



**MUNLAWS**

**POSITION PAPER  
GUIDELINES**

For Security Council and Human  
Rights Council

Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana

Ljubljana, November 2020

## The ideal position paper shall include:

- 1.** A brief introduction to your country and its history concerning the topic and committee (outlining the topic in general and providing insight into the root of the conflict);
- 2.** How the issue affects your country (state how your nation relates to the topic for discussion, specifically citing how your state has been affected; emphasize the extent to which change has taken place; discuss how it has altered domestic dynamics)
- 3.** Your country's policies with respect to the issue and your country's justification for these policies (outline your country's policies and what factors contributed to those policies being established in the first place)
- 4.** Quotes from your country's leaders about the issue;
- 5.** Statistics to back up your country's position on the issue (also explain why your country has acted in a certain fashion historically and why it will continue to follow this course of action)
- 6.** Actions taken by your government with regard to the issue (address the relative benefits (if any) and detriments of the development, specifically relating to your nation and the actions you have taken to maximize or minimize these effects)
- 7.** Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified related to the issue;
- 8.** UN (v NATO-NATO) actions that your country supported or opposed related to the issue;
- 9.** What your country believes should be done to address the issue (also outline your state's particular interest in the issue being discussed, and begin to discuss what needs to be changed about the current interpretation of the situation)
- 10.** What your country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution; and
- 11.** How the positions of other countries affect your country's position.

## The Format:

The common layout of position papers is maximum two pages for each topic discussed in the Committee, single spaced, with size twelve, Times New Roman or Arial font. Position Papers start with a header stating the country being represented, the committee and the topic.

## Some additional tips:

The position paper leaves the committee chair with a first impression of your delegation. Naturally, it's important to make that impression as strong as possible. The staff looks for original and critical thinking, a true understanding of the nature of your nation and both a function and applied knowledge of your topic.

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**.

1. Try to use the seal of your country on your position paper, or perhaps even a watermark. The more realistic it looks, the more it will attract others to want to read it,
2. Give each separate idea or proposal its own paragraph,
3. Use endnotes to show where you found your facts and statistics,
4. Leave time to edit your position paper. Ask yourself if the organization of the paper makes sense and double-check your spelling and grammar,
5. 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,
6. 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,
7. Do not plagiarize content. Plagiarized position papers will be discarded, and the delegates will be penalized.

**Failure to follow these instructions or to meet the deadline for the submission of the position papers will result in negative points for the position paper!**

## Submission of Position Papers:

To submit your papers, firstly register your account on MUNLawS website. You can find the registration area link in the top right corner. Please note, that all registrations are manually checked and approved by our team, so it may take some time for your account to become active. Once your registration has been confirmed, please log in to your account and then look for 'PP Submission' area in the top right corner of the website. Simply fill out the form and upload your paper to the appropriate field. Make sure to click the submit button. After the deadline will have expired, the submissions will no longer be possible.

Should the committee have more than two discussion topics, the papers must be merged into a single document. It is expected that they are in .pdf format. Please note, that the maximum upload capacity is limited to 11MB.

**The deadline for submission is November 10, 2020.**

Should you have any problems or further questions, do not hesitate to contact us at [info@munlaws.com](mailto:info@munlaws.com)

This guide for writing position papers was made to aid delegates participating at MUNLawS 2020.

All sources used in this guide:

<https://vmun.com/writing-position-paper-model-united-nations/>  
<http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation/position-papers>

You can find a sample position paper on the next page.

## Sample:

Committee: Security Council

Delegation: France

Topic: Situation in South Sudan



*Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité*

**RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE**

The Republic of France looks upon the situation in South Sudan with great concern and anguish. It has been almost a year since the situation in South Sudan, United Nations' youngest member, started to deteriorate intensively. Since then, we have seen mass attacks on civilians due to their ethnicity and political beliefs, destruction of private property, extensive internal displacements and other crimes that led South Sudan into a humanitarian disaster and state of lawlessness. The United Nations Security Council has put quite some effort into a positive resolution of the situation, however, it failed to achieve desired effects as none of the sides still seems to be willing to work exhaustively on the diplomatic level to achieve peace and stability needed.

