and problem-solving skills to address these complex issues and negotiate solutions that ensure peace and fairness in the international arena. Additionally, the committee is vital in addressing the consequences of colonialism, particularly the ongoing struggles of territories still fighting for self-determination. By collaborating and sharing diverse perspectives, delegates will play an active role in promoting peace, equality, and international cooperation. This committee is an opportunity for delegates to be at the forefront of shaping global solutions to enduring conflicts.



2. Agenda Item: Addressing The Diplomatic Complexities Between China & Taiwan

2.1 Introduction

“Agenda Item : Addressing the Diplomatic Complexities Between China & Taiwan”

The agenda for this session will address the diplomatic complexities between China and Taiwan, a critical issue with far-reaching implications for international peace and security. Delegates are tasked with engaging in constructive dialogue and proposing viable solutions that prioritize peaceful resolutions, regional stability, and the promotion of human rights.

As representatives of your assigned countries, it is essential to consider the broader international perspective on sovereignty, trade, and security concerns, while acknowledging the sensitive nature of this issue. The primary objective is to work collaboratively towards solutions that ensure long-term peace, mutual respect, and sustainable diplomatic relations, with an emphasis on de-escalation and conflict resolution. Your active participation and diplomatic approach will play a crucial role in shaping the discussions and outcomes of this vital global issue.

2.2 History Of The Agenda Items

History Background: Addressing the Diplomatic Complexities Between China and Taiwan

The diplomatic tensions between China and Taiwan date back to the Chinese Civil War (1927-1949), which saw the nationalist government (Republic of China, ROC) retreat to Taiwan after their defeat by the Communist Party of China (CPC) in mainland China. Following the war, the People's Republic of China (PRC) was established on the mainland in 1949, while Taiwan continued under the ROC government, maintaining its own political system, military, and economic institutions.

Since then, the PRC has viewed Taiwan as a breakaway province that must eventually reunite with the mainland, while Taiwan has functioned as a de facto independent state with its own democratic government. The PRC has made reunification a core priority of its foreign



policy, and as such, it has sought international recognition of its sovereignty over Taiwan, pressuring countries and international organizations to recognize the PRC as the legitimate government of China. However, Taiwan maintains a separate identity, with its own government, military, and economic system, despite not being recognized by the United Nations due to the "One China" policy adopted by the international community. The diplomatic dispute between the two remains one of the most sensitive issues in global politics, with major powers such as the United States navigating a delicate balance of supporting Taiwan's security while not formally recognizing its independence. The situation continues to shape East Asian politics and has far-reaching implications for international relations, security, and trade. The international community remains divided on the issue, with many countries adhering to the One China policy, while others, notably in the West, engage with Taiwan economically and diplomatically, all while avoiding direct confrontation with China.

This ongoing dispute requires careful diplomatic dialogue, understanding of international law, and respect for sovereignty, as well as a commitment to resolving the tensions through peaceful means rather than military conflict. The issue of Taiwan's status remains one of the most complex and pressing diplomatic challenges of the 21st century.

3. Origins of The China – Taiwan Conflicts

The China-Taiwan conflict originated from the Chinese Civil War (1927–1949), fought between the Nationalist Party (Kuomintang) led by Chiang Kai-shek and the Communist Party led by Mao Zedong. After Japan's invasion during World War II temporarily paused the conflict, fighting resumed, and by 1949, the Communist Party emerged victorious, establishing the People's Republic of China (PRC) on the mainland. The Nationalist Party retreated to Taiwan, creating the Republic of China (ROC) and asserting its sovereignty over the island. Initially, Taiwan (ROC) was recognized internationally as the legitimate representative of China, including holding China's seat at the UN. However, in 1971, the UN officially recognized the PRC as the sole representative of China, resulting in Taiwan's expulsion from the organization. Since then, Taiwan has operated as a self-governing democratic entity with its own government, constitution, and military, though it lacks official recognition from many countries due to the PRC's "One-China" policy.



