



General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 August 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-first session

Question of the representation and participation of the 23 million people of Taiwan in the United Nations

Letter dated 10 August 2006 from the representatives of Belize, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, the Gambia, Honduras, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Nicaragua, Palau, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Swaziland and Tuvalu to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instruction of our respective Governments, we have the honour to request, pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-first session of a supplementary item entitled "Question of the representation and participation of the 23 million people of Taiwan in the United Nations". Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we attach an explanatory memorandum (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II).

(Signed) Janine Elizabeth **Coye-Felson**

Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations

(Signed) Michel **Kafando**

Permanent Representative

Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations

(Signed) Carmen María **Gallardo Hernández**

Permanent Representative

Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations

(Signed) Crispin **Grey-Johnson**

Permanent Representative

Permanent Mission of the Gambia to the United Nations



(Signed) Ivan **Romero-Martinez**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Honduras to the United Nations

(Signed) Brown Beswick **Chimphamba**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malawi
to the United Nations

(Signed) Alfred **Capelle**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
to the United Nations

(Signed) Marlene **Moses**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations

(Signed) Eduardo J. **Sevilla Somoza**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations

(Signed) Stuart **Beck**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Palau to the United Nations

(Signed) Carlisle **Richardson**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations

(Signed) Margaret Hughes **Ferrari**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations

(Signed) Domingos Augusto **Ferreira**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Sao Tome and Principe
to the United Nations

(Signed) Collin D. **Beck**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands to the United Nations

(Signed) Pshesheya Mbongeni **Dlamini**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Swaziland
to the United Nations

(Signed) Enele Sosene **Sopoaga**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Tuvalu to the United Nations

Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

The Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as Taiwan) is a free and peace-loving sovereign State, and its democratically elected Government is the sole legitimate government that can represent the interests and wishes of the people of Taiwan in the United Nations. However, the rights and interests of the 23 million people of Taiwan, which is excluded from the United Nations, are not upheld and protected by the United Nations. Today, for the following reasons, there is an urgent need to further examine this particular situation and to redress this mistaken omission.

1. Universality is a core principle of the United Nations

The Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations states that the mission of the United Nations is “to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations, large and small”.

This commitment to the principle of universality, for all peoples and all nations, is at the centre of the international system established by the founding fathers of the United Nations in 1945. Furthermore, Article 4 of the Charter invites “all other peace-loving States” to join the Organization.

Since the end of the cold war and with the advent of globalization, the work of the United Nations has become increasingly important, and the realization of the principle of universality has taken on a new urgency. With the admission of Timor-Leste, Switzerland and Montenegro, almost all the countries of the world have become members of this ever more truly global Organization — all except one, Taiwan. After all that the United Nations has achieved towards realizing the principle of universality, the complete exclusion of Taiwan from the United Nations poses a moral and legal challenge to the international community. The United Nations must cease senselessly enforcing a policy of political apartheid against the 23 million people of Taiwan.

2. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) has not resolved the issue of the representation of the people of Taiwan

From 1949 to 1971, the question of the representation of China in the United Nations had been continuously disputed. The General Assembly finally adopted resolution 2758 (XXVI) on 25 October 1971, by which it admitted the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations. This resolution, however, did not address the issue of the representation and participation of the 23 million people of Taiwan in the United Nations. Unfortunately, resolution 2758 (XXVI) has subsequently been misused to justify Taiwan’s exclusion from the United Nations system. With a view to examining its falsehood, we cite the pivot statement of the aforesaid resolution, by which the General Assembly:

Decides to restore all its rights to the People’s Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its Government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations, and to expel forthwith the

representatives of Chiang Kai-shek from the place which they unlawfully occupy at the United Nations and in all the organizations related to it.

