

## Position Paper Writing Guide for General Meetings

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### What is a Position Paper?

A position paper is a document that details your country's point of view on a given issue. Position papers, when written for conferences, are required in order to win awards and are typically around 1 page in length. For our general meetings, we ask that you prepare a paragraph (10 sentence minimum) to gain an understanding of your nation's position and give you a better idea of what to discuss during the course of debate.

### What should I include in a Position Paper?

Position papers are a great way to compile the goals your country, and by extension you, are seeking to achieve during the committee. This information can be found by research exploring legislation and executive policies passed in your country concerning the topic at hand. For example:

You are in a committee discussing Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action, as a delegate from the United States of America. You may cite Joe Biden's revocation of the Keystone XL pipeline permit as an indication that a more progressive environmental policy is being pursued by the government.

Other forms of information which could inform the claims made in your position paper include: international treaties entered into by your nation, international bodies your nation has joined (or withdrawn from), and activities taken with regards to non-governmental agencies. (Please note this is not an exhaustive list of information sources). Additionally, it is important to include several different ways you think the issue could be solved.

*Please note that it is CRITICAL that the solutions you outline in your position paper are reasonable with regards to your nations prior stances on the issue. Ex: It would be fairly unreasonable for a delegate from the Russian Federation to advocate for an expansion of the rights of the press.*

### When will I need to write Position Papers?

You will need to write Position Papers for every non-crisis committee you participate in during your Model UN career. You will also need to write them for every general meeting we hold, unless otherwise specified.

### What if I forget to write my Position Paper?

Out of general courtesy to all members, we ask that everyone prepare and submit their position paper following their country assignment. This will cut out research time during our meetings, and will allow us to get to the heart of the issue much faster. If it is your

first time forgetting to submit a position paper, please do not worry and try to get some basic research done in the opening minutes of the committee. However, we will regard repeat offenses as disrespectful to the other members of the club, and will result in disciplinary action.

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### **Sample Position Paper:**

*Delegation from*  
Kuwait

*Represented by*  
University of Wisconsin -Madison

*Position Paper for the Commission on Disarmament and International Security*  
*^[COMMITTEE NAME]*

National Legislation on the Transfer of Arms, Military Equipment, and Dual-Use Goods and Technology  
*^Committee Topic(s)*

Kuwait would like to note two consequences of global proliferation of arms and military technologies that all countries should take into consideration before taking a strong position on national arms transfer legislation. First of all, access (or lack thereof) to arms and military equipment has changed the nature of even the most diplomatic and peaceful relationships between any two countries. In the face of growing nuclear or military superpowers like the United States or Russia, it has become increasingly difficult for countries without such military capabilities to negotiate on a level playing field with those around it. Thus, if implemented now, extensive national legislation on transfers of small arms and non-nuclear military equipment would perpetuate current global power inequalities.

However, Kuwait does recognize that the almost completely unregulated presence of nuclear weapons, coupled to the “nuclear arms race,” also serves to strengthen these power inequalities. Kuwait would like to emphasize that regulation on nuclear arms trading, as well as global nuclear disarmament, is crucial to finding peace in our world today. Kuwait also acknowledges that it is more than possible for trades of military equipment to fall into the hands of terrorist groups who would seek to use them in a way not conducive to the United Nation’s vision of world peace.

Therefore, Kuwait would like to suggest a more focused approach to national legislation of arms trading. Rather than pursuing complete transparency of or limiting arms trading as whole, the United Nations should focus on tracking and legislating nuclear arms trade, as well as trade of military equipment to areas of interest in the context of terrorist activity, on a national level.

**More Information on Position Paper Writing can be Found Here:**

<https://bestdelegate.com/how-to-write-a-winning-position-paper/>