The Winchester School Jebel Ali

Futuristic Crisis Committee

Responding to a global water scarcity crisis in the year 2050

Letter from the Chairs

Greetings Delegates!

It is with absolute pleasure that we welcome you to The Futuristic Crisis Committee (FCC) at WINMUN 2024!! I, Toshith Bhaumik, will be serving as your head chair alongside your Co-Chair Bianca Joseph. Model UN is an excellent opportunity for you to discuss your ideas about global issues and present impactful solutions; it gives student leaders a platform to further develop their public speaking and critical thinking skills. We'd like you to take home more than just a learning experience.

The agendas selected are pressing and multifaceted issues that can cause significant alterations in the future, and we hope to see insightful and well-thought-out dialogues. We have taken our time and effort in researching, formatting and creating this background guide which will provide you with bedrock and direction for the rest of your research and on the committee proceedings and agenda. Delegates please note that this background guide is to give you an insight into the agenda and we urge that you continue research beyond this background guide to further understand your country's position.

At this conference, we wish to see enthusiastic delegates and healthy, heated but productive debate. We hope each delegate uses their voice to state their country's stance and leaves the committee learning something new.

We, as the Dais will be there to guide you throughout the entire conference and will be there to help you if any personal issues arise, but please keep personal grudges out of the committee room and be diplomatic and respectful. However, don't forget to have fun and make friends!

If you have any queries or doubts or just want to have a chat, please feel free to contact us at any time. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you! Good luck!

Regards,

Dias of the Futuristic Crisis Committee
Toshith Bhaumik, Bianca Joseph

Vocabulary

1. Water Scarcity: The lack of sufficient, clean water resources to meet the needs of a region's population.

2. Water Equity: The fair distribution and access to water resources, ensuring that all members of a society have sufficient and reliable access to water.

3. Desalination: The process of removing salt and other impurities from seawater to make it suitable for human consumption and irrigation.

4. Water Stress: The condition where the water demand exceeds the available supply, leading to competition and potential conflicts over water resources.

5. Water Conservation: The responsible use and management of water resources to reduce waste and ensure sustainability.

6. Water Management: The planning, development, distribution, and sustainable use of water resources.

7. Water Governance: The political, social, economic, and administrative systems in place for managing water resources and addressing water-related challenges.

8. Wastewater Treatment: The process of removing pollutants from used water before it is released back into the environment or reused.

9. Water Security: The condition where a population has reliable access to sufficient, safe, and affordable water to meet basic needs.

Introduction to Agenda

In the year 2050, the global water scarcity crisis reached unprecedented levels, posing a grave threat to the well-being of communities and ecosystems worldwide. Over the preceding decades, a combination of population growth, rapid urbanization, and climate change had intensified the pressure on water resources, leading to a severe imbalance between water supply and demand. As the world's population surged beyond 9 billion, the demand for water for agricultural, industrial, and domestic purposes skyrocketed, placing immense strain on already fragile ecosystems.

Climate change played a pivotal role in exacerbating the crisis, with rising temperatures altering precipitation patterns and increasing the frequency and intensity of droughts. Traditional water sources, such as rivers, lakes, and aquifers, experienced unprecedented depletion, affecting both quantity and quality. Regions that were once considered water-abundant found themselves grappling with prolonged periods of aridity, while others faced the grim reality of vanishing water supplies.

The consequences of the water scarcity crisis in 2050 were far-reaching. Agriculture, a primary consumer of water, struggled to adapt, leading to widespread crop failures, food shortages, and economic instability. Industries faced operational challenges, and communities grappled with compromised access to clean water, impacting public health and sanitation. Social unrest and geopolitical tensions escalated as nations vied for control over dwindling water resources, further highlighting the urgency of finding sustainable solutions.

In response to this dire situation, global efforts were mobilized to address the root causes of water scarcity. Innovations in water conservation, efficient irrigation techniques, and the development of alternative water sources gained prominence. International collaboration became paramount, with countries working together to implement policies, share technologies, and establish frameworks for the sustainable management of water resources.

