MIT Model United Nations Conference
China/Shanghai
2019 Position Paper Guideline

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1 What is a position paper?

Dear participants,

A position paper is an essay that presents an opinion about an issue, typically that of the author or another specified entity; such as a political party. Position papers are published in academia, in politics, in law and other domains.

1.1 Structure

A qualified position paper should be a document that reflects the general view of the author and his/her relevant stance in the position he will play. You are to elaborate your opinion thoroughly and in a comprehensible manner. Do not write your position in too complex or too simple way. Writing in a complex way has two possible effects: Either you will not be able to show to the Assistant Director and your Chair what you think or they will end up concluding that you don't have anything to say, but want to pretend you have. Also, try to write in simple words and structures, but do not simplify. Thoroughness, correctness and proper expression are the things to keep in mind when writing a position paper.

Each position paper should be split into three sections:

1. What is the problem?

This section should outline why the topic is important in a general sense.

2. How does the problem affect my country/organization?

This section should summarize how your position is affected by the problem. Consider what actions your country may have already taken, what actions it wants and does not want to take, and whether you are representing a country or organization affected very directly by the problem.

3. What does my country/organization think should be done to solve this problem on a global scale?

These ideas should be as specific as possible, as it is from the ideas in this section that you should draw your inspiration for clauses. You should look to what your country or other countries in similar positions have done in the past, what your committee has done in the past, draw connections to current events, or create innovative ideas based on your own inferences. Each section should be about a paragraph long, and those headings can be used. The tone of the papers should be relatively formal. Bibliography: you are accurate with your sources and avoid plagiarism.

1.2 Content

1.2.1 General content

Each committee has its specific topics it will deal with. Your job is to:

- read the background guides thoroughly
- gather some extra information.
- be as well-prepared as you can. You will have to answer the questions from assigment of Directors in Backgrund Guide in order to improve overall understanding of the topic.

1.2.2 Roles

Each delegate has received a role he/she is supposed to play at the conference. Different roles challenge the delegates in different ways. You should make sure that:

a) You know plenty about the topic and role played in your committee.

b) You are aware of the aims that your role is seeking to achieve and what you are standing for.

Example:

If you are a delegate representing China in World Health Organization, the first thing you should care about is that the interests of China as a whole are respected.

Advice:

Consider yourself a representative of China. If you act like a philanthropist aiming for the best of the working people at the very bottom of the projects undertaken related to your topic or the Brazilian rainforest or mankind as a whole, that surely is honourable and great to see, but you have to keep in mind that you may end up differently than the director expected you to. Make sure you stay in character.

1.3 Orthography and Grammar

You might express your opinion in English in a manner which is unlikely to be used by a native speaker. Generally, this is not a problem, but be sure to consider the following points:

a) Try to avoid misinterpretation.

Since the extent to harness English is varied among delegates, you should make effort to improve position paper in comprehensive aspects in terms of grammar, vocabulary and logics.

b) Don't mind mistakes unless they highly disturb readers to follow.

You may make mistakes in speech and writing. Those may be noticed or they may be not. Be sure that it doesn't matter as long as people understand what you are about. We are a forum concerned with Economics not Language teaching. It is no big deal to use language improperly as long as you express the right things.

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2 Do Research into your Background Guides

You should further research the general information on the topic, the country's position about the topic, actions taken to combat the problem, stances of other countries, blocs, etc.

1) Develop an overall understanding of the Topics at hand

You must try to develop an overall understanding of the topic that will be debated in your committee session. That means that you should do a lot of research into the topic. In order to be able to debate within this topic you should know AT LEAST the most basic details about this topic.

2) Know past actions

You must also know the history of this topic. What resolutions has this committee passed in the past regarding this topic? How far has the committee gone to solving the problems of this topic before? What resolutions have been blocked by other countries? What countries have done the most work in this field? Which countries will be unlikely to favor your countries ideas about this topic? In short, know the BASIC history of this topic and what the committee has done to solve these problems so far!

3) Know the current situation

You must also know the current situation regarding this topic. What are currently the biggest problems of this topic? Where are these problems from (country, religion, warfare, natural disaster, etc. etc.)? What is currently been done to solve the problems of this topic? Which countries are involved in solving these problems? In short, you must really look into the current NEWS of this topic. Read & watch everything in the news about this topic, as it will give you a good current understanding of the situation! Without knowing what is currently happening you will not be able to determine the future outlook!

4) Determine the future outlook!

