

Response to Mainland China's letter to the UN Secretary-General

1. The two sides of the Taiwan Strait have been under separate governance since 1949. Taiwan has never been under the rule of mainland China. There is no international consensus on the “one-China” principle advocated by mainland China. Most countries interpret what “one China” entails in accordance with their respective national interests, and set their own “one-China” policy accordingly. The government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) urges mainland China to maintain a pragmatic view on cross-strait relations as well as other nations’ stance toward cross-strait ties, and to take concrete action to maintain the stable and peaceful development of relations across the Taiwan Strait.
2. United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758, passed in 1971, did not provide legal authorization for the People’s Republic of China to represent Taiwan in the UN system. Nor did it state that Taiwan is a part of the PRC. The Republic of China is a sovereign country, and the 23 million people of Taiwan can only be represented by the democratically elected government of the ROC. That the Republic of China is a sovereign nation is beyond question. No political suppression or erroneous action toward Taiwan by the United Nations or any country can negate the fact that the ROC is a sovereign nation.
3. Taiwan has adhered to the principles of professionalism, pragmatism, and making positive contributions in its bid to participate in the UN system, so that it may join in global endeavors to pursue a better quality of life for all of humankind as well as protect the health, lives,

and property of people in all nations. This is an obligation of the ROC, and a right to which it is entitled. Taiwan has earned international recognition for its longstanding contributions to enhancing global health and security as well as aviation safety. Countries worldwide do not understand why Taiwan was recently denied invitations to the World Health Assembly and the International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly. In recent years, the governments, parliaments, civil organizations, and private citizens of the ROC's diplomatic allies, the United States, Japan, and other likeminded partner countries have expressed support for Taiwan and endorsed its participation in the WHA and the ICAO Assembly.

4. As a member of the international community, Taiwan has both the responsibility and the right to participate in worldwide efforts to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 17, which calls for revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. The United Nations encourages all countries to implement the SDGs. Taiwan should, therefore, not be excluded because of political suppression from mainland China. Mainland China and the United Nations should face the fact that the SDGs could be realized by embracing all international participants and honoring the pledge that no one be left behind. The exclusion of any party is a loss to the world community and directly detrimental to the rights and interests of people in all nations.
5. We believe that the two sides are jointly responsible for ensuring friendly interactions across the Taiwan Strait. If mainland China is genuinely concerned about the interests of Taiwan compatriots, then it

should respect and understand Taiwan. Only then can the two sides seek common ground amidst differences and pursue reconciliation and cooperation. Only then can we advance toward peace and stability, benefit regional interests, and gain international affirmation and support.