4. Current Status and Global Significance

Today, Taiwan functions independently, with its governance, economy, and international relations distinct from the PRC. However, Beijing continues to view Taiwan as a breakaway province and seeks reunification, potentially by force if necessary. Meanwhile, Taiwan asserts its de facto independence, supported unofficially by various nations. The China-Taiwan dispute has far-reaching geopolitical implications.

1. **International Diplomacy:** The PRC's growing global influence has led many countries to shift recognition from Taiwan to the PRC, though nations like the United States maintain unofficial ties with Taiwan, including arms sales and diplomatic support under a policy of "strategic ambiguity"
2. **Human Rights and Democracy:** Taiwan is seen as a model of democracy and human rights, contrasting sharply with the PRC's authoritarian governance. Issues such as freedom of expression and minority rights, especially concerning the Uighurs and Tibetans in China, raise international concerns.
3. **Economic Significance:** Taiwan plays a vital role in global technology manufacturing, particularly in semiconductor production through companies like Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC). Any conflicts involving Taiwan could disrupt global supply chains and have widespread economic repercussions.
4. **Geopolitical Strategy :** Taiwan's strategic location in East Asia makes it critical for regional security. It controls essential maritime routes through the Taiwan Strait, impacting trade and military strategy in the region.

5. Contemporary Challenges

Contemporary Challenges: Addressing the Diplomatic Complexities Between China and Taiwan

The diplomatic relationship between China and Taiwan remains one of the most complex and contentious issues in modern geopolitics, with several contemporary challenges contributing to the ongoing tensions:



- **Sovereignty and Recognition:** The central issue between China and Taiwan is the question of sovereignty. The People's Republic of China (PRC) insists on its claim over Taiwan, viewing it as a breakaway province, while Taiwan operates as a self-governing entity. The lack of international consensus on Taiwan's status has led to a diplomatic impasse. Many countries and international organizations adhere to the "One China" policy, refraining from recognizing Taiwan as a sovereign state, which limits Taiwan's ability to participate in global institutions like the United Nations.
- **Military Tensions:** Military tensions have escalated in recent years as China increases its military presence near Taiwan, conducting frequent military drills and threatening to use force to reunite Taiwan with the mainland. Taiwan, on the other hand, has strengthened its defense capabilities, receiving support from countries like the United States in the form of arms sales and defense agreements. The possibility of conflict remains a significant concern for regional stability and international peace.
- **Economic Impact:** Taiwan plays a crucial role in global supply chains, particularly in the semiconductor industry. Disruptions in Taiwan's economic stability, whether due to military conflict or diplomatic isolation, could have widespread consequences for global trade and technology industries. At the same time, Taiwan's economic ties with China are deeply intertwined, with both sides heavily dependent on trade, making the diplomatic standoff even more complicated.
- **International Diplomacy:** The growing divide between the West and China further complicates the Taiwan issue. While the United States and some Western countries support Taiwan's democratic values and security, China views any foreign support for Taiwan as interference in its internal affairs. International actors must navigate this delicate balance to avoid further escalation of tensions, while advocating for peaceful negotiations and conflict resolution.
- **Cybersecurity and Information Warfare:** Taiwan has increasingly been targeted by cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns, often attributed to Chinese state actors. These efforts aim to destabilize Taiwan's government and influence public opinion. As Taiwan becomes a focal point of global technological competition, the risks of cyber warfare and misinformation campaigns grow, further complicating efforts for diplomatic resolution.



- **Human Rights and Global Advocacy:** Taiwan’s democratic governance and human rights record stand in stark contrast to the political system in mainland China. As human rights issues become a more prominent aspect of global diplomatic discourse, the international community faces the challenge of balancing Taiwan’s human rights advancements with China’s calls for reunification. Advocating for Taiwan’s inclusion in global discussions on democracy and human rights is increasingly challenging due to the PRC’s opposition.

