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MODEL UNITED NATIONS

WHAT IS A POSITION PAPER?

A Position Paper is a crucial preparatory document written by a delegate before attending a Model United Nations conference. It serves as a clear articulation of the official stance, policies, and priorities of the country or delegation that the delegate represents.

A Position Paper in the committee talks about:

- What your country thinks about the agenda?
- What your country believes should be done next?
- What your country has already done about it?

This document allows delegates to organise their research and express their country's stance in a structured and formal manner, helping the Executive Board understand how well a delegate has researched or if prepared for the committee.

Position Papers are submitted to the Executive Board before committee sessions officially begin.

IMPORTANCE OF POSITION PAPER

- **Clarifies National Position:**

Illuminates the country's stance on the subject matter.

- **Serves as a Reference:**

Facilitates informed debates and discussions.

- **Enhances Public Speaking Confidence:**

Boosts confidence in presenting arguments in committee sessions..



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- **Demonstrates Our Research And Preparation:**

Represents seriousness and well-researched preparation to the Executive Board

LENGTH AND INSTRUCTIONS

- A Position Paper is generally 1 to 2 pages long.
- The standard font used is Times New Roman.
- Font size: 12 for the main body text.
- Formal and neutral language should be used.

Prior to commencing the Position Paper, delegates are advised to meticulously review the Background Guide instructed by the committee heads. It serves as a comprehensive resource, clarifying the agenda, crucial terminology, and the anticipated trajectory of the discussion.

MAIN COMPONENTS OF A POSITION PAPER

A Position Paper must include the following elements:

- An introduction to the committee and topic.
- Historical relevance related to the agenda.
- National laws and policies of the country to be discussed .
- Information on international actions and cooperation.
- Practical recommendations or solutions.

FORMAT AND STRUCTURE OF A POSITION PAPER

A position paper is typically structured into four distinct paragraphs, each fulfilling a specific function.



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1. Heading

The heading appears at the top of the document and includes:

- Name of the Country
- Name of the Committee
- Topic or Agenda
- National Flag (optional)

2. First Paragraph – Opening Statement (3–4 sentences)

This paragraph presents the problem and elucidates its significance. It should include:

- What is your country's background or experience with this issue?
- Why is this topic important for the committee to discuss?
- Why does your country consider this issue significant?

This paragraph establishes the overall tone of the entire Position Paper.

3. Second Paragraph – National Actions (5–8 sentences)

This paragraph concentrates on the domestic actions undertaken by your country. It should explain:

- Steps already implemented at the domestic level
- Your country's national policy related to the issue.
- Laws, programmes, or measures taken to tackle the problem.



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4. Third Paragraph – International Actions (5–8 sentences)

This section sheds light on your country’s significant contributions to the global stage. It should include:

- Treaties, conventions, or UN resolutions your country has signed, supported, or attended.
- How your country has addressed the issue internationally.
- Membership in international organisations working on the issue.
- Participation in international efforts or cooperation.

5. Fourth Paragraph – Recommendations and Way Forward (4–5 sentences)

This is the solution-oriented part of the Position Paper. It should include:

- How does your country envision cooperation in the future?
- What actions does your country request the international community to undertake?
- What is the appropriate role of international organisations, such as the United Nations, in global affairs?

CONCLUDING

- **Paragraph 1:** Why does this problem matter?
- **Paragraph 2:** What has your country done at the domestic level?
- **Paragraph 3:** What has your country done internationally?
- **Paragraph 4:** What does your country hope to achieve next?