

Committee: Security Council #1

Topic: The Situation of the South China Sea

Sponsors: Russian Federation, China, Somalia, Pakistan, Algeria, Slovenia

Signatories: United States, United Kingdom, ROK, Panama

To the General Assembly,

Noting with Concern the rising tensions between countries

Understanding that escalating tensions are a result of different opinions

Seeking a diplomatic solution to appeal to all countries

Emphasizing the need for sustainable solutions

Noting an increase of pollution and illegal overfishing

1. Environment

a. Seaweed Farming

- i. Expansion of Seaweed Farming offers a sustainable alternative to overfishing, providing coastal communities with an opportunity to generate income while helping preserve marine ecosystems.
- ii. The global seaweed market, valued at \$16.7 billion in 2021, is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.8%, reaching \$30 billion by 2030, driven by increasing use in biofuels, pharmaceuticals, and food additives.
- iii. Starting a seaweed farm requires a low initial investment of around \$6,000, which typically covers the cost of equipment, infrastructure, and training. This makes seaweed farming accessible for local fishermen, particularly in regions facing the economic challenges of overfishing.

- iv. With seaweed sold at an average price of \$500–\$1,000 per ton, farmers can generate \$10,000 to \$20,000 per yield, creating substantial income while reducing fishing pressure
 - v. A recent study found that seaweed farming in the South China Sea could help restore up to 50% of fish populations within 5 years by reducing pressure on fish stocks. Additionally, seaweed absorbs 0.4–0.8 gigatons of CO₂ globally each year, which contributes to mitigating climate change.
 - vi. Seaweed also plays a key role in the production of bioplastics, an alternative to petroleum-based plastics, which is expected to be a \$5 billion market by 2027.
- b. Environmental Protection Treaty
- i. Joint Fishing & Energy Development Zones: Nations share access to fisheries, oil, and gas based on investment, environmental commitment and sustainable practices
 - ii. Enforces marine protection zones, prohibiting artificial island construction and overfishing; heavy penalties and fines for those found engaging in illegal fishing
- c. Wind Farms
- i. Instead of attempting to tap into the unused oil the countries in the South China sea should create wind farms.
 - A. Tapping into the oil can greatly affect the coral and marine life within the area.
 - B. The wildlife conservation society would help to fund the wild farms in each country in the south china sea in order to help protect the marine life and the countries involved,
- d. Coral Reef Rehabilitation
- i. Utilization of Wildlife Conservation Society
 - 1. The society contributes their scientific, technical, and policy expertise to international discussions between governments,
 - 2. They currently manage over 500 conservation projects in over 60 countries worldwide,

3. The WCS has already successfully targeted and benefited 25% of the world's biodiversity and wildlife,

- ii. Procedures

1. Breeding and harvesting corals in tanks and transplanting them onto damaged reefs in the South China sea,

2. Cooperation

- a. Joint Resource Developments

- i. Past initiatives, such as the Philippines-Vietnam-China Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking (JMSU) in 2005, demonstrated the feasibility of joint development despite territorial disputes. The Malaysia-Thailand JDA, operational since 1990, covers 7,250 square kilometers and provides a stable framework for oil and gas extraction.
- ii. Revenue sharing from resource extraction would need to be fairly distributed, with 20-30% of initial profits likely allocated to administrative and operational costs. Over time, however, the development of these resources could generate billions in revenue, contributing to long-term economic stability for all parties involved.

- iii. China's Belt and Road Initiative has raised trade volumes by 21% between Asian countries from 2013-2024

- b. Bilateral negotiations

- i. To resolve disputes in the South China Sea, bilateral negotiations between claimant nations offer a practical and peaceful path, minimizing external interference, particularly from China. Such talks can focus on mutually agreed-upon fishing quotas, marine conservation efforts, and sustainable practices that protect both ecosystems and local livelihoods.
- ii. Bilateral talks offer distinct advantages over multilateral negotiations, particularly given ASEAN's inability to reach consensus on the issue, as seen with the stalled Code of Conduct (COC) negotiations between China and ASEAN over the last two decades.
- iii. Bilateral diplomacy reduces the risk of escalating tensions, as seen when direct talks between China and the Philippines led to a decrease in

hostilities compared to when the Philippines involved ASEAN or the U.S. China has resolved land border disputes with Russia and India through direct negotiations and signed joint development agreements on oil exploration with the Philippines in 2018.

c. Code of Conduct

- i. Maritime security to prevent military action from further escalating
- ii. Require peaceful resolution of territorial disputes before utilizing military action
- iii. Non-war military activities should be kept to a country's EEZ and not interfere with another country's EEZ
- iv. Financial and Economic Incentives such as preferential trade agreements and priority access to trade routes would be provided and funded by ASEAN
- v. Sanction Systems such as limited access to trade, suspension from joint development projects and reduced trade benefits for violators.

d. Confidence building measures

- i. Having a country's military groups train and work together in order to build trust between the groups along with calming the nerves of those who believe that there might be violence.

e. Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES)

- i. A multilateral agreement that increases naval cooperation by providing a forum to discuss maritime issues, leading to common understanding and possibly agreements
- ii. Done through navy safety procedures, a basic communication plan utilizing radios, and maneuvering instructions for naval ships and aircraft during unplanned encounters at sea,
- iii. The main claimants of the South China Sea, the Philippines, Vietnam, China, Brunei, and Malaysia have already been vocally open to the utilization of CUES.

f. Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

- i. The largest free-trade agreement and consists of negotiation for investments, strengthening interdependence amongst claimants,
 - ii. It enables small and medium enterprises, which makes up 90% of business establishments throughout the world, to leverage on the agreement and cope with challenges arises from globalization.
 - iii. According to a 2025 projection, the agreement is expected to enlarge the global economy by \$186 billion.
 - g. the East Asia Summit
 - i. partners meet to discuss political, security and economic challenges facing the region, and has played an important role in advancing closer regional cooperation. This will help move trade out of the conflict zones and revert back to the ideal trade conditions.
 - ii. Crisis #1
 - a. Joint Patrols
 - i. To foster security in the South China Sea, China proposes the creation of a Maritime Security Coordination Framework involving all claimant nations, such as the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Brunei. This framework will organize and manage joint patrols in contested waters, focusing on safety, monitoring, and the prevention of illegal activities.
 - ii. Neutral Facilitators: A neutral third-party body, such as the United Nations or ASEAN, will act as an observer to facilitate fair operations and ensure that no single nation dominates the initiative.
 - iii. In 2001, after the U.S.-China EP-3 incident, both sides engaged in diplomacy rather than escalating to military confrontation, aligning with NFU principles.
- 3. Crisis # 2
 - a. Military freezes
 - i. Stop military activities for a two-week period
 - b. Bilateral negotiations
 - i. Non-aggression pact that will force countries to agree to no new militarization within an area as well as putting boundaries over current

military operations including putting boundaries in place that specifically military can't pass.

c. Military removal

- i. Removal of military action of participating parties (e.g. China, Russia, US) in disputed area

d. Belt Road Initiative (BRI)

- i. Modern trade routes and serves as a key maritime route for trade between China and ASEAN nations.
- ii. Preserving key maritime route trade can foster cooperation between all countries part of BRI.