Position Paper Guide

Introduction and General Guidelines

A position paper is a diplomatic statement of your country’s position on the issues before your individual committee. For example, if you are the delegate representing Romania in the General Assembly First Committee, you will write a paper detailing Romania’s position on the three topics before the GA1. Other delegates from your team will write on the three topics before their committees.

Position papers serve as a valuable instrument in preparing delegates and MMUN teams for the conference. They involve researching all aspect of your country’s history and background, from politics and geography to economics and allies. Once country research is complete, students must use their knowledge of the country’s background information to write a position paper on the topics before their individual committee.

Position papers are a tool used to clarify a country’s position, provide ideas for negotiation, examine all sides of the issue and practice written diplomacy. Position papers not only help delegates understand committee topics and a country’s position, but they also assist conference organizers in evaluating a delegate’s understanding of their country as a whole.

A position paper must meet the following format requirements:

- No more than two pages in length, and printed double-sided
- Single-spaced, 10 or 12 font
- Divided by topic segments

Each country should submit a separate position paper for each committee on which they are represented. If a country serves on all eight committees, eight separate position papers must be submitted. In the past, we have required electronic submission of position papers, but have found this process to be cumbersome. As a result, all position papers must be printed and brought to the conference by delegates. Following Registration and the Combined General Assembly Plenary Session on Monday, each delegate will submit a hard-copy of their position paper to the dais during the first individual committee session. Please note that a position paper can be up to two pages in length, single-spaced, and should be printed double-sided so that the maximum pieces of paper any one delegate will submit will be one single page.

How to Write a Position Paper

Each position paper should be written by topic, using diplomatic language. There should be a short introductory paragraph, followed by three paragraphs on each topic. Each topic should address the following three areas, each of which are one paragraph each:

1. History and information on the topic
a. This section should include a short introduction to the topic, and some important documents or past resolutions that your country has supported.
b. These documents can be used as evidence in formal debate, preambular clauses in resolutions and as insight for other delegates as to your position on the topic.
c. This section should provide a short background which helps delegates understand what has previously been resolved on the topic.
d. Conclude with your country’s basic position on the topic.

2. Your country’s position on the topic and work on the issue
   a. Your country’s position should be stated in diplomatic terms.
   b. Your country’s work on the issue should cover what your country has done within its borders (if applicable), with allies and with regional partners.
   c. What has your country done within the world community?
   d. Why is your country a shining example, needs assistance, has made progress, or can help other countries on this topic?

3. What you propose to do in the future
   a. You should revisit your country’s position.
   b. Assess the progress that has been made on this issue.
   c. Propose what your country would like to do in the future. Are there any upcoming conferences or summits?
   d. Make a proposal for what the world community should do (these statements can later be used in your resolution).
   e. Conclude with a strong, forward-thinking sentence.

Format and Style

The heading of each position paper should include the official country name, the name of the school representing the country, and the name of the individual serving as a delegate for that committee. Additionally, the topics should be ordered as they are listed in the committee topic background guides, which can be found online. Each individual topic heading should be bolded and centered. The three paragraphs should be single spaced, with a space between each paragraph. Either left alignment or justification of the body of the text is acceptable. Below is (1) An annotated position paper sample to help guide you in formatting (2) A sample position paper with appropriate content and format to fit MMUN specifications:
Kingdom of Denmark

Shelly High School

Represented by

Jane Doe

Position Paper for the Commission on Human Rights

The issues before the Commission on Human Rights are: Violence against Women, Reforming the Juvenile Justice System, and Cybercrime. The Kingdom of Denmark, being a member of bodies such as the United Nations (UN), Interpol, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Labor Organization, and being party to such documents as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and Criminal Convention on Election believes that such issues are vital to increasing and upholding justice and the standards of living in the global community. The Kingdom of Denmark energetically strives toward further international progress in the following areas:

I. Violence Against Women

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, “no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” Although this doctrine was adopted in 1948, the world has fallen quite short of this goal. Violence against women pervades all states and it is the duty of the international community to ensure that all persons are afforded equality and respect. Despite cooperative efforts at combating gross human rights abuses, such as the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the United Nations has not been able to alleviate the injustice women worldwide experience daily.

