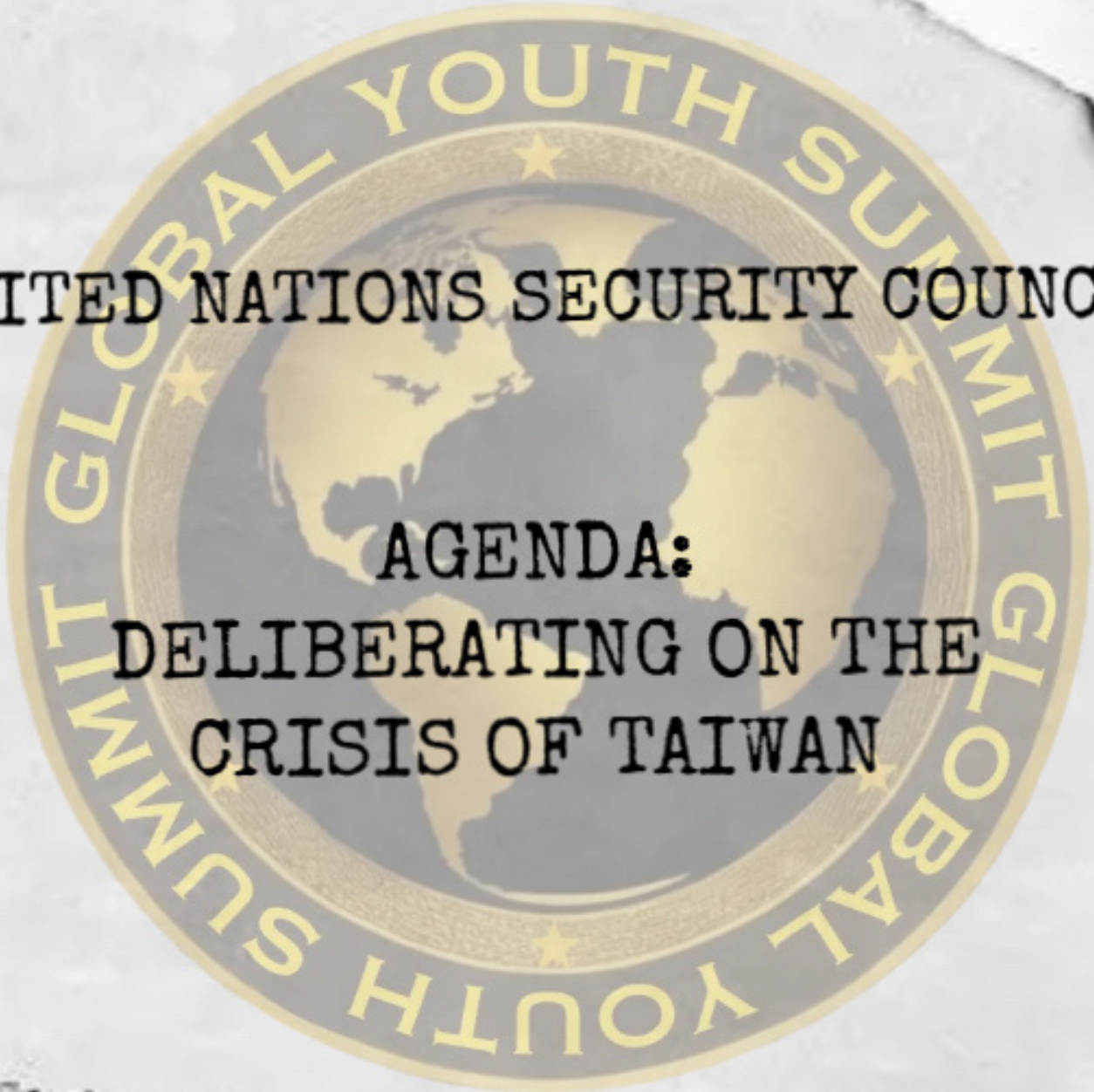




GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT



UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

AGENDA:
DELIBERATING ON THE
CRISIS OF TAIWAN

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Letter from the Executive Board

Dear delegates,

It is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to the United Nations Security Council at The Global Youth Summit MUN.

Every conference we have attended has been a unique blend of information and interaction, but more importantly, it has always taught us something new and left us with memories to cherish.

