



Harvard World Model United Nations 2024

Position Paper Guidelines

Please use this document only as a guide; refer to your committee's background guide for more specific position paper guidelines, as they may vary by committee. The deadline to email your position paper to your committee chair is **11:59 pm ET on March 8, 2024**. Delegates who do not submit a position paper on time are not eligible to receive awards of any kind.

Issue Position

It is helpful to search for specific statements made by a diplomat from your country in order to determine your country's position on a certain issue. Through your research, you may find that your country does not have a position on one of your topics. Instead, you may establish your country's position by adapting a bloc position. In fact, delegates of smaller countries will find that combining their resources and votes is a highly effective way of advancing your country's position against a powerful, influential nation.

Writing the Position Paper

Generally, a position paper is an outline of your country's position on the issues that will be discussed in committee. Such a paper should range from one to two pages. If you are part of a double delegation, then you should work together to create one position paper of the same length of 1-2 pages. Your position paper must contain: (1) a clear statement of the problem(s), (2) a clear and concise statement of your country's position on each topic and reasons as to why your country takes that certain position (you can cite past actions your country has taken as a reason), and (3) proposed solutions addressing the issues.

Here are pointers taken from *A Guide to Delegate Preparation*:

- Frame your country's view of the topic by considering alternatives that have been proposed or pointing out specific regional blocs that share your position;

- Examine previous resolutions or actions taken on this topic so as to propose or advance your opinion on what action should be taken, while attempting to alleviate the concerns of those who may oppose your position; and
- Intimate whether there is room for negotiation, while defending the position and propositions (Wayner 2002).