Cleveland Council on WORLD AFFAIRS

Position Papers

As an importantpart of the preparation process, Model UN delegates are highly encouraged to prepare and submit position papers for their countries. Position papers outline a delegation's position on thetopics under consideration in their particular committee. Position papers also serve as invaluable tools for delegates, guiding students to articulate their positions in a concise statement thatcan be used as a reference throughout the conference. Delegations that do not submit positionpapers will be ineligible for conference awards.

Position Paper Guidelines

Position Papers that do not meet the guidelines below will not be considered completed, and those delegates will not be considered eligible for awards.

Each delegation (regardless of the number of delegates) should submit one (1) position paper addressing every issue to be considered in the committee.
Position papers should be two (2) single-spaced pages in length (roughly 1 page per issue, not a separate paper for each issue). Please see below for further formatting guidelines. Each position paper should begin with a short 2-4 sentence introduction to your country's views on the topics. Following this, the paper is to be divided into two sections per issue. These sections should include:

1. A history of the topic and policy statement, including:
    a. How the topic relates to your country,
    b. What measures your country has taken to address the issue, and
    c. Resolutions, treaties, conventions or other international policies relating to the issue that your country has either supported or opposed;
2. Desired policy outcomes from the committee and how you would like the committee to address the topic.

Position Paper Format

When writing a position paper, proper format is essential. Please follow the format as provided in the Sample Position Paper (at the end of this document) using the following standards:

- Length must be two pages and only the first two pages will be evaluated for awards.
- Font must be Times New Roman in 12pt size and single spaced.
- Margins must be set at 1 inch.
- Text must be justified so that the left and right margins both have straight edges.
- Topics must be clearly labeled in separate sections. Topics must be centered and numbered with Roman numerals.
- Country name, school name, and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page.

- The use of flags, headers, colored text, or other national symbols is considered inappropriate.
- Papers must be submitted as a WORD document (.docx).
- Citations for CCWA MUN Position Papers are not required as with traditional academic papers. Position papers are to be written as if official policy statements coming from the foreign ministry. Position Papers are encouraged, however, to reference specific UN data and resolutions.*

Statement on Plagiarism

Position papers must be composed entirely of original writing. Any act of plagiarism will not be tolerated by the CCWA and may result in disqualification from conference awards. While United Nations documents are within the public domain, CCWA does not permit the verbatim reuse of these documents. Additionally, any delegates suspected of using any form of Artificial Intelligence to write their papers in any way will be subject to disqualification from all awards. Please note that all position papers are read by CCWA Model UN staff and volunteers who have spent months preparing background guides and committee materials. This has given them a deep understanding of the topics, which allows them to identify and report acts of plagiarism.

How to Submit Position Papers

Each delegation must submit a position paper at least ten business days* before the conference date.

*Please note, the date of the deadline is subject to change depending on national holidays, or other considerations. Position paper deadlines can be found for each conference on the CCWA website: https://www.ccwa.org/model-un/#registration

CCWA recognizes that formatting may shift when saving documents into the required type for submission. Delegates should still attempt to keep the formatting as close as possible to the guidelines outlined above.

Position papers must be submitted electronically through CCWA's Formsite portal, found on our website at https://www.ccwa.org/model-un/#papers. Positions papers emailed to us will **not** be considered for submission.

Please use the following format to name your file: (Country_School_Committee). Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

The following is a sample position paper intended to serve only as a reference

Delegation from:The Republic of Chile
Represented by: Local High School

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The issues before the Human Rights Council are: Strengthening Human Rights of Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Conflict-Ridden Regions; and Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Fundamental Human Right. Chile is devoted to the protection of the rights of all people and expresses its hope for further advancement in cooperation between state and non-state actors in the advocacy and advancement of these rights.

