

# Model UN: Position Paper

## 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 committee issue is an important issue in your country, followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position of the topics raised in the **committee background guide** and associated problems and issues. A good position paper will provide facts and statistical information about the issue 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'

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

- Write in the first person "I" – it's your country's position.
- Write information you have learned about the country that is not relevant to the topic.
- Speak about your country "negatively" and in the view of the other countries.
- Support actions that are not in your country's position, even if you agree with the actions personally.

#### Do

- Use country name or "the government of..."
- Use statistics, facts and history as they relate to the topic being discussed.
- 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
- 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

Name of Country:  
Committee:  
Delegate name  
School:

1-2 pages

<p><b>Introduction and importance of the topic</b></p> <p>1. Why is the issue of ----- important for your committee to address?</p> <p>2. What does your government believe the United Nations should do to resolve this issue?</p> <p>3. What role and responsibility does the UN have in ensuring this issue is tackled?</p> <p>4. Why is ----- an important issue for your country and region?</p> <p>5. What are your country's priorities for the region?</p>		
<p><b>National actions</b></p> <p>1. Is ----- an issue in your country?</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>Legislation Freedom Participation Safety Education Empowerment Government action Government initiative NAP (National Action Plan) NGOs</p>
<p><b>International actions</b></p> <p>1. How has your country addressed the issue on an international level?</p> <p>2. What treaties and/or resolutions has your country supported on this issue?</p> <p>3. Have you ratified key conventions?</p> <p>4. How effective are the international actions in tackling this issue?</p> <p>5. What remains to be done in the international community?</p> <p>6. What organisations that address this issue is your country a member of?</p>		<p>Regional treaties Multilateral treaties Bilateral treaties Legally binding Ratified Existing international law United Nations Charter Universal Declaration of Human Rights International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Convention on the Rights of the Child CEDAW</p>
<p><b>Recommended actions</b></p> <p>1. What would your country like to see the international community do to address this problem?</p> <p>2. What role or responsibility should the international community take to address this problem?</p>		<p>Building institutional capacity, cooperation Access to education Access to healthcare Freedom and economic protection Tackle damaging cultural practices Political engagement Strengthen laws</p>

Good luck from all at GC: London 2015