Republic of France solidly supports all the initiatives aimed at putting an end to all hostilities in the region. Albeit the January Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities has been broken numerous times, diplomatic talks must continue. France firmly supports East Africa's Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union and has expressed its wide approval of talks in Addis Ababa in late August 2014. We call on the South Sudanese parties to comply with the 45-day deadline set at the IGAD Summit to form a new transitional government of national unity.<sup>1</sup>

As neither of the sides showed necessary will to end hostilities and people's suffrage, it is the duty of the international community, namely the United Nations to help the South Sudanese. The Council simply cannot be indifferent. Under the French presidency, the UN Mission in South Sudan has doubled in its size last December. Furthermore, French government fully supported the UN Security Council Resolution 2156, extending the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to 30 November 2014 and authorizing UNMISS to use "all necessary means" to protect civilians.<sup>2</sup> At the same time the government of South Sudan must be aware of its primary responsibility to protect civilians and deal with crimes within its territory. On this meeting France will reaffirm its support for the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The Mission mandate must not by any means be hindered or its personnel unsafe, France demands that no compromises are tolerated with regards to the Mission. Those who have or will threaten Mission's proper existence cannot escape unpunished. Only in such conditions, can UNMISS provide humanitarian assistance and protect civilians and human rights.<sup>3</sup> We also call for closer collaboration of UN bodies with non- governmental

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<sup>1</sup> French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, South Sudan - Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Summit in Addis Ababa (August 25, 2014), URL: <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/south-sudan/france-and-south-sudan/political-relations-7542/article/south-sudan-intergovernmental>

<sup>2</sup> Global Centre for the responsibility to Protect, Resolution 2155 (South Sudan) S/RES/2155, URL: <http://www.globalr2p.org/resources/631>

<sup>3</sup> French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, South Sudan – Signing of a ceasefire agreement (January 23, 2014), URL: <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/south-sudan/france-and-south-sudan/political-relations-7542/article/south-sudan-signing-of-a-ceasefire>

organizations (e.g. Human Rights Watch) that have insight view of the situation and are a valuable source of recognizing the voids and possible further actions of the United Nations.

With regards to the region of Abyei, France remains worried by the extensive military presence in the region and negative dynamic in Khartoum, coming from partisans on the strong line. The French Permanent Representative supported the renewal of United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) for four months, as recommended by the Secretary-General. We moreover stress that the situation in Abyei cannot be fully solved until the internal conflicts in both states have been dealt with.<sup>4</sup>

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan reported in May 2014 that there are “reasonable grounds to believe that crimes against humanity have been committed during the conflict by both Government and opposition forces.” French government should once again underline that the international law is clear on the need for justice for serious crimes. International treaties including the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which South Sudan has ratified, require parties to a conflict to ensure that people allegedly responsible for serious crimes are prosecuted. Most notably, the killing of more than 50 people in the UNMISS base in Bor and the massacre in Bentiu prove unacceptable ethnically driven brutality in South Sudan. International community must act decisively to gain trust with the people of South Sudan. It must be evident that those breaching the international and humanitarian law will pay the price for their crimes.<sup>5</sup> Referral to International Criminal Court therefore must be considered, as French Permanent Representative already stated on several occasions.<sup>6</sup>

The Republic of France believes that a diplomatic solution is the only solution for the South Sudanese situation. The international community must be ceaseless in demanding full compliance with the Agreement on the end of hostilities, signed January 23, 2014. France is willing to offer any diplomatic help needed. The international community must rehabilitate the victims of atrocities with regard to the duty of South Sudanese government to provide for their citizens. Lastly, violators of human rights and international law must be put on fair trial and punished for their crimes, because it is the lack of treatment of former issues that fuel the conflicts of today.

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<sup>4</sup> Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York, Sudan and South Sudan, URL: <http://www.franceonu.org/france-at-the-united-nations/geographic-files/africa/sudan-and-south-sudan/article/sudan-and-south-sudan>

<sup>5</sup> Human Rights Watch, South Sudan: Ethnic Killings Spiraling URL: <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/04/23/south-sudan-ethnic-killings-spiraling>

<sup>6</sup> Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York, 2 May 2014 - Security Council - South Sudan - Statement by Mr. Gérard Araud, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations , URL: <http://www.franceonu.org/france-at-the-united-nations/press-room/statements-at-open-meetings/security-council/article/2-may-2014-security-council-south>