Preparation Paper/Study Guide:

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

“Nuclear Terrorism”
Welcome

Chair: Selma Lacic

It is an incredible honor to welcome you to VIMUN 2016. My name is Selma Lacic and I come from Bosnia and Herzegovina. I am currently studying Law at the University of Vienna. My two passions in life are international law and humanitarian work. I hope that in the future I will do things that will bring satisfaction and happiness to many people around the globe. Let’s hope and work hard for the day when my (our) dream will come true. Today we live in a very dangerous world, facing challenges on a daily level. Many people, too many, are condemned to an endless circle of suffering. We all should take positive actions in our communities; we should act as a single world towards a single goal. With this being said, I am looking forward to the adventure we are about to embark on. You will have a great time with people from all around the world, you will meet many passionate, motivated and dynamic delegates.

Vice-Chair: Zana Sulojdzic

Honorable delegates, my name is Zana Sujoldzic. I am 23 years old and I come from Bosnia and Herzegovina. I have a bachelor’s degree in communications – journalism and public relations and soon I will have a master’s degree in Peace and Security studies at the faculty of Political Science. It is a great honor to be your co-chair, with these amazing young ladies. This is my first time as a co-chair, so I am looking forward to our cooperation. Beside terrorism, which is currently a very important and popular topic nowadays, I am very interested in human rights. I hope that in the end we will come to conclusions, which could help us to protect lives, because every person on this planet is equally important. See you soon!

Vice-Chair: Dominique Bauer

Honorable delegates, I am looking forward to being your co-chair in this year’s simulation of the IAEA Board of Governor on the topic of nuclear terrorism. To me, nothing is comparable to a session on nuclear security being held at the Vienna International Center, as both the CTBTO’s and the IAEA’s headquarters are being located here. I have a master’s degree in International Development and a bachelor’s degree in Arabic and Islamic Sciences and this will be my second VIMUN experience. Best of luck with your preparations and see you soon in Vienna!
1) Committee Introduction – The IAEA

The IAEA is unlike any other specialized organization of the United Nations family. Most of those agencies are set out to achieve a broad economic or social aim: better health, better education, more and better food, economic progress and stability, preservation and enhancement of our natural and cultural heritage, safer travel and transport by sea or air. The IAEA’s fortunes are uniquely geared to those of a single, relatively new and controversial technology that can be used either as a weapon or as a practical and useful tool, that has almost infinite capacity to inflict harm but that also has an almost infinite potential to generate the energy on which the world will increasingly depend on in the coming centuries to improve the conditions of life of its growing population.

The IAEA was created in response to the deep fears and great expectations resulting from the discovery of nuclear energy, fears and expectations that have changed profoundly since 1945 and continue to fluctuate.\(^1\) The IAEA consists of three policy-making bodies: the General Conference, the Board of Governors and the member states. The General Conference is the highest policy-making body of the IAEA. It is composed of representatives of all member states of the Agency. The General Conference meets annually, typically in September, to consider and approve the Agency’s program and budget and to decide on other matters brought before it by the Board of Governors, the Director General and member states.

The statute lays down the three primary goals of the agency as:

1. Promoting Science and Technology
2. Developing nuclear safety standards to protect human health and the environment against any form of nuclear threat (radiation, nuclear waste etc.)
3. The safeguard and application of the “three pillars” expressed in the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (Non-proliferation, disarmament and the right to peacefully use nuclear technology).

The Agency’s statute itself does not contain any obligation for a state to submit to Agency safeguards, except where it is a beneficiary of an Agency project. In the other two categories of cases listed in Article III, the reasons for accepting safeguards may either be the fact that the state concerned is a party to a legal instrument obliging them to accept such safeguards or has other reasons for doing so - most usually because it is the recipient of nuclear material or equipment and the state supplying this has made it a condition that Agency safeguards should be applied in connection with such items.\(^2\)

As an independent international organization related to the United Nations system, the IAEA’s relationship with the UN is regulated by a special agreement. For example, the General Conference’s annual reports are submitted to the UN General Assembly Plenary and, if related to issues of international security, to the Security Council. The IAEA’s work is closely linked to the Security Council (SC), which can request the Agency to take actions on issues concerning peace and security.

2) NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons)

Recognizing the threat that nuclear proliferation poses to global security, the international community has, over the course of more than fifty years, constructed a framework to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. Two of the most important elements of this framework are the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The NPT represents a balance of rights and obligations for States, differentiating between non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS) and nuclear-weapon states (NWS) (defined as States that manufactured and exploded a nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device prior to 1 January 1967, i.e. China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (for further details see http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/npt).

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\(^1\) History of the International Atomic Energy Agency, First Forty Years by David Fischer http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/Pub1032_web.pdf

\(^2\) Sanders, “A Short History of Nuclear Non-Proliferation,” p. 11.
The IAEA has a specific verification role under Article III of the Treaty as the international safeguards inspectorate. It also serves as a multilateral channel for facilitating transfers of nuclear technology for peaceful applications to its member states in accordance with its statute.\(^3\)

### 3) The Issue of Nuclear Trade

International trade in nuclear technology, equipment and materials is fundamental to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Article III/2 of the NPT sets the basic conditions for such trade in requiring each State Party to undertake "not to provide:

- a) source or special fissionable material, or
- b) equipment or material especially designed or prepared for the processing, use or production of special fissionable material, to any non-nuclear-weapon state for peaceful purposes, unless the source or special fissionable material shall be subjected to the safeguards required by this Article."

This is a crucial part of the treaty. It not only requires a state to refrain from using its nuclear material for proscribed purposes and to accept safeguards to verify its compliance, but it also requires that nuclear material is not exported without safeguards being applied at its destination and that material and equipment suitable to be used for nuclear purposes should only be sold abroad on the conditions that the nuclear activity for which they are intended will in turn be covered by safeguards.\(^4\)

#### 3.1) Nuclear “Security”

Each state carries the full responsibility for nuclear security, specifically: to provide for the security of nuclear and other radioactive material and associated facilities and activities; to ensure the security of such material in use, storage or in transport; to combat illicit trafficking and the inadvertent movement of such material; and to be prepared to respond to a nuclear security event.

Nowadays, nine countries—China, India, Israel, France, North Korea, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States—hold nearly 16,000 nuclear weapons.\(^5\) All in all, there are more than 1,800 metric tons of weapons usable nuclear materials—highly enriched uranium (HEU) and plutonium—stored in hundreds of sites across 25 countries, some of them poorly secured.\(^6\) That's enough to destroy the planet hundreds of times over, so, today, global nuclear arsenals are capable of destroying not only cities but also civilization itself. Although the police response increased too, it still should be a warning for better cooperation between countries, militaries, police etc.

Two countries— the United States and Russia—hold the vast majority of the world’s nuclear weapons. Those two former Cold War foes account for 93 percent of the total global stockpile. And more than two decades after the end of the Cold War, those two countries still keep nearly 2,000 nuclear weapons on high alert, ready for immediate launch against each other. That leaves both countries too vulnerable to nuclear launch by accident, miscalculation or even cyber-attack.

While it has been more than twenty years since the end of the Cold War, the existence of thousands of nuclear weapons continues to pose a serious global threat. The likelihood of a nuclear war between the United States and Russia has decreased, but the continued presence of large stockpiles makes the accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons a persistent risk.

Many of the countries with smaller nuclear arsenals, such as India and Pakistan, are actively engaged in regional conflicts, making the possibility of regional nuclear war a concern. North Korea illicitly acquired nuclear weapons, and other countries, including Iran and Syria, have violated their nuclear safeguards commitments and are suspected of covertly pursuing nuclear weapons capabilities.