6. Important Countries

Several countries have direct or indirect involvement in the China-Taiwan dispute:

6.1 United States

While recognizing the PRC diplomatically, the U.S. continues to support Taiwan’s defense capabilities and promotes its participation in international organizations. The United States has maintained unofficial ties with Taiwan, particularly in defense and trade. The U.S. follows the One-China policy but continues to provide arms to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act. The U.S. supports Taiwan’s participation in international organizations and has expressed concern over the growing military tensions surrounding Taiwan.

6.2 United Kingdom

Supports Taiwan’s participation in international forums like the World Health Organization (WHO) where statehood is not a requirement. The United Kingdom officially adheres to the One-China policy but has close economic and cultural relations with Taiwan. The UK has also warned China of sanctions in the event of military aggression against Taiwan, highlighting its commitment to Taiwan’s security and peace in the region.

6.3 Canada

Maintains unofficial relations with Taiwan, fostering cultural and economic ties. Canada recognizes the PRC as the official government of China and supports the One-China policy but maintains unofficial relations with Taiwan. Canada encourages Taiwan’s participation in international organizations and engages with Taiwan in areas such as trade, culture, and



education. Canada’s position is focused on supporting regional stability while balancing diplomatic relations with both China and Taiwan.

6.4 European Union

The European Union (EU) adheres to the One-China policy but maintains strong economic, diplomatic, and trade relations with Taiwan. The EU has expressed concern over China’s military activities in the Taiwan Strait and has emphasized the importance of dialogue and peaceful resolution. The EU has also supported Taiwan's participation in international organizations, even though full recognition of Taiwan as a sovereign state is not granted.

6.5 Russia Federation

Russia officially recognizes Taiwan as part of China, aligning with Beijing’s territorial claims. Russia has a strong political and economic partnership with China, and its stance on Taiwan is closely tied to its broader relationship with China. Russia opposes Taiwan's independence and supports China’s efforts to deter international recognition of Taiwan as a separate entity.

6.6 South Korea

South Korea, having severed official ties with Taiwan in 1992, adheres to the One-China policy. Despite this, South Korea maintains unofficial relations with Taiwan through economic and cultural exchanges. South Korea’s focus is on balancing its relations with China while engaging with Taiwan in non-political areas such as trade and technology.

6.7 Japan

Japan recognizes the One-China policy but has a strong unofficial relationship with Taiwan, particularly in terms of trade, security, and technology. Japan views Taiwan's security as crucial to regional stability and has expressed concerns over China’s increasing military activities near Taiwan. Japan supports Taiwan’s participation in global organizations and has pushed for peace in the Taiwan Strait while maintaining a strategic partnership with the U.S.

6.8 Australia

Australia adheres to the One-China policy, but like Japan, it has strong unofficial relations with Taiwan, particularly in trade and technology. Australia is concerned about the



rising tensions in the Taiwan Strait and has been vocal about its support for Taiwan's democratic values. Australia has called for peace and stability in the region and encourages dialogue to prevent any military conflict.

6.9 Turkey

Turkey follows the One-China policy and does not formally recognize Taiwan as a sovereign state. However, Turkey has maintained unofficial and increasingly strong economic ties with Taiwan, especially in the areas of trade, technology, and education. Turkey is cautious in its approach, balancing its relations with China and Taiwan while also considering its strategic interests in the region.

7. Proposed Solution

1. **Promotion of Diplomatic Dialogue:** Encourage continuous dialogue between China and Taiwan to foster peaceful communication and find common ground through negotiations, preventing escalation into conflict.
2. **Support for Peaceful Resolution:** Promote initiatives for peaceful resolution by encouraging both China and Taiwan to commit to non-violent approaches in addressing differences and disputes, possibly through multilateral talks.
3. **International Mediation and Facilitation:** The United Nations or other international organizations can play a more active role in facilitating discussions between the two parties, creating a neutral space for peace talks.
4. **Economic Cooperation:** Encourage greater economic cooperation between China and Taiwan, focusing on trade agreements that benefit both sides, and ensuring global supply chain stability.
5. **Human Rights Advocacy:** Ensure that Taiwan's commitment to human rights and democracy is recognized internationally, while addressing China's human rights violations, particularly regarding ethnic minorities.

