

# STUDY GUIDE



# Security Council

12th Edition

**DARE TO  
SPEAK**



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## 1. Welcoming Letter

“There is no other way to deal with global challenges, than with global responses”  
- Antonio Guterres

Dear delegates. Receive a warm welcome from the Security Council Crisis chair, Paulina Giraldo, and Ana Sofia Herazo. We are honored to guide this committee toward the purpose stated by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, against global challenges through global responses. The China - Taiwan conflict is not the first of this kind that the world has seen before, with two nations battling for unity or independence. In that sense, we are incredibly excited to see which side you are willing to take to find the best course of action, and expect to spend these three days learning and discussing your creative solutions to achieve the security of the international community.

Paulina is a political science student in the fourth semester. She believes in the diplomatic ways of the world and our contribution to them as MUNers that can make our world a better place to live. That is why she is passionate about the international community, while knowing about the global challenges. In that sense, she hopes to face them through diplomacy. When she takes a break from saving the world, she likes to spend as much time in bed as she can, but ironically loves to be productive as well.

Ana is starting her fifth semester, studying International Business and Economics as a double program. In academic terms, she is passionate about learning about economic models for her research projects while also including a qualitative approach from the world of International Business. Ana believes that young initiative is necessary in a world like ours, and MUNs are one of the best ways to shape the spirit of leadership in this sense. In her free time, she loves to spend time on candle-making and anything related to video games, especially the relaxing ones.

Our expectations for the committee include creativity, resourcefulness, strategy, and mostly respect. After all, this committee is tailor-made for opening your minds to all the possibilities for solving this conflict. After many experiences in past MUNs, we hope to transmit to all delegates that it is of utmost importance for us to engage in a safe space for debate, where we can all fulfill our passion for arguments, opinions, conflict resolution, and knowledge.

## 2. Introduction to the committee

In the heart of the United Nations, among the six main organs of this organization, lies the Security Council, the committee in charge of maintaining international peace and security by addressing current global issues and finding solutions collectively. This committee arose from the necessity to enforce the core values of the United Nations after the experiences of World War II. Right after the end of World War II. Not only was it essential to have committees that regulated matters of law, economy, and human rights, but it was also essential to have an organ that could control international security, even in the most urgent matters. (<https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations-Security-Council>)

Chapter V of the UN Charter regulates the council's functions, obligations, and structure. (<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-5>) Article 23 states that the council will be composed of 15 members, of which 10 are non-permanent members, alongside China, the United States, Russia, France, and the United Kingdom, the five permanent members given veto power over SC resolutions (<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-5>).

The first function of this council is to discuss and peacefully resolve international conflicts (<https://www.cfr.org/background/un-security-council>) through resolutions in which they can call out the parties involved to use conflict management mechanisms such as arbitration, negotiation, or peacekeeping operations. Nevertheless, when these methods do not work, the Security Council can escalate their actions to tougher measures, like imposing sanctions or even allowing the use of force under the Responsibility to Protect Principle (<https://www.globalr2p.org/calling-for-a-unsc-code-of-conduct/>).

For these measures to be efficient, the Security Council has the duty to supervise and consistently report on deployed peacekeeping operations. Overseeing these operations requires detailed discussion and debate on managing each situation and then deciding how to act. Past decisions of the council include “less restrictive rules of engagement that allow for civilian and refugee protection—with civilian tasks such as policing, electoral assistance, and legal administration.” (<https://www.cfr.org/background/un-security-council>).

Besides peacekeeping reports, this committee receives periodic reports from global entities and other organs of the United Nations related to international security and peace. The SC complies with these duties to avoid escalating global situations to the point

where there are scarce solutions. Instead, the council seeks to defuse situations at a lower moment of conflict where maneuvering and supervising the issue is not only more efficient but safer.

Note: In this version of EAFITMUN 2022, the Security Council will be a crisis committee, which means delegates will have access to a feature called directives through which they will take substantial decisions during the committee.