It should be noted especially that resolution 2758 (XXVI) addressed only the issue of the representation of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and all related organizations. It did not determine that Taiwan is a part of the People's Republic of China, nor did it confer on the People's Republic of China the right to represent Taiwan or the people of Taiwan in the United Nations and its related organizations. Taiwan has no intention of competing with the People's Republic of China for the so-called "representation of China". Taiwan has transformed into a fully fledged modern democracy after a series of political reforms, further illustrating that the above-mentioned resolution does not reflect the objective reality that both sides of the Taiwan Strait have separate ruling Governments and are not subject to each other's jurisdiction. It also fails to reflect the depth of democracy developed by the people of Taiwan. The United Nations should look squarely at the fact that it is regrettable that the resolution also fails to safeguard the legal right of the 23 million people of Taiwan to participate in the United Nations.

3. Taiwan is a sovereign State and a constructive member of the international community

With a population of 23 million, making it the forty-seventh largest population in the world, and a territory consisting of the islands of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, Taiwan enjoys an efficient Government and solid institutions that have proven their capacity to conduct friendly and constructive international relations with many States throughout the world. For example, Taiwan maintains full diplomatic relations with the Holy See and 23 States Members of the United Nations. Taiwan has set up more than 120 embassies, consulates general, representative offices or offices around the world, fully demonstrating that Taiwan is a sovereign country. Moreover, through its full membership, Taiwan plays an active role in several international organizations, including the World Trade Organization, the Asian Development Bank and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Taiwan has never been a local government or province of the People's Republic of China. On the contrary, ever since the establishment of the People's Republic of China on 1 October 1949, the two sides of the Taiwan Strait have been governed separately, with neither side having any control or jurisdiction over the other. The fact that international visitors to Taiwan apply for visas at Taiwan's representative institutions, and that China's diplomatic missions cannot provide any visa assistance whatsoever, is an obvious example.

4. Taiwan is a vibrant democratic society and an active international partner

In his report entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all", United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan pointed out correctly, "The right to choose how they are ruled, and who rules them, must be the birthright of all people, and its universal achievement must be a central objective of an Organization devoted to the cause of larger freedom". Accordingly, the international community should respect public opinion in Taiwan. Taiwan's

achievements in deepening democracy are worthy of the active support of the United Nations.

Following the end of four decades of authoritarian rule in Taiwan in 1987, the profound constitutional reforms undertaken made it possible for Taiwan to hold its very first general parliamentary elections in 1992, followed by the first direct presidential election in 1996. In 2000, the second presidential election paved the way to the first peaceful transfer of power from one political party to another. The third direct presidential election of 2004 further demonstrates Taiwan's commitment to genuine democratization.

Taiwan has succeeded in its transition to democracy and in its unrelenting efforts to promote human rights. In his inaugural speech in 2000, President Chen Shui-bian emphasized the importance of democracy and peace for the people of Taiwan: "With our sacred votes, we have proved to the world that freedom and democracy are indisputable universal values, and that peace is the highest goal of humanity". In his inaugural speech in 2004, he reiterated Taiwan's firm belief and determination: "Taiwan stands ready to continue in its role as an active participant and contributor to international society — this is the right of Taiwan's 23 million people; likewise, it is our duty as citizens of the world community."

In recent years, in view of defending and promoting the universal values of freedom, democracy and human rights, Taiwan initiated the founding of the Pacific Democratic Union, established the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, and actively participates in the activities of related non-governmental organizations. Taiwan's democratic institutions, open society and respect for human rights are achievements recognized the world over.

Taiwan serves as an excellent model for all those countries that seek to embrace democracy, human rights and the norms and values of our international community. Taiwan deserves to be taken seriously and accepted by the United Nations.

