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Topic: The Question of the South China Sea

The Political Committee,

Bearing in mind that the South China Sea is home to over 30,000 small islands and reefs, including the strategic Paracel and Spratly islands,

Noting that the United States Energy Information Agency estimates that there are 11 billion barrels of oil and 190 trillion cubic feet of natural hydrocarbon gas in deposits under its waters,

Bearing in mind that the South China Sea contains approximately 10% of the world's fisheries, which employ over 3 million people, thereby highly contributing to the global fish trade and economy,

Fully aware that in addition to being host to a multitude of natural resources, the South China Sea is an incredibly important trade route, through which over 5.3 trillion dollars worth of maritime trade passes annually,

Reaffirming The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982 which states that countries control the territorial waters 200 nautical miles from their shores, known as Exclusive Economic Zones, or EEZs,

Observing the People's Republic of China's claim of the 'nine dash line' as a territorial delimitation of 70% of the South China Sea that includes the Paracel Islands, the Spratly Islands, and various other areas including the Pratas Islands, the Macclesfield Bank and the Scarborough Shoal,

Deeply conscious that the conflicted areas in the South China Sea fall under many nations' EEZs such as The Republic of the Philippines, The Nation of Brunei, The Republic of China, The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Malaysia but that these nations must work together to define the borders of the overlapping EEZs,

Alarmed by the appearance of artificial islands built by nearly all claimants to areas of the South China Sea with the purpose of furthering their claims to the surrounding waters,

Deeply concerned by the potential loss of freedom of navigation for the global community in the region due to the growing tensions between surrounding nations, as evidenced by the 2016 incident between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America,

Deploring the harm to the environment of the South China Sea caused by destructive fishing practices, such as dynamite and cyanide fishing, and exacerbated by the conflict between the surrounding nations,

Desiring greater collaboration and diplomatic cooperation between countries of the South China Sea and a fair redistribution of lands and resources,

Recognizing the steps that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has taken towards resolving this issue,

Welcoming peaceful multilateral negotiations in order to secure stability in the region by reducing tensions and maintaining the balance of power between the nations surrounding the South China Sea.

1. Calls for a summit of ASEAN nations and the People's Republic of China to take place to find a solution to the claims of territory in the South China Sea with the following guidelines,
 - a. To be held in the UN Headquarters in New York,
 - b. To be presided over by the UN Secretary General,
 - c. All parties with a claim to territory within the South China Sea to be represented and all with equal voting rights,
 - d. Discussion addresses conflicts such as, but not limited to:
 - i. The ownership of the Spratly Islands
 - ii. Overlapping controversies in countries' Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) set by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS),
 - iii. The distribution of natural resources,
 - e. The final agreement will be passed to the General Assembly to gain recognition in international law;
2. Requests all nations, especially those in the South China Sea dispute, to focus on maintaining a safe and free area for international shipping with measures such as but not limited to:

- a. Requesting that all nations adhere to restrictions placed on artificial islands in EEZs in accordance with Article 60 of the UNCLOS,
 - b. Suggesting the Security Council condemn all nations that attempt to restrict free commercial trade ships,
 - c. Deciding on an international trade route that satisfies all parties involved, in co-operation with the WTO, secured by the countries whose EEZ the route passes through;
3. Calls upon all member states to respect existing international treaties of which they are signatories relating to shipping and international waters, especially with regards to UNCLOS, and furthermore to the region of the South China Sea, including, but not limited to:
 - a. The referral of the matter to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) to decide upon maritime borders,
 - b. The urging of the Security Council to ratify and enforce ITLOS's judgement,
 - c. The guaranteeing of right of passage to international non-military shipping in all waters outside 200 nautical miles from member states' coasts regardless of the areas claimants,
 - d. The introduction of fishing quotas and the banning of ecologically destructive methods of fishing, such as dynamite and cyanide fishing, to preserve fish stocks for all member states in and around the South China Sea;
4. Urges members of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China to hold a moratorium of island expansion in the South China Sea through artificial methods such as but not limited to:
 - a. Building on existing rock outcrops and reefs,
 - b. Pumping sand from the sea floor;
5. Further calls for the creation of the United Nations Artificial Island Monitoring Committee (UNAIM) responsible for the prevention of:
 - a. Changes in the ecosystem resulting in:
 - i. The pollution of the waters,
 - ii. Detrimental consequences to the marine life,
 - b. The creation of military installations outside of the country it is claimed by,
 - c. Militarization of artificial islands owned by all states neighboring the South China Sea.