

## POSITION PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

### What is a position paper?

A position paper is a brief policy statement in which you will lay out the perspectives of your assigned country or organization in relation to the topics discussed, and suggest solutions that ought to be considered for a resolution.

This paper therefore has a dual purpose: On the one hand, you can organize your research, and on the other hand, all other committee members have the opportunity to learn about the standpoint of your assigned country. Reading the papers thus facilitates later debating and identifying your 'allies'.

### Structure and content

A complete position paper should contain the following parts:

The **position of the country/organisation** should present the history of the country regarding the topic, the issues it experiences, and the action it has taken, i.e. all relevant policies and the reasons for which they have been adopted. You should outline the approach your country takes both internally and externally, so you need to consider government action as well as bilateral/international treaties that have been ratified or not.

In this context, you should also show how your position is affected by other countries and organizations, and how you have worked with them before.

After that, you should suggest **policy proposals** to solve the issue at hand. These can be inspired by your country's domestic approach, but they should focus on measures to be taken on an international level, more specifically within your committee. These proposals can later be included in a resolution, so it is important that they correspond to your government policy and that they remain realistic.

All the information included in the paper needs to be backed by evidence (statistics, UN publications, government papers). **Plagiarism is strictly prohibited.**



### General features

A position paper should not be longer than one page per topic. It has to be kept simple and precise. **Please use the template.**

Footnotes or a concise bibliography are mandatory.

### Useful sources

- Carefully read the **study guide** written by your chairs and refer to the **suggested reading** provided in this guide. This document should guide you throughout your entire research, especially regarding the different aspects of the topic.
- It is crucial to know your country/organisation, its history, its political structure and its international position to better understand its opinions and proposals.
- Check **official government websites and publications** of your country, or the website of your organization, to find out more about your policy. Statements made at the UN can also help.
- Use **newspapers and news websites** for background information on the topic and on your government's policy.
- Regarding **policy proposals**, it is sometimes difficult to find direct information on these, so you will sometimes need to infer possible proposals from your government's general policy. You can also propose innovative solutions or take on UN or NGO suggestions, as long as they remain compatible with your government's policy.