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\(^5\) Nuclear Threat Initiative, [http://www.nti.org/about/nuclear-terrorism/](http://www.nti.org/about/nuclear-terrorism/)
\(^6\) Nuclear Threat Initiative, [http://www.nti.org/about/nuclear-terrorism/](http://www.nti.org/about/nuclear-terrorism/)
3.2) Nuclear Terrorism and Security Aspects

Nuclear technology and the know-how to build a bomb is no longer a monopoly controlled by states. The threat of cyber-terrorism looms large, and experts are working furiously to keep up with cyber vulnerabilities that could be exploited by hackers to initiate a catastrophe. Increasingly well-organized and well-funded terrorist organizations – which now have easy access to the know-how needed to build a bomb – have already declared their intent to seek the materials necessary for weapons of mass destruction. IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano has delivered a statement on the imminent entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. The Amendment makes it legally binding for countries to protect nuclear facilities, as well as nuclear material in domestic use, storage and transport.7

The Syria conflict has become a proxy war with multiple actors and differing objectives. As such, there is a danger that an accident, military incident or an unauthorized action could spark a direct military confrontation between the external states involved (including Russia, the United States, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the UK) in the absence of effective communication channels.

China plays a pivotal role in global security—cooperation with China will be essential for further global arms reductions, to gain international confidence in the security of nuclear materials and to develop approaches to technical topics such as nuclear forensics and arms control verification. China believes that to combat nuclear terrorism, the most important thing is to enhance the control over nuclear materials and their security. The country has therefore taken substantial measures to further strengthen its control over nuclear materials as well as to protect its nuclear facilities. In the face of this new challenge of combating nuclear terrorism, there is still much work for China to do, including improving management and control of radioactive sources and clarifying the basis threat. All in all, every nation must not only perform its due obligations to prevent nuclear terrorism, but also participate actively in building international nonproliferation and nuclear security regimes.8

In Russia, the threat lies primarily in the form of terrorist groups stealing nuclear materials from Russian facilities. The questionable security of Russian nuclear facilities has its roots in the immediate aftermath of the Cold War, when the Soviet collapse left Russia with the responsibility of securing the USSR’s vast nuclear arsenal, a task for which the nascent Russian Federation was vastly underprepared for. Recognizing the threat that a porous Russian nuclear complex and “loose nukes” could pose to the national security of the United States, the American government has, in the years since the end of the Cold War, partnered with Russia in a variety of nuclear security initiatives, in order to reduce the threat of nuclear theft from Russian facilities. The US investment in Russian nuclear security is currently the largest part of American aid to Russia, and is aimed at two objectives: (1) helping Russia to consolidate and secure its nuclear warheads, along with their delivery systems and (2) securing Russia’s stocks of nuclear fissile materials. However, while the security of the Russian arsenal is undoubtedly better than it was twenty years ago, much work remains to be done.

In Pakistan, the threat of nuclear materials falling into terrorist’s hands is a multi-faceted danger, composed of several different scenarios, such as (1) insiders within the Pakistani nuclear program proliferating nuclear assets and knowledge to terrorist groups; (2) a terrorist group stealing nuclear materials from a Pakistani facility; and (3) a radical Islamist group seizing control of the Pakistani government and nuclear arsenal, through a coup or democratic elections. In response, the Pakistani government has utilized a range of measures, with varying degrees of success, to enhance the physical security of its nuclear facilities and prevent illicit collaboration between nuclear personnel and terrorist groups. In addition, the Pakistani government has engaged with the US government on several nuclear security initiatives, though a lack of transparency between the two governments has hindered the effectiveness of these programs.

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The North Korean nuclear threat manifests itself primarily in the possibility of the Kim regime providing nuclear assets to terrorist groups, either directly or indirectly. In the past twenty years, North Korea has had a decidedly antagonistic relationship with the global nuclear nonproliferation regime, a relationship that, when coupled with the country’s isolation on the diplomatic stage, has raised concerns that the Kim regime may feel that it has nothing to lose by proliferating nuclear weapons. The United States has responded to this threat by both engaging with North Korea in diplomatic talks, and by overseeing interdiction efforts to prevent North Korea from spreading its nuclear assets to outside agents.

