

Position Paper Writing Guide

A position paper is a brief document (ranging from 250 to 450 words) that outlines your country's stance on the specific issue. You can think of it as an official communication your country would release to address the topic at hand. The paper serves several key functions: it helps you organize your research and thoughts, forms the foundation for future draft resolutions, and most importantly allows other delegates to understand potential alliances and opposition within your committee.

What should a position paper include?

- Introduction to the Topic – Provide a very short overview of the issue, demonstrating your grasp of its relevance.
- Country's Stance in the Context of the Topic – A crucial section, use relevant treaties, historical precedents, and statistical data to illustrate how the topic affects your nation, why it's important, and your country's perspective.
- Policies and Actions Taken by Your Country – Highlight any existing measures/activities your country has implemented to address the issue.
- Proposals for Addressing the Issue – Suggest how your country believes the issue should be resolved.
- Conclusion – Provide a concise summary, reinforcing your country's stance and proposed actions.

The document must be written in a formal tone and be logically structured. Make sure all your arguments are well-supported with evidence, such as statistics or references to international agreement.

Sample Position Paper

Topic: The question of creating a viable Kurdish state

Across the territories of Turkey, Syria, Armenia, Iran, and Iraq spreads the largest stateless nation of an estimated 25 to 35 million Kurds. The cultural divide fosters disunity and violence within the region. Kurdish separatists attempt to destabilize and spread fear across the general populace to achieve their independence whilst naturally, sovereign states seek protection from such nationalist movements. The detrimental nature of the relationship is evident, especially with the current development in Turkey.

On March 11th 1970 the Iraqi Kurdistan or The Kurdistan Region as per the Iraqi constitution was established under a strict rule of law, assuring stability within Iraq. Being established through peaceful dialogue, it is thus far the sole policy outcome leading towards a resolution of the Kurdish conflict. Moreover, the semi-autonomous region is now at the forefront of fighting against the largest contemporary terrorist organization ISIL. The global contribution of this region is indisputable. Hence, The Swiss Confederation takes a supportive stance to this region and its further development as a solution to the Kurdish dispute. It already has deep-sewn diplomatic ties with the region and collaborates on the provision and distribution of humanitarian aid for its population.

However, it is also necessary to realize that sustainability and effectivity of the settlement of this dispute is achieved solely if all parties to the conflict achieve consensus, thus local policy dialogue must take place. Furthermore, to eliminate any further possibilities of conflict deriving from slight opposition, the territories ought to strive for a level of economic interdependence and development, particularly by implementing the WTO Washington Consensus and allowing for bilateral free movement of goods and labour.

With the frequency and severity of conflicts within the Middle East and their largely non-secular nature, the Kurdish question demands resolution. The significant rise and threat of terrorism make it a global and local interest to undertake policy changes that would stabilise the region and develop it so that asymmetric radicalism would subside and humanitarian needs are met. The Swiss Confederation looks to the pre-established Kurdish region as a model solution to the Kurdish dispute and additionally accounts for the need for local dialogue and economic development.