

## TIPS FOR RESOLUTION AND POSITION PAPER WRITING

(Please scroll down for examples of each)

### RESOLUTIONS

A resolution presents a problem in the world to solve and proposes a solution(s) to the problem. A nation or a group of nations in a committee submits resolutions where delegates debate for or against them. After debate is closed, they are voted on and either passed as is, passed with amendments, or rejected. Delegates often base their vote on their country's stance and policy, as well as the specifics of the resolution.

**(This is where your research and focus on the resolution becomes important!)**

A resolution is always in the form of one long sentence divided into two basic parts: The pre-ambulatory and operative sections. The pre-ambulatory section explains the problems using current events and past UN actions. The operative section states a proposed solution, often in many parts, to the problem. Each clause is preceded by a phrase. Scroll down for a sample resolution that is included to help give you a basic idea when writing resolutions for your committee.

### **SAMPLE RESOLUTION**

**(HEADING) I**

Committee: Political and Security (**COMMITTEE**)

Subject: Chemical Weapons (**TOPIC OF RESOLUTION**)

Proposed by: Germany (**SPONSOR**)

The General Assembly, (**greeting to UN ORGAN**)

**TO SEPARATE PREAMULATORY PHRASEs use commas**

- (1) **Realizing** the growing need for some compromise (NUMBER
- (2) in the area of chemical weapons, I EACH LINE)
- (3) **Deeply concerned** that the use and/or mis-use of
- (4) these deadly weapons could cause a major catastrophe,
- (5) **Desiring** that countries to join together and i
- (6) destroy this menace, (USE commas", "s
- (7) **Citing** the fact that chemical weapons can cause
- (8) severe environmental damage, I
- (9) **Fully aware** that many countries have already;
- (10) have some sort of chemical weapons and/or have the
- (11) means to produce them,
- (12) **Realizing** that some countries can not afford
- (13) nuclear weapons and they feel they must turn to
- (14) chemical weapons,
- (15) **Emphasizing** the point that chemical weapons are
- (16) in-humane; as they contain blistering, irritation,
- (17) slow disease, and flesh eating agents,

**(OPERATIVE CLAUSES - indent 5 SPACES, and number, USE ";" TO SEPARATE OPERATIVE CLAUSES)**

- (18) 1. **Calls for** the outlawing of further production
- (19) of chemical weapons;
- (20) 2. **Calls upon** the United Nations to pass stricter
- (21) regulations for the storage, movement and disposal

(22) of chemical weapons;  
(23) 3. **Urges** the United Nations to draft a treaty  
(24) which sets up a regional Rapid Deployment Safety  
(25) Clean Up Team to help prevent the spread of disaster;  
(26) 4. **Encourages** that all countries sign this treaty;  
(27) 5. **Recommends** that the United Nations sends peace-  
(28) keeping forces to observe the adherence to this treaty;  
(29) 6. **Reaffirms** that third world nations should sign  
(30) this treaty as it helps bring about peace and unity; (31) (31)  
(31) 7. **Requests** the United Nations impose strict  
(32) penalties on those countries which do not follow the  
(33) (33) set guidelines.

**(END RESOLUTION WITH A PERIOD)**

## **POSITION PAPERS**

In addition to resolutions, your committee chairs may also ask you to submit position papers. A position paper is essentially your country's opinion on a certain topic. Unlike a resolution, your position paper is for the benefit of yourself and your chairs. For the chairs, the position paper concisely summarizes and expresses your months of research. For yourself, the position paper forces you to take what you have learned and streamline and prioritize it. If you decide to write a position paper, the end product will be a clear, concise summary of your role in the conference. Sooner or later you will need to take a stand on the issues; by following your position paper, your opinion will be decisive and supported with facts.

In The Harvard Delegate Guide, Marc Sabatine states three basic parts of any resolution: your country's national interests, your country's national policies, and your opinion on resolution components. Make sure to include these topics in your paper, but remember, feel free to pattern the information so that it makes sense!

