

**Committee:** United Nations Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)

**Topic:** Crisis in the South China Sea

**Introduction:** The South China Sea is situated between many of the most densely most populated countries in earth, including existing superpowers like China, and many countries on the rise such as Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. These countries continue to claim islands and zones in the South China Sea which possess rich natural resources including energy, food (fish), and critical minerals. The United States further plays a compounding role in this conflict as it maintains economic interests in ensuring freedom of navigation and sea lines of communication, which has been challenged in recent years by China. The USA has responded with trade pacts + defense treaties with countries in the region, from historical allies like the Philippines and Indonesia to newfound allies such as Vietnam. The Chinese on the other hand believe this is gross interference by a party located on the other side of the world and impugns the national sovereignty of the People's Republic of China.

It is the role of the First Committee to fairly litigate this incredibly complex and vital issue. Peace in the South China Sea is important not only to the countries involved, but to global commerce writ large. Can you as the delegates of this committee find a path forward where no one else has?

**Links to help guide debate:**

- [BBC Overview](#)
- [Foreign Affairs](#)
- [Congressional Research Service](#)
- [People's Daily](#)
- [UN Security Council](#)
- [Yale Global \(2014\)](#)
- [Wikipedia](#)

**Tips for Delegates:**

- Your goal is to represent your country, not your own views.
  - Many countries hold views / treat people in ways that would be deemed problematic in the US. Under no circumstances will disrespect of other delegates be tolerated.
- Be constructive and collaborate – delegates will be rewarded based on their ability to work well with others
- Research well and prepare fact-based arguments with studies / evidence you can cite
- Be creative!