

# The World Stage

## 1. Diplomatic Relations

1.1 - Taiwan currently has diplomatic relations with just 15 UN Member States. They are:

Guatemala

Honduras

Nicaragua

Belize

Paraguay

Haiti

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The Holy See

Saint Lucia

Eswatini (formerly known as Swaziland)

Tuvalu

Nauru

Palau

Marshall Islands

Saint Kitts and Nevis

1.2 - Between 2016 and 2019, São Tomé and Príncipe, Panama, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, and the Solomon Islands all switched recognition from Taiwan to the PRC.

## 2. The United Nations

2.1 - Taiwan (as the Republic of China) left the United Nations in 1971 in protest at moves to allocate its seat on the UN Security Council to the PRC.

2.2 - Under **United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758**, the ROC's membership of all intergovernmental organisations linked to the UN was withdrawn. This resolution has no legal weight on the status of Taiwan as determined by international law.

2.3 - While the democratic Taiwanese Government represents the **23.8 million Taiwanese citizens, they are still not represented in any UN body to this day.** Taiwanese passport holders are not permitted to enter UN buildings, even as tourists, and the Taiwanese media is barred from all UN-related events.

### 3. The World Health Organisation

3.1 - Taiwan was not able to participate in the World Health Organisation (WHO) or attend the World Health Assembly (WHA) between 1971 and 2009.

3.2 - Taiwan was to adopt observer status at the WHO using the name 'Chinese Taipei' from 2009 to 2016. While Taiwan had no voting rights, it was able to participate in discussions and share the benefit of its expertise. In 2016, the DPP came to power. The PRC insisted that recognition of the 1992 Consensus was a condition of retaining observation rights. The DPP refused and the WHO and WHA were lobbied into barring Taiwan's participation again.

3.3 - On 31st December 2019, the Taiwanese Government wrote to the WHO warning of human-to-human transmission of a highly contagious new strain of pneumonia in Wuhan, China. The correspondence was ignored because the WHO does not correspond with the ROC. In the G7 Joint Communiqué issued in 2021 after the summit at Carbis Bay in Cornwall, the leaders explicitly said, "We support Taiwan's meaningful participation in World Health Organisation forums and the World Health Assembly." This statement was ignored by the WHO and Taiwan was once again excluded.

### 4. The World Trade Organisation

4.1 - Taiwan acceded to the World Trade Organisation on 1st January 2002 under the official title of the "Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu (Chinese Taipei)". Taiwan was the 144th member of the WTO. It was allowed to join in this capacity after China had also been granted membership.

### 5. Facing Mislabeling, Confusion, and Locked Doors

5.1 - Taiwan is also currently barred from a wide range of other international organisations including some crucial bodies such as Interpol, UNESCO, and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

5.2 As the democratically elected representative government of a population of 23.8 million people, Taiwan's government should be playing a full role in many of these organisations. The key obstacle to Taiwan's participation is objections from the Peoples Republic of China to prevent Taiwan (ROC) from appearing or participating alongside it on any international platform in a manner that suggests it is a sovereign nation state. Accordingly, Taiwan participates but under different names on the world stage, outside of its formal diplomatic relations.



The Taiwan Policy Centre believes the UK position on Taiwanese participation should be to support membership where it is in the interests of the international community for Taiwan to be represented.

