

POSITION PAPER GUIDE

Adapted from OxIMUN 2010 Position Paper Guide

WHAT IS A POSITION PAPER?

In preparation for most international MUN Conferences, it will be required for all delegates to submit a position paper on each of the topics that they will be debating. A position paper is a brief statement of the perspective of the country you are representing in regards to the topic(s) in your committee.

The purpose of the position paper is two-fold. Not only does it allow the delegates an opportunity to clearly organize their research and define their country's policies, but it also permits other delegates to quickly determine their fellow committee members' stance on a topic (if they are published in advance of the conference). So if you are wondering if you can ally with a certain country or if what another said was really in line with his or her nation's foreign policy, you can check with the position paper!

WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A POSITION PAPER?

Header

The main purpose of the position paper is to establish a country's foreign policy on a certain topic. Therefore, the bulk of the paper should be based on the research that each delegate will have done on that topic. There are, however, a few essential technical parts of a position paper. Before each topic, there should be four lines of information formatted in the following manner:

- Committee:
- Topic:
- Country:
- School/University:

Body

The rest of the text will be the information on your country's foreign policy; that being said, the task of condensing a nation's official position on any topic into a one page document can be quite daunting. For that reason, delegates must be concise and careful when selecting information to include. Be sure to take into consideration the second purpose of the position paper: allowing other delegates to quickly gain an understanding on your country's position in order to look for allies or predict your actions within the committee. Thus, try not to bog down the paper with mundane detail. Instead, focus what you feel your country believes to be the most important information.

Here are a few suggestions of what might be included:

- The names of any international agreements relevant to the topic signed by your nation: conversely, if your nation has not signed an important agreement for specific reasons, the rationale for this might also be included. This will immediately allow countries to determine if your foreign policies are congruent based on their status in regards to the agreement.
- The details of any topic-oriented international organizations of which your country is a member – another easy way to determine alliances.
- A brief description of how the problem addressed within the topic has affected your nation.
- A brief description of any programs or actions taken by your nation's government and/or government-approved NGOs and IGOs in regards to the problem.
- How your country would like to see the questions posed by the topic (especially those found within the committee guide) addressed in a resolution.

The most important thing to remember is to be concise and accurate – there's nothing worse than another delegate questioning the accuracy of your own foreign policy!

How long should a position paper be?

The usual length for each topic's position paper is half to an entire page.

WHEN SHOULD IT BE TURNED IN?

Position Paper deadline will be communicated in due time on the ZuMUN website. Details will also be provided by the ZuMUN secretariat to head-delegates and single delegates at the time of country and committee assignments.

EXAMPLES

Terrorism in DISEC by Vince Moens and Colin von Negenborn (WorldMUN 2010)

Committee: Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

Topic: Terrorism

Country: Kingdom of Denmark

University: Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ)

Convinced by the fact that terrorism is a worldwide threat to the international community which is not rooted in specific, clearly bordered regions, Denmark strongly believes the crucial issue of counter-terrorism can only be tackled by the United Nations' body as a whole. Cooperation and collaboration, aiming at but not limited to the suppression of financing of terrorism, increasing public awareness and education as well as monitoring of terroristic organizations, are the key to an effective approach to make this world a safer place. As terrorism does not know any borders, does not differ soldier from child and will not flinch from any politically or religiously motivated acts of violence, our efforts must be borderless as well.

Denmark greatly favors former Secretary General Kofi Annan's principled, comprehensive 5 D's plan as a global strategy for fighting terrorism. It furthermore sees the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy from 2006 (as part of the UN Actions to Counter Terrorism) as a landmark decision as it offers its member states the broad-based, long-term framework needed not only to thwart and respond to terrorist attacks, but to alter socio-economic conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and to the violent radicalization of local populations. Addressing these conditions must be an inherent and vital component of a successful strategy to defeat terrorism.

The linkage of traditional development aid for third and second world countries with the fight against terrorism is what Denmark believes to be the crucial point of a fruitful, sustainable effort by the international community to curtail terroristic acts. Denmark once more would like to highlight its previously presented study looking at these interlinkages, entitled Study to Identify Good Practices of Development Assistance in Support of Building Counter-Terrorism Capacity in Developing Countries. Amongst other points, it concludes that international cooperation in combating terrorism can only have impact if measures are translated into national policies and plans. The community needs to be aware that including counter terrorism capacity building as an aspect of development programs is a delicate but nevertheless highly important task.

The present hesitation to combine elements of development and security needs to be overcome. Key organizations of both facets - such as the UNODC and UNDP on the economical side, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) on the military side - must therefore continue their efforts to facilitate dialogue on this development-

security nexus at both the national and international level. Further implementing the inter-linkages outlined in this paper is what Denmark hopes to be the achievement of the resolution to be drafted.

Narcoterrorism in DISEC by Nora Ernst and Edouard de Watteville (WorldMUN 2011)

Committee: Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

Topic: Narcoterrorism

Country: Republic of India

University: Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich)

Narcoterrorism poses one of the most substantial threats to modern world security and peace. The Republic of India strongly believes that quickly realized and efficiently used measures have to be elaborated with the attempt to tackle this international problem as soon as possible. In order to achieve this goal, the United Nation should work as a consolidated front and try not to lose precious time on self-oriented countries issues. The impact of narcoterrorism is worldwide noticeable, devastating and does not differentiate much one to another. Therefore the best possible endeavors have to be used to fight this issue, supported by all sides, in order to make our world a better place.

Traffic of illegal drugs is one of the main funding means of terrorist groups. This additional income leads to further empowering of these groups, not only by strengthening their local domination but also by giving them the opportunity for better training, and to finance equipment to strike worldwide. In general, it can be said that the organization of terroristic groups has drastically improved over the past decades, up to a point that even enables them to destabilize secure political systems.

As a country which is highly affected by narcoterrorism due to its particular geographic position, India fights in the front line in order to reduce drug traffic and terrorism. Thus India has ratified the three UNODC treaties referring to limitation of drug traffic, *Single Convention of Narcotic Drugs* of (1961), to the control of psychotropic substances, *Convention on Psychotropic Substances* (1971), and to drug traffic and money laundering, *United Nations convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic Substances* (1988) in early times already.

The Republic of India strongly suggests that a clear definition of narcoterrorism has to be found in order to establish a strong basis for further dealing with the issue. It is obvious that a separate view on drug traffic and terrorism is not sufficient anymore in the present-day world. Therefore it is the obligation of the United Nations to officially define the complex combination of terrorism funding and drug traffic.

Amongst other points, India believes that the solutions provided by the United Nation in order to tackle narcoterrorism have to directly involve governments of the affected nations. In fact, they should always be intensively involved in the solution finding process. Obligations to write frequent feed-back reports in order to control corruption would be an opportunity which needs to be discussed.

Furthermore, India believes that a case-by-case study of instances of narcoterrorism should be considered, in order for specific and local characteristics to be taken into account. India also conceives a solution finding on the base of needs and wills of the affected farmers. An effective and promising long-term solution is not a realistic outcome if there is no dialogue established with local population. This would lead to a more accurate understanding of sources and reasons of drug production and traffic by the United Nations. Obviously this is an indispensable requirement for constructive discussions, which will tackle problem by its roots.

Bibliography:

- Ernst Nora and de Watteville Edouard (2011), Position Paper for WorldMUN 2011 Disarmament and International Security Committee
- ETH Model United Nations (2011), How to write a Position Paper
- Moens Vince and von Negenborn Colin (2010), Position Paper for World 2010 Disarmament and International Security Committee
- Oxford International Model United Nations (2010), Position Paper Guide