**Model UN Preparation Guide(resource: [www.unausa.org](http://www.unausa.org))**

### **Position Papers**

Many conferences require that each delegation submit a position paper-an essay detailing your country's policies on the topics being discussed in your committee. Writing a position paper will help you organize your ideas so that you can share your country's position with the rest of the committee. If you conduct extensive **research**, a position paper should be easy to write.

Most conferences that require position papers ask for them about one month before the conference so that staff members can read them and get a feel for the direction debate will take. If the conference you are attending does not require a position paper, you should still consider writing one to help you organize your research and prepare your **speeches**. Many delegates use their position papers as their opening remarks.

### **How to Write a Position Paper**

Writing a position paper might appear to be a daunting task, especially for new delegates. But with enough research, you will find that writing a position paper will be easy and useful.

Position papers are usually one to one-and-a-half pages in length. Your position paper should include a brief introduction followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on the topics that are being discussed by the committee. A good position paper will not only provide facts but also make proposals for resolutions.

Many conferences will ask for specific details in a position paper, so be sure to include all the required information. Most conferences will provide delegates a background guide to the issue. Usually, the background guide will contain questions to consider. Make sure that your position paper answers these questions.

**A good position paper will include:**

- A brief introduction to your country and its history concerning the topic and committee;
- How the issue affects your country;
- Your country's policies with respect to the issue and your country's justification for these policies;
- Quotes from your country's leaders about the issue;
- Statistics to back up your country's position on the issue;
- Actions taken by your government with regard to the issue;
- Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified;
- UN actions that your country supported or opposed;
- What your country believes should be done to address the issue;
- What your country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution; and
- How the positions of other countries affect your country's position.

**Position Paper Tips**

- **Keep it simple.** To communicate strongly and effectively, avoid flowery wording and stick to uncomplicated language and sentence structure.
- **Make it official.** Try to use the seal of your country or create an "official" letterhead for your position paper. The more realistic it looks, the more others will want to read it.
- **Get organized.** Give each separate idea or proposal its own paragraph. Make sure each paragraph starts with a topic sentence.
- **Cite your sources.** Use footnotes or endnotes to show where you found your facts and statistics. If you are unfamiliar with bibliographic form, look up the Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines at your school's library.
- **Read and reread.** Leave time to edit your position paper. Ask yourself if the organization of the paper makes sense and double-check your spelling and grammar.
- **Speech! Speech!** Do you plan to make an opening statement at your conference? 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.
- **Let the bullets fly.** Try not to let your proposals become lost in a sea of information. For speechmaking, create a bulleted list of your proposals along with your most important facts and statistics so that you will not lose time looking for them during debate.

Here is a [sample position paper](#) written by delegates at the [UNA-USA Model UN Conference](#).

Sample Position Paper

[Position Papers Overview](#) | [Model UN Preparation Guide Home](#)

Committee: International Labor Organization

Topic: Globalization and Development

Country: Romania

\*This sample position paper was submitted by the delegation of Romania at the 2007 [UNA-USA Model UN Conference](#) in New York City.

In the past two decades the rapidly growing world trend has been toward globalization. With the emergence of the internet as a means of communication and the increasing accessibility of international trade physical barriers are not the only barriers withering away. Protective tariffs are plummeting and free trade agreements are becoming more prevalent. Romania appreciates that globalization creates favorable situations for expansion of commercial as well as economic assets. In the past year Romania has seen a foreign direct investment (FDI) increase of 199%. Inward FDI

increased from EURO 234 million in 2005 to EURO 699 million in 2006. However, Romania realizes that increased globalization does not automatically produce more equality.

