

Position paper

Position papers are of utmost importance as they allow the Executive Board to roughly understand each delegates' capability, and the delegate's views on the matter. These position papers must be submitted on time and failure to do so will result in **EXEMPTION** from the award process. Extensions shall only be granted under extreme circumstances. The following guidelines should be adhered to, to write an effective paper that insightfully deals with the sensitive issues of the crisis at hand.

1. Begin the 1st paragraph with a brief history of the topic to introduce the conflict in your words. Write about how your country is related to the agenda, if it is, and why you think the conflict emerged to begin with.

2. Expand your body to talk about the current situation and what your nation plans to do about it. This is a good place to include any statistics and specific scenarios that may be critical to the agenda. Write about the various aspects of the issue to be dealt with and how these issues have impacted humanity.

3. The 3rd paragraph or section is by far the most important section because it allows delegates to introduce solutions to combat the problems. Be creative, but at the same time, realistic. Write about humanitarian aid, financial help, social programs, rescue operations etc.

When writing a position paper, delegates must identify:

→ The conflicts and issues that must be addressed by the committee.

→ The country's vested interests or concerns in the area relevant to the topic and why.

→ A concise solution that would help overcome the problem with much more ease.

A delegate's position paper also must contain the following:

→ The country's stance/policy on the topic.

→ The country's interpretation of the incident/topic, e.g.: Violence directed towards another individual or group may be perceived as an act of self-defense or an act of aggression.

→ The country's foreign relations with the countries that are under the scanner, and how does that alter the stance of the country.

→ Possible solutions that can deal with the conflicts and issues mentioned above.

Position papers for all committees are due by the 20th of April, 11:59 PM, and must be emailed to the committees in the email IDs as listed below:

1. DISEC: disecsmun2019@gmail.com
2. AU 2016: ausmun2019@gmail.com
3. OHCHR: ohchrsmun2019@gmail.com
4. OIC: oicsmun2019@gmail.com
5. AIPPM: aippmsmun2019@gmail.com
6. Politburo: politburosmun19@gmail.com
7. UNCA Journalists:

uncasmun2019@gmail.com (Please refer to the background guide for pre conference material that needs to be submitted by journalists)

Please note that the Cabinet of Yemen does not require position papers.

Sample Position Paper

Committee: The United Nations Security Council

Topic: The Spratly Islands Dispute

Country: The Kingdom of Spain

School: Sanskriti School, New Delhi

In 2002, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China first came together to agree upon a declaration on the code of conduct, in a region rife with tension and further complicated by fierce nationalistic rhetoric and historical sentiment. The conflict seemed all but diffused and an era of relative peace and harmony in Asia, imminent. However, optimism over the economic and political implications of the declaration has proven to be premature, as provocative unilateral action and undue aggression continue to dominate the region. The core principles of the declaration appear to have been forgotten as claimant parties continue to stake their claim over the region in a multitude of ways including the rather controversial land reclamation and installation of structures in the islands, in an attempt to strengthen existing claims of national sovereignty. In such a scenario, armed conflict appears inevitable, the possibility of which threatens global trade, commerce and most importantly, the lives of the inhabitants of the South China Sea.

Having championed the purposes and principles of the United Nations since its very inception in 1945 and as a close ally and trade partner of countries involved in the conflict, the situation in the Spratly Islands is of deep concern and extreme importance to the Kingdom of Spain. The Treaty of Paris, an extraordinary compromise on our part, did not conclude that the Spratly Islands were a part of the Philippines. Indeed, it is through the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that Philippines has acquired the legal and prudential means to claim the islands and reefs lying within its 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone. The Philippine's strict adherence to international law and established norms has further been recognised by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague which decreed the claims of the People's Republic of China to be illegitimate and unlawful. Spain is of the strong belief, that both this verdict and the precedent the court chose to set, with its reward of the Philippines, must be considered to determine legitimacy of claims in the region. As a member of the European Union, a high contracting party to the Treaty on Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, the Kingdom of Spain advocates the ideals embodied in it, those of the pacific settlements of disputes, the renunciation of the threat or use of force and effective cooperation. In this role, Spain is fully committed to facilitate and foster goodwill and cooperation to achieve our goal of creating sustainable policies and ensuring long lasting peace and harmony.