Finally, in order to fully be in a position of knowledge and to debate with confidence, you must look ahead into the FUTURE! What can your country do to solve this problem? What initiatives does your country currently invest in? What is your country planning? How can other countries adopt your country‟s initiatives? What do you think will be the future problems? Who can you work with in the future to solve these problems?

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3 Useful Links for research

ECOSOC RESEARCH:

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre: http://www.internal-displacement.org/

World Bank: http://www.worldbank.org/

International Monetary Fund: http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm

UN organizations: UNICEF: http://www.unicef.org/

WHO: http://www.who.int/en/

UNHRC: http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/hrcindex.aspx

UNEP: http://www.unep.org/

UNDP: http://www.us.undp.org/content/washington/en/home.html

UNHCR: http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home

IMO: http://www.imo.org/Pages/home.aspx

ILO: http://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs):

Doctors Without Borders (MSF): http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/

Transparency International: http://www.transparency.org/country

Human Rights Watch: http://www.hrw.org/

Amnesty International: http://www.amnesty.org/

Nature Conservancy: http://www.nature.org/

Environmental Defense Fund: http://www.edf.org/

OPEC: http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/

OECD: http://www.oecd.org/

National Geographic News:
http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/archives/environment/

NEWSLETTERS:

Council on Foreign Relations: www.cfr.org

Foreign Policy: http://www.foreignpolicy.com

Sinocism (China-specific): https://sinocism.com/

Foreign Affairs: http://www.foreignaffairs.com/

United States Institute of Peace: http://www.usip.org/

UN News: http://www.un.org/apps/news/email/

World Affairs Journal: http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/

International Rescue Committee: http://www.rescue.org/

CHINA/ASIA NEWS:

Caixin Media: http://english.caixin.com/

China File: http://www.chinafile.com/

Tea Leaf Nation: http://www.tealeafnation.com/

The Diplomat: http://thediplomat.com/

South China Morning Post: http://www.scmp.com/frontpage/international

Channel News Asia: http://www.channelnewsasia.com/

MIDDLE EAST NEWS:

Al-Monitor: http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/home.html

Institute of the Study of War: http://www.understandingwar.org/

Al Jazeera: www.aljazeera.com

Al Arabiya: http://english.alarabiya.net/

AFRICA NEWS: IRIN: http://www.irinnews.org/

All Africa: http://allafrica.com/

4 Common mistakes

Example 1:

If someone suggests CNOOC to acquire new oil fields in order to maximize profit he argues in the wrong way. If he reads the CNOOC's Chairman's statement on the company's website, he will learn that CNOOC's goal is not maximum profit but price stability for China.

Source: (http://www.cnoocltd.com/col/col7251/index.html)

Example 2:

If someone suggests the IMF to print money in order to solve an economic crisis in the short run, he/she may want to consult Wikipedia's page on the IMF and read it (again). The IMF is sort of linked to such matters but is not a central bank.

Source: (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund)

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5 Sample paper

POSITION PAPER

Committee: **World Health Organization**

Delegate position: **United Kingdom**

MITMUNC 2011 Position Paper

The United Kingdom has prioritized nurturing their collaboration with the World Health Organization to ensure they will continue to work together to enrich their national health policies, systems and programs and to anticipate and overcome potential threats to national and global health issues.

Medical Device Technologies

The UK hopes to strike a balance by encouraging global communication and unifying health practice through single naming system, universally standardized medical devices, and harmonized regulatory processes . This would enable clarification when devices are donated or imported from industrialized countries to low-resource countries. To improve the system, differences need to be recognized so medical devices intended for developing countries and are not identical to medical devices intended for developed countries. Easy manufacturing is another option because normally developing countries have to make their own devices. Improved education is a necessity for the above options to be of success. In addition, nations as wholes need to increase their general health knowledge. Along with education, standards and quality control need to be maintained to sustain the transfer of medical technologies.

Antimicrobial Resistance

The UK recognizes that antimicrobial resistance demands procurement of more costly and toxic higher- lined drugs, which develops into a vicious cycle of scrambling to create new adaptations and ending antibiotics as a an option for combating infections. Proactively, the UK has improvised a resistance strategy in collaboration with the Department of Health. Education is another key strategy where children will be taught in school about prudent antibiotic use, the importance of good hygiene, and the impact of antibiotic resistance on the global community. Antimicrobial use in animals needs to be dealt with caution too. Also, a regulatory framework should be in place to ensure optimal prescribing by the physicians.. The UK also declares that aid needs to given to other European and non-European nations. Lastly, the UK also calls for the need for research into mechanisms of resistance and its spread and as well as applied research to further investigate the factors, impact and best control method for the UK and other nations.