### 3. The topic of debate: Chinese question: Situation in Taiwan

#### a. Introduction to the topic

For this debate, it is necessary to establish a concrete framework under which the Security Council can take action. A primary matter to discuss is the sovereignty of Taiwan and how the international community recognizes this state. By International Law, the definition of sovereignty is “an ultimate authority independent of other authorities in the world” (<https://international.thenewslens.com/feature/taiwan-for-sale-2020/128242>). While many would argue that Taiwan holds its sovereignty, this concept alone is not enough to form a state that can be part of the international community. A requirement to access the international community as a country is recognition from other countries. Currently, 15 countries recognize the Taiwanese government, a good number of allies, though not enough to be accepted into the international community, which means that it is not allowed into international organs such as the United Nations. The topic of sovereignty in Taiwan is complex, so delegates must consider the opportunity to explain the different points of view on the matter to get their arguments across.

It is of utmost importance to remember that all conflicts have several viewpoints, like an economic, legal, social, and even environmental approach. Nonetheless, considering this is the Security Council, the main framework is expected to be international security and peace. Understanding the previously mentioned, the reach of solutions for the conflict should have core values rooted in these aspects. As always, the Security Council communicates its decisions on current matters through resolutions. These documents are composed of preambulatory clauses, which specify the context and purpose of the tions to justify the committee’s decisions. As for concrete action-taking, some clauses dictate which course of action to take to solve the problem, called operative clauses.

## b. Normative and conceptual framework

### i. Security Council Mandate

As exposed previously, the Security Council has specific functions to fulfill through the most diplomatic tools. As (<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/un-security-council#chapter-title-0-3>) mentions, “The Security Council aims to peacefully resolve international disputes in accordance with Chapter VI of the UN Charter, which authorizes the council to call on parties to seek solutions via negotiation, arbitration, or other peaceful means.” Nevertheless, the Council is prepared for cases in which the tools above are not enough for conflict management. Chapter VII includes these alternative ways, like imposing sanctions or the use of force, if it complies to maintain international peace and security. Additionally, regional, and national organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are close partners to the Security Council and its operations in each region. Knowing about the existence of these alternatives, it is of utmost importance for this committee to reach out for the most peaceful solutions before utilizing the power of authorizing robust measures to resolve conflicts.

### ii. Status of Taiwan in the United Nations

The resolution 2758 of 25 October 1971, “restoration of the lawful rights of the People’s Republic of China in the United Nations,” was the document in which the United Nations acted in terms of how to manage the situation of a China ruled by two different governments. This resolution decided to only recognize the representatives of the People’s Republic of China as legitimate to the United Nations while calling Chiang Kai-shek, former president of the Republic of China, to be unlawfully occupying a seat within the United Nations.

The implications of the passed resolution were heavy on the Republic of China. Since the United Nations denied the country’s membership and called it unlawful, important international organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, among other structures related to the UN, excluded Taiwan. Several countries, such as El Salvador, Grenada, and Nicaragua, have submitted letters directed to the different Secretary Generals, asking for the revision of resolution 2758 during the General Assembly. Their arguments have revolved around the fact that Taiwan technically complies with all the requirements to be a member state of the United Nations. There have even been accusations against the resolution, saying it violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The reasoning behind these statements is that organizations such as the WHO left the country to fight a viral crisis on their own in 1998

and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) did not aid in an economic crisis, directly affecting Taiwanese citizens. (<https://www.un.org/ar/ga/53/a53145.htm>).