The Kingdom of Spain believes that the UNCLOS represents a unique achievement in diplomacy and that the comprehensive guidelines provided by it play a pivotal role in determining the legality of various claims presented over the Spratly Islands. Ignoring the UNCLOS would thus set a dangerous precedent and undermine the importance of this defining document. Consistent with this belief Spain urges all claimant states to adhere strictly to UNCLOS and its provisions over various aspects of the conflict. Another issue of deep concern is the ever evolving military dynamic between countries in Southeast Asia. Past military encounters in the South China Sea have led to multiple parties incurring great damage, in the worst of which fundamental rights of innocent fishermen have been indiscriminately abused.

- In order to ensure the prevention of such future encounters the delegation of Spain recommends the establishment of direct communication channels between the naval forces of claimant states to share relevant information, exchange views and notify neighboring states about any military exercises taking place. Existing guidelines in the form of the International Maritime Organisation's Regulation for Preventing Collisions at Sea, Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea and the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement have largely been ignored due to their non binding nature and should be effectively implemented to limit the possibility of said encounters. Spain further suggests, in the same vein, that joint naval exercises be undertaken to promote regional cooperation and build confidence amongst claimants as well as uphold the principles of freedom of navigation.
- As in the past, the delegation of Spain reiterates the importance of Joint Development Agreements modeled on past arrangements for the mining and use of natural gas and crude oil reserves in the region. Consistent with parts XI and XII of the UNCLOS. Spain advocates the development of Joint

Marine Scientific Research and Joint Sustainable Development programs between regional states through forums such as the Shangri-La dialogue to allow states to fulfill their obligations for the conservation of the environment.

- Finally, the Kingdom of Spain recommends that the disenfranchised, politically and ethnically divided communities inhabiting the South China Sea be socially integrated to allow them to gain a sense of solidarity, unity and identity. Whilst the utilization of an international body or such an action being undertaken by a single state may be problematic considering the dispute over the sovereignty and ownership of the islands, this gap can be bridged by non governmental organizations, whose ground level impact can play a determining role.

The conflict before us may be highly volatile, complex and multifaceted, but Spain places its faith in the strength and commitment of the Security Council for it is our strong belief that there exists no conflict in the world that cannot be resolved through political will and diplomatic wisdom.

Working paper

A working paper is a rough draft of the solutions proposed by delegates in committee. This paper has no format, however, to save time, we recommend drafting working papers in draft resolution format. Working papers can be modified via caucus, and do not require formal amendments for the same.

It is important to note that all components of the working paper must have been brought up before committee itself.

Draft Resolution

A draft resolution is in essence, the output of your committee. It is the compilation of the solutions the delegates of a committee have deliberated upon. It is written as one long sentence, with the use of commas, colons and semi-colons wherever necessary.

A draft resolution begins with addressing the committee, followed by preambulatory clauses which define the aims as well as the considerations of the committee, and finally, go on to include operative clauses, which enable delegates to formally document their solutions in a “working” (i.e. operative and/or functional) manner

Characteristics of a draft resolution

- Preambulatory clauses must be italicized, and operative clauses must be numbered.
- Semicolons separate clauses.

- Clauses with sub-clauses must include a colon before the inclusion of sub-clauses.
- Sub-clauses must be bulleted alphabetically, and must be separated by commas.
- Sub-sub clauses must be bulleted with lower-case roman numerals. The clause, in its entirety, must conclude with a semicolon.
- The resolution must conclude with a full stop.
- All abbreviations must be included via an appendix attached at the end of the document, or listed once with the bracketed abbreviation, and consequently used after.

For example: You can mention the Millennium Development Goals in your second operative clause as “Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)” and continue to refer to them throughout the course of your draft as simply MDGs

Sponsors and signatories

Delegates may be involved in the creation of a draft resolution in the capacity of sponsors or signatories. Sponsors act as authors of a draft resolution, and are directly involved in writing it, whereas signatories simply wish to see the draft resolution be debated in committee.

All draft-resolutions must secure signatories equal to or greater than 1/5th of the strength of the committee, in order to be introduced, and require 2/3rd of committee support to be passed.

Sample Draft Resolution

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Resolution 1.1

Topic: Eliminating gender disparities in education by 2015

Sponsors: Saudi Arabia, Iran

Signatories: Jordan, Syria, Oman, Qatar, Venezuela, Cuba, Russian Fed.

