

# 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 arms trade is an important issue in your country, followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on arms with associated problems and issues. A good position paper will provide facts and statistical information about the arms trade 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?**

An excellent position paper includes:

**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**

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 poverty and the important for your committee to address?</p> <p>2. What are the causes and effects of poverty in the world today?</p> <p>3. What does your government believe the United Nations should do to eradicate poverty?</p> <p>4. What are your country's priorities for the region?</p>		<p><u>Key terms that may prove useful:</u></p> <p>Poverty          Deprivation          Shelter          Sanitation          Development          Healthcare          HIV / AIDS          Malaria          TB          Malnutrition          Stunting          Education          Illiteracy          Environment          Agriculture          Rural          Urban          Assets          Inheritance          Land ownership          Conflict          Climate change          Discrimination          Employment          Empowerment          Globalisation          Governance          Human rights abuses          Gender-based violence          Denief          Infringed          Violated</p>
<p><b>National actions</b></p> <p>1. Is poverty an issue in your country? How does it affect development? What are its causes and effects?</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? Have these actions been successful? What challenges remain?</p> <p>6. What are your country's committee priorities?</p>		<p><u>Writing about international action</u></p> <p>Millennium Development Goals          Legislation          Freedom          Participation          Empowerment          Government action          Government initiative          NAP (National Action Plan) NGOs          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          Building institutional capacity, cooperation          Access to education          Access to healthcare          Freedom and economic protection          Tackle damaging cultural practices          Political engagement          Strengthen laws</p>
<p><b>International actions</b></p> <p>1. What organisations that address this issue is your country a member of?</p> <p>2. How has your country addressed the issue on an international level?</p> <p>3. What treaties and/or resolutions has your country supported on this issue?</p> <p>4. Have you ratified key conventions that aim to eradicate poverty?</p> <p>5. How effective have international actions been?</p> <p>5. What goals remain to be achieved?</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>		

Good luck from all at GC: London 2013