The global water scarcity crisis in 2050 served as a sobering reminder of the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic systems. It underscored the need for proactive and collective action to ensure a water-secure future for the planet, emphasizing the importance of responsible water use, conservation, and the development of resilient infrastructure to withstand the challenges posed by a changing climate.

Background of the Agenda

One of the primary contributors to this crisis is the exponential growth of the global population, reaching staggering figures that have strained existing water resources beyond sustainable limits. The burgeoning demand for water across various sectors, including agriculture, industry, and domestic use, has placed immense pressure on freshwater sources, exacerbating scarcity concerns.

Climate change has emerged as another critical driver of the water scarcity crisis. The altered precipitation patterns, rising temperatures, and increased frequency of extreme weather events have disrupted traditional hydrological cycles. Prolonged droughts in some regions and devastating floods in others have rendered water sources unreliable and have further diminished the overall availability of freshwater. As climate change accelerates, vulnerable communities face heightened challenges in securing a stable and sufficient water supply.

In addition to these environmental factors, poor water management practices and inefficient use of available resources have played a significant role in aggravating the crisis. Wasteful irrigation methods, inadequate infrastructure, and insufficient investment in water conservation technologies have all contributed to the depletion of water reserves. Moreover, the unequal distribution of water resources among nations and communities has led to social and geopolitical tensions, exacerbating the complexity of the crisis.

Efforts to address the global water scarcity crisis in 2050 require a multifaceted approach that combines sustainable water management practices, technological innovations, and international cooperation. Urgent action is needed to promote water conservation, improve infrastructure, and implement policies that ensure equitable access to water resources. Failure to address this crisis could have far-reaching consequences, impacting not only human well-being but also biodiversity, food security, and the overall stability of ecosystems worldwide.

Key Stakeholders

Governments and Policymakers:
- Governments at national and local levels are responsible for developing and implementing policies that regulate water usage, promote conservation, and invest in sustainable water management practices.
- Policymakers need to create and enforce regulations that ensure responsible water use, encourage the development of water-saving technologies, and allocate resources for water infrastructure projects.

Water Management Authorities:
- Local and regional water management authorities are crucial for implementing water conservation measures, managing water distribution, and ensuring the sustainability of water resources within specific geographic areas.

Research Institutions and Scientists:
- Researchers play a key role in understanding the causes and effects of water scarcity. They can contribute by developing innovative technologies, conducting studies on water availability, and finding sustainable solutions to water-related challenges.

NGOs and Nonprofit Organizations:
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can raise awareness, provide education on water conservation, and implement community-based projects to address water scarcity. They often work directly with local communities to implement practical solutions.

Businesses and Industries:
- Corporations and industries have a responsibility to manage their water usage responsibly and adopt sustainable practices. They can also invest in water-efficient technologies and contribute to water conservation efforts in the communities where they operate.

Key Issues

1) Population Growth and Urbanization: Population growth and rapid urbanization pose significant challenges to global water resources, exacerbating the looming water scarcity crisis. As the world's population continues to expand, so does the demand for water, particularly in urban areas where people congregate in unprecedented numbers. Urbanization, driven by factors such as industrialization and rural-to-urban migration, intensifies this demand by concentrating large populations in specific regions. As cities expand, the existing water infrastructure may become inadequate, leading to inefficient distribution and increased water losses. To address the water scarcity crisis effectively, it is imperative to integrate population management strategies, promote sustainable urban planning, and implement water-efficient technologies to meet the growing demand while ensuring the long-term resilience of water resources in the face of population growth and urbanization.

2) Climate Change Impact: Climate change exacerbates the global water scarcity crisis by introducing a myriad of challenges that disrupt traditional water patterns and availability. The intensification of extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and cyclones, can result in destructive floods, compromising water quality and infrastructure. Sea level rise, another consequence of climate change, poses a threat to coastal freshwater aquifers, further limiting available resources. Moreover, it can disrupt the delicate balance of aquatic ecosystems, leading to the decline of native species and the proliferation of invasive ones. Addressing the intertwined challenges of climate change and water scarcity requires a holistic approach that encompasses mitigation efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation strategies to cope with the current and projected impacts and sustainable water management practices.