MUNs have instilled in us a sense of responsibility to unconditionally pass on the privilege and knowledge we received from them.

As your EB, we hope you find us dedicated, approachable, and unbiased but equally passionate and driven. We expect all delegates to be well-researched and holistically informed about this multifaceted agenda at hand. We would like to encourage each of you to participate enthusiastically and strive to put your best foot forward regardless of the situation you find yourself in during the committee.

Use your platform to fearlessly voice your opinion, but at the same time, let it help you to open yourself up to new ideas and experiences, because Albert Einstein once said-

“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

Lastly, we hope we can make this MUN an unforgettable experience for all of you, regardless of whether you are inexperienced or a well-seasoned delegate. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to approach us on our email ID. Good Luck!

Aryaveer Singh
Chairperson, (Futuristic), UNSC

Anshuraj Pal
Vice-Chairperson, (Futuristic), UNSC

The United Nations Security Council

The Charter of the United Nations is the foundation document for all the UN work. The UN was established to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war” and one of its main purposes is to maintain international peace and security. Peacekeeping, although not explicitly provided for in the Charter, has evolved into one of the main tools used by the United Nations to achieve this purpose. The Charter gives the UN Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. In fulfilling this responsibility, the Council may adopt a range of measures, including the establishment of a UN peace operation.

- Chapter VI deals with the “Pacific Settlement of Disputes”. UN peace operations have traditionally been associated with Chapter. However, the Security Council need not refer to a specific Chapter of the Charter when passing a resolution authorizing the deployment of a UN peacekeeping operation and has never invoked Chapter VI.

- Chapter VII contains provisions related to “Action with Respect to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace and Acts of Aggression’. In recent years, the Council has adopted the practice of invoking Chapter VII of the Charter when authorizing the deployment of UN peace operations into volatile post-conflict settings where the State is unable to maintain security and public order. The Security Council’s invocation of Chapter VII in these situations, in addition to denoting the legal basis for its action, can also be seen as a statement of firm political resolve and a means of reminding the parties to a conflict and the wider UN membership of their obligation to give effect to Security Council decisions.

- Chapter VIII of the Charter provides for the involvement of regional arrangements and agencies in the maintenance of international peace and security provided such activities are consistent with the purposes and principles outlined in Chapter I of the Charter.

UN peace operations are deployed on the basis of mandates from the United Nations Security Council. Over the years, the range of tasks assigned to UN peace operations has expanded significantly in response to shifting patterns of conflict and to best address threats to international peace and security.

Although each UN peace operation is different, there is a considerable degree of consistency in the types of mandated tasks assigned by the Security Council.

Depending on their mandate, peace operations may be required to:

- Deploy to prevent the outbreak of conflict or the spill-over of conflict across borders;
- Stabilize conflict situations after a ceasefire, to create an environment for the parties to reach a lasting peace agreement;
- Assist in implementing comprehensive peace agreements;
- Lead states or territories through a transition to stable government, based on democratic principles, good governance and economic development.

Depending on the specific set of challenges, UN peacekeepers are often mandated to play a catalytic role in the following essentially peacebuilding activities:

- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants;
- Mine action;
- Security sector reform and other rule of law-related activities;
- Protection and promotion of human rights;
- Electoral assistance;
- Support for the restoration and extension of State authority;
- Promotion of social and economic recovery and development.

Introduction to the Agenda

In order to understand the crisis pertaining in Taiwan we need to holistically understand the ongoing situation, the problems, the root of the problems, the consequences, attempted solutions, the reasons they failed, and what to keep in mind while further deliberating more solutions to the issue at hand. It is a very clear disclaimer to all the delegates that the background guide is just the start of your research and only gives you briefings about certain aspects of the situation that are crucial to be aware of and shall consist of links and info from the internet alongside certain key messages wherever necessary from the side of the executive board. You all are requested to go beyond the background guide and upon understanding the base of the agenda, conduct your own research to get an upper hand in the committee.

Background

Tensions between Mainland China and the Island of Taiwan have been high ever since the Chinese Civil War that began in 1927, where Republican forces fought the Communists for control over the country. By 1935 and later the Japanese War efforts had begun and in wake of this, the Communist party began to gain the support of the peasantry and prepare them for the continued civil war after the Japanese were defeated. By 1949, republican forces under the leadership of the Kuomintang President Chiang Kai Shek, were defeated, and forced out of the mainland. They were left with no other option but to reside on the island of Taiwan. Since the retreat to the Island, there have been 3 crises that have nearly led to war.