Nuclear terrorism and the illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material threaten the security of all States. There are large quantities of diverse radioactive material in existence, which are used in areas such as health, the environment, agriculture and industry. The possibility that nuclear and other radioactive material may be used for terrorist acts cannot be ruled out in the current global situation. States have responded to this risk by engaging in a collective commitment to strengthen the protection and control of such material, and to establish capabilities for detection and response to nuclear and other radioactive material out of regulatory control.

Through its nuclear security program, the IAEA supports States to establish, maintain and sustain an effective nuclear security regime. The IAEA has adopted a comprehensive approach to nuclear security, which recognizes that an effective national nuclear security regime builds on:

- the implementation of relevant international legal instruments
- information protection
- physical protection
- material accounting and control
- detection of and response to trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive material
- national response plans
- and contingency measures.

Within its nuclear security program, the IAEA aims to assist States in implementing and sustaining such a regime in a coherent and integrated manner, since nowadays, the nuclear threat is more complex and unpredictable than ever. It is a serious and an urgent problem we are facing now.

4) Bloc Positions

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks in the US, fears of the use of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons (CBRN) by terrorist groups intensified greatly in Europe. In response, the European Council adopted the European Security Strategy as well as the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in 2003 to minimize the threat of illegal WMD programs with priorities being: the strengthening of the international system of non-proliferation, the pursuing of universalization of multilateral agreements, the reinforcing of strict implementation of and compliance with these agreements and assistance to third countries. Following the Madrid terrorist bombings in 2004, a scenario-based exercise was held in Brussels under the name Black Dawn, simulating a nuclear terrorist attack to develop recommendations for preventing nuclear terrorism. In 2005, the EU further adopted the European Union Counter-Terrorism Strategy with the aim of preventing people from turning to terrorism, reducing the vulnerability to attack, pursuing terrorists globally and disrupting support networks. The long-term response of the EU includes legal, political and operational measures. Its Member States are signatories to the NPT and the EU is committed to a number of global initiatives such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), the Nuclear Security Summit and the G7 Non-Proliferation Directors’ Group and Global Partnership. At the operational level, the EU initiated the EU Policy on Enhancing the Security of Explosives, the Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Risk Migration Centers of Excellence Initiative (EU CBRN...
CoE and the 2010-2015 CBRN Action Plan, which is currently being revised to pave the way for a new CBRN-E action plan.12

With the United States having been a frequent target for different forms of terrorism, including bioterrorism, since the beginning of the 21st century, concerns over possible nuclear attacks have risen significantly. Consequently, nuclear security has become a focal point of US foreign policy. In 2006, President George W. Bush, along with Russian President Vladimir Putin, announced the organization of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) to facilitate and promote international cooperation.13 Following his inauguration in 2009, President Obama identified nuclear terrorism as “the most immediate and extreme threat to global security” and called for “a new international effort to secure all vulnerable nuclear material around the world within four years.” Under the Obama administration, the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS), first held in 2010, has become the centerpiece of nuclear terrorism prevention efforts.14 Outcomes of the summits include the removal or confirmed reduction of highly enriched Uranium or Plutonium usable for weapons in 30 countries and the strengthening of national border controls to reduce illicit trafficking. In April 2016, 52 Heads of States along with representatives of the UN, IAEA, Interpol and the EU gathered for the 4th and final Nuclear Security Summit, making about 90 national commitments as well as a number of joint commitments, called “gift baskets”, that are related to information, transportation and radioactive source security, countering nuclear smuggling and mitigating insider threat.15

Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev declared in 2009, that both Moscow and Washington have a special responsibility to counter WMD proliferation and terrorism.16 Under re-elected President Putin, Russia still serves as co-chairs of the GICNT together with the US, however, ties with regard to Russia’s participation at the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington DC, were severed, arguing that the summits interfere in the activities of international organizations like the IAEA and impose the “opinions of a limited group of states”17 on international structures.18 In December 2014 President Putin approved of a new military doctrine that recognizes the threat of terrorist groups using radioactive materials as a “fundamental military danger”19 and the country has made significant progress in improving its nuclear security over the past two decades, largely modernizing the physical security of its facilities and imposing new nuclear safety regulations.20