3) Agricultural water use: It contributes to the global water scarcity crisis, exacerbating the strain on already limited water resources. With agriculture accounting for the largest share of freshwater consumption, inefficient irrigation practices and water-intensive crop cultivation pose a substantial challenge. Traditional flood irrigation, often employed in many regions, leads to substantial water wastage through runoff and evaporation. Furthermore, the cultivation of water-intensive crops, such as rice and certain grains, amplifies the overall water footprint of agriculture. Integrated water management strategies that balance agricultural productivity with conservation efforts can help mitigate the impact of agriculture on water scarcity. Ultimately, addressing the agricultural component of the water scarcity crisis requires a comprehensive approach that integrates technological innovation, sustainable farming practices, and a broader societal understanding of the intricate relationship between agriculture and water resources.

4) Social Equity and Access: Social equity and access play a pivotal role in shaping the impact of the water scarcity crisis, influencing both its causes and consequences. The uneven distribution of water resources often disproportionately affects marginalized communities, exacerbating existing social disparities. In many cases, vulnerable populations, including low-income communities and indigenous groups, bear the brunt of water scarcity, facing limited access to clean and safe water. This lack of access can lead to a myriad of challenges, including compromised health, hindered economic opportunities, and perpetuation of cycles of poverty. Moreover, unequal access to water resources may contribute to social conflicts and exacerbate tensions within and between communities. Policymakers and stakeholders must prioritize the needs of marginalized groups, incorporating their perspectives into decision-making processes. By fostering a more equitable distribution of water and prioritizing access for all, societies can mitigate the impact of water scarcity on the most vulnerable and work towards a more sustainable and just future.

5) Financial Investing and Funding: Financial investing and funding play a pivotal role in addressing the global water scarcity crisis in the year 2050. The scale and complexity of this challenge necessitate substantial resources to implement effective solutions. Adequate financial investment is crucial for the development and implementation of innovative technologies that enhance water efficiency, the establishment of robust water infrastructure, and the promotion of sustainable water management practices. Funding is essential for supporting research and development initiatives focused on water purification, desalination, and water recycling, which can provide alternative and diversified sources of water. Moreover, financial resources are instrumental in creating and implementing education and awareness programs to foster responsible water use behaviour among individuals and communities.

Questions to consider

- What are the major factors contributing to water scarcity, such as population growth, climate change, and industrial demands?
- What policies and regulations are in place to manage water resources globally?
- How effective are these policies in promoting sustainable water use and conservation?
- What technologies can be employed to enhance water purification and desalination processes?
- How can countries collaborate to address transboundary water issues and share resources?
- How can local communities be involved in water conservation efforts?
- What educational programs are in place to raise awareness about responsible water use?
- How can agricultural practices be adapted to reduce water consumption?
- How does climate change contribute to water scarcity, and what measures can be taken to mitigate its effects?
- What are the economic consequences of water scarcity, and how can they be addressed?
- What research initiatives are underway to better understand and address water scarcity?
- How can innovation and technology play a role in developing sustainable water management solutions?

Past UN Actions

1. Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6): The United Nations has included clean water and sanitation as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 6 aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030.
2. UN-Water: UN-Water is an inter-agency coordination mechanism that brings together entities dealing with water-related issues. It plays a crucial role in coordinating the UN's efforts to address water-related challenges, including scarcity.
3. World Water Development Reports: \The UN releases World Water Development Reports periodically. These reports provide a comprehensive assessment of the state of the world's water resources and offer recommendations for sustainable management.
4. International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development (2018-2028): The UN designated the period from 2018 to 2028 as the International Decade for Action - Water for Sustainable Development. This initiative focuses on the importance of water for social, economic, and environmental development and encourages actions to address water-related challenges.
5. Climate Change Conferences: The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) addresses water scarcity as part of its discussions on climate change. Water scarcity is often linked to climate change impacts, and the UNFCCC aims to promote adaptation and mitigation strategies.
6. Human Rights to Water and Sanitation: The UN has recognized the human right to water and sanitation. Efforts have been made to integrate this perspective into policies and practices to ensure equitable access to clean and safe water for all.