5. Taiwan's exclusion from the United Nations constitutes discrimination against its people, depriving them of their fundamental right to benefit from and contribute to the work of the United Nations

Regardless of the fact that the People's Republic of China has no right to, and in fact cannot, represent Taiwan in the international arena, the People's Republic of China and United Nations officials often mistakenly invoke General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), mentioned previously, to prevent governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and even individuals from Taiwan from participating in the activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, including all activities related to the Economic and Social Council. This unjust exclusion of Taiwan's Government, civic organizations and individuals contradicts the fundamental principle of universal participation that the United Nations upholds. It infringes upon the right of the people of Taiwan to be represented in the United Nations system and to engage in, and to make contributions to, the wide range of substantive United Nations programmes for the common interests of all.

Examples of this discrimination include:

(a) The Taipei Flight Information Region covers 188,400 square kilometres, with 13 major international flight routes and four domestic routes in operation. It

provides a huge number of flight information services. However, Taiwan's Civil Aeronautics Administration is still barred from attending the activities of the International Civil Aviation Organization. As a matter of fact, the Taipei Flight Information Region plays an essential role. It provided about 1.46 million controlled flight services with 24.97 million international passengers arriving in and departing from Taiwan, and processed 1.78 million tons of cargo in 2005. In addition, 34 airlines operate regular flights to and from Taiwan, of which 28 are foreign airlines. In 2005, 181,775 flights arrived in and departed from Taiwan.

(b) The Security Council has requested the international community to take action against international terrorism; however, Taiwan is not allowed to participate in the international counter-terrorist cooperation led by the United Nations. Without Taiwan's participation in appropriate international mechanisms to respond effectively to the Security Council's call for action on international terrorism, there exists a critical gap in the global network to safeguard against terrorism and money-laundering.

(c) An earthquake and tsunamis struck South Asia and South-East Asia on 26 December 2004. The Taiwanese Government, in the spirit of humanitarian sympathy, and in return for the assistance provided by the international community after Taiwan's 921 Earthquake in 1999, immediately announced that it would donate US\$ 50 million for disaster relief, which ranked as the seventeenth largest relief commitment around the world. In addition, Taiwan's private sector provided US\$ 150 million for disaster relief. Yet even though it is a major donor country, Taiwan was not allowed to attend various international relief and disaster conferences, such as the Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on the Aftermath of the Earthquake and Tsunami, held in Indonesia on 6 January 2005, the United Nations Ministerial-level Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance to Tsunami-affected Communities held in Geneva by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on 11 January 2005 and the Conference on the Health Aspects of the Tsunami Disaster in Asia held in Phuket, Thailand, by the World Health Organization (WHO) from 4 to 6 May 2005. This is unfair to the people of Taiwan who are eager to help others. Taiwan not only actively participates in the post-tsunami reconstruction projects organized by the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center in the capacity of member, but also hopes to participate in mid- and long-term programmes sponsored by the United Nations and World Health Organization, such as international cooperation related to disaster prevention and the establishment of tsunami warning mechanisms.

(d) Although Taiwan's health administration is responsible for handling the health-related issues of over 20 million international travellers arriving in and departing from Taiwan annually, Taiwan has not been able to participate normally in the international discussion of issues of public health and health policy since it was excluded from WHO in 1972. The normal channel of contact with the technical departments of WHO has also been disrupted. This fact is not only unfair to the 23 million people of Taiwan, but also detrimental to the health of tens of millions of people around the world. The outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in Taiwan in 2003 and the more recent spread of avian flu make it clear that, to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, Taiwan should not be excluded from WHO and must immediately be allowed to participate in WHO and its Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network and all WHO-related activities in a

meaningful manner. However, the World Health Assembly still refuses even to consider a proposal to invite Taiwan to participate in its work as an observer.

