

# Model UN: Position Paper

General Assembly Regional Committee: African Union  
Addressing regional instability in the Sudan and South Sudan

## Writing a position paper

### Introduction:

Writing a position paper might seem a daunting task, especially for new delegates. But with plenty of research, you will find that writing a position paper will be straight forward and very useful in preparation for the conference.

Position papers are usually about one page long (typed size 10/11 font). Your position paper needs to include a brief introduction about why the instability in this region is an important issue in your country, followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on the regional instability with its associated problems and issues. A good position paper will provide facts and statistical information about the regional instability and its impacts in your country and also state what action your country is already taking on the issue. Finally you will put forward suggested strategies for the international community.

#### 1. A **brief introduction** to your country and its history concerning the topic and committee:

- how the **issue** affects your country
- Your country's **policies** with respect to the issue and your country's **justification** for their policies
- **quotes** from your country's leader's about the issue
- **statistics** to support your country's position on the issue

#### 2. **Actions** taken by your government on the issue

- **conventions** and **resolutions** that your country has signed or ratified that relate to the issue

#### 3. UN actions that your **country supported** or **opposed**

- what your country believes should be done to address the issue

#### 4. What your country would like the **international community** to do

- what your could **achieve** in the committee's resolution
- how the positions of **other countries** affect your **country**

### An overview of 'Dos and Don'ts'

**Addressing your assigned country's position paper**

All of your research on your assigned country and about poverty will come together in the form of a position paper. This position paper will prepare you for your Committee at the Conference.

**Paragraph 1 – A brief statement on why your nation feels the topic of eliminating poverty is important nationally and globally**

**Paragraph 2 – Addresses country's actions on a national level. Is poverty an issue for your country? If so, how? Has the government addressed the issue?**

**Paragraph 3 – Addresses the country's action on an international level. What resolutions/ declarations has your country signed? What is your involvement in the Millennium Development Goals being achieved?**

**Paragraph 4 – States the actions that your country would like to see the United Nations to take on the issue of poverty**

An excellent position paper includes:

Since the position paper is written from your assigned country's point of view, it's back to the do's and don'ts

Don't	Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write in the first person "I" – it's your country's position.</li> <li>• Write information you have learned about the country that is not relevant to the topic.</li> <li>• Speak about your country "negatively" and in the view of the other countries.</li> <li>• Support actions that are not in your country's position, even if you agree with the actions personally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use country name or "the government of..."</li> <li>• Use statistics, facts and history as they relate to the topic being discussed.</li> <li>• Stick with your country's policy. Even if a country has signed the Convention of the Right of the Child yet uses child soldiers, your country's official policy might be that they care about the rights of children</li> <li>• Be true to your country's actions on the international level. If your country is not in agreement with a policy of increasing aid to developing countries, then the delegate must remain in the position of the country regardless of his/her personal beliefs</li> </ul>

Name of Country:  
Committee:  
Delegate name  
School:

<p><b>Introduction and importance of the topic</b></p> <p>1. Why is the issue of instability in the region important for your committee to address?</p> <p>2. What does your government believe the AU should do to maintain the ceasefire and the settlement of crucial unresolved issues?</p> <p>3. What steps can the AU take to ensure the peace-keeping mission carries out its mandate?</p> <p>4. What steps can AU take to demonstrate to the international community that they have the capacity and the political will to guarantee human rights across the region?</p> <p>4. Why is stability in the region an important issue for your country? The world?</p>		<p>Instability Ceasefire Border zone Oil Statelessness Justice Human rights abuses IDPs and refugees Neighbouring countries Monitor and support Peace stability Gender-based violence Millennium Development Goals Humanitarian relief Poverty reduction Clean sanitation projects Healthcare Education</p>
<p><b>National actions</b></p> <p>1. Has the instability in the region impacted upon your country or the African region?</p> <p>2. Do you have quotes from Government officials on the topic?</p> <p>3. What actions has your country taken on the issue on a national level?</p> <p>4. Have these actions been successful?</p> <p>5. What are your country's priorities for the region?</p>		<p>Legislation Freedom Participation Safety Education Government action Government initiative NAP (National Action Plan) NGOs Signatory Quotes from Government</p>
<p><b>International actions</b></p> <p>1. How has your country addressed the issue on an international level?</p> <p>2. What organisations that address this issue is your country a member of?</p> <p>3. What treaties and/or resolutions has your country supported on this issue?</p> <p>4. How has the AU worked with other organs of the UN or Security Council?</p>		<p>Regional /Multilateral / Bilateral Legally binding /Ratified United Nations Charter</p> <p>Security Council declarations <a href="http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=S/RES/2046%20%282012%29">http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=S/RES/2046%20%282012%29</a>.</p> <p>UNISFA declarations <a href="http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unisfa/resolutions.shtml">http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unisfa/resolutions.shtml</a></p>
<p><b>Recommended actions</b></p> <p>1. What would your country like AU to do to address this problem of regional instability?</p> <p>2. What role or responsibility should the UN take?</p> <p>3. Which urgent action needs to be taken? How will these actions be funded?</p> <p>4. Should the AU take its own course of action in light of the rejection of the ICC warrant?</p>		<p>Building institutional capacity, cooperation Access to education Access to healthcare Freedom and economic protection Tackle damaging cultural practices Political engagement Strengthen laws Economic and security arrangements Border disputes Rights of the nationals Material support to both states</p>