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Responding to the Chinese Invasion of Taiwan

Vocabulary

1. **People's Republic of China (PRC):** The official name of mainland China, governed by the Chinese Communist Party since 1949. The PRC claims sovereignty over Taiwan and considers it a renegade province that must be reunified by force if necessary.
2. **Republic of China (ROC):** The official name of Taiwan, an island off the coast of mainland China, governed by the Kuomintang Party until 2000 and by the Democratic Progressive Party since then. The ROC maintains its own political, economic, and military systems, and has a population of about 24 million people. The ROC is recognized by only 15 countries in the world, mostly small and developing nations.
3. **One-China policy:** The diplomatic principle that there is only one sovereign state under the name China and that Taiwan is part of it. Mainland China insists that any country that wants to establish diplomatic relations with it must adhere to this policy and sever ties with the ROC. The ROC, on the other hand, accepts the existence of the PRC but does not recognize its claim over Taiwan.
4. **Cross-strait relations:** The term used to describe the political, economic, cultural, and military interactions between the PRC and the ROC across the Taiwan Strait, a 180-kilometer-wide body of water that separates them. The cross-strait relations have been marked by periods of tension and cooperation, depending on the domestic and international factors affecting both sides.
5. **United States:** The world's superpower and a key ally of Taiwan. The US does not have formal diplomatic relations with the ROC but maintains unofficial ties through the American Institute in Taiwan, a de facto embassy. The US also provides Taiwan with defensive weapons and security assistance under the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, which states that any attempt to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means would be of grave concern to the US. The US also follows a policy of strategic ambiguity, which means that it does not explicitly state whether it would intervene militarily in the event of a Chinese attack on Taiwan but leaves the possibility open as a deterrent.
6. **United Nations:** The international organization founded in 1945 to maintain international peace and security, promote cooperation, and protect human rights. The ROC was a founding member of the UN and held the permanent seat on the Security Council as China until 1971 when the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 2758, which recognized the PRC as the sole legitimate representative of China and expelled the ROC. Since then, the ROC has been excluded from the UN and its specialized agencies, despite its repeated attempts to rejoin or participate as an observer.

Introduction of the Agenda

In the not-so-distant future, the world stands on the precipice of a crisis that could reshape the global order. The spectre of a Chinese Invasion of Taiwan looms large, threatening to unleash a fierce chain of events with far-reaching consequences. The Futuristic Crisis Council is convened to navigate this dangerous terrain and craft a collective response that preserves peace, upholds international law, and safeguards the principles of justice.

Being a crisis committee, the following information would be your first update. Assume that for this agenda, the conference takes place in January 2026. Everything you research and talk about at the conference should be based on the given update.

The agenda of the FCC is to respond to the Chinese invasion of Taiwan, which occurred on January 1, 2026, after months of escalating tensions and provocations between the PRC and the ROC. The invasion, codenamed Operation Thunderbolt, involved a massive amphibious and airborne assault, supported by missile strikes, cyberattacks, and psychological warfare. The PRC's stated objective was to "liberate" Taiwan and end the "separatist" regime of the DPP, which had declared formal independence from China in 2025, following a landslide victory in the presidential and legislative elections. The PRC also claimed that it was acting in self-defence, as the ROC had allegedly colluded with the US and other foreign forces to undermine China's sovereignty and security.

The invasion triggered fierce resistance from the ROC, which mobilized its armed forces and militia, and appealed for international support. The US, Japan, Australia, and other allies of Taiwan condemned the invasion as a blatant violation of international law and human rights and pledged to provide military and humanitarian assistance to the ROC. The UN Secretary-General also denounced the invasion and called for an immediate ceasefire and dialogue. However, the PRC rejected any mediation or negotiation and vowed to crush any interference or opposition.