(e) The United Nations Millennium Development Goals show that the international community has listed eliminating poverty and hunger as the number one goal of development and assistance. As a responsible member of the international community, Taiwan has cooperated with other countries to eliminate poverty and assist capacity-building. With regard to development, Taiwan has always been willing to share its experience and achievements in development with the international community. It provides financial and technical assistance to allies with their public projects, social development, agricultural development and private sector development through investment, financing and technical assistance. It also provides financial and technical assistance to other developing countries. With regard to the protection of the rights of children and women, Taiwan makes great efforts to enhance the welfare of children and adolescents, and works hard to achieve the goal of gender equality through gender mainstreaming. With respect to disease prevention, Taiwan is willing to make financial and human resource contributions to prevent and treat HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. In terms of environmental protection, Taiwan has abided by environmental protection regulations for a long time and has made efforts towards sustainable global development. It has set up the National Sustainable Development Committee to coordinate public and private resources in promoting sustainable development. In spite of Taiwan's willingness to make contributions to reach the Millennium Development Goals, it is still excluded by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other United Nations-related agencies and governmental international organizations related to the Millennium Development Goals.

In addition, while the world has attached great importance to human rights, and environmental and habitat protection have become the shared responsibility of the world, Taiwan cannot join the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Agenda 21, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kyoto Protocol, and cannot participate in various United Nations-related meetings or activities.

It is high time that the United Nations and its specialized agencies stop excluding Taiwan. Taiwan's inclusion will enable it to contribute to and benefit from the global efforts led by the United Nations, while the continued exclusion of Taiwan greatly diminishes these important efforts and violates the rights of Taiwan's 23 million people.

6. Taiwan's long-standing commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and international law and cooperation

Taiwan fully recognizes the right of all peoples of the world to join the United Nations by adhering to the principle which was solemnly enshrined in the preamble of the Charter itself: "We, the peoples of the United Nations". Taiwan is also fully aware that Member States also have obligations and duties to fulfil as responsible international actors. Moreover, Article 56 of the Charter enjoins all nations to

“pledge themselves to take joint and separate action” for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55.

Taiwan is willing to carry out these solemn obligations because it adheres unconditionally to the United Nations ideals of international peace and security, respect for human rights and sustainable development. In addition, with its internationally recognized achievements and progress in economic and social development, Taiwan stands ready to share its unique experience with other nations. Over the past 50 years, through hard work and sacrifice, Taiwan has today become the world’s seventeenth largest economy, the world’s sixteenth largest trading country, and the holder of the third largest foreign exchange reserves. According to a world competitiveness report issued by the International Institute for Management Development in Switzerland, among the 61 economies surveyed in 2006, Taiwan ranked eighteenth. Furthermore, a competitiveness report issued by the World Economic Forum showed that among the 104 countries considered in 2005, Taiwan ranked fourth. This outstanding economic growth has already greatly contributed to both regional and global prosperity, and is a crucial asset for Taiwan to carry out all of the obligations of the Charter of the United Nations.

As an example of successful economic development and democratic progress, Taiwan’s experience could have a positive impact on many developing nations. Taiwan has always been willing to share this unique experience with the rest of the world by engaging constructively in various foreign assistance and humanitarian and relief programmes. It is to be recalled that foreign aid played a crucial role in the early stages of Taiwan’s own economic and social development. The people of Taiwan share the belief that it is now their responsibility to return some of this generosity and cooperation to the rest of the world.

In this context, Taiwan witnessed a steady expansion of overseas development assistance. As at June 2006, Taiwan had 36 long-term technical missions stationed in 30 partner countries, focusing in areas as diverse as capacity-building, agriculture, fisheries, horticulture, livestock, handicrafts, medicine, transportation, industry, mining, electricity generation, printing, vocational training, trade and investment. To take agriculture as an example, in 2005 Taiwan dispatched technical missions to 13 countries, assisting local farmers to implement rice growing projects. The total size of rice production under the assistance of Taiwan’s technical missions was 14,948 hectares, and rice production reached 77,158 tons that year.

