The “One China” policy at the UN
In 1971, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) was recognized as the only lawful representative of China. With Resolution 2758, the UN General Assembly “expelled” Taiwan (“the representatives of Chiang-Kai Shek”). China (PRC) considers Taiwan to be part of its territory insisting that Taiwan cannot be a UN member and that the UN has no right to interfere in this internal conflict.

Chinese Position on UN Reform
China measures the success of its UN policy in terms of its own socio-economic performance (“peaceful rise”). Mostly, it seems to see itself well served by the UN’s status quo. The country’s proposals for UN reform seem to serve mainly the strengthening of its own position. It fears a unipolar world, however, and, pointing at the USA, the Chinese Ambassador even “lashed out at ‘a tyranny of a minority in the council.’” While it tries to undermine the US’s ability to damage and contain China, it does not want to replace the US. Instead, it keeps a low profile. President Hu Jintaos ‘four nos’ (“no hegemonism, no power politics, no alliances and no arms race”) are seen to be at the heart of a new security policy that favors a multipolar world.

Most of the Millenium Development Goals will be reached in China. Primary education for all and the halving of extreme poverty have been reached
already thirteen years ahead of schedule.\(^{10}\) This is a big support to the global effort. China has founded an International Centre for Poverty Reduction as a contribution to the "Action against Hunger and Poverty" and it has made direct contributions to Least Developed Countries which reach from tariff and debt reductions to training measures. As a member of the Security Council, it is a member of the Peacebuilding Commission whose creation it supported (pledging US$ 3 million for the Peacebuilding Fund). China has participated in peacekeeping missions since 1989 and has founded the world’s biggest training centre for police peace missions.

**Human Rights Council**

China supported the creation of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and became a member of the Council. While this was met with considerable international skepticism,\(^{11}\) China pledged in its candidature letter for the HRC to improve the human rights situation (e.g., ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).\(^{12}\) Some see this as a step to improve China’s human rights record. China asked the HRC to put a priority focus on human rights abuses in international armed conflicts and asked the international community to fulfill their commitments to assist developing countries. According to Chinese thinking, enjoying human rights is a question of development and financial resources. In general, China ranks national sovereignty above human rights and opposes confrontational measures to enforce human rights. In practice, however, the country often acts pragmatically and did not resist when the SC decided to refer the situation in Darfur to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

**Security Council Reform**

While China favors a reform of the Security Council that leads to the inclusion of small and medium sized developing countries, especially those from Africa,\(^{13}\) it was clearly against the inclusion of Japan.

**Disarmament**

China has no biological and chemical weapons. Being a nuclear weapons state, it signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1992 and became a member of the Test Ban Treaty in 1996. But it abstained from the vote on the total elimination of nuclear weapons. China voted for the Mine Ban Treaty and supports the UN program to combat illicit trafficking in small arms. China has abstained in the vote on the Arms Trade Treaty, citing economic considerations and saying that more time was needed. Amnesty International complains that China often exports arms to countries where there is a risk of serious abuse.\(^{14}\)

**Environment**

As energy consumption is growing rapidly, China has started to participate actively in the UN Commission on Sustainable Development’s discussions on renewable energies. The country convened the Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference in 2005 and pledged to increase the share of renewable energies to 10% until 2020 (from 3% in 2003). China has ratified the Kyoto Protocol, but it is not required to reduce carbon emissions. China insists that the gas emissions level is a multiplication of its per capita emission and its population. As China has enacted population control measures while maintaining low emissions per capita\(^{15}\) it claims it should be considered a benefactor to the world environment.

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