The first crisis began in 1954, when the Mainland Communist Forces began bombardment of the Island as a measure to liberate Taiwan. However, with the news that the USA was considering the use of Nuclear Weapons on the Mainland, the PRC had to halt its measures. Shortly after 4 years, Communist forces once again began invading islands through the use of amphibious landings and bombardment. This also came to an end after a mutual stalemate.

In 1994, in response to the U.S government inviting President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan to speak at Cornell, the Chinese Communist party operated missile tests and naval exercises in an attempt to intimidate both Taiwan and the United States. In response, the United States sent 2 carrier battle groups, ultimately forcing China to step down. Since then, the United States and Taiwan have held strong military ties, alongside Japan. The United States has been selling its military technology and weapons to Taiwan for decades now, which angers the Communist Party. Despite the United States officially recognizing the Communist Party in 1979, both Taiwan and the US have kept close ties since then. The US has backed the defense of Taiwan since its creation, hindering China's ability to invade and ultimately take over the island. While the United States has acted as a deterrent against a Chinese invasion, China has become increasingly aggressive over the years.

While the past crisis between China and Taiwan was nearly 20 years ago, tensions are still incredibly high between the 2 nations. Under Xi Jinping, the Communist party has been making more and more bold moves in order to counter both Taiwanese and American interests. The People's Republic of China has seen extensive military growth under the new President's leadership. Multiple amphibious training exercises have been held, mimicking a potential invasion of Taiwan. While the island does have the backing of the United States and her forces, Taiwan's military has been criticized as "ill-prepared" for a defense against China.

The military currently relies on a large amount of dated technology, with 2 of Taiwan's submarines being constructed in the 1980s. Meanwhile, the Chinese government has been investing heavily in expanding its military potential. Its military technology is quickly improving, and combined with its massive size, China's military proves a real threat to both Taiwan and the United States. Historical sources suggest that the island first came under full Chinese control in the 17th Century when the Qing dynasty began administering it. Then, in 1895, they gave up the island to Japan after losing the first Sino Japanese war.

China took the island again in 1945 after Japan lost World War Two. But a civil war erupted in mainland China between nationalist government forces led by Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong's Communist Party. The communists won in 1949 and took control in Beijing. Chiang Kai-shek and what was left of the nationalist party - known as the Kuomintang - fled to Taiwan, where they ruled for the next several decades.

China points to this history to say that Taiwan was originally a Chinese province. But the Taiwanese point to the same history to argue that they were never part of the modern Chinese state that was first formed after the revolution in 1911 - or the People's Republic of China that was established under Mao in 1949. The Kuomintang has been one of Taiwan's most prominent political parties ever since - ruling the island for a significant part of its history.

Currently, only 13 countries (plus the Vatican) recognise Taiwan as a sovereign country. China exerts considerable diplomatic pressure on other countries not to recognise Taiwan, or to do anything which implies recognition.



China in the UN

At the time of the creation of the United Nations in 1945, China was amongst the 51 original Member States. In 1949, the CCP proclaimed the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Beijing, and the remaining mainland ROC forces were forced to retreat to Taiwan, which Japan evacuated from in 1945 and renounced all right, title and claim to in the Treaty of San Francisco in 1951. After January 1950, the PRC was in control of mainland China, the PRC was unable to capture Taiwan, Penghu, Matsu and Kinmen as well as Hainan, Dachen, and thus these remained as ROC ruled lands.

The PRC claimed to be the successor government of the ROC, while the Kuomintang in Taiwan championed the continued existence of the Republic of China. Both claimed to be the only legitimate Chinese government, and each refused to maintain diplomatic relations with countries that have recognized the other. The ROC continued to represent China in the UN until Resolution 2758 was passed.

Article 3 of the UN Charter provides:

The original Members of the United Nations shall be the states which, having participated in the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco, or having previously signed the Declaration by United Nations of 1 January 1942, sign the present Charter and ratify it in accordance with Article 110. Additionally, the ROC had signed and ratified the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations on 18 April 1961 and 19 December 1969 respectively. However, by the late 1960s concerns regarding human rights surged, turning the tables of the situation. On 15 July 1971, 17 UN members, led by Albania, requested that a question of the "Restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations" be placed on the provisional agenda of the twenty-sixth session of the UNGA.