The Kingdom of Denmark believes that in order to end violence against women, nations must look to empower women in all aspects of society. Women are invaluable to Denmark’s society and have achieved significant economic and social gains in the 20th century. This includes promoting equal gender roles in government, civil society, education and business. However, Denmark also recognizes the need to combat human rights abuses against women as they occur, and no nation is immune to gender violence. In 2002, the Danish Government launched an extensive action plan to combat domestic violence against women, which includes measures to help treat abused women, identify and prosecute the perpetrators, and incorporate professional medical and psychological staff into the rehabilitation process. Additionally, the Danish Centre for Human Rights in Copenhagen, Denmark’s foremost national human rights institution, also promotes and protects human rights. Based on the Centre’s research, Denmark’s parliament can promote human rights-based legislation and education/awareness programs throughout the nation. It is important to note that Denmark has no record of committing major human rights violations, most importantly, any targeted at women. In its 2003 Annual Report, Amnesty International also found no human rights violations against Danish women.

Denmark is confident that this Commission can bring about an end to violence against women without compromising the sovereignty of member states. Education remains perhaps the most useful tool in protecting victims of gender-based violence. Governments, UN agencies, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) can plan a coordinated campaign that educates national populations on the various ways women are violently targeted. Similarly, harmful traditions, such as honor killings and female genital mutilation, must be stopped by reforming traditional views of women in society. Children of both sexes need to be taught at an early age to value the rights of women in order to prevent such violence in their generation. In order to prevent gender violence, nations must work together to build a culture of support, equality and community. As such, the Kingdom of Denmark looks forward to offering its support, in whatever form possible, to nations firmly committed to ending violence against women in all its forms.
I. Reforming the Juvenile Justice System

The Kingdom of Denmark strongly supports such resolutions as The Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/RES/44/25) and the efforts of groups like UNICEF. In its search for justice, the world community must ensure that all persons are afforded equality and respect. Despite cooperative efforts at combating gross human rights abuses, such as the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the United Nations has not been able to alleviate the injustice women worldwide experience daily.

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II. Reforming the Juvenile Justice System

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vigorously seek to reform issues throughout the juvenile justice system; it is necessary that the United Nations renew its dedication towards justice, children, and beneficial social reform by finding new methods of decreasing juvenile crime and furthering the implementation of UN approved methods.

Denmark understands that juvenile offenders must be treated differently than adult offenders. We advanced our domestic policy in order to adhere to relevant international guidelines - which we aided in establishing - and to be a positive example of reform in the region. Denmark emphasizes that justice must be held paramount without sacrificing human rights or compromising the differences between prosecuting juveniles and adults. Denmark has regularly worked through the Committee on the Rights of the Child and will continue to make efforts to comply with standards such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice of 1985 (A/RES/40/33).

Denmark believes that the implementation of current standards worldwide and new standards in the areas of resocialization and rehabilitation is fundamental. UN Member States must take strong measures to improve and uphold the just rule of law, and its application to juveniles. As a leader in reform and policy implementation. Denmark continually strives to set an example for Latin America and the world community, as well as continually aiding further international implementation.

II. Cybercrime

The Kingdom of Denmark, participating in the crafting of documents such as the Final Report on the Meetings of Government Experts on Cybercrime (OEA/Ser.GGE/REMJA/doc.51/99), understands the international concern generated by cybercrime, and endeavors to create collaborative new solutions to cybercrime. Denmark maintains that cybercrime demands an international effort; passing through borders and often uncontrolled by domestic law, cybercrime requires united action.

Denmark has had few occurrences of cybercrime, yet continues to work towards a means of prevention. The most difficult arena of prosecuting and deterring cybercrime is investigation, and Denmark supports the creation of the 24-Hour/7-Day a Week Point of Contact Group, as recommended by the European Union in the Final Report on the Meetings of Government Experts on Cyber Crime. Denmark also supports a system of information sharing and joint work to prosecute cybercrime. International cooperation is necessary, as well as the incumbency of Member States to set up such a system internally and to establish the internal legal framework.

Denmark believes that a system for joint protection against cybercrime requires several steps. Nations need to create or review laws dealing with cybercrime to allow for bilateral and multilateral information and technology exchange related to apprehending those who violate the law. As technology availability increases, the potential to do serious damage to the infrastructure that technology supports increases. Many developing countries cannot balance the increases in technology growth and the ability to do harm with the ability to protect themselves and others from cybercrime. It is the position of Denmark that these concerns must be solved immediately as new technological developments make cybercrime an increasingly alarming issue. Although access to technology is harder to obtain for developing countries, Denmark recognizes that production, business and communication have been revolutionized. Denmark stresses the importance that the national policies of UN Member States against these kinds of crimes becomes aggressive and that international cooperation is emphasized.