



Position Paper Guide



National Model United Nations

nmun.org

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Position Paper Overview

What is a Position Paper?

A position paper is what its name suggests: a document in which a Member State or Observer lays out its position on a topic. For National Model United Nations (NMUN), delegates are asked to submit a position paper on the topics included in the Background Guide for their assigned committee.

Unlike working papers or resolutions, which are written during the conference and reflect the work and viewpoints of several delegations, a position paper is written prior to the conference and reflects the perspective of only one delegation. For that reason, position papers are also dissimilar in tone and presentation to academic essays; they use diplomatic rhetoric and supporting information to present the delegation's desired outcomes.

Position papers are published before each conference, meaning that they serve as each delegation's first communication to both the NMUN Secretariat and to other delegates. The most effective position papers include not only policy statements but also indicate which components of the topic are most important to the delegation and outline how those policies are realistic and potentially appealing to others. Stated positions are backed up with specific supporting information, such as the delegation's own past actions, international frameworks, norms, or bodies and programs.

What is the NMUN Position Paper Process?

While each delegation prepares for the conference differently, the general process for position papers includes:

1. NMUN publishes the background guides for each committee, which includes the two topics that are automatically included on each committee's agenda.
2. Delegations review the background guides and conduct additional research, including their delegation's background and situation, various aspects of the topic and its current context, and relevant international frameworks and actors, among other things.
3. Using their research, delegations consider what their desired outcomes would be for each topic, potentially including both ideal and minimum acceptable outcomes.
4. Delegations draft a single position paper for each committee, often subjecting the position paper to review and editing.
5. Position papers are submitted to NMUN.
6. NMUN publishes the position papers, and they are reviewed by the Secretariat and other delegations.

All delegations, whether representing a Member State or Observer, prepare position papers, submitting exactly one, covering both topics, to each committee to which it is assigned. For example, even if there are two delegates in the General Assembly First Committee representing Mexico, there will only be a single position paper from Mexico for the General Assembly First Committee. All of the position papers for a delegation should be submitted by one person, preferably a faculty advisor or head delegate, using the position paper form provided before the conference.

As part of their preparation, the NMUN Secretariat will review all submitted position papers. Based on the criteria listed on page 13, the Secretariat will recognize exceptional submissions as Outstanding Position Papers in Committee at the end of the conference.

Position Paper Guidelines

NMUN has set standards for position papers. Position papers submitted for NMUN should adhere to the following:

- Must be comprised of original writing. Plagiarism will result in a position paper being ineligible for review by the Secretariat and egregious instances may be reported to faculty advisors or delegation leaders. Plagiarism includes:
 - Copying significant text from outside sources.
 - Copying directly from the Background Guides provided to delegates.
 - Verbatim reproduction of United Nations (UN) documentation. Although documentation issued by the UN is considered within the public domain and brief quotes may be used as supporting information, NMUN considers significant reproduction to be plagiarism.
- Length must not exceed two pages plus an artificial intelligence (AI)/large language models (LLMs) disclosure statement (and nothing else) on the third page (see p. 11 for required language). If AI/LLMs were not used, there's language for that situation too.
- Margins should be 1 inch or 2.54 cm on all sides for all pages.
- The font used should be Arial, 10 point.
- Headers should be center aligned; the main text should be left aligned throughout the document.
- Centered on the first line of the first page, type in bold **Delegation from Member State/Observer Name**. Centered on the second line of the first page, type in bold and italics ***Position Paper for the [Committee]***. The name of the university or organization sponsoring the delegation should not be included in the header or anywhere in the position paper. Example first page header:

Delegation from Mexico

Position Paper for the Commission on the Status of Women

- For the remainder of the paper, address the topics before your committee in the order in which they appear within your Committee Background Guide. Label each topic, with the name of the topic numbered, bolded, and centered. Example topic title:

1. Nuclear Disarmament

- Images should not be used; the position paper should be entirely textual in nature. This includes the use of national symbols (flags, seals, etc.).
- Academic citations, such as footnotes, endnotes, or in-text parenthetical citations, should not be used. Quotation marks and indication of source should still be used when referencing specific rhetoric from documents as supporting information, but formal academic citation is not required.
- Submit your position paper in PDF format. The filename should be the acronym for the committee, an underscore, and then the name or acronym for your delegation (COMM_Delegation.pdf). For Member States, please use the simple name listed on the [UN web site](#) (e.g. "Germany" not "Federal Republic of Germany").

Example file names:

GA1_Cuba.pdf

UNEA_Coted'Ivoire.pdf

SC_UK.pdf

ECOSOC_France.pdf

Forming a Position

Research

For the vast majority of delegation assignments, you will not be able to find a published statement of position on the topics for your committee. Instead, you will have to develop a thorough understanding of your assigned delegation, the topics at hand, and the committee being simulated, and then use your understanding of each to arrive at a position that your delegation would assert. Research is the first step.