In an explanatory memorandum accompanying their request, the 17 UN members observed that for years they had protested against what they considered were hostile and discriminatory policies followed by several governments with regard to the communist government of mainland China, which they considered to be the genuine representative of the Chinese people.

The existence of the People's Republic of China, they declared, was a reality which could “not be changed to suit the myth of a so-called Republic of China, fabricated out of a portion of Chinese territory.” In the view of the 17 UN members, the ROC were unlawful authorities installed in the island of Taiwan which claimed to represent China, and they remained there only because of the permanent presence of United States Armed Forces. No important international problems, they added, could be solved without the participation of the People's Republic of China. It was in the fundamental interests, they concluded, of the United Nations to "restore" promptly to the People's Republic of China its seat in the organization, thus putting an end to a "grave injustice" and "dangerous situation" which had been perpetuated in order to fulfill a policy that had been increasingly repudiated. This meant the immediate expulsion of the representatives of the Chiang Kai-shek regime from the seat which it held in the United Nations.

On 17 August 1971, the United States requested that a second item, "The representation of China in the United Nations" also be placed on the provisional agenda. In the explanatory memorandum accompanying the U.S. request, the U.S. said that in dealing with the problem of the representation of China, the United Nations should take cognizance of the existence of both the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China; it should reflect that incontestable reality in the manner in which it made provision for China's representation. The U.S. asserted that the UN should not be required to take a definitive position on the respective conflicting claims of the People's Republic of China or the Republic of China, pending a peaceful resolution of the matter as called for by the United Nations Charter.

Thus, the U.S. added, the People's Republic of China should be represented and at the same time provision should be made to ensure that the Republic of China was not deprived of its representation.

On 22 September 1971, the United States proposed at the UN General Committee that the two items be combined into one item called "The Question of China". The proposal was, however, rejected by 12 votes to 9 with 3 abstentions. The Assembly then adopted a draft Albanian proposed resolution A/L. 630 and Add. L and 2, by a roll-call vote of 76 to 35, with 17 abstentions, as Resolution 2758.

The Beijing government began representing China at the UN from 15 November 1971 and its delegates were seated at the UN Security Council meeting held on 23 November 1971, the first such meeting where representatives of the Beijing government represented China.

China's claim over Taiwan

Beijing asserts that there is only “one China” and that Taiwan is part of it. It views the PRC as the only legitimate government of China, an approach it calls the One-China principle, and seeks Taiwan’s eventual “unification” with the mainland.

Beijing claims that Taiwan is bound by an understanding known as the 1992 Consensus, which was reached between representatives of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Kuomintang (KMT) party that then ruled Taiwan. However, the two sides don’t agree on the content of this so-called consensus, and it was never intended to address the question of Taiwan’s legal status. For the PRC, as Chinese President Xi Jinping has stated, the 1992 Consensus reflects an agreement that “the two sides of the strait belong to one China and would work together to seek national reunification.” For the KMT, it means “one China, different interpretations,” with the ROC standing as the “one China.” Taiwan’s KMT-drafted constitution continues to recognize China, Mongolia, Taiwan, Tibet, and the South China Sea as part of the ROC.

The KMT does not support Taiwan’s independence and has consistently called for closer ties with Beijing. But in the face of recent election losses, KMT leaders have discussed whether to change the party’s stance on the 1992 Consensus. Taiwan’s KMT-drafted constitution continues to recognize China, Mongolia, Taiwan, Tibet, and the South China Sea as part of the ROC. The KMT does not support Taiwan’s independence and has consistently called for closer ties with Beijing.

But in the face of recent election losses, KMT leaders have discussed whether to change the party's stance on the 1992 Consensus. In order to better understand why the claim of China over Taiwan is highly undisputed it is essential to understand the position of China in the United Nations which many political thinkers believe is the reason for the lack of action taken on behalf of the United Nations and other countries on this matter and heavily criticized both the parties for the same as well.



US-Taiwan Relations

In 1979, the United States established formal diplomatic relations with the PRC. At the same time, it severed its diplomatic ties and abrogated its mutual defense treaty with the ROC. But the United States maintains a robust unofficial relationship with the island and continues to sell defense equipment to its military. Beijing has repeatedly urged Washington to stop selling weapons to and cease contact with Taipei.