In the area of humanitarian assistance, Taiwan is also playing an increasingly active role. Taiwan allocates approximately 100,000 tons of rice annually as humanitarian foreign aid. After the South Asian tsunami in December 2004, the Taiwanese Government provided US\$ 50 million in initial relief assistance and also cooperated with international non-governmental organizations such as Helen Keller International and Mercy Corps in relief efforts. It also provided more than 355 tons of relief materials to tsunami-affected countries. In 2005, Taiwan’s non-governmental organizations donated 25,504 tons of rice to Indonesia, Laos and Sri Lanka, and early in 2006 donated 8,500 tons to Pakistan, Lesotho and Swaziland. In addition, both Taiwan’s public and private sectors actively devote themselves to international medical relief and the urgent prevention and treatment of diseases. In October 2005, when an earthquake struck on the border between Pakistan and India, both Taiwan’s public and private sectors immediately sent medical and relief teams to the disaster areas to help based on humanitarian

considerations. When a mudslide caused severe hardship in the Philippines in February 2006, the Taiwanese Government immediately provided medical equipment and donated US\$ 100,000. In May 2006, the Java area of Indonesia was struck by a strong earthquake, which caused severe casualties, death and great loss. Taiwan sent three medical missions to the area to provide urgent medical assistance and donated nearly US\$ 200,000 of medicine and medical equipment. At a time when the world closely watches the threat of avian flu, Taiwan donated 600,000 capsules of Tamiflu to Viet Nam in July 2005. Taiwan also sent medical experts to Burkina Faso, Indonesia and Chad to assist with avian flu prevention.

These and other similar efforts demonstrate that, although excluded from many major multilateral assistance funds and projects, and although unable to fully participate in international cooperation, Taiwan still does its best to utilize all possible channels to contribute significantly to the development of peoples in many countries all over the world. Of course, Taiwan's endeavours would be much more effective if they could be coordinated with international efforts undertaken by the United Nations and its specialized agencies. In a time of increasingly serious resource gaps in many vitally important programmes, refusing to work with a willing partner like Taiwan is unreasonable, if not truly irresponsible.

7. As a nation founded on human rights, Taiwan's participation in the United Nations would help to achieve the universality of human rights

As a democracy and a responsible contributor to the world democratic community, Taiwan devotes itself to protecting and promoting universal human rights. Its Government makes efforts to allow Taiwan to integrate into the international human rights system and promises to abide by the rules and standards of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, to bring Taiwan into line with international human rights standards. In order to attain these goals, Taiwan has fully abided by the Paris Principles by setting up an independent national human rights committee. The 2003 Human Rights Award received by President Chen Shui-bian from the International League of Human Rights reflects the world's recognition of Taiwan's efforts in promoting human rights.

It is regrettable that Taiwan has no choice but to accept the consequences of being forced to be absent from various major international cooperation systems. On 16 March 2006, the General Assembly adopted a historic resolution to set up the Human Rights Council. It is a pity that the Council is limited by the reality of international politics and is unlikely to be able to help the 23 million people of Taiwan to obtain the basic right to participate in international affairs. This is a major gap in that mechanism.

Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind", and that "no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs". Therefore, refusing the 23 million people of Taiwan participation in the United Nations means violating the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It violates the human rights of the Taiwanese people, hampers the goal of universality of the Universal Declaration and will become a source of great

regret and irony in the history of the development of human rights. The United Nations should bring Taiwan's remarkable achievements into its fold to complete the establishment of the protection of global human rights and to bring about the ultimate goal of the universality of human rights.

8. Taiwan's participation in the United Nations will help maintain peace, prosperity and stability in Asia and the Pacific

Stable and peaceful relations across the Taiwan Strait are critical to a lasting peace, security and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. As the global forum for dialogue, the United Nations could provide a platform of dialogue and mutual trust-building by promoting opportunities for reconciliation and rapprochement between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China.

President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan has repeatedly called for the peaceful settlement of political disputes between the two sides, and has in the past six years openly made peace and goodwill gestures to the other side of the Strait more than 40 times. Taiwan has also taken steps to normalize trade relations with the People's Republic of China so as to pave the way for political reconciliation.