Delegation

Regardless of your delegation, understanding its history, past actions, and current situation are central to forming and articulating a position. If you have been assigned a UN Member or Observer State, you may wish to begin by researching its political structure, socioeconomic conditions, and culture. Familiarity with these areas will assist you in forming a consistent foreign policy. The following are additional categories to research as you become familiar with your Member State (not in order of relevance):

- Population and demographics;
- Geography;
- Ethnic and religious groups;
- Level of economic development;
- Major industries and international trade flows;
- Healthcare;
- Education systems;
- Poverty;
- Urbanization;
- Food security and agriculture;
- Environmental policies;
- Major domestic policies;
- Allies, adversaries, and connections to other Member States.

If you are representing a non-governmental organization (NGO), your research will be similar. You may wish to begin by researching its history, mission, structure, funding, values, purposes, and goals. Since these factors shape the way an NGO will interact with states, familiarity with these areas will assist you in forming a consistent approach to the issues at hand and a consistent style of interaction.

Topics

Researching the topics on your committee's agenda allows you to learn about the key points of each topic, including what has been done internationally, regionally, and nationally to address the topic and what actions your delegation may call for on the topic going forward.

The Committee Background Guide serves as a starting point for your research. When reading your committee's Background Guide, you can note key past actions, documents, and bodies related to the topic. The "Further Research" section for each topic in the Background Guide asks questions that can help guide you in finding additional sources of information. You may also want to consider the following as you read:

- What are the various aspects of the topic? Are there related topics to address?
- What are the main issues and why do they remain unresolved?
- What frameworks most align with my delegation's viewpoint or situation?
- What international bodies act on this topic and what actions have they taken in the past?
- Which parts of the topic, documents, and international entities do you need to further research to have a complete understanding of the topic?

If there are certain aspects of the background guide that illicit a desire for further research, you can start by looking at the footnotes and bibliography. Of course, the resources used to draft the guide will not be exhaustive, but there are numerous credible resources that can help you get further, including:

- Websites and other resources from other UN bodies that may have addressed each topic. For example, topics related to food may have been addressed by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme (as well as other UN bodies), while topics related to gender equality may have been addressed by UN Women, the Commission on the Status of Women, and the General Assembly Third Committee (as well as other UN bodies);
- [UN News](#) publishes information regarding recent UN efforts, allows you to search for key words to find relevant articles on recent UN events or publications;
- The UN's [Meetings Coverage and Press Releases](#) website, which provides UN press releases and information regarding UN meetings;
- Materials from other intergovernmental organizations, regional or local organizations, and NGOs that have addressed the topic and what they propose as strategies to approach it going forward;
- News reports and analysis from well-established media organizations;
- Books, reports, and scholarly articles on the topic from reputable sources (often professors, scientists, NGOs, or think tanks); librarians can provide invaluable assistance with your research.

Researching a topic is a complex process that calls for determining what various bodies within and related to the UN system have done previously to address the matter, what is currently in place, and what is planned for the future. Examining successes and failures and attempting to determine why those approaches have succeeded or failed can be highly informative.

Many topics on the UN agenda are vast and complex with multiple subtopics and related issues. There are often dozens of bodies that have reporting on a topic, many past adopted documents and frameworks, and a history of activities that may be used to highlight potential future courses of action. Starting with an outline of the background guide and building it out as you find more about the topic may be an effective strategy for many topics, while for others making a timeline or other system of organization can help you to understand the whole of the topic at hand.

Committee

Many topics are discussed in more than one forum within the UN system. For example, the General Assembly's Second and Third Committee may both discuss access to food, but the Second Committee would focus on economic aspects of the topic while Third Committee would focus on the human right to food and humanitarian efforts. To understand what is realistic for your committee to do, it can be helpful to research your committee's history, governance, structure, functions, and the nature of its outcomes/agreements, especially how it typically addresses the topics on its agenda. The Committee Overview section of the Committee Background Guide will provide basic information, but a more complete understanding can be gained through other sources, including: your committee's website; other UN resources, including the UN System Chart; and books and scholarly articles.

Whether or not you can find a document on the exact topic you are researching, past resolutions or reports adopted by your committee are often indicative of its powers, the types of actions it takes, and the methods by which it acts. While most committees can recommend action to other bodies and Member States, a select few also have the capacity to directly act or leverage subsidiary entities. You can examine if the committee has called for reports, hosted conferences, has subsidiary bodies that act on the topic, or if the committee works with other international entities in relation to the topic.

What a committee does is defined by its founding document, which typically describes what the committee was established to accomplish and, in some cases, the nature of action it can take. The UN's main bodies were established by the Charter and typically have a broad scope. Other bodies may have been established by resolution, treaty, or different charter and typically have a more narrowly defined purpose. It can be helpful to read those documents, as well as any changes to them over time, in addition to any international document that heavily influenced the creation of the committee.

Synthesis

As you research, you will likely already start to piece information together to form opinions from the perspective of your delegation. Taking time to deliberately lay out your position will not only ease your ability to write a position paper but likely increase your negotiating effectiveness in committee.

