

AKADEMISCHES  
FORUM FÜR  
AUSSEN-  
POLITIK

UNION  
ACADEMIQUE  
DES AFFAIRES  
ETRANGERES



ACADEMIC FORUM FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**UNITED NATIONS YOUTH AND STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIA**

EISENSTADT - GRAZ - INNSBRUCK - KLAGENFURT - LINZ - SALZBURG - VIENNA

**VIMUN**

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

# Guidelines for Position Papers

## **What is a Position Paper?**

A Position Paper is a brief outline of a country's or organizations policy concerning the topic of the committee.

The concise statement should elaborate on your country's or organization's official stance regarding the issue, your country's or organization's interests and goals, and in addition the paper should briefly explain your country's or organization's suggestion for a possible resolution. The specific plan of action concerning the issue under consideration must be based on your research about the official policy and should include concrete ideas for resolving the issue that reflect your country's or organization's goals and national interests adequately.

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

For identifying your country's or organization's position, you should use a great variety of sources and not solely focus on one source so that you can get an extensive overview of your official stance in order to represent your country or organization as realistically as possible.

In case your chosen country or organization does not have a clear stance on the issue under discussion, try to find out how your country or organization would act considering the interests of your country or organization and how it might have acted under similar circumstances. Naturally, you may include your own ideas and find your own solutions as long as those do not contradict your country's or organization's policy and can be realistically represented by delegates of your country and organization, respectively.

Be aware that your position paper should be concise and deal with the issue under discussion, not general information about your country, its history and population- unless certain aspects of it may be relevant for the issue and could serve as an example.

Ultimately your position paper should be about what your country or organization has achieved on the topic at hand, about your country's or organizations general approach concerning the issue at hand and what you as a delegate of your country or organization would like to achieve as an outcome to the topic.

## **Layout**

<b>Length</b>	1 to 2 pages (A4)
<b>Font Type</b>	Arial
<b>Font Size</b>	10
<b>Line Spacing</b>	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 VIMUN in their writing process.

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

**Committee**  
**Country**  
**Delegate's name**  
**Issue**

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

- Why is this issue relevant? What is the scope of the problem from your country's point of view?
- You can also mention international action, particularly UN action that has been taken in this respect already. Which resolutions have been passed so far? Which treaties have been signed? Which conferences have been held? What is planned for the future?

In the second, longer and most important part you should concisely explain the official position of the country or organization you represent in respect to the issue under consideration.

- What is your country's or organization's policy on the topic? Why? What issues in this area of particular importance to the country or organization you represent? What action has your country or organization taken already? What action have you taken in cooperation with other countries that share your point of view
- What are the possible solutions to the problems in this area? What is the type of resolution your country or organization tries to accomplish? How should it be accomplished effectively?

Remember that you have to represent the official position of your country or organization in the Committee. Therefore you should not refer to yourself in the first person, but with the voice of the country you represent (for example: "Algeria suggests..." "Germany proposes....").