The invasion has plunged the region and the world into a state of crisis, as the risk of a wider war and a nuclear confrontation looms large. The FCC is faced with the daunting challenge of finding a way to stop the bloodshed, restore stability, and prevent further escalation. The FCC must also consider the long-term implications of the invasion for the future of Taiwan, China, and the international order.

Background of the Agenda

The root of the agenda lies in the historical and political dispute over the status and identity of Taiwan, which dates back to the Chinese Civil War (1927-1949) between the CCP and the KMT. The war ended with the CCP's victory on the mainland and the KMT's retreat to Taiwan, where it established the ROC government. Since then, both sides have claimed to be the legitimate government of China, and have competed for international recognition and influence.

The cross-strait relations have undergone several phases of change, depending on the domestic and international developments affecting both sides. In general, the relations can be divided into four periods:

The Cold War period (1949-1979): This was a period of hostility and confrontation, as the PRC and the ROC were aligned with the opposing blocs of the US and the Soviet Union, respectively. The PRC attempted to invade Taiwan several times but was deterred by the US military presence and intervention. The ROC enjoyed diplomatic recognition and support from most of the Western countries and the UN, while the PRC was isolated and marginalized.

The normalization period (1979-1996): This was a period of adjustment and dialogue, as the PRC and the ROC began to establish unofficial and semi-official contacts and exchanges. The PRC also adopted a more flexible and pragmatic approach, offering the ROC a formula of "one country, two systems" for peaceful reunification, similar to the arrangements for Hong Kong and Macau. The ROC, however, rejected the formula and insisted on maintaining its sovereignty and autonomy.

The stabilization period (1996-2008): This was a period of consolidation and cooperation, as the PRC and the ROC reached a tacit understanding and mutual restraint, following the 1996 Taiwan Strait Crisis, which was triggered by the PRC's missile tests and military exercises near Taiwan, in response to the ROC's first direct presidential election. The PRC and the ROC also initiated high-level talks and signed several agreements on economic, cultural, and humanitarian issues, under the framework of the "1992 Consensus", which was a vague and ambiguous agreement that both sides acknowledged the existence of "one China", but had different interpretations of what it meant.

The polarization period (2008-present): This is a period of fluctuation and confrontation, as the PRC and the ROC have diverged and clashed over their political and ideological differences, especially after the DPP came to power in Taiwan in 2016, ending the eight-year rule of the KMT, which had pursued a policy of closer ties and integration with the PRC. The DPP, which advocates for Taiwan's sovereignty and identity, has rejected the "1992 Consensus" and the "one country, two systems" formula, and has sought to strengthen Taiwan's international presence and participation. The PRC, which views the DPP as a "separatist" force, has intensified its pressure

and coercion on Taiwan, by cutting off official communication, increasing military and diplomatic threats, and poaching Taiwan's diplomatic allies.

The cross-strait relations reached a breaking point in 2025, when the DPP, led by President Tsai Ing-wen, declared formal independence from China, following a landslide victory in the presidential and legislative elections, which were seen as a referendum on Taiwan's future. The declaration was met with widespread jubilation and celebration in Taiwan, but also with fierce condemnation and outrage from the PRC, which considered it a "grave provocation" and a "red line" that could not be tolerated. The PRC also accused the US and other foreign forces of instigating and supporting the DPP's move and warned that it would take all necessary measures to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The PRC's warning turned into action on June 1, 2026, when it launched a full-scale invasion of Taiwan, in what it called Operation Thunderbolt. The invasion involved a massive amphibious and airborne assault, supported by missile strikes, cyberattacks, and psychological warfare. The PRC's stated objective was to "liberate" Taiwan and end the "separatist" regime of the DPP, and to restore the "one China" principle and the "one country, two systems" formula. The PRC also claimed that it was acting in self-defence, as the ROC had allegedly colluded with the US and other foreign forces to undermine China's sovereignty and security