### iii. Sovereignty of Taiwan

Besides the definition given before, the Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States (<https://www.jus.uio.no/english/services/library/treaties/01/1-02/rights-duties-states.xml>) defines sovereign states by four fundamental conditions: having a permanent population, a defined territory, a government, and the ability to establish relations with other sovereign states. These four points are analyzed below:

- Permanent population: Taiwan has a permanent population of 23,568,378 according to 2020 estimates.
- Defined territory: The Taiwanese State controls an area of 36,197 km<sup>2</sup>
- Government: Taiwan established its current government in 1948, moved its capital to Taipei in 1949, and defined its legal status in 1992. Taiwan is currently governed by a semi-presidential, constitutional republic. Taiwan has its own armed forces, its own currency, and its own international representation.
- International relations: Taiwan maintains unofficial relations with half the world and is recognized as a state by fifteen countries.



It will be the delegates' duty to define whether the sovereignty of Taiwan is valid or not. Additionally, it is essential to note that this criteria is only one of the many in the International Relations scope. For this reason, delegates are encouraged to further investigate other theories which might explain their country's position.

### c. Subtopic A: Tensions arising from the presence of Chinese forces in Taiwan

#### i. Historical context

Understanding that there is an existing conflict between these two countries, it is not difficult to infer the importance of the geography of Taiwan and China. Taiwan, an island in the western Pacific Ocean that lies 160 km off the coast of southeastern China, has suffered the disadvantage of being so close to its enemy. Its territory is insignificant compared to the enormous Chinese surface area, with Taiwan being 395km long and 145km across at its widest point (<https://www.britannica.com/place/Taiwan>). While the Republic of China (ROC) controls the Matsu and Quemoy islands, these are unprotected and incredibly near to the Fukien province in China. As for the East China Sea, Taiwan has been in constant dispute over the group of islands called Diaoyutai. Nonetheless, Japan also claims these islands under the name of Senkaku. The South China Sea also has complicated disputes where Taiwan, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, and the Philippines claim the Spratly Islands (<https://www.britannica.com/place/Taiwan>).

In 1949, when the communist movement won, The People's Republic of China was established. At the time, approximately one or two million people led by Chiangmai Kai-Shek mobilized to what was known as Formosa, which would be the home of the anti-communist movement against Mao. Such mobilization and the fight for the domination of the entire Chinese territory is currently reflected as the problem of Taiwan's role as part or not of the People's Republic of China (PRC). The PRC has perceived Taiwan as a historically rebellious province, so in 2005 the National Popular Assembly created a law to reunify the homeland as a sacred obligation. However, this law conceives the idea of a two-system-one-country, where China promises to respect the existing culture and economy of Taiwan if they are under the Chinese government (<https://youtu.be/Md7vP-0rDpw>).

#### ii. Actual situation

After the situation in Ukraine this year, the tension of a possible Chinese invasion of Taiwan has grown over time. The Chinese government imposes the unification of Chinese territory, including Taiwan. In military terms, China has reserved the right to use military forces to achieve territorial unification. Looking to succeed, China has prepared foreign activities that seek to deteriorate the Taiwanese government and thus easily achieve a more peaceful unification. Nevertheless, Chinese military forces have thoroughly investigated the defense structure of Taiwan:

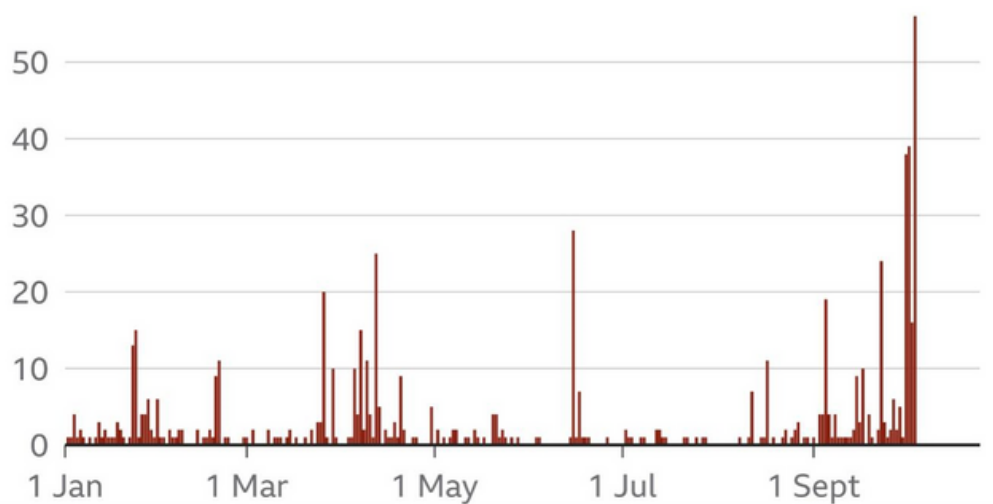


“While Chinese jets have not been flown all the way to the island, Mr. Chiu warned that there was a risk of a “misfire.” Taiwan’s air defense zone, which it monitors for threats, extends over an area that covers the Taiwan Strait and a large swathe of the Chinese mainland. They consider jets crossing an unofficial line between China and Taiwan as an incursion” (BBC news, 2022).

The presence of Chinese planes in Taiwanese territory increased from January to September 2021 (See graph below). These incursions are said to inspect aerial radar systems and the capacity of F-16, J-1, and KJ 2000 planes used by the Taiwanese government. Upon the Chinese advances, these planes monitor the presence of the enemy air force, an unfortunate situation for Taiwan since it allows China to get a clear overview of the territory and its military distribution.

## Incursions into Taiwan's Air Defence Identification Zone are on the rise

Chinese military aircraft sorties reported this year



Source: Taiwan Ministry of National Defence

BBC

Chinese planes circle the island from the Miyako Strait and pass through the eastern side of Taiwan, where they head south to re-enter China by taking the Bashi Channel. Additionally, maritime forces with anti-unique cruise missiles like the YJ-18, specifically designed to attack U.S ships were spotted in the region. This leads to the belief that the United States provided such military force to Taiwan.



(<https://youtu.be/Md7vP-0rDpw>)

d. Subtopic B: “One China” policy.

i. Historical context

The One China Policy is a diplomatic approach that acknowledges the position of China towards the question of Taiwan: the existence of a sole Chinese government. There is plenty of backstories to understand why Taiwan has been in such a dispute with China for so long, which makes the 17th century an appropriate date to begin studying their story. The Qing Dynasty was the first to fully administer the island of Taiwan until the First Sino-Japanese War in 1895 when China gave up the Taiwanese territory to Japanese forces. It is essential to remember the sudden change of culture that Taiwan experienced, considering that it was less than a hundred years later when China recovered the Taiwanese territory after the Japanese surrender in World War II. (BBC News, 2022 )

With a shallow sense of belonging to either country and the effects of the war, an internal conflict surged between nationalist forces led by Chiang Kai-shek and the communist party of Mao Zedong. Eventually, the situation forced the nationalist party to flee to Taiwanese territory, taking over the island and declaring an independent rule from China. To this day, Taiwanese people state that the nationalist Chiang Kai-shek formed a government that was never part of the Zedong rule, which granted them their right to an independent state. With the passing of time and the creation of organizations that needed international recognition, China was conclusive in the gravity of the consequences for countries that formally recognized Taiwan, eventually leading to the creation of the One-China Policy.

Such a policy, recognized by countries such as the United States and past UN Secretary Generals like Kofi Annan, is simply a means of stating the acceptance of the Chinese government’s declaration of a unified country, including Taiwan. In other words, the One China Policy does not necessarily mean the endorsement of such a declaration.

For example, the United States has formed close and formal ties with China through this policy. However, President Biden has repeatedly stated that the US would come to Taiwan's military defense if needed, proving that the country still maintains a robust yet unofficial relationship with Taiwan. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/23/world/asia/biden-taiwan-china.html>) (<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/06/01/but-can-the-united-states-defend-taiwan/>). On the opposite side, as (<https://heinonline.org/HOL/Contents?handle=hein.journals/frdint28&id=1&size=2&index=&collection=journals>) narrates, when an official from the Taipei Cultural and Economic Office was invited into a press conference held in the United Nations to further explain the rejection of Taiwan by the World Health organization in 2003, Kofi Annan, at time Secretary General, "barred him from entry because the organization was 'One-China policy.'"