While often not available or limited, you may also be able to find some direct indications of your delegation's position on a topic. As you research, look for:

- Speeches made by representatives of your delegation on the topic and important resolutions discussed and adopted in your committee;
- Voting records via the [UN Digital Library](#) or [UN Member States on the Record](#);
- National laws and discussions on each topic within your delegation;
- Reports published by regional organizations, NGOs, and think tanks about your delegation in relation to the issues at hand, being sure to recognize that their perspective may not align with that of your delegation.

In most situations, the information directly from the delegation you represent on a specific topic will be limited, so you will have to think critically and leverage the information you have to draw your own conclusions. Questions that may be helpful as you consider your position include:

- Based on your delegation's characteristics, what aspects of the topic would be most important?
- What actions has your delegation taken in the past related to the topic? Would those actions be indicative of what you want done at the international level?
- What frameworks or documents have actions that would align with what your delegation might want to see done on the topic?
- Are there bodies, programs, or other actors that your delegation might want to see act on the topic, or not act, because of how their actions align with your needs?
- Are there any actions that you would be unable to accept if proposed by another delegation? Are there alternatives that you could offer?
- Whether or not your delegation is directly affected, are there potential norms or precedents that could be set that your delegation should be in favor or opposed to?
- Are there similarities or connections between your delegation and other delegations that you can leverage to convince them that your positions are aligned?

As you are considering the interests of your delegation, especially one that may have a very different viewpoint from the one you personally hold, answering these questions is often difficult. It can sometimes be unclear if you have arrived at the position your delegation would actually hold. The challenge becomes even greater when you begin to examine how other delegations may want to address the topic and the extent to which you can compromise on some of your desired outcomes. This is the reality of the work of professional diplomats, whose job is to advocate what is in the best interests of their government. This thoughtful approach will form the basis of your position paper.

As you develop your position and consider blocs or other delegations that may be aligned, it can be helpful to leverage other members of your delegation, your Head Delegate, or Faculty Adviser. Thoughtful questions or challenges can help you to reconsider what you will be arguing for and better prepare for in-person negotiations. Eventually, you will want to discuss and have some understanding of your delegation's positions in each of the committees to which it is a member, both to gain a broader understanding and to allow your delegation to collaborate throughout the conference.

Writing Your Position Paper

Preparation and Outlining

NMUN position papers contain only two sections, one for **each topic on the committee's agenda in the order that they are presented in the committee's Background Guide**. There is no overall introduction, conclusion, or additional substantive information outside of the main text that establishes your delegation's position on each topic. At first, this may sound narrow, but most topics have a wide breadth and nearly limitless information available, so taking time to consider what you want to include before you write can help ensure your position paper is consistent, coherent, and understandable by other delegations.

Before you begin drafting, you may want to ask yourself the following questions and begin to form the relevant answers into an outline:

- Of the positions or actions you identified, which are the most important to your delegation? Which may be the most important to other delegations?
- What information do you have about your country, the topic, or the international system that can emphasize the parts of the topic your delegation finds most important?
- What has your delegation done in the past that would effectively demonstrate its position on this topic?
- Are there aspects of the topic that your delegation would take a strong stance on? Is there a way to present that stance such that other delegations may find it palatable?
- Are there specific actions that your delegation wants? How can they be presented such that they might be appealing to other delegations?
- Are there actions that you would seek for which there are alternatives you would accept?

There are many methods of outlining; some delegates choose to start with a list of many potential actions while others may have lists of documents, programs, and past actions that they can sift through and pull together as needed. Regardless of the exact format, taking the time to answer these questions and collect the information can help you not only form a well-presented position, but internalize the information and be better prepared to negotiate in committee.

Example Single-Priority Outline:

- *Overall priorities:*
 - *Diversify commodity-dependent countries*
 - *Kiribati's economy (like all CDCs and many small island states) is reliant on commodity exports, making it a commodity-dependent country (CDC), and that singular reliance makes it vulnerable, and limits growth and development.*
- *Diversification*
 - *Relevant Documents/Frameworks*
 - *SDG Target 8.1, "achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labor-intensive sectors"*
 - *UNCTAD Commodities and Development Report 2023: Inclusive Diversification and Energy Transition. Chapter 2 highlights the "crucial" need for diversification with "instructions," including building physical infrastructure.*
 - *Potential Relevant Actors/Bodies*
 - *UNCTAD/UNIDO: currently limited support for value addition development*
 - *Advanced economies/donor states: increased development assistance (ODA), promotion of foreign direct investment (FDI)*
 - *Potential Specific Actions*
 - *Promotion of FDI, including via investment promotion agencies; financing of infrastructure, also through multilateral development banks; tax incentives; etc.*

Writing

As you consider the structure of your paper, you should likely plan to **use multiple paragraphs within each topic**, which will make the information far easier to read and more organized than a giant block of text. While there are many ways to present a position, a common method is:

- A paragraph presenting the current situation, issues, context, and which parts of the topic are most important to your delegation and why;
- Another paragraph, or two, discussing what frameworks, bodies, or current realities your delegation is in favor of, opposed to, or calling for change within;
- A final paragraph indicating any specific action or inaction your delegation would like to see, either by the committee, Member States, or the international community.