Key Stakeholders

- **The PRC:** The PRC is the main aggressor and antagonist in the agenda, as it has invaded Taiwan in an attempt to annex it and end its de facto independence. The PRC's motives are driven by its nationalist and ideological aspirations, as well as its strategic and economic interests. The PRC views Taiwan as an integral part of its territory and history, and as a symbol of its national dignity and pride. The PRC also considers Taiwan as a potential threat and challenge to its regional and global dominance, as Taiwan is a democratic and prosperous society and a close ally of the US and other rival powers. The PRC's goals are to achieve reunification with Taiwan under the "one country, two systems" formula, to eliminate the DPP and its supporters, and to deter and defeat any external intervention or interference.
- **The ROC:** The ROC is the main victim and protagonist in the agenda, as it has been invaded by the PRC in an attempt to destroy its sovereignty and identity. The ROC's motives are driven by its democratic and humanistic values, as well as its survival and security interests. The ROC views itself as a sovereign and independent state, and as a distinct and diverse society. The ROC also considers itself as a responsible and constructive member of the international community and a partner and friend of many countries. The ROC's goals are to defend its territory and people from the PRC's attack, to preserve its political and economic system, and to seek international recognition and support.
- **The US:** The US is the main ally and protector of the ROC and the main adversary and competitor of the PRC. The US's motives are driven by its moral and legal obligations, as well as its strategic and economic interests. The US views Taiwan as a beacon of democracy and human rights and as a vital partner and asset in the Indo-Pacific region. The US also views China as a rising and revisionist power and as a serious threat and challenge to its global leadership and influence. The US's goals are to uphold its commitment and credibility to Taiwan, to deter and counter China's aggression and expansion, and to maintain peace and stability in the region and the world.
- **The UN:** The UN is the main mediator and arbitrator of the agenda, and the main guardian and promoter of the international order. The UN's motives are driven by its principles and purposes, as well as its functions and responsibilities. The UN views the invasion of Taiwan as a grave breach of the UN Charter and international law, and as a severe crisis for international peace and security. The UN also views the situation in Taiwan as a complex and sensitive issue, involving historical and political factors, and affecting many countries and regions. The UN's goals are to stop the violence and hostilities, to facilitate dialogue and negotiation, and to protect human rights and humanitarian needs.

Key Issues

1. **The legality and legitimacy of the invasion:** The FCC needs to determine whether the PRC's invasion of Taiwan is legal and legitimate, according to the UN Charter and international law, and whether the ROC's declaration of independence is valid and acceptable, according to the principle of self-determination and the will of the people. The FCC also needs to consider the implications and consequences of the invasion for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries and regions, especially those with similar or related disputes, such as Hong Kong, Tibet, Xinjiang, Kashmir, and Crimea.

2. **The humanitarian and human rights situation:** The FCC needs to assess the humanitarian and human rights situation in Taiwan, and the impact of the invasion on the civilian population and the vulnerable groups, such as women, children, elderly, and minorities. The FCC also needs to ensure the delivery and access of humanitarian aid and assistance, and the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as life, liberty, dignity, and democracy.

3. **The military and security situation:** The FCC needs to monitor the military and security situation in Taiwan, and the actions and reactions of the PRC and the ROC, and their allies and partners, such as the US, Japan, Australia, and others. The FCC also needs to prevent the escalation and expansion of the conflict, and the use or threat of use of nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction, which could have catastrophic and irreversible consequences for the region and the world.

4. **The political and diplomatic situation:** The FCC needs to facilitate the political and diplomatic situation in Taiwan, and the communication and negotiation between the PRC and the ROC, and their supporters and opponents, such as the US, the European Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and others. The FCC also needs to explore and propose possible solutions and outcomes for the future of Taiwan, and the relations between China and Taiwan, and between China and the international community.

Questions to Consider

- What are the root causes and underlying factors of the invasion of Taiwan, and how can they be addressed and resolved?
- What are the short-term and long-term effects and implications of the invasion of Taiwan, for the region and the world, and for the international order and norms?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of the UN, the FCC and the other relevant actors and stakeholders, in responding to and resolving the invasion of Taiwan?
- What are the challenges and opportunities for the FCC, and the potential risks and benefits, in taking action or inaction on the invasion of Taiwan?
- What are the criteria and principles for evaluating and selecting the best course of action and the most appropriate resolution for the invasion of Taiwan?
- What are the expectations and demands of the PRC and the ROC, and their allies and adversaries, and how can they be balanced and reconciled?
- What are the possible scenarios and alternatives for the future of Taiwan, and the prospects and conditions for achieving them?

