

Position Paper Guidelines

Style Guide

- Word count: 1 - 2 pages per topic in Times New Roman, 12 p, spacing 1.5, justified margins.
- British English.
- The heading should contain
 1. Committee,
 2. Country,
 3. Delegate's Name,
 4. MUN Society or University/Institution.
- Position papers are to be handed in as a PDF file to the chairs (deadline tba, likely around June 1st).

A position paper is an essay detailing your country's stance on the topics discussed in your committee. It is the first important task to tackle before an MUN conference. If CologneMUN is your first conference, you can find more information here about the purpose of position papers and how to write a really good one.

Why is a position paper worth writing?

- It will help you organise your ideas.
- 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.
- The position papers written by every committee member will be published before the conference starts. Therefore, you and all participants can read up on every delegate's position, which will allow you to find possible allies.
- The chairs of a committee award a prize to the delegate who wrote the best position paper in their committee.

Content

Your position paper should contain a brief introduction to your country and its history concerning the topics. Focus only on aspects that are important to the context of the topics. In the first paragraph, you should summarise your country's policies regarding the committee topics and name conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified, as well as UN actions that your country has supported or opposed.

As you want your position paper to be useful during the committee's debate you should highlight what your country believes should be done to address the issue, and, most importantly, what your country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution.

Structure

There are many ways to structure a position paper and you have relative freedom in choosing how to do, as long as the structure makes sense in the context of your committee and its topics. Generally, you would divide your position paper into four parts:

1. Background of the topic: Introduce the topic generally, clarify the problem and why it is important to discuss it in the committee
2. Past actions of the UN: There is no need to list everything the UN has ever done and said concerning your topic, however, you should choose the most significant resolutions or action plans. Try to work out and explain why these plans have succeeded or failed.
3. Your country's national policy: Look into your country's national legislature and action plans. If you have trouble finding concrete information concerning your topics, look at your country's core values and policy orientations and deduct specific action from there.
4. Your proposed solutions: Once you have discussed why previous action has succeeded or failed, you can now propose which action you would like to amend, expand or discontinue. You can also pitch national solutions that have worked in your country to be implemented internationally.

Start Writing

The chairs of your committee will introduce you to the topic and its most important aspects in the Study Guide. Read it carefully and examine the controversial issues that the debate will

concentrate on. Also take some time to explore your country's official websites and public records to find out what action has been taken nationally. The UN also archives all past resolutions as well as, in some cases, verbatim records of sessions, which you can peruse online.

Format and Style

Format and style should follow CologneMUN's guidelines named at the top of the page. You want your committee's chairs to like it (so that you have a chance to win the award), you want to use the position paper during the debate so that you always know what your country's policy goals are and you want passages from your paper to appear in the final resolution. To achieve these objectives:

- Your paper should be easy to read and to understand. Use uncomplicated language and sentence structure and dedicate a paragraph to each idea or proposal.
- While it is not necessary to cite your sources, you can increase credibility of your paper if you do anyways on key facts and statistics, by using footnotes or endnotes. It's also always useful to collect some quotes from your country's leaders about the issue.
- In order to avoid mistakes, you should start early enough so you will have time to edit the paper. You should ask yourself if the structure makes sense and especially as English is a foreign language for most of you, you should double-check spelling and grammar or ask somebody else for help.

Example Position Paper

Committee: Security Council

Delegation: Uruguay

Represented: Max Mustermann, Cologne MUN Society

The topics before the Security Council are: Protection of Civilians in the Context of Peacekeeping Operations, The Situation in Libya, and The UN-AU Partnership on Peace Operations.

The Oriental Republic of Uruguay is fully committed to the protection of civilians in all regions of the world and to the cooperation with all Member States to safeguard international peace and security.

I. Protection of Civilians in the Context of Peacekeeping Operations

We are living in the most peaceful time in history. However, armed conflicts result in an increasing number of deaths of civilians, which must be intolerable to these United Nations. As stated in Chapter VI, VII and VIII of the UN Charter, the responsibility of protecting innocent civilians is bestowed upon the Security Council and, as a second-time Member, Uruguay is wholly devoted to this task.

