

How to Write a Position Paper

The committee sessions will begin with delegates making opening speeches (i.e. reading out their position papers). This is to allow delegates to present their country's stance to the rest of the committee and facilitate the process of forming blocs and writing resolutions. Opening speeches should be 1.5 minutes in duration for each topic. There are three sections to a position paper:

1. Outlining the topic to be discussed

Opening speeches should begin by briefly outlining the topic of the committee and identifying factors/ roots of the issue. This should not be the focus of the opening speech as it would be redundant for all delegates to do so.

2. Your country's involvement in the issue

Delegates should then proceed to give a summary on your nation's past involvement in the issue, including the past stance of your nation, policies your nation directs towards the issue, and interaction with involved parties in the issue. It is also recommended delegates should include any past UN charters or resolutions your country has signed and supported. By doing so, you can give the other delegates a better overview of your country's stance and commitment on the topic.

3. Past actions and policies undertaken by your country and proposed solutions

Delegates should conclude their opening speeches by outlining previous policies of your country that are relevant to the issue at hand and the reasons for which your government has decided to take these actions. However, the purpose of MUN conferences is not to repeat history; be innovative, and raise possible solutions you believe would benefit the current situation.

Sample Position Paper

Committee: The Counter-Terrorism Committee

Issue: Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

Nation: The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

As a state in the front-line, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is committed to combating terrorism in all its forms, and has taken all measures necessary to fully implement Security Council Resolution 1373. For over two decades, Pakistan has been subject to a barrage of attacks that have in recent years intensified. It is her duty to ensure not just the prevention of attacks and the protection of her people, but also enforce swift justice on those that threaten the nation's peace.

The 1997 Anti-Terrorism Law Act of Pakistan, amended in 2001 and 2004, is paramount to her fight against terrorism, giving her law enforcement agencies the power to deal with terrorists and acts of terrorism. Pakistan will not stand for the incitement to commit an act of terrorism. In response to questions raised regarding Security Council resolution 1624, Pakistan has acted to deny safe haven to those found guilty of incitement, such as implementing speedy trials of terrorist facilitators and harbourers, signing extradition treaties with affected countries and deportation of illegal immigrants. Sought-after terrorists have in recent years been arrested and extradited to states such as the United States, Jordan and Egypt. Furthermore, individuals found supporting any of thirty-one banned organisations (correct as of November 2011), including militant groups such as Lashkar-e-Toiba, may be arrested for interrogation for a period of up to three months.

While harsh in her enforcement of prevention and justice, Pakistan does however understand the need to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. On 3 June 2010 she ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Furthermore, she supports the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (General Assembly Resolutions 60/288 and 64/297), despite it not being the most ideal.

Pakistan thus calls for all states to adhere to said documents, and urges all to mutually cooperate in the battle against terrorism and in matters regarding the upholding of human rights. As Syed Haider Shah, Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, noted in March 2008, this delegation also urges all nations in this committee to reach a consensus on the definition of terrorism, so as to distinguish deplorable acts

from valid attempts for self-determination. Furthermore, she calls for the creation of an international code of conduct in approaching terrorism, which not only identifies its root causes but also adheres to the United Nations Charter, International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law. Such a code of conduct should be implemented within the framework of the dynamic, living document that is the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan calls for all members of this committee to cooperate in the creation of a productive resolution that resolves the issues outlined.