Past UN Action

1. In 1949, the Chinese Civil War ended, and the CCP established the PRC on the mainland, while the KMT established the ROC in Taiwan. Both sides claimed to be the legitimate government of China and competed for international recognition and influence.
2. In 1954, the First Taiwan Strait Crisis occurred, as the PRC shelled the ROC-controlled islands of Quemoy and Matsu, in response to the US-ROC Mutual Defense Treaty. The UN Security Council passed Resolution 512, which called for a ceasefire and a peaceful settlement of the dispute.
3. In 1958, the Second Taiwan Strait Crisis occurred, as the PRC resumed the shelling of Quemoy and Matsu, in response to the US's decision to provide nuclear weapons to Taiwan. The UN Security Council passed Resolution 127, which called for a cessation of hostilities and a peaceful solution to the problem.
4. In 1971, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 2758, which recognized the PRC as the sole legitimate representative of China, and expelled the ROC from the UN and its specialized agencies. The resolution also transferred the permanent seat on the Security Council from the ROC to the PRC.
5. In 1979, the US switched diplomatic recognition from the ROC to the PRC and enacted the Taiwan Relations Act, which stated that the US would maintain unofficial relations with Taiwan, and provide it with defensive weapons and security assistance. The US also followed a policy of strategic ambiguity, which meant that it did not explicitly state whether it would intervene militarily in the event of a Chinese attack on Taiwan, but left the possibility open as a deterrent.
6. In 1996, the Third Taiwan Strait Crisis occurred, as the PRC conducted missile tests and military exercises near Taiwan, in response to the ROC's first direct presidential election. The US deployed two aircraft carrier groups to the region, to demonstrate its support and commitment to Taiwan. The UN Secretary-General expressed his concern and urged both sides to exercise restraint and dialogue.
7. In 2000, the DPP won the presidential election in Taiwan, ending the KMT's rule, and marking the first peaceful transfer of power in Taiwan's history. The DPP advocated for Taiwan's sovereignty and identity and rejected the "one country, two systems" formula offered by the PRC. The PRC reacted with anger and hostility and increased its pressure and coercion on Taiwan.
8. In 2008, the KMT returned to power in Taiwan and pursued a policy of closer ties and integration with the PRC. The PRC and the ROC initiated high-level talks and signed several agreements on economic, cultural, and humanitarian issues, under the framework of the "1992 Consensus", which was a vague and ambiguous agreement that both sides acknowledged the existence of "one China", but had different interpretations of what it meant.
9. In 2016, the DPP regained power in Taiwan, and rejected the "1992 Consensus" and the "one country, two systems" formula. The PRC cut off official communication with

Taiwan, intensified its military and diplomatic threats and poached Taiwan's diplomatic allies.

10. In 2025, the DPP declared formal independence from China, following a landslide victory in the presidential and legislative elections, which were seen as a referendum on Taiwan's future. The declaration was met with widespread jubilation and celebration in Taiwan, but also with fierce condemnation and outrage from the PRC, which considered it a "grave provocation" and a "red line" that could not be tolerated. The UN Secretary-General expressed his concern and urged both sides to respect the status quo and avoid any unilateral actions that could jeopardize peace and stability.

11. In 2026, the PRC launched a full-scale invasion of Taiwan, in what it called Operation Thunderbolt. The invasion involved a massive amphibious and airborne assault, supported by missile strikes, cyberattacks, and psychological warfare. The PRC's stated objective was to "liberate" Taiwan and end the "separatist" regime of the DPP, and to restore the "one China" principle and the "one country, two systems" formula. The UN Secretary-General denounced the invasion and called for an immediate ceasefire and dialogue. The UN Security Council convened an emergency meeting but failed to adopt a resolution due to the PRC's veto.

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