8. Guiding Questions

1. How does Taiwan's political status in the UN impact its international recognition and diplomatic relations?



2. 2 .What role do major world powers (e.g., the US, EU, and regional neighbors) play in influencing the China-Taiwan dispute?
3. How does China’s military presence near Taiwan affect regional stability and global security?
4. What role do international defense agreements (such as US-Taiwan relations) play in Taiwan’s security strategy?
5. 5 .What are the risks of military escalation, and how could an armed conflict impact global politics?
6. 6 .How does Taiwan’s semiconductor industry influence its geopolitical importance in the China-Taiwan conflict?
7. What are the economic interdependencies between China and Taiwan, and how do they shape diplomatic decisions?
8. 8 .How can international law be applied to resolve the dispute between China and Taiwan peacefully?
9. What diplomatic or peacekeeping measures can SPECPOL propose to ease tensions between China and Taiwan?
10. How do economic sanctions or trade restrictions affect the geopolitical balance of the conflict?

9. Conclusion

Conclusion: SPECPOL and the Future of the China-Taiwan Conflict

The China-Taiwan conflict stands at the crossroads of history, diplomacy, and global security. Rooted in decades of political and ideological divergence, it remains one of the most complex territorial disputes in modern international relations. While China views Taiwan as an inseparable part of its sovereignty, Taiwan continues to function as a self-governing entity with a distinct political and economic identity. The struggle for recognition, the influence of global superpowers, and the ever-present risk of military confrontation make this issue a defining challenge for the international community.

SPECPOL, as the UN body dedicated to addressing decolonization, self-determination, and political stability, carries the responsibility of fostering constructive dialogue and promoting peaceful solutions. The committee must navigate the delicate balance between



respecting state sovereignty and upholding the principles of self-determination. The economic interdependencies between China and Taiwan, particularly in trade and technology, provide a unique avenue for diplomacy—where cooperation, rather than conflict, could pave the way for mutual stability.

International law, diplomatic negotiations, and multilateral peace initiatives must take precedence over coercion and military threats. The role of regional and global actors, including the United States, the European Union, and neighboring Asian nations, cannot be overlooked, as their policies and alliances significantly shape the direction of this conflict. Whether through mediation, diplomatic recognition frameworks, or confidence-building measures, the world must work towards a resolution that prioritizes peace over division. As delegates of SPECPOL, we are not merely addressing a territorial dispute; we are shaping the future of international diplomacy. The decisions we make today will define not only the fate of Taiwan and China but also the strength of the global commitment to peaceful conflict resolution. With dialogue, cooperation, and a steadfast commitment to international law, SPECPOL has the power to steer this conflict away from escalation and towards a future where both stability and self-determination can coexist. The challenge is immense, but the opportunity for lasting peace is even greater.



10. Country Matrix

1. Indonesia
2. Philippine
3. Australia
4. Japan
5. Canada
6. Spain
7. France
8. Germany
9. India
10. South Korea
11. Turkiye
12. UK
13. Albania
14. Mongolia
15. Thailand
16. Taiwan
17. USA
18. Russia
19. China



11. Useful Links

1. [United Nations](<https://www.un.org/en/>)
2. [The Diplomat](<https://thediplomat.com/>)
3. [China–Taiwan Relations – CFR](<https://www.cfr.org/china-taiwan-relations>)
4. [BBC – World Asia](<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia>)
5. [Foreign Affairs](<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/>)
6. [China Power – CSIS](<https://chinapower.csis.org/>)
7. [United States Institute of Peace (USIP)](<https://www.usip.org/>)
8. [Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan](<https://www.mofa.gov.tw/en/default.html>)
9. [Crisis Group](<https://www.crisisgroup.org/>)