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ACADEMIC FORUM FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS - AUSTRIA

UNITED NATIONS YOUTH AND STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIA

GRAZ - INNSBRUCK - KLAGENFURT - LINZ - SALZBURG - VIENNA

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL
HISTORIC MODEL UNITED NATIONS
(HISTOMUN)

Guidelines for Position Papers

What is a Position Paper?

A Position Paper is a brief outline of a country's policy and interests concerning the topic at hand. It should contain a clear statement of the country's position on the topic and the reason behind it, and it should suggest a plan of action concerning the problem under consideration.

The Position Paper should be a product of the delegate's own research and should be written concise and up to the point.

Layout

Length	1 to 2 pages (A4)
Font Type	Arial
Font Size	11
Line Spacing	Single

Structure

Note that the below mentioned structure is only one way of writing Position Papers and is meant to guide the delegate's of HISTOMUN in their writing process.

At the beginning of your Position Paper you should state the following:

Committee
Country
Issue

In the first part of your Position Paper you should briefly specify the issue of your Committee.

- Why is this issue relevant? What is the scope of the problem? You can name statistics, the major players or the current developments concerning the issue under discussion.
- You can also mention the UN action that has been taken in this respect already. Which resolutions have been passed so far? Which conferences have been held? What is planned for the future?

In the second and most important part you should specify the official position of the country / organization you represent in respect to the issue under consideration.

- What is your country's / organization's policy on the topic? Why? What issues in this area are particularly relevant to the country / organization you represent? What action has your country / organization taken already?

- What are the possible solutions to the problems in this area? What is the type of resolution your country / organization tries to accomplish?

Remember that you have to represent the position of your country / organization in the Committee. Therefore you should not speak in the first person (“I”), but with the voice of the country you represent (for example: “Algeria suggests...” “Germany proposes....”). You may offer your own ideas for a solution of the problem, but always make sure that this ideas do not contradict with the policies of the country you represent.

as of 14 February 2007