Of course, when writing your position paper, you may find that some paragraphs contain aspects of all three or are laid out in an entirely different manner. This example is just a common starting point.

When using multiple paragraphs within a topic, there is no need to indent the beginning of each paragraph, but leaving a blank line between improves readability.

Establishing Importance

For each topic, you can set the stage, providing context from the perspective of your Member State along with what aspects of the topic it considers to be most important. It is also worth considering how you want to present your delegation; while your internal notes may include the problems your Member State or Observer is facing, delegations do not regularly highlight those problems to others. Instead, they re-frame the problem as a common one or detail how they need international support to make progress.

Sentences or paragraphs establishing importance might answer the following questions:

- What is the current situation with regards to the topic, from the perspective of your delegation?
- What does your delegation consider to be the “problems” related to the topic that most need to be addressed?
- Has your Member State or Observer taken any action in relation to the topic? Does it have any national legislation, or has it played a role in international efforts?
- What data, documents, or frameworks support your delegation’s perspective on the current situation?

As you write, you will want to choose each word carefully. In the first paragraph, the rhetoric you use can indicate how strongly your delegation feels about a particular issue and signal to the Secretariat and other delegations what you will focus on in committee.

Example Paragraph, on the topic of “Achieving the First Sustainable Development Goal”

Peru is deeply aware that international community is not on pace to achieve the first Sustainable Development Goal and will likely miss it by nearly six percent. Over 800 million people still living on less than \$3.00 per day and Peru recognizes that addressing that reality requires access to electricity & transportation infrastructure, health insurance & services, and social safety nets. Peru is proud not only to have passed a universal health insurance law in 2009, but increased funding and access in the years since. Peru recognizes, however, that slow economic growth, informal work, and the high cost of rural infrastructure, especially amongst developing countries with difficult rural terrain, inhibit progress. While Peru, like many emerging economies, has established social safety nets, international direct and technical support is necessary to make tangible progress on eliminating poverty. As agreed in the *Sevilla Commitment*, official development assistance and foreign direct investment are crucial and irreplaceable when it comes to their effects on economic growth and improving access to employment, both of which are crucial in the fight against poverty. While Peru recognizes that global unemployment has reached new lows, its concern regarding youth unemployment, which has reached nearly triple the global rate at almost 13%, threatens to exacerbate poverty and potentially undermine Member States’ stability.

Details on the Current Situation

Once you've established which aspects of the topic are most important to your delegation you can delve further into the details of those aspects of the topic and potential justifications for the actions you are calling for. Within the international system, future action is most often justified by "precedents," or what has been done before on a problem or topic. Existing frameworks, past resolutions, and existing bodies or programs tasked with a purpose can all be used to justify calls to action or inaction.

Sentences and paragraphs focused on the current situation might answer the following questions:

- How has the international community addressed this topic thus far? From your delegation's perspective, has that been effective/positive, or not?
- What international documents have been adopted by conferences, the UN, regional organizations, or your committee that support your delegation's position? Which frameworks need to be changed to align with your delegation's position?
- What bodies, programs, or other actors have taken (or not taken) action on this topic that your delegation supports or opposes? Are there any that need to be utilized, strengthened, or otherwise changed to align with your delegation's position?

As alluded earlier, you will want to "synthesize" information as you draft your position paper. Simply stating the contents of a document or the existence of a program may indicate something but integrating it into your position to strengthen it is the most effective.

Example, on the topic of "Furthering Women's Rights to Achieve Gender Equality"

Latvia is encouraged by ECOSOC's recent adoption of three resolutions concerning women, including resolution 2025/4, which specifically seeks to ensure a gender perspective is included in all United Nations efforts. Despite 25 years having passed since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and the Secretary-General identifying that "placing women and girls at the center" as a core pillar of *Our Common Agenda*, women continue to make up only 7% of peace process negotiators and less than a quarter of appointed Under-Secretaries-General are women. The lack of institutional progress is unacceptable, especially as 115 Member States, including Latvia, now have national action plans on WPS and many are bolstered by additional frameworks. Last year, Latvia adopted its *Plan for the Promotion of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men*, an iterative framework that will further existing advancements on women's rights, including by promoting zero tolerance in violence against women, promoting the sharing of childcare responsibilities, and transparent efforts to lower the gender pay gap. These efforts directly align with UN Women's *Beijing+30 Action Agenda*, which Latvia emphasizes as a roadmap for action at the national level, regional, and international levels.

Clarifying Position, Solutions, and Calls to Action

While each component of your position paper is important, you will want to ensure that space is dedicated to clarifying what your delegation wants to see done with the topic. Ideally, you have built a platform of information, precedent, and rhetoric that will enable you to make more specific calls to action, or inaction, with strong justification.

As with information about your delegation, you may want to consider presentation. You may propose high-level, general solutions, especially if you are in a committee with a broad scope, or you may want to get specific if your committee has subsidiary bodies that can act directly. Regardless, as you clarify your position and potentially make calls to action for the committee, other delegations, or the international community, you will likely want to consider how it will be received when read by others. If you present actions that are extremely specific, rigid, or impositional, it may be unrealistic or difficult for other delegations to support. If you present an outcome conceptually or with various levels/options rather than a single, narrowly specified solution, it may enable others to more readily agree or even add your position to their own.

