

A Case Study on U.S. Assistance in Support of Taiwan's Participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization

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Abstract

International space and participation are salient issues to the general public and government in Taiwan. Taiwan has sought to rejoin the United Nations (UN) with different approaches since 1993, but these efforts have yet to result in Taiwan's full participation due to the constraints put forth by the Charter of the UN, complicated relations between Taiwan and other parties including China, and Taiwan's domestic politics. In recent years, Taiwan shifted its strategy to "meaningful participation," and the government is willing to be flexible on the conditions under which Taiwan participates in inter-governmental organizations. Since 2009 Taiwan has continued its attendance to the World Health Assembly (WHA), and was invited as a guest to the General Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in 2013.

Due to Taiwan's unique status in world politics, support from the U.S. is crucial to Taiwan's participation in international organizations. Based upon the case study on Taiwan's participation in ICAO in 2013, this paper argues that the U.S. as a facilitator helped Taiwan garner support from the international community and resulted in China's acquiescence. Taiwan's strategy for future participation in international organizations for which statehood is not a prerequisite is further discussed.

Key Words: U.S.-Taiwan relations, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), meaningful participation, Cross-Strait relations