Middle East and South Asia

Representing a region of considerable political instability, nuclear security is a matter of great concern to the Middle East and South Asia. A total of 5 states located in the region are Non-signatory states to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), another 7 states have signed the treaty but not ratified it.21 Three out of those states, namely India, Israel and Pakistan, are in possession of nuclear weapons. While India and Pakistan have openly declared to be Nuclear-weapon-states (NWS), Israel follows a policy of deliberate ambiguity.22 Although India has maintained a no-first-strike policy, ongoing tensions with neighboring Pakistan as well as terrorist interventions like the 2008 Mumbai attacks, pose serious security risks. Pakistan, having been a frequent target of terrorist activities, is seen to be particularly vulnerable to the

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threat of the government losing control over its nuclear weapons.\textsuperscript{23} In addition, reports indicate a close cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, with Saudi Arabia allegedly providing financial support to the Pakistani nuclear weapons programs and Pakistan possibly selling nuclear weapons to Saudi Arabia in return.\textsuperscript{24}

Considerable progress has been made with regard to the use of nuclear material in Iran. In July 2015, foreign ministers from seven countries negotiated a comprehensive long-term agreement in Vienna, known as the \textit{Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action}, to place strict limits on the country’s capacity to produce material for nuclear weapons, with the IAEA continuing its investigation and monitoring of Iran’s nuclear program.\textsuperscript{25}\textbf{As of January 2016, LassinaZerbo, Head of the CTBT Organization (CTBTO) announced that the probability of Iran and Israel ratifying the treaty and therefore possibly paving the way for a future weapon-free zone, has increased.}\textsuperscript{26}

\textbf{East Asia/Pacific}

The nuclear security situation in East Asia remains tense, with \textbf{North Korea} repeatedly violating UN resolutions, herewith undermining not only regional but international security. In January 2016, North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test since 2006, claiming that he has successfully tested a hydrogen bomb.\textsuperscript{27} CTBTO Head LassinaZerbo expressed his hope that the test will serve as a final wake-up call to all those States that have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT.\textsuperscript{28} Given the political circumstances in North Korea, illicit trade of nuclear material, like highly enriched uranium and plutonium, poses a serious threat. In reaction to North Korea's nuclear activity, \textbf{China} being the country’s only significant economic partner, has announced to impose sanctions.\textsuperscript{29} China is the only NPT nuclear-weapon state signatory to pursue a no-first-strike policy, emphasizing the need for political stability.\textsuperscript{30} Along with Japan and South Korea, China has hosted trilateral Summits, to strengthen regional cooperation and pursue talks over North Korea’s nuclear program.\textsuperscript{31} Additionally, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted the \textit{Convention on Counter-Terrorism} in 2007, a framework for deepening regional cooperation to counter, prevent and suppress terrorism.\textsuperscript{32}\textbf{In Japan}, nuclear energy has been a national priority since the early 1970s, however, reactors were shut down after the nuclear accident in Fukushima. In August and October 2015 the first two reactors were restarted, an additional 24 are in the process of restart approvals.\textsuperscript{33} Alongside with \textbf{Australia}, Japan co-chaired the independent \textit{International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (2010-2012)} and established the \textit{Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPD)} in September 2010 to progress the outcomes of the \textit{2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference}.\textsuperscript{34}

\textbf{African Bloc}

In 2012, representatives of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Togo and the African Union gathered at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Office in Dakar to discuss the \textit{International Legal Framework against Nuclear Terrorism in Africa} and share national experiences on the topic. All the above countries are also parties to the \textit{Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM)} that finally came

into force in May 2016. Among the African States, South Africa is predominantly on the forefront of developing nuclear terrorism policy and initiatives. While the country has constructed several nuclear weapons in the 1980s, it voluntarily abandoned its nuclear program in the early 1990s and subsequently became a party to the NPT. Ever since, South Africa has put strong emphasis on the significance of precautionary measures and supervision systems when using nuclear material and has consistently promoted measures to decrease the actual amount of nuclear material.