I. Strengthening Human Rights of Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Conflict-Ridden Regions.

The Republic of Chile highly supports the work of international actors in the protection and assistance provided to civilians affected by international and domestic conflict. As a host of over 2,000 refugees and asylum seekers from over thirty countries of origin, the people and government of the Republic of Chile have made a considerable investment in the wellbeing and protection of refugees world-wide. This point is represented in the domestic legislation and actions taken to increase the protections granted to refugees in Chile and their rights as well, setting a principle for other states to follow.

Recognizing the importance of the protection of refugees as illustrated in 1951 Convention on the Status of Refuges, the Chilean government and people firmly believe in the protection and advancement of the rights and standard of living for those classified as refugees under the Convention's definition. However, when considering the magnitude of modern conflict and the resulting human toll, it is important not to neglect those who have not crossed an international border, therefore not granted refugee status, and those who have returned, often to find their homes and livelihoods destroyed.

The Republic of Chile has consistently supported treaties and resolutions focused on the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons such as A/RES/66/165 and A/RES/65/287. Because the latter group cannot be classified as refugees per international law, they are therefore ineligible for the resources and assistance offered by the United Nations and other nongovernmental organizations, which have been designated for refugees. Because of the nature of modern conflict, it is vital that the international community expand its protection and resources to not only those who have crossed international borders, but those who have been displaced internally as well. The Chilean Delegation would also like to bring the Brasilia Declaration and the Mexico Plan of Action to the attention of the international community. These documents have been instrumental in the advancement and recognition of the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons in the Americas and have been widely accepted and praised. The Republic of Chile calls upon the international community to consider the principles and policies contained in the Brasilia Declaration and the Mexico Plan of Action and to adopt these principles as a global standard for the treatment of refugees and IDPs. Likewise, if the Human Rights Council wishes to promote

lasting and meaningful peace and progress, the council must also lend its assistance to those who wish to return to their home countries to rebuild their lives. Chile firmly believes that life in exile is not a feasible future for those affected by conflict. Instead, the international community must make it more accessible for people to return to their former homes by providing them with the assistance and resources necessary for repatriation.

II. Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Fundamental Human Right.

The Republic of Chile believes that access to safe drinking water is not only essential for the advancement of the quality of human life, but that it is also a key component in the development of societies in reference to the Millennium Development Goals. The Chilean delegation believes that access to clean water is fundamental, citing statistics from UN Water that nearly one in six people on the planet do not have access to clean drinking water.

In reference to Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all people have a right to the recourses necessary for an adequate standard of living and wellbeing. While it is not mentioned specifically, access to safe drinking water is a key ingredient of sanitation and physical health. Because of the importance that safe and clean drinking water has to the health of individuals, the Chilean Delegation is of the highest support for the recognition of safe drinking water as a human right and has supported resolutions such as A/RES64/292, A/RES/54/175, A/RES/55/196 among many others.

While it is clear that safe drinking water is important for the true fulfillment of human life, it is also important to recognize the economic challenges of providing universal clean water as well as the principle of state sovereignty. Because many states lack the financial capability to provide universally accessible clean drinking water, the responsibility for the installation of clean water sources often falls upon the goodwill of numerous international organizations. While it is important to recognize access to safe drinking water as a human right, the Chilean delegation also recognizes the importance for the respect of national legislatures and state sovereignty in selecting the most efficient method for providing and distributing safe drinking water. While the universal recognition of clean water as a human right is an important step in the process of human progression, it is equally important to recognize the economic challenges that providing safe water will confront. For this reason, the Human Rights Council must ensure that any declaration of water as a human right must inevitably also contain a recognition of the sovereign right of states to decide the means and methods of providing this right. For these reasons, the Chilean delegation urges the United Nations to establish a program specific to the development of clean water systems for states that cannot develop their own. This program must work in cooperation with state governments to ensure national ownership and respect for state sovereignty. By establishing this cooperative program, the United Nations will be able to support the advancement of the Millennium Development Goals, contribute to the health of millions of people worldwide, and demonstrate its respect for the sovereignty of states in regards to development.