When proposing action, it can be helpful to describe the core essences and mechanics of your ideas, and the issues they address. You may further highlight what successful actions your delegation has taken as a model for others or use the actions of an international or regional body to propose future action. A position paper doesn't necessitate specificity – concepts and positions articulated by delegations end up becoming far more scrutinized, and thereby detailed, as a result of at-conference negotiations.

As you consider solutions or calls to action, it may be helpful to ask:

- What has the committee done about this topic and what could it do? Are there subsidiary bodies that could be directly tasked with action? What actions have they already taken and how would your delegation want those actions to change?
- What UN bodies and programs does your delegation support (or not support)? At what level would your delegation prefer action be taken? Locally or nationally? Regionally? Internationally?
- What actions will change the current situation such that it will be closer to the ideal outcome for your delegation?
- How can any actions be presented such that they will be palatable, or potentially appealing, to others?
- What actions are realistic? What is supported by precedent or could be implemented by an existing body or program?

Proposals or calls to action require using the information you've researched effectively. Leveraging your understanding of how your committee typically addresses topics on their agenda will help ensure what you call for is realistic and implementable. Understanding why your proposed solutions are valuable to your Member State or Observer will help you to articulate why they will also be valuable to others. And your understanding of existing frameworks, bodies, and programs will underpin it all.

There may be times when you consider a novel action – something that has not been proposed by the international community before. There are often existing entities or frameworks that can serve as a basis for novel action, but many new concepts, especially new committees or organizations, often take years of work and a groundswell of support before they are implemented, especially in an era where the UN faces budgetary limitations. If your delegation considers creating something new to be crucial, you will likely need to consider how it will be created, who will oversee it, how it will be financed, and related issues.

Example, on the topic of “Implementing Gender-Sensitive Development Programs”

The United Kingdom believes that crisis prevention and recovery situations must incorporate a gender perspective and that both local and multilateral efforts must incorporate women to be effective. The UK recommends that states with development aid agencies earmark a portion of spending and set benchmarks for the incorporation of gender equality into all programs, as the UK itself has demonstrated is possible with its *International Woman and Girls Strategy 2020-2030*. As austerity and economic instability have become more globalized realities, programs that prevent violence against women have been deprioritized, and over a third of organizations associated with UN Women have indicated forced scale-backs or program closures. Ensuring aid flows remain consistent and targeted is especially important during economic uncertainties, crisis, and times of conflict, and the UK further encourages Member States to work with NGOs to explicitly address the conditions of women in conflict as a consistent part of their official development assistance. While bilateral action is critical and can be undertaken swiftly, regional and multilateral action cannot wait. Treaty and regional bodies should take tangible action on gender equality, potentially modeling their efforts after the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which established not only a Gender Balance and Diversity Task Force in addition to staff resource groups and a NATO-wide mentoring program aimed at removing structural barriers. The UN Secretariat, and specifically the Secretary-General, must also ensure that gender parity is reality, and not words on a page, for all future appointments at the Director-level and above. By taking action at every level, the United Kingdom is confident that tangible progress on gender equality can be achieved.

Reviewing and Editing

For most delegations, once a draft position paper is complete it will undergo significant review and editing. This can include:

- Self-editing by the author;
- A cross-check and edit from the author's co-delegate (if not jointly written);
- Feedback from other members of your delegation, including the Head Delegate;
- Comparisons of position papers from different committees to ensure alignment.

While each delegation chooses how they review and edit position papers, they almost always undergo rigorous self-editing from the author and, for many delegations, multiple readers. As each word can be significant in a position paper and space is at a premium, the editing process can be just as, or even more important than the initial draft.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Large Language Models (LLMs)

NMUN recognizes that AI and LLMs can function as a tool to assist in research and, potentially, the writing of position papers. While the use of machine learning and other technologies is not prohibited, NMUN emphasizes that research and preparation of a position is not only effective in achieving the educational objectives of the conference, but also critical in ensuring a delegate's ability to negotiate with others in person. Additionally, the NMUN Secretariat places a high value on the synthesis of researched information, meaning that a position paper drafted by a well-prepared, thoughtful delegate is likely to consistently stand out as compared to any draft generated via an AI/LLM.

NMUN requires a disclosure statement to be included on the third page of all submitted position papers (use Disclosure A or B below). The statement is the only thing that should appear on the third page and should clearly indicate at what step(s) in the writing process an AI/LLM was used, if at all. Usage of an AI/LLM has no effect on reviews completed by the NMUN Secretariat. The purpose of the disclosure statement is to increase transparency and adherence to academic standards. The NMUN Secretariat may exclude any position papers that do not attach a disclosure from their review.

Disclosure A (some AI/LLMs use)

During the preparation of this work, our delegate(s) used [NAME TOOL/SERVICE] to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, our delegate(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of their position papers. This statement applies to all applications of AI, including basic tools for checking grammar, spelling, etc. (e.g., Grammarly).