**Latin American/Caribbean Bloc**

While Latin American States do not have a collective policy on nuclear terrorism, they have formed the second nuclear-weapon-free zone after Antarctica in 1968 under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco). With Cuba ratifying the treaty in 2002, all 33 nations of Latin America and the Caribbean have completed ratification. Whereas Argentina and Brazil both launched nuclear weapons programs in the 1970s and 1980s, they eventually abandoned them in the early 1990s, therefore fully abiding by the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Both States have since maintained the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC), a bilateral inspection agency for the purpose of verifying peaceful uses of nuclear energy. As of today, Brazil is the only non-nuclear-weapon state with a civilian nuclear program that leases uranium enrichment technology from the state’s military and the only such state that is in the process of developing a nuclear submarine. Although Brazil has signed the NPT, it has stated to refrain from signing the Additional Protocol or any other additions to the treaty, until adequate progress towards nuclear disarmament is being made on the side of the nuclear weapon states. Along with Argentina, Chile and Mexico, Brazil has participated in all 4 Nuclear Security Summits, however of all the Latin American States only Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Panama are supporting the GICNT. In 2008, Colombia raised concerns that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) were seeking to acquire enriched uranium and requested international assistance to be able to respond to the challenge of detecting, monitoring and prosecuting non-State actors who strive to possess radioactive materials or WMD. Meanwhile, Venezuela, supporter of both the FARC and Iran's nuclear program, has signed a nuclear cooperation agreement with Russia, raising questions on its own nuclear ambitions.

5) Conclusion

Delegates, thank you for reading this study guide through to the end! As you begin to prepare for your further research, here are some points, which you should consider when addressing the issue in the resolution/s:

- What should the international community do to institute a standardized noncompliance mechanism to better enforce the NPT/IAEA framework?
- Preventing the spread of nuclear weapons.
- Communicate various elements of the national detection strategy to all relevant stakeholders in an appropriate manner.
- Establish a legal and regulatory framework built upon preexisting laws.

You should tackle as many issues as possible in order to have a very strong resolution/s. Please feel free to reach any of us if you have any questions, or there’s any way we can help you. We look forward to meeting you shortly in Vienna.

Warm regards, The VIMUN 2016 IAEA Officials

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41NTI, View the 1540 Matrix for Colombia, 08/03/2015, http://www.nti.org/analysis/articles/colombia-1540-reporting/.
Further Reading

http://www.iaea.org
http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Publications/PDF/Pub1613_web.pdf
How to Get Prepared

You probably cannot wait until it is the end of July and VIMUN 2016 is about to start – at least we cannot! However, before the conference starts, there is still some work to be done. You are the ones that fill the conference with life, that lead interesting discussions and fruitful debates and make innovative resolutions reality. This requires some preparation on your side. **While conducting research, try to keep in mind that your primary goal is to represent your country as realistically as possible.**

In advance to the conference we expect all delegates to research your state’s position and become experts for the given agenda topic, to familiarize yourself with the rules of procedure (which you can find on our VIMUN homepage) and to practice your debating and writing skills. Here are some useful hints on how to get prepared for the VIMUN conference:

Do Some Research
The first step after you have been assigned your state and committee will be to do some research in order to prepare for the conference. These are areas you should look into:

- The structure and history of the UN
- Your assigned member state
- Research your committee
- Your member state’s role in the committee
- Your agenda topics