The U.S. approach is governed by its One-China policy [PDF]. It is based on several documents, such as three U.S.-China communiqués reached in 1972, 1978, and 1982; the Taiwan Relations Act, passed by the U.S. Congress in 1979; and the recently declassified “Six Assurances”, which President Ronald Reagan conveyed to Taiwan in 1982. These documents lay out that the United States:

- “acknowledges the Chinese position that there is but one China and Taiwan is part of China” and that the PRC is the “sole legal government of China” (some U.S. officials have emphasized that the use of the word “acknowledge” implies that the United States doesn’t necessarily accept the Chinese position);
- rejects any use of force to settle the dispute;
- maintains cultural, commercial, and other ties with Taiwan, carried out through the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT);
- commits to selling arms to Taiwan for self-defense; and
- will maintain the ability to come to Taiwan’s defense, while not actually committing to doing so—a policy known as strategic ambiguity.

The United States’ chief goal is to maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, and it has implored both Beijing and Taipei to maintain the status quo. It says it does not support Taiwanese independence. Through its policy of strategic ambiguity, the United States has for decades attempted to maintain a delicate balance between supporting Taiwan and preventing a war with China.

But President Joe Biden has seemingly rejected the policy, stating several times that the United States would come to Taiwan's defense if China attacked. White House officials have walked back his comments, saying the policy has not changed, but ultimately, the president gets to decide how to respond.

Under President Donald Trump, the United States deepened ties with Taiwan over Chinese objections, including by selling more than \$18 billion worth of arms to the military and unveiling a \$250 million complex for its de facto embassy in Taipei. Trump spoke with Tsai by telephone ahead of his inauguration, the highest level of contact between the two sides since 1979. He also sent several senior administration officials—including a cabinet member—to Taipei, and during his last days in office, the State Department eliminated long-held restrictions governing where and how U.S. officials can meet with their Taiwanese counterparts.

The Biden administration has taken a similar approach, continuing arms sales and affirming the Trump administration's decision to allow U.S. officials to meet more freely with Taiwanese officials. Biden was the first U.S. president to invite Taiwanese representatives to attend the presidential inauguration. The United States participates in military training and dialogues with Taiwan, regularly sails ships through the Taiwan Strait to demonstrate its military presence in the region, and has encouraged Taiwan to increase its defense spending.

Also, Taiwan has received bipartisan support in Congress over the years, with lawmakers proposing and passing legislation to boost U.S.-Taiwan relations, bolster the island's defenses, and encourage its participation in international organizations. The latest proposed legislation, the Taiwan Policy Act of 2022, includes designating Taiwan as a major non-North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally.

In August 2022, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) visited Taipei—the first speaker to do so since Newt Gingrich (R-GA) in 1997—and met with Tsai. Beijing strongly condemned the visit and in response planned military exercises that effectively surround the island and banned imports of some fruit and fish from Taiwan, among other actions.

State of Involvement

Although Taiwan is only recognized by 18 UN member states, it is treated as a de facto political entity by many states including the US. The PRC's One China policy makes Taiwan's independence and self-determination a delicate topic. Beijing's heavy handedness with Hong Kong undermines any propositions of unification based on Taiwanese home rule. Any attempt to force Taiwan to unify with mainland China through force would almost certainly result in victory for the PRC, despite the US supplying Taiwan with military equipment. However, the US has a vested interest in keeping Taiwan out of Chinese hands.

Control of Taiwan could allow China to project its power and influence both into the South China Sea, an already hotly contested region, and the wider Pacific. Taiwan's economy is also a major factor. It dominates the global production of computer chips, which play a vital role in much of the world's electronics – unification would give China control over major industries worldwide.

Thus, the US has long adopted a policy of 'strategic ambiguity' towards Taiwan – neither committing to its defense, nor committing not to intervene in case of any incursion by the PRC. Furthermore, it has also formed the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, a semi-formal alliance between the US, Australia, Japan, and India, whose current goal is to prevent Chinese domination in the Indo-Pacific region.

Bloc Formation

All three principal actors – China, America, and Taiwan – appear to be adopting more hard-line stances. Despite the USA's official policy of strategic ambiguity and recognition of the One China policy, comments by President Biden committing to the defense of the island and a visit by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi have aggravated tensions. In response, China has sent military aircraft into Taiwan's Air Defense Zone and increased their military exercises in the waters surrounding the island, and any settlement based on Taiwanese independence would be a tough sell to say the least.