The Economic and Social Council,

Alarmed by the lack of enforcement of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),

Cognizant of the importance of gender-neutral education standards by 2015 as a component of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Noting with approval those initiatives recently undertaken in Iraq and Afghanistan to ensure increased levels of education for future generations of women in the Middle East,

1. Suggests gender segregation remain in primary and secondary education where this structure is already in place;
2. Reaffirms that select nations do not segregate schools by gender, and is not proposing to divide said school systems;
3. Proposes additional specialization be provided in schools to:
 - a. Further acknowledge and utilize the differences between genders,
 - b. Alter secondary school curriculums to contain more concentrated courses including:
 - i. Female philosophy or psychiatric classes which would prove useful in raising a family and keeping a peaceful household,
 - ii. Improved male physical education and literate or scientific classes;
 - c. Help administer knowledge that will be useful in the everyday lives of both genders;
4. Recommends all school systems exercising gender segregation be kept balanced concerning materials and resources;
5. Further recommends a new observational system be set in place:
 - a. By the United Nations,
 - b. Made available to all nations already segregated by gender or wishing to do so,
 - c. To monitor the equal distribution of supplies, materials, teachers, and resources administered to all public male and female schools.

Amendments

Amendments are changes delegates wish to include in draft resolutions after their introduction in committee. There are two kinds, namely, friendly and unfriendly amendments.

Friendly amendments are amendments accepted by all the sponsors. These are not voted on and automatically included in the draft resolution.

Unfriendly amendments are amendments not accepted by at least one sponsor. These require the support of 1/5th of the committee to be considered, and a 2/3rd majority vote to be passed and incorporated into the draft resolution.

Amendments can be used to add, modify or delete clauses in a resolution, and therefore, can be classified into addition, modification and deletion amendments.

Given below is a sample amendment. Please note, amendments out of format will automatically be rejected by the dias.

TO: DIAS/EB

FROM: *insert country name*

AMENDMENT TO DR (*insert draft resolution number*)
ADDITION/MODIFICATION/DELETION

(body of amendment)

Body of amendment

In the case of addition, the delegate must write the new clause he/she wishes to add.

In the case of modification, the delegate must mention the number of the clause (and bullet of sub-clause/sub-sub clause if necessary) he/she wishes to modify. Also, the delegate must write the new version of the clause.

In the case of deletion, the delegate must mention the number of the clause (and bullet of sub-clause/sub-sub clause if necessary) he/she wishes to delete.

Please note that all paperwork barring position papers must be handwritten.

Sanskriti Model UN policy on plagiarism

Sanskriti Model UN encourages delegates to utilize their research efficiently and come up with innovative solutions. Delegates found to be plagiarizing any part of their contribution to the committee will be disqualified from competing for awards.

PREAMBULATORY PHRASES

Affirming
Alarmed by
Approving
Aware of
Bearing in mind
Believing

Confident
Contemplating
Convinced
Declaring
Deeply concerned
Deeply conscious

Deeply convinced
Deeply disturbed
Deeply regretting
Desiring Emphasizing
Expecting
Expressing its appreciation
Expressing its satisfaction
Fulfilling
Fully alarmed
Fully aware
Fully believing
Further deploring
Further recalling
Guided by
Having adopted
Having considered
Having considered further
Having devoted attention
Having examined
Having heard

Having received
Having studied
Keeping in mind
Noting with regret
Noting with deep concern
Noting with satisfaction
Noting further
Noting with approval
Observing
Reaffirming
Realizing
Recalling
Recognizing
Referring
Seeking
Taking into account
Taking into consideration
Taking note
Viewing with appreciation
Welcoming

OPERATIVE PHRASES

Accepts
Affirms
Approves
Authorizes
Calls
Calls upon (**only UNSC**)
Condemns
Confirms
Congratulates
Considers
Declares accordingly
Deplores
Designates
Draws the attention
Emphasizes
Encourages
Endorses
Expresses its appreciation
Expresses its hope
Further invites

Further proclaims
Further reminds
Further recommends
Further requests
Further resolves
Has resolved
Notes
Proclaims
Reaffirms
Recommends
Regrets
Reminds
Requests
Solemnly affirms
Strongly condemns
Supports
Takes note of
Transmits
Trusts

The sample draft resolution as well as the preambulatory and operative phrases have been taken from the Ivy League Model United Nations Conference guides on drafting resolutions.

Please note that at Sanskriti, we follow the Ivy League Model United Nations Conference procedure.