Disclosure B (no AI/LLMs use)

During the preparation of this work, our delegate(s) did not use any form of AI, including basic tools for checking grammar, spelling, etc. (e.g., Grammarly).

An illustrative disclosure statement is included within the sample position paper at the end of this document.

Strategies, Tips, and Tricks

The following are additional strategies and tips that you can employ as you write your position paper:

- Use topic sentences at the beginning of each paragraph to provide information to your reader about what you will be discussing within that paragraph and to transition from paragraph to paragraph. A topic sentence encapsulated the key idea or ideas that will be discussed within that paragraph. In some cases, you can use the last sentence of a paragraph to conclude or

emphasize a point. Concluding sentences can also summarize the position of your delegation on the topic.

- Do not use first person language; instead, refer to your delegation in the third person. For example, rather than saying, “we believe that it is important to address this topic,” say, “Germany believes that it is important to address this topic.”
- When using an acronym, give its full name in your first mention, and then immediately afterwards include the acronym in parentheses. For subsequent references, simply use the acronym. For example, the first mention of the Economic and Social Council would be “the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)”, and then subsequent references would simply be “ECOSOC”.
- For clarity, when referencing UN resolutions, list the UN entity that produced the resolution, the resolution number, and the year that it is from, rather than simply providing the document code. For example, cite A/RES/70/1 as “General Assembly resolution 70/1” or E/RES/2008/8 as “Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/8.” If a UN document code doesn’t include “RES” (A/RES/70/1) it may be a report (E/2015/7). Check the document’s front page to see what type it is. Cite reports as “ECOSOC report 2015/7,” or by using the title.
- Use the term “Member States” (with each word capitalized) rather than “countries” or “nations,” since in most cases you’ll specifically be referring to countries who are UN Member States. The major exception to this suggestion is when referencing country classifications, such as “least developed countries” or “small island developing states.”
- When mentioning important international or regional documents, italicize the titles. For example: *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, and *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025*. When mentioning the names of UN organizations, you do not need to use italics or quotation marks. For example: the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the World Health Organization.
- If you use a short quote as a part of your position paper, please be sure to include the quote in quotation marks and provide contextual information on the quote within the larger sentence where you give the quote. For example: “United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated at the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ‘The new agenda is a promise by leaders to all people everywhere.’” Quotes should generally be used sparingly and only to directly support your delegation’s position, which should always be original.
- Aside from any short quotes, ensure that your position paper is completely in your own words. When summarizing an idea from another source, think about what the main points are in that source and then express those main points using your own words. Once you have summarized something, read over it again and compare it to the original source to make sure that you do not use any of the same main words or phrases as the original source. If referencing a UN document as supporting information, all wording within your position paper that is the same as the original source should be in quotation marks.
- In your research, you can search for examples of successful programs that have been conducted in your Member State or around the world, and in your proposals and recommendations, you can suggest a program or campaign based upon the previously successful programs. For example, you may find a program that your Member State or another Member State enacted that was successful in addressing the topic and could serve as a model for a new effort in addressing the topic in another Member State, regionally, or internationally.
- Look to fill all or most of the two pages you have for your position paper (while being careful to not go over two pages). If your position paper is only one-and-a-half pages, that means that you have an unused half-page in which you could further share what your Member State has done on the topic and what it wants to do in the future! Using all or most of the space allowed for your position paper gives you the opportunity to fully represent the views of your Member State and address the topics in detail.

Position Paper Awards

Position papers require delegates to illustrate not only that they have an in-depth understanding of their delegation, the topics on the agenda, and the committee, but that they have taken the time to effectively synthesize that understanding to present a coherent position. For the NMUN Secretariat, position papers provide an indication of which issues are likely to be heavily debated in committee, and which delegations have holistically prepared to engage in rigorous negotiations.

Aware of the level of pre-conference preparation required to produce them, NMUN grants separate awards for position papers, recognizing them as Outstanding Position Papers in Committee. While NMUN emphasizes the educational significance of delegate participation, the organization also seeks to highlight the exceptional preparatory work that results in the highest quality position papers. Delegations that are recognized will be informed at the end of their final committee session.

To be considered for recognition, delegations must have met the submission deadline. The following criteria are used by the conference staff to evaluate position papers:

Criteria	Description	Weight
POSITION	Position is expressed through statements of the delegation's opinion on the topic and its components, including being in favor of or opposed to change, action, or maintenance of current realities. In reading for position, reviewers assess stated positions and whether they are conceptually sound, allude to or indicate what actions (or inaction) they will call for in committee, and are relevant to the topic at hand.	35%
SUPPORTING INFORMATION	Refers to synthesizing delegation/regional characteristics or past actions, documents, existing frameworks, bodies/ programs, and other research into positions such that they are reinforced. Reviewers assess the extent to which the delegation presents a clear understanding of context of the topic and how it intersects with their interests and present that information in such a way that their positions are supported.	25%
INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY	International diplomacy refers to how positions are presented in a way that would make them potentially palatable or understood by other delegations and the international community. It is assessed based on how well the relative importance of positions to the delegation are presented, the extent to which they come off as credible, and how rhetoric is used to make potential actions appealing to other delegations, including based on characteristics or regional/bloc ties.	15%
CLARITY AND CONCISENESS	Clarity and conciseness assesses the extent to which positions papers are information dense and substantive throughout, avoiding "filler" language. Reviewers will also consider how well other delegations will be able to understand the positions being stated and the coherence and consistency between those stated opinions.	15%
OVERALL IMPRESSION	In addition to the specified assessment criteria, NMUN enables its Secretariat to make a discretionary overall assessment of submitted positions papers. They may consider their own experience and knowledge of the topic, committee, and international system, in addition to other factors.	10%

Submitting Position Papers

Once all position papers are complete for your delegation, one person, preferably the Faculty Advisor or Head Delegate, should submit all papers from your delegation. Submit one form per assignment; for example, if your school is representing two different countries, you will submit two forms, one for each country. Position papers must be submitted using the submission form. They will not be accepted via email.

- Submission deadlines are posted on each conference's Position Paper page ([NY](#), [DC](#), [other](#)). To be considered for awards, they must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. (US Eastern Time) on the date posted. If any of your delegates have not finished their papers by the deadline, submit all that are ready. Papers received after the deadline will continue to be posted online as time permits but are not considered for awards.
- Position papers must be submitted in PDF format. The filename should follow the naming convention of committee name and your assignment (for example: GA1_Cuba.pdf).
- An AI disclosure (and no substantive content) must be included on the third page of the submitted PDF for each committee.
- A position paper should be submitted for each assigned committee; do not submit papers for committees not assigned to your delegation. If you have two delegates representing a country within a committee (for example, if there are two delegates representing Norway in CSW), you will submit one position paper representing the position of your delegation rather than submitting separate position papers from each individual delegate.
- If you are arranging a Mission Briefing, we encourage you to submit a copy of your position papers to the permanent mission of your assigned country or to your NGO's headquarters, along with an explanation of the conference.
- If you have any questions regarding position papers or the submission process, please email your conference's Deputy Secretary-General (DSG, for New York and international conferences) or Secretary-General (SG, for the DC conference). Their email address is available on the Position Paper page ([NY](#), [DC](#), [other](#)).

Example Position Paper

The following pages contain a properly formatted position paper example that generally aligns with the standards and criteria NMUN has established for position papers.

Delegation from Côte d'Ivoire
Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary

1. Sustainable Development in the Arctic

While distant from the Arctic Circle, Côte d'Ivoire benefits from extractive industries and international legal norms, particularly those established by the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS). Additionally, as both an arid and coastal country, Côte d'Ivoire recognizes the urgent need for sustainable development, both to ensure an environmentally secure future and to allow low- and lower-middle income countries to continue to grow economically. Extractive and commercial activities in the Arctic region could constitute a global ecological threat, especially as Arctic ice continues to melt, and could also affect the lifestyles of nearby indigenous communities, whose rights under Article 25 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* should be considered. However, Côte d'Ivoire knows firsthand the potential economic benefits of extractive, shipping, and other industries, and the communities that could thereby benefit are also have the right to realize that benefit, as established by Article 11 of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. While Côte d'Ivoire recognizes the need to balance disparate interests in such a dense, contested, ecologically significant region, it affirms that Member States must enjoy "permanent sovereignty over their natural resources," a longstanding principle established in 1962 by General Assembly resolution 1803.

Côte d'Ivoire recognizes that ongoing Arctic territorial disputes not only have the potential to lead to conflict but have also led to non-compliance with international legal norms. Côte d'Ivoire strongly supports the use of established legal frameworks to address claims, which Côte d'Ivoire has undertaken regarding its own maritime territorial disputes, including those related to exclusive economic zones (EEZs) outside the 200 nautical miles defined by the UNCLOS. Côte d'Ivoire condemns extralegal extractive activity outside of EEZs and is aware that such activity increases the potential for negative ecological effect, especially as states employ extractive methods that prioritize speed over sustainability. Changes to an EEZ based on undersea geography must be approved by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) and, until states making territorial claims receive a positive determination from the CLCS, Côte d'Ivoire would urge them to cease all commercial activities. Côte d'Ivoire is personally aware of the urgent need for the CLCS to expedite its determinations, having waited for confirmation on a claim since 2016, but affirms that both the CLCS and the International Seabed Authority should resolve claims with strict interpretation of UNCLOS. Furthermore, to ensure consistent application of international law, Côte d'Ivoire urges Arctic States to not only abandon territorial claims made using outdated norms, particularly the Sector Principle, but also accept any and all rulings from the CLCS as final.

Côte d'Ivoire favors narrow interpretations of Article 136 of UNCLOS, which established the seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction as the common heritage of mankind. However, Côte d'Ivoire reiterates that the international community must never limit a Member State's ability to develop and exploit its natural resources and recognizes that the governance of national Arctic territories should stay only with Arctic States as outlined by the *Kiruna Vision of the Arctic*. Côte d'Ivoire commends Arctic States' initial effort to protect the region via the *2013 Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic*, but recognizes that this narrow set of commitments does not adequately reflect modern realities, especially climate change, and encourages the development of a new legally binding treaty under the auspices of the Arctic Council.