Globalization and Development can contribute to the advancement of the overall international human condition; however, the delegation of Romania recognizes that without proper regulation the potential for advancement will remain limited to an elite few individuals, businesses, and nations. Unless checked and aimed toward the common good, globalization cannot effectively serve the global community. Crucial in dealing with the complexities of globalization, good governance must act with solidarity and responsibility. Romania believes that in involving people in globalization we must promote moral values, democratic principals, inclusive global political culture, institutions that safeguard both individual civil rights and inherent freedoms, and the common good. In addition, coping with the influx of information from globalization governments must act with solidarity and insight. Access to digital education will undoubtedly result in the confidence of citizens in their respective administrations and allow for a greater degree of transparency, and therefore a lesser degree of corruption.

Romania believes the multinational business community has the ability and the obligation to support pertinent values in human rights, labor standards, and environmental preservation. As stated by the president, Mr. Traion Basescu, Romania feels a "heartfelt attachment to multilateralism, as an effective instrument designed to identify the adequate answers to the challenges brought by globalization."

Romania is party to the majority of multilateral treaties and conventions identified as such by the Secretary General in the context of the Millennium Summit in 2001. Romania has always supported innovative and effective ways of establishing cooperation within and between regional organizations. As one of the newest members of the European Union, Romania is an active member of the World Trade Organization, and looks forward to offering its support to the redirection of globalization to best benefit the global community.

### Example of a Position Paper

(Words in **BOLD** are necessary in your position papers)

**Country:** France ----- Your real country goes here

**Committee:** Political and Social ----- Your real committee goes here

**Topic:** Strengthening Peace and Security in the Mediterranean-- you get the point!

(Space 3-5 times)

The French Republic recognizes that, as a coastal state on the Mediterranean, great importance must be attached in that region. The authority of any forth-coming resolution dealing with this area depends on the unanimous support from all the coastal states. France believes that in order to achieve any real progress in enhancing peace and security in the Mediterranean basin the following proposals should be implemented:

Frequent meeting between countries of the area and their immediate neighbors for the purpose of reducing regional tensions and promoting a unified approach to global problems.

\*Remember your 3 main key items:

National interests

National policies

Action you can/ cannot support

Your normal position papers you should yield at a minimum of 4-5 paragraphs. For each statement (Paragraph 1 of the sample), provide a backup statement (Paragraph 2 or #1 of the sample)

Here are some of the Pre-ambulatory, and Operative Phrases: **(For an example on how to use these see example resolution below.)**

**Pre-ambulatory Phrases :**

Accepting that  
Expecting  
Keeping in mind  
Affirming  
Expressing its appreciation  
Noting with satisfaction  
Alarmed by  
Expressing its satisfaction  
Noting with deep concern  
Approving  
Fulfilling  
Noting further  
Aware of  
Fully aware  
Noting with approval  
Alarmed Observing  
Fully believing  
Noting  
Believing Fully  
Further deploring  
Recognizing  
Citing Further  
Further recalling  
Reaffirming  
Concerned that  
Gravely concerned  
Recalling  
But realizing  
Having adopted  
Realizing  
Bearing in mind  
Having considered  
Referring by Seeking  
Contemplating that  
Having considered further  
Taking into account  
Convinced Guided  
Having examined  
Taking into consideration  
Declaring  
Having studied  
Taking note  
Deeply concerned  
Having heard  
Viewing with appreciation  
Deeply conscious  
Having received  
Welcoming  
Deeply disturbed  
Whereas  
Deeply regretting  
Yet maintaining  
Designating  
Emphasizing

**OPERATIVE PHRASES :**

Accepts  
Designates  
Proclaims  
Affirms  
Emphasizes  
Reaffirms  
Draws the attention.  
Approves  
Encourages  
Recommends  
Authorizes  
Endorses  
Reminds  
Be it resolved  
Regrets  
Calls  
Expresses  
Requests  
Calls upon  
Further invites  
Resolves  
Condemns  
Further proclaims  
Solemnly affirms  
Congratulates  
Further reminds  
Strongly condemns  
Confirms  
Further recommends  
Supports Considers  
Further resolves  
Trusts  
Further requests  
Have resolved  
Takes note of  
Transmits  
Notes  
Urges  
Declares accordingly  
Expresses its appreciation