

**Maroc**

**Model United Nations**

*Position Paper Guide, MMXVIII*

# Position Paper

A Position Paper communicates the position of a country on a particular topic. It is a short paper specifying your country's policies and actions on the issue being discussed in your committee. Each country represented in a committee should send a concise and clear position paper to the chairs well in advance of the conference. Each paper should be approximately one page and half long for each topic.

## *The necessity of a Position Paper*

A well written position paper provides a basis for future Working Papers and Draft Resolutions. Good position papers also make for a great introductory speech. 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, they will help you to stay focused on your country's stance when discussing particular agenda topics on the conference.

## *How do you write a Position Paper?*

The best position papers are backed by facts and figures. However, the position paper is quite short and too many facts and figures might make an unnecessary statistical summary out of it. Please remember that the main purpose of this paper is to briefly explain your policy. You will have plenty of time on the conference to support your policy through statistical analysis.

The most important thing is that the Position Paper should not describe the topic but rather describe the country's position on the topic. If for example the topic is about 'euthanasia' then it should be mentioned from the Introduction whether the country is in favour or against. Therefore to write a position paper a delegate should look at governmental documents on the relevant sites of the country that he/she represents. It is also useful to search through the databases of the UN and detect for which resolutions your country voted in favour and which against. Furthermore look at the actions that your country is taking on the current news (e.g. any treaties signed or rejected, any acts or legislations that passed from the national parliament/congress)

# Position Paper

Please pay careful attention to the following guidelines when drafting and submitting your position papers. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned country. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee.

**Note: Once you write your position paper, place it on the google drive document that your MUN Director/Advisor has shared with you.**

*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;
- ❖ 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
- ❖ How the positions of other countries affect your country's position.

*All papers must be typed and formatted according to the specifications below:*

- ❖ Length must not exceed two pages, and margins on the sides, top, and bottom are to be 1 inch;
- ❖ The text of the body must be between 10 pt. and 12 pt. font, Times New Roman;
- ❖ Country/NGO name, school name, and committee name clearly labeled on the first page;
- ❖ Justify the text for your paragraphs so the left and right margins both have straight edges;
- ❖ Sources must be cited in MLA format (8th edition)

# Position Paper Example

Forum: Security Council

Question of Development of a Sustainable Egyptian Government

Submitted by Republic of Azerbaijan

Model United Nations

Security Council: Egypt's Sustainable Government

## *1. Introduce the Topic:*

The Republic of Azerbaijan is a democratic nation that encourages Egypt to follow this form of government. The Egyptian conflict to establish democracy in the North African country has been going on since 2011 and is a direct cause of the Arab Spring which caused similar chaos in Tunisia, Libya, and Syria. Mohammed Morsi who served as the fifth president and the first democratically elected president of Egypt from June 30, 2012 to July 3, 2013 is now on trial due to the fact that he is accused of the murder of protesters on June 30, 2013. However, not only is he on trial, but Morsi was wrongly removed from the presidency by the military which does not abide by the rules of democracy. Because of the Republic of Azerbaijan's strong beliefs in democracy, this delegation would like to state that without Morsi being proven guilty of the crimes he is accused of committing, he must remain president until his five year term is over because Egypt will not be able to become a republic if every unwanted president is imprisoned. Not completing the five year term would be a failure of the system and a set back for democracy.

## *2. Past resolutions and UN Actions*

In the United Nations, no resolution have passed concerning the Egyptian conflict. The last resolution number **1372** that passed dates from 28 September 2001 concerning the assassination attempt of President Hosni Mubarak. However, other organizations such as the European Parliament and the United States Senate have passed some resolutions in the past year. On 12 September 2013, the European Parliament voted on a non-legislative draft resolution regarding the ongoing dispute. The resolution number **2310** demands that " all acts of violence half immediately" and also stresses the need for complete investigations on all the killing that occurred during the turmoil. Meanwhile, the United States senate passed a resolution supporting Egyptians which was put forward by John McCain and John Kerry. The resolution "ensures that the United States assistance to the Egyptian Government, military, and people will advance the goal of ensuring the respect for the universal rights of

the Egyptian people". The Republic of Azerbaijan will address the issue to its full extent and will work towards finding a solution to ensure democracy in Egypt.

### *3. Country's Position:*

The Republic of Azerbaijan does not fully support the presence of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Egyptian Government. Even though this delegation understands that the political party was democratically elected, it is preferable to keep religious beliefs out of the government. The Muslim Brotherhood is a political party that enforces Islam in the country's laws. The country is currently divided between the President Morsi's supporters and its Islamist allies and the opposition which includes moderate Muslims, and other religious faiths such as Christians and Liberals. However, the Republic of Azerbaijan respects the democratic reason why Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood became the leaders of Egypt.

### *4. Conclusion and Country's Actions toward the Issue:*

The Republic of Azerbaijan fully supports the new draft constitution that is currently being outlined by the military. The new constitution encourages democracy in the nation as long as the military can intervene if needed. Turkey, a strong ally of the Republic of Azerbaijan, also holds similar regulations in its constitution which was drafted back in 1982. This delegation promotes this type of system in Egypt since Turkey is a clear example of a strong and democratic nation. However, some of the criticism is based on the fact that having the military control the president is not a clear form of democracy, nevertheless, no country can rise from a dictatorship to a full democracy without passing through some supervised conditions.

## Tips for writing a Position Paper

- *Formal:* MUNs are formal events, and it is important that all communication be carried out in a formal manner, which obviously requires formal language
- *Simple:* In order to communicate effectively, it is important that uncomplicated language is used and woolly sentence structure be avoided
- *Well argued:* It is not enough to name actions taken by your country. Most importantly, you need to justify them
- *Structured:* Try to deal with each issue in a new paragraph. Check if the organisation makes sense and that the content follows through. Practicing the position papers as a speech helps a lot
- *Concise:* As most of you will be using the position papers for opening speeches, it is important that the document be concise, effective and interesting
- *Suggesting solutions:* The best position papers provide a basis for Working Papers and Draft Resolutions
- *Statistics:* Well-cited statistics are important and most effective for backing up a country's stance.



Joins US!

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