Côte d'Ivoire encourages the international community to consider not only the precedents it may set, but also the outside effects of Arctic development. As Arctic ice melts, the adaptation needs of coastal states will continually increase. To counteract this reality, Côte d'Ivoire would encourage the United Nations Development Programme to make a permanent Coastal Zone Adaptation Programme and for UNEP's Regional Seas Programmes (RSP), including the West and Central Africa RSP, which is hosted in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, to expand to include coastal zone adaptation support. To further halt the melting of Arctic ice and rising sea levels, developed States should also take swift action to mitigate their emissions and carry out commitments made in the *Paris Agreement*. Côte d'Ivoire fully believes that environmental action paired with adherence to international legal norms will lead to sustainable development in the Arctic and positive externalities for the international community.

2. Preventing Discrimination and Violence against Persons with Disabilities

Despite decades of international efforts, including the entry into force of the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CPRD) in 2008 and the integration of disability in various aspects of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda), the 16% of the global that live with disabilities continue to face poverty and social exclusion. While the *Constitution of Côte d'Ivoire* recognizes the rights of persons with disabilities and requires them to be supported, Côte d'Ivoire is very aware that people with disabilities in most countries lack such guarantees. Even with Côte d'Ivoire's legal framework, limited access to finance, especially for accessible infrastructure development, means that not all disabled people can fully recognize their rights. With nearly 80% of people with disabilities living in low- and lower-middle income countries, regional and international mobilization of resources is necessary to achieve the goals laid out in the CPRD and 2030 Agenda.

Côte d'Ivoire fully recognizes the importance of multilateral instruments that collectively form the backbone of global disability protection, including the 1979 *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, the 1989 *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, and the CRPD and its 2006 *Optional Protocol*. Côte d'Ivoire further recognizes the significant inter- and non-governmental work carried out by and through the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and its Global Disability Summits. Côte d'Ivoire heartily endorses the world envisioned by the 2025 summit outcome document, the *Amman-Berlin Declaration on Global Disability Inclusion*, specifically one in which “all persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, enjoy their civil political, social, economic, and cultural rights” and aren't prohibited from full and effective participation in society. Côte d'Ivoire strongly believes that enabling that participation will augment development efforts by enabling all people to contribute to that development. The achievement of SDGs 4, 8, 10, 11, and 17 rely in part on that inclusion and Côte d'Ivoire agrees with the statement of the Secretariat for the CRPD, UN Enable, that the SDGs hold “a deep promise for persons with disabilities.”

Côte d'Ivoire ratified the CPRD in 2014 and, when given the opportunity, incorporated disability rights into its constitution just two years later. In 2018, Côte d'Ivoire ratified the *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa*. Côte d'Ivoire recognizes this regional effort as a global model, especially in that it not only recognizes the rights to work and to live in the community, but also recognizes distinct cultures, including deaf culture, and the need to confront harmful cultural and religious practices as they relate to people with disabilities. Despite Côte d'Ivoire's ardent support for and belief in the necessity of inclusion of people with disabilities, the majority of its citizens with disabilities develop them as a result of physical injury or, more commonly, after contracting a neglected tropical disease (NTD). Like most West African and many low- and lower-middle income countries, external support and resources are necessary to expand both basic accessible transportation and health infrastructure to ensure accessibility and inclusion. Côte d'Ivoire urges donor states to meet their longstanding commitment of 0.7 percent of gross national income towards official development most recently reaffirmed in the *Sevilla Commitment*. While expansion of disability access and health infrastructure via country-level projects operated by the United Nations Development Program or funded by the World Bank, non-governmental organizations, or regional development banks is critical, Côte d'Ivoire is fully convinced that in the absence of significant mobilization of resources, tangible progress will take several years to realize.

In addition to supporting countries in their disability inclusion efforts, Côte d'Ivoire recognizes that multilateral attention is needed to combat the discrimination and violence faced by persons with disabilities globally. Within the UN System, Côte d'Ivoire encourages the United Nations System Chief Executives Board to further operationalize the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) across all UN entities, especially in peacekeeping operations and humanitarian response settings, and for the Secretary-General to prioritize appointments of people with disabilities to relevant posts. At the national level, Member States should ensure that they have adopted legislation aligning their disability policies with the CPRD and relevant regional agreements and further provide mechanisms by which people with disabilities can seek recourse if unable to realize their rights. While ensuring accessibility is challenging, Côte d'Ivoire recognizes that people with disabilities can be major contributors to development and the need for the international community to act to ensure their inclusion.

Disclosure

During the preparation of this work, our delegate(s) used ChatGPT in order to help them find relevant documents to research and to condense rhetoric. Grammarly was used during the course of regular drafting as an editor/grammar check. After using this tool/service, our delegate(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of their position papers.