

How to write a Position Paper

At MainMUN 2018 we offer you the possibility to send us your position paper until February 1st and to receive feedback on the position paper from your respective chairs before the conference begins. Writing a position paper is not mandatory, but a good way to clarify and organize the policy statement of the country you represent.

What is a position paper?

A position paper is a paper where you state your country's position on the topics and its viewpoint on the topics on the agenda. It should contain international resolutions on these topics, your country's position and what your country wants to achieve regarding the topic on the floor. Writing a position paper is an opportunity for delegates to organize their research into a structured policy statement. The position paper has a definite general structure to it: four sections (totalling one page in length) each of which serves a clear purpose within the general context of the agenda.

In this document, we would like to clarify how to write a position paper. Writing a Position Paper is a four-step procedure. In the following section, we will explain what the different steps are.

Before you begin have a closer look on the Background Guide of your committee and especially on the guiding questions which are outlined there.

1. In the first section you should explain the problem itself. Why is it so important to discuss about it? What is the main issue of the topic? Outline the topic in general and provide an insight in the root of the topic. The opening section should be a brief summary of the current perception held towards the status quo.
2. This is followed by the second section, where you should write about the international achievements regarding this topic (e.g. Resolutions, national legislation, etc.). If your country has contributed to an important resolution as a sponsor or voted in favour of it, you can highlight that as well.

3. The third section should state what your country already achieved regarding this topic. Identify your country and outline how your country relates to the topic on the agenda. How has your country been affected?
4. The last section should describe what your country wants to achieve and what actions should be taken to solve this issue. Outline your state's particular interest in the issue being discussed, and begin to discuss what needs to be changed about the current interpretation of the situation. Cite the areas needing reform and provide suggestions as to how this revision process should be accomplished. Following this, you may want to focus on one area of particular concern for your country. Finally, a conclusion should be written to restate your country's position and sum up what you hope to achieve throughout the duration of the conference.

To sum up, a position paper is a good tool to prepare for the conference. Please be aware, that the position paper must be written from your country's perspective.