Central Questions that Should Guide your Research

- What sort of government does your country have?
- What types of ideologies (political, religious or other) influence your country's government?
- Which domestic issues might influence your country's foreign policy?
- What are some major events in your country's history? Why are they important?
- Which ethnicities, religions and languages can be found in your country?
- Where is your country located and how does its geography affect its political relationships?
- Which countries share a border with your country?
- Which countries are considered allies of your country?
- Which countries are considered enemies of your country?
- What are the characteristics of your country's economy?
- What is your country's gross domestic product (GDP)? How does this compare to other countries in the world?
- When did your country become a member of the UN?
- Does your country belong to any intergovernmental organizations outside the UN system such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?
- Does your country belong to any regional organizations such as the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU) or the Organization of American States (OAS)?
- Does your country belong to any trade organizations or agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) or the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)?
- What are the key issues of your agenda topics?
- Why are these issues important?
- What are possible solutions?
- What is hindering those solutions?
- What has the UN (or other international agencies) done so far, in order to solve these problems?
- What should be done from the perspective of your state to resolve the issues?
- Which other states share your view, which are opposed to your position?
For further research apart from reading the study guide we greatly recommend:

- The UN homepage
- NGO (particularly those accredited by the UN)
- Country reports and data published by international or regional organizations such as the World Bank, WHO, OECD, APEC, etc.
- General socio-economic data: e.g. CIA World Factbook has served delegates in previous years in gaining a first overview of a particular member state
- Your country’s government website
- Search for speeches made by your country on the topic
- Search for important resolutions regarding your topic

**How to Write a Position Paper**

Writing a position paper might appear to be a daunting task, especially for new delegates. But with enough research, you will find that writing a position paper will be easy and useful. Position papers are usually one to one-and-a-half pages in length. Your position paper should include a brief introduction followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country’s position on the topics that are being discussed by the committee. A good position paper will not only provide facts but also make proposals for resolutions. Many conferences will ask for specific details in a position paper, so be sure to include all the required information. Most conferences will provide delegates a background guide to the issue. Usually, the background guide will contain questions to consider. Make sure that your position paper answers these questions.

A good position paper will include:

- A brief introduction to your country and its history concerning the topic and committee;
- How the issue affects your country;
- Your country’s policies with respect to the issue and your country’s justification for these policies;
- Quotes from your country’s leaders about the issue;
- Statistics to back up your country’s position on the issue;
- Actions taken by your government with regard to the issue;
- Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified;
- UN actions that your country supported or opposed;
- What your country believes should be done to address the issue;
- What your country would like to accomplish in the committee’s resolution; and
- How the positions of other countries affect your country’s position.

**Position Paper Tips**

- **Keep it simple.** To communicate strongly and effectively, avoid flowery wording and stick to uncomplicated language and sentence structure.
- **Make it official.** Try to use the seal of your country or create an “official” letterhead for your position paper. The more realistic it looks, the more others will want to read it.
- **Get organized.** Give each separate idea or proposal its own paragraph. Make sure each paragraph starts with a topic sentence.
- **Cite your sources.** Use footnotes or endnotes to show where you found your facts and statistics. If you are unfamiliar with bibliographic form, look up the Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines at your school’s library.
- **Read and reread.** Leave time to edit your position paper. Ask yourself if the organization of the paper makes sense and double-check your spelling and grammar.
• **Speech! Speech!** Do you plan to make an opening statement at your conference? A good position paper makes a great introductory speech. During debate, a good position paper will also help you to stick to your country’s policies.

• **Let the bullets fly.** Try not to let your proposals become lost in a sea of information. For speechmaking, create a bulleted list of your proposals along with your most important facts and statistics so that you will not lose time looking for them during debate.

**Sample Position Paper**

**Delegation of the Republic of India**
**Represented by XXX**
**Topic: Primary Education**

The Republic of India acknowledges and has responded to the call of the United Nations for a universalization of primary education with fierce engagement and enthusiasm over the past 10 years. India firmly believes that the challenge of guaranteeing every child the opportunity to primary education can and shall be overcome by raising greater awareness among the public and by public involvement through respectful regional cooperation, e.g. the cooperation with Village Education Committees and Local Government substatatal Bodies. Furthermore it is crucial not only to focus on the quantity of students, but on the quality of the education they receive.

