



- Press Release -

## **Taiwan's Candidature to the United Nations**

### **UNPO Supports Taiwan's Application to the Organisation's General Assembly**

*The Hague, 12 September 2007* – Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) is an international membership organisation based in The Hague, the Netherlands, representing more than sixty Member groups and 200 million people worldwide. Its Members are indigenous peoples, minorities, and unrecognised or occupied territories who have joined together to protect and promote their human and cultural rights, to preserve their environments, and to find nonviolent solutions to conflicts which affect them. Its aim is to provide these Members with a voice in international fora, from which they are normally excluded. Taiwan is a founding Member of UNPO Member and for too long now has the international community turned a cold shoulder to the 23 million habitants of Taiwan. Their demographic and economic size, paired with its political culture, makes Taiwan a stately embodiment of human dignity and accomplishment.

The UN Charter states that the mission of the organisation is “to reaffirm faith in the fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women, and of nations, large and small.” This remarkable commitment to the principles of universality, for all nations and peoples, is at the core of the international system created by the establishment of the UN sixty years ago calling on “all other peace-loving states” to join the Organization.

In this respect, the question regarding the participation and representation of the democratic State of Taiwan to the UN still remains unsolved and represents an unjust exclusion of Taiwan's governmental agencies, civil society organisations as well as individuals in the activities of the UN and related bodies; de facto depriving the people of Taiwan of their fundamental right to benefit from and contribute to the duties of the UN.

Considering the important role played by Taiwan in several international organisations, notably the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the full diplomatic relations with 23 UN Member States, including 120 embassies, general consulates and representative offices worldwide, clearly demonstrates that Taiwan is an effective, democratic and dynamic sovereign state.

Taiwan's long-standing commitment to the UN principles, UN Charter, international law and substantive cooperation within the International Community warrants substantial consideration by the UN Member States. UNPO considers the time ripe to call for justice and equal rights and to end the exclusion of Taiwan and its people from the United Nations, and therefore urges the international community to withdraw the discrimination of Taiwan by the UN system and restore the right of Taiwan to a seat and full participation at the UN.

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