Taiwan, meanwhile, continues to advocate for their status as an independent sovereign state, and given Russia's recent invasion of Ukraine are especially security-conscious. America's European allies would certainly prefer to keep the PRC contained to mainland China, although events closer to home take priority and unlike the Russian invasion NATO has no official say in the matter. However, one key ally for the US in the South China Sea region is Australia, both as a land base in the region, as a member of the Five Eyes Intelligence-sharing initiative, and as taking a leading role in attempting to keep many of the nations in the South China Sea region out of the Chinese sphere of influence.

As for those states, such as the Philippines, Vietnam, and other island states, they are fearful of Chinese dominance but may well reconcile themselves to Beijing's influence with the right combination of carrots and sticks. Furthermore, the other Quad nations (India and Japan) are also wary of China's larger ambitions in the Indo-Pacific and are unwilling to see Taiwan as the first stepping stone for China to project its influence beyond its current maritime borders.

Trade Disruptions From China-Taiwan Conflict

International businesses are assessing the implications for global trade following possible intense disruption of trade in the event of an escalation of conflict between Taiwan and China. This comes after the conflict between Russia and Ukraine led to a disruption in the supply of oil, gas and wheat along with a price surge all across the world. Asia-Pacific supply chains are expected to enter a period of intense disruption and reconfiguration if a conflict between China and Taiwan occurs, an article in The Singapore Post said, quoting China Neican, a current affairs website.

Even though Taiwan and China's conflict can have many likely scenarios, several western and Asian analysts have predicted that the end result would be the same and will "involve an economic or military blockade of Taiwan or its outlying islands". The economic or military blockade will prevent Taiwan from accessing the freight supply routes by sea.

These routes will involve the ones passing through the Strait of Malacca, which is a trade choke point between the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra, and Luzon Strait, south of Taiwan's main island of Formosa, it added. The telecommunication and financial services in Taiwan will be disrupted if a blockade occurs in the Luzon Strait as there are several fiber-optic cables running through the strait which connect China, Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan with the United States.

The economy of Taiwan will weaken if the Strait of Malacca is blocked as it would prevent the island nation from exporting semiconductor and sporting goods to the United States and Europe causing them to languish in the ports. "China will likely conduct denial of service cyber-attacks on critical Taiwanese infrastructure as part of a hybrid warfare strategy, compounding logistical difficulties for businesses. As a result, increased freight costs and circuitous supply routes would quickly ramp up inflationary pressure on consumer technology and renewable energy products," the publication said, quoting China Neican. Meanwhile, several Japanese industrialists and traders have started noticing "growing risks in China as supply chain disruptions from strict COVID-19 restrictions and mounting tensions over the Taiwan Strait loom large over the supersized market," Nikkei Asia said. The example of Ukraine and Russia are being used to display the devastating realities of war and to make the people in Taiwan submissive.

Moderated Caucus Topics

1. Exploring diplomatic solutions: Discussing diplomatic initiatives to de-escalate tensions between Taiwan and China.
2. Addressing cross-strait economic relations: Finding ways to promote economic cooperation and mitigate the impact of the conflict on trade and investment.
3. Ensuring human rights protection: Examining measures to safeguard the human rights of individuals affected by the Taiwan-China conflict.
4. Promoting dialogue between Taiwan and China: Discussing mechanisms and platforms for constructive dialogue between the two parties.
5. Enhancing regional security cooperation: Exploring strategies to strengthen security partnerships among regional stakeholders to ensure stability in the Asia-Pacific region.
6. Negotiating military confidence-building measures: Discussing ways to build trust and reduce the risk of military confrontation between Taiwan and China.
7. The role of the United Nations: Evaluating the involvement of the United Nations in mediating the Taiwan-China conflict and discussing potential avenues for UN action.
8. Cybersecurity in the Taiwan-China conflict: Addressing the growing threat of cyber warfare and developing strategies to protect critical infrastructure and data privacy.
9. Promoting international mediation: Examining the role of third-party mediators in facilitating dialogue and finding peaceful resolutions to the Taiwan-China conflict.
10. Historical reconciliation and truth-seeking: Discussing approaches to acknowledging historical grievances and promoting reconciliation between Taiwan and China for long-term stability.