The Republic of India recognizes the need and urgency to address universal primary education. Primary Education is of crucial importance to India. Although India is still facing difficulties in its efforts to guarantee every child the education it deserves, the Indian country will not succumb, but face the challenge with effective policies which have shown immersive and lasting effects in the past. In 2010 The Right of Free and Compulsory Education Act was ratified, making the fundamental Right To Education Act the first of its kind in the world, which puts the responsibility of ensuring enrollment, attendance and completion of primary education to the government. To enforce implementation of this act, India strongly supports its governmental organizations, which have brought positive long-term effects, e.g. “The Education for All”- Movement, which has as a main objective the universalization of elementary education, making education free and compulsory for children between 6-14 years. In addition to this program, India launched the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in 1995, revised and improved it over the last ten years. Mid-Day Meal Scheme, as the world’s largest school feeding program, reaches 1.2 million children across the country.

Furthermore a stronger emphasis is put on unprivileged and disadvantaged sections of the Indian society. As a result to the 10th five year plan of India the joined forces to tackle illiteracy, the number of elementary schools has increased by 216.054, the number of enrolment in the lower and upper primary school classes has increased about 30 million students, only in the period between 2000 and 2006.

In the 11th five year plan of the Republic of India, the focus is set on achieving an 80%- literacy rate, on reducing the gender gap in literacy rate to 10%, to reduce dropout rates of children at the elementary level from 52, 2% in 2003-04 to 20% by 2011-12, and to support low literacy States, disadvantaged groups, minorities and to reduce regional, social and gender disparities and on granting the quality of the given education.

However, universal education cannot be established in isolation, therefore the Indian government has successfully joined hands with the UN on this matter, as extensive cooperation within the United Nations Development Program prove. Together we can bring the MDGs in achievable and reachable range. Therefore the issue of primary education should be discussed realistically and on a basis, where not only providing quantity, but quality plays an immense and even more important role. Due to India’s ideals which are Socialism, Democracy, Justice, Equality, Fraternity the Indian Republic believes that the question on how to provide and ensure qualitative education with well-equipped and modern schools and on the basic training of teachers should be raised.

In conclusion, India is striving to guarantee its pupils the universal access to education, regardless of their gender. Moreover it is of the main concerns to support tribal States, rural areas, disadvantaged groups, religious/ethnic minorities and to extinguish any kind of disparities which influence the access to education.
These main concerns remain to be: access, equity, quality, relevance, resources, planning and management of educational programmes. Therefore the Republic of India highly approves of all expenditures which were made to tackle the problem of primary education and warmly welcomes every effort made on capacity building, modern education programmes, teacher training programmes and progressive use of instructional materials.

Sources

Prime Minister Singh, In: The Hindu, 1st of April 2010


How to Make an Opening Speech

• First, you should thank the presiding official by saying "Thank you Mr./ Madame/ Honorable Chair/ President..."
• Then begin by providing a brief history on the issue as it relates to your country.
• Speak about how the issue is currently affecting your country.
• your country’s position on the issue. Include an explanation for your country’s stance, such as economic or security concerns or political or religious ideology.
• You may choose to give an explanation of how your country’s position relates to the positions of other member states such as the major powers or countries in your regional bloc.
• You should discuss some of the past actions taken by the UN, member states and NGOs to address the issue.
• Present ideas for a resolution, stressing your country’s objectives for the resolution.
• Talk about the role that NGOs or regional organizations have to play in addressing the issue.
• Indicate to the committee members whether your country is willing to negotiate.

Vocabulary: Sample Preambulatory Phrases

Accept Notes Proclaims Designates
Affirms Reaffirms Draws the attention
Approves Recommends Emphasizes
Authorizes Regrets Encourages
Calls Reminds Endorses
Calls upon Requests Solemnly affirms Expresses its appreciation
Condemns Strongly condemns Supports Expresses its hope
Confirms Takes note of Transmits Trusts Further invites
Congratulates Encourages Further proclaims
Considers Endorses Further reminds
Declares accordingly Expresses its appreciation Further resolves
Deplores Expresses its hope Has resolved
Designates Further invites Further recommends
Draws the attention Deplores Further requests
Emphasizes