President Chen also stated in his videoconference with the international press in New York on 15 September 2004: "Should it accept Taiwan, the United Nations would certainly provide a most effective international monitoring mechanism for the development of a framework of peace and stability between the two sides of the Strait. Indeed, it would be able to exercise a decisive influence on peace in the Taiwan Strait and the security of the Asia-Pacific region".

Although China ignored the strong opposition from the international community by unilaterally adopting the so-called "anti-secession law" on 14 March 2005, President Chen still urged on 16 March of the same year, "We are glad to see the People's Republic of China's stable emergence, but the Chinese authorities should demonstrate to the international community their 'peaceful awakening'". He further stated that "both sides of the Taiwan Strait should use dialogue based on the principles of democracy, freedom and peace to resolve disputes. Any non-democratic or non-peaceful means, regardless of excuses shall not be accepted by the international community and will further worsen cross-strait relations, as well as alienate the feelings of the two peoples". President Chen also stressed in his 2006 New Year address that "regardless of future cross-strait relations, they should be in line with the four principles of sovereignty, democracy, peace and equality. This is the will of the majority of Taiwanese people".

We should point out that in 2002, both Taiwan and the People's Republic of China became full members of the World Trade Organization, which has the potential to serve as a constructive platform for dialogue on trade and economic issues between the two sides. Likewise, the United Nations and its specialized agencies can provide a multilateral forum for contacts on a wider range of issues. This positive interaction will help build trust and confidence between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China and thus contribute to peace, prosperity and stability in Asia and the Pacific.

9. The representation of Taiwan in the United Nations will benefit all humankind

As previously stated, Taiwan is a democratic society full of vitality. It is also an active international partner. If Taiwan's 23 million people were to have representation in the United Nations and be able to participate in the United Nations and related agencies, it would fulfil the principle of universality in membership, making the world body more representative, comprehensive and effective. It would also contribute to maintaining international peace and security and to enhancing international cooperation in political, economic, social and cultural development, as well as in human rights and humanitarian affairs. At the same time, it would help the United Nations Millennium Development Goals to be realized earlier. More importantly, this is a realistic and rational arrangement in line with the status quo of the two sides of the Taiwan Strait.

The 23 million people of Taiwan need the United Nations and the United Nations needs the 23 million people of Taiwan!

Annex II

Draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Considering, with concern, the fact that the 23 million people of Taiwan are the only remaining people in the world who still lack representation in the United Nations, which violates the principles and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the fundamental principle of universality, and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) addressed only the issue of the representation of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and all related organizations, did not determine that Taiwan is a part of the People's Republic of China, and did not confer on the People's Republic of China the right to represent the Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as Taiwan) or the people of Taiwan in the United Nations and all related organizations,

Noting the fact that, since its establishment in 1949, the People's Republic of China has never exercised any control or jurisdiction over Taiwan, nor has the Government of Taiwan ever exercised any control or jurisdiction over the territory of the People's Republic of China,

Noting also that Taiwan has transformed itself into a free, democratic State after terminating four decades of authoritarian rule,

Acknowledging that the democratically elected Government in Taiwan is the sole legitimate Government that can represent Taiwan and the people of Taiwan in the United Nations and the international community,

Observing that the people of Taiwan and their elected leaders are committed to the universal values of democracy, freedom and human rights, as well as to the enhancement of international cooperation on economic, social and cultural development and humanitarian assistance,

Mindful of the importance of the strategic position of Taiwan in the Asia-Pacific region, and that the participation of Taiwan in the United Nations will contribute significantly to the maintenance of international peace and security in that region through preventive diplomacy,

Decides:

(a) To recognize the right of the 23 million people of Taiwan to representation in the United Nations system and invite Taiwan's representative to participate in the meetings and activities of the United Nations and its related agencies;

(b) To take appropriate measures to implement paragraph (a) of this resolution.