## ii. Actual situation

Nowadays, Taiwan remains excluded from globally predominant organizations, such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), among others. Despite China's threats to formally recognize the independent rule of the island, there are 15 countries who formally support the Taiwanese cause. Additionally, Taiwan remains close to other key partners in more silent ways, like the United States and neighboring countries in the South Asian region.

Having exposed the current situation, the question of whether such diplomatic isolation is necessary remains unsolved. On the one hand, there is a strong argument which states that Taiwan's lack of recognition originated and remains the way it is because of the leverage power that China holds in order to pressure the international community into not recognizing Taiwan. Not only the aforementioned silent actions from China have affected this pressure, as much as the statements the country has made against Taiwan in these organizations. Even 30 years after the letter sent by El Salvador and others and many efforts to once again discuss the rejection of Taiwan, China highlights the United Nations' support for the One-China Policy in the following letter directed to the Secretary General:

"As a region of China, Taiwan is not entitled to United Nations membership under any name whatsoever. Now the General Committee and the plenary Assembly at its sixty-second session have once again rejected, by an overwhelming majority, inclusion of the putative issue of "Taiwan's membership in the United Nations" in the agenda of the General Assembly. The previously mentioned fully reflects the position of the United Nations and a great many of its Member States in adhering

to the “one China” principle, upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and abiding by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).” (<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/609448?ln=en>)

Consequently, the island has been able to form only a few strong economic and diplomatic ties, which has obstaculized their growth as a country. The explained situation has left Taiwan in a diplomatic desert and military solitude against an army ten times bigger than its defenses. (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-59900139>).

Nonetheless, it is essential to view the arguments presented by China and supported by its primary economic and political partners. In the same letter exposed above, China expresses its concern for the Taiwanese people, referring to them as “23 million compatriots.” They have continuously reaffirmed their priority in the goal of achieving one unified government, but not without maintaining “peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits, delivering benefits to compatriots [...] and striving for the prospect of peaceful reunification” (<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/609448?ln=en>). With this context in mind, it is essential to analyze the topic of discussion from the purpose of the committee. In other words, the Security Council’s main objective is to maintain peace, which is the dilemma that this dispute has raised:

How far must the Council go? Is the purpose of the Council being interfered with? Is there a threat to peace and security? And most importantly, even if the threat is not present, must it be prevented?

#### **4. QARMAS (Questions A Resolution Must Answer)**

- 1.Considering the criteria for sovereignty established by the United Nations, should Taiwan become a member state? If not, under which criteria should Taiwan be analyzed?
- 2.Remembering that Taiwan is a valuable country in terms of economic and technological growth, should the Security Council provide other alternatives to a unified China that benefits the international community?
- 3.How far should the Security Council go to act on this issue? Under which conditions should the Council intervene?
- 4.Should the Security Council keep a close watch on China’s actions? If so, which preventive actions could be taken?

5. Bearing in mind the current situation and the possibility of China taking action to unify its territory by taking Taiwan, is China currently breaking the main purpose of the Security Council?
6. Which relationship does your country hold with China? Which relationship does it maintain with Taiwan?

## Delegations

- United States of America
- Russian Federation
- French Republic
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- People's Republic of China
- Republic of China\*
- Japan
- Republic of El Salvador
- Republic of the Sudan
- Republic of Senegal
- People's Republic of Bangladesh
- Republic of Nicaragua
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Republic of India
- Federal Republic of Nigeria

\*Note: The Republic of China will hold the status of observer in this committee since the country is still denied the member status for the United Nations.

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