After a twelve year long civilian-military regime and the resulting democratisation in 1984, Uruguay's military found peacekeeping operations as its *raison d'être* in a post-dictatorial era. Close to 25% of Uruguay's military is fully committed to UN peacekeeping missions every year. Since then, Uruguay has demonstrated its commitment to the Protection of Civilians (PoC) by assuming the position of Latin America's leading supplier of blue helmets and the world's largest UN troop contributing country (TCC) per capita. Additionally, Uruguay is a dedicated and constructive partner in the political debates, constantly looking to find unity and harmony among Member States involved.

Uruguay wants to continue this work in the debates concerning the efficient implementation of peacekeeping missions. Essential for achieving this goal is the fluid and frictionless cooperation between the trinity of the UN, the Security Council and TCCs. In this regard, Uruguay has welcomed decisions taken by various UN organs, including the Security Council and former Secretary Generals. "New Horizon" (New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping, 2009) and its two Progress Reports (2010 and 2011), which gave the involved parties a successful start in evaluating the concrete difficulties of peacekeeping and should be continued for further analyses. The outcomes of the High-level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations (2014) are indispensable in adjusting PoC measures to modern developments of our time, thus, making this an affordable source of knowledge for the future of peacekeeping.

Uruguay aims to continue its entrepreneurial role in adopting and implementing UN peacekeeping measurements for a successful protection of civilians.

II. The Situation in Libya

The European Commission has found that, at this moment, approximately 1.3 million civilians (19% of the population) in Libya are in need of humanitarian assistance. This is not merely a result of the growing influence of terrorist groups such as Da'esh and Ansar Al-Sharia. Moreover, the proliferation of arms and illicit trade thereof, the lack of a basic rule of law and, finally, the inability to deliver stable governance in a post-Gaddafi era have caused this not Libyan, but humanitarian crisis, which any and all Members States cannot accept.

Since democratisation in 1984, Uruguay has formulated a domestic and foreign policy based on political pluralism, multilateralism and respect for national sovereignty. Uruguay welcomed all efforts for Libyan unification and reconciliation exemplifying these values, including the International Criminal Court's recent announcement to reinvigorating the rule of law at an international level, a decision supported by the universal human rights set out in Article 5 of the Rome Statute. To this regard, Uruguay supports the Court's Prosecutor request for the necessary resources for the sake of making Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi available and giving a long awaited fair trial. Further, the Libyan Political Agreement of December 2015, was an important step to deter further bloodshed. It is of fundamental importance to support all measures, which aim to expand the support of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord in order to succeed in the coalescence of the Libyan people.

Uruguay calls on all involved parties to further reject foreign military interventions, condemn all violence against of women, children and minority communities and deliver a transparent investigation to not put the United Nations' credibility at stake.

III. The UN-AU Partnership on Peace Operations

As the Former UN Secretary-General His Excellency Ban-Ki Moon reiterated in a statement on the release of his report "The Future of UN Peace Operations", in 2015, "we must put in place a global regional framework to manage today's peace and security challenges. [This] must start with a reinforced partnership between the United Nations and the African Union."

Such challenges require short-term as well as long-term solutions, to its finding Uruguay lends its full commitment. Echoing the Secretary-General's report from April 2015 ([S/2015/229]), a repeated occurrence of lack of funds disrupts the fulfilment of mandates in both AU and UN-AU peacekeeping missions, illuminating the broader issue of the absence of a sustainable financial framework of UN-AU Partnership securing long-term success. The same report finds inadequate requirements of AU troops, when transferring to operations conducted by the UN.

Uruguay places very high priority on the protection of civilians in situations of conflict and in post conflict situations, deploying individual police officers, instructors and advisers, and in some cases undertaking executive tasks, in more than seven regions of the world since 1991. The Former Secretary-General praised Uruguay's commitment to global peacekeeping in 2011, saying it "is without rival". Building on this commitment, Uruguay favoured the adoption of the Renewed UN-AU Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017-2027, in December 2016, setting a crucial milestone in UN-AU partnership.

Furthermore, Uruguay seeks to support efforts to train AU troops and specialists, qualifying them for UN operations, train and assist Regional Economic Community's troops, enabling swift crisis responses independent of the UN, and, lastly, develop a fair allocation of financial, administrative and logistical responsibilities between AU's Peace and Security Council and UN's Security Council.