

A Guide to MUN - MUNI MUN 2024



POSITION PAPER

What is a position paper?

A position paper outlines the stance of your **country** on the **topic** being discussed in your committee.

It demonstrates that you have completed adequate **research** on the given topic to allow you to:

- Accurately **represent** your country at the conference
- Consider how to **resolve** the issue at hand
- Engage fully in the **debates** taking place
- Ensure that the MUN experience is **authentic** for everyone involved.

It is required to write a position paper on both topics consisting of 2-4 pages.

Position Paper Structure

1. Background information
2. Past international actions
3. Past actions taken by [country]
4. Current policy and recommendations
5. Policy summary

Note: More examples can be found on Slide 10.

POSITION PAPER (POLICY STATEMENT)

Kingdom of Norway

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

Addressing the issue of deforestation

Keerati Farwaeraj & Jaturapat Pinviset

LANNA - Lanna International School



BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The extensive deforestation committed by many countries is utterly problematic worldwide. The continued act of deforestation could leave behind a considerable amount of problems that could leave the environment in disarray. The problems that would arise include climate change, desertification, soil erosion, fewer crops, flooding, increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and a host of problems for indigenous people as well as the endangerment of countless animal species. The regulation of deforestation has always had a looming presence however it is harder to regulate deforestation in developing countries under the United Nations.

PAST INTERNATIONAL ACTION: With the fortunate reduction of deforestation worldwide, it is possible to see zero net global deforestation in the near future according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The combined efforts of the right policies, social action, and political will, has seen a decline of over 50% of deforestation worldwide in the past 25 years, with these current positive numbers there is a very promising future for the environment. With the positive numbers on the rise, a 3-day conference has been held by the FAO to promote an understanding from the sectors and stakeholder groups on how to reach the global development targets, under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of halting deforestation and increasing forest cover.

PAST ACTIONS TAKEN BY NORWAY: The Kingdom of Norway was the first nation to ban deforestation. Norwegian lawmakers will not award any government contracts to companies that take part in clear-cutting of trees. In May 2016, the Norwegian Parliament pledged to ensure deforestation-free supply chains through the government's public procurement policy. The pledge was made in the Recommendation of the Norwegian Parliament's Standing Committee on Energy and the Environment regarding the national biodiversity action plan. In June 2017, the Norwegian Parliament considered a number of proposals to limit the use of palm oil in biodiesel and adopted a binding resolution requesting that the government ban the public procurement of biofuel based on palm oil and by-products of palm oil.

CURRENT POLICY AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF NORWAY: The Delegation of the Kingdom of Norway recommends that the UNEP adopt the following suggestions to bring about successful resolution of the deforestation issue presented today: **FIRST**, increase funding for reforestation programs around developing countries. **SECOND**, research into the decline and the negative effects of deforestation and increase awareness to the public about the dangers of deforestation. **THIRD**, reinforce the regulation of deforestation in developing countries and for countries that have less or no regulation whatsoever imbed strict regulation of deforestation. The Delegation of the Kingdom of Norway looks forward to a spirited debate and sincere negotiation on this most important issue.

POLICY SUMMARY:

- Increase funding for reforestation programs around developing countries.
- Research into the decline and the negative effects of deforestation and increase awareness to the public about the dangers of deforestation.
- Reinforce the regulation of deforestation in developing countries and for countries that have less or no regulation whatsoever imbed strict regulation of deforestation.

1. Background information

- A brief **overview** of the topic globally, it does not have to be specific to your country
- Define any **key terms**
- Include important **statistics**

The main aim of this section is to understand what the topic is about - also considering the root *causes* of the issue and the *consequences* of its occurrence.

You can use the [Chair Report](#) to guide your research. This will be sent to you by your committee chairs.

2. Past actions taken by the international community

- Include actions taken by the **United Nations, NGOs**, or other organizations
 - This can include any UN **resolutions** on this topic.
- Explain the **effect** these actions have had on the issue
- Include any **laws** or **regulations** from other significant countries
- Include any major conferences, **conventions**, or meetings related to this topic

3. Past actions taken by the nation

- Research **your country's position** on the committee's topic
 - By your country, we mean the country you have been allocated on the [Master Spreadsheet](#)
- Find any **laws** or pre-existing frameworks established by your country's government regarding the issue
- State any **actions** that your country has taken which demonstrates your country's position

4. Nation's current policy and recommendations

- **Summarize** your country's **policy**
 - Ideally 3 main points
- Recommend some **courses of action** from your country's **perspective**
 - Consider: Establishing an intergovernmental organization to solve the issue, implementing stricter legislation on the issue, promoting education on the issue, etc.
 - Try to be as specific as possible on what nations should do; the examples above are merely broad guidelines.

Position Paper Examples (from previous conferences)

- [Position Paper - UNSC- United Kingdom](#)
- [Position Paper-UNSC- France](#)

Click the link to access the examples :)

OPENING SPEECH

What should an opening speech include?

- Provide a brief overview of the topic
 - Include statistics, your country's history on the topic
 - Only include 1-2 sentences on the background information
- Include your country's **stance** on the topic and what they believe in
- Address what your country's **aims** are and **policy recommendations**
 - E.g. "The [country's official name] believes that..."
 - Use the 'Policy Recommendations' part of your position paper to guide you.

The main focus of the opening speech should be on your country's position and its policy recommendations.

If you have resolution written please state in the speech too.

Important notes for an opening speech

- You should start your speech with “*Honorable chairs, fellow delegates...*”
- Always **yield the floor** back to the chair when you are done saying your speech, it is common etiquette in all MUN speeches
 - E.g. ‘The delegate of India yields the floor back to the Chair.’
- Keep your speech **short**, opening speeches are allowed **1 minute**
- The chair will bang the **gavel** once at 45 seconds and cut off any delegates that run over 90 seconds.
- Do not use personal pronouns in speeches or during debate
 - Instead, refer to yourself or others as “The delegate/delegation of [country]...”

Opening Speech Examples

[UK: Opening Speech on Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare \(WHO\)](#)

[Italy: Opening Speech on the Economic Impacts of COVID-19 \(ECOSOC\)](#)

[France: Opening Speech on Maintaining the Iran Nuclear Deal \(UNSC\)](#)

Note:

- Most people can say around 130-170 words in a minute.
- Time your speech beforehand, to ensure that it is under 60 seconds.
- Practice saying your opening speech out loud to make a good first impression in your committee.

RESOLUTION-WRITING

The basics of a resolution

- A resolution is a formal document written by delegations in which they describe the **policies** and **agreements** that will be made in regard to the topic
- It outlines the **courses of action** that must be taken by Member States to **resolve** the issue at hand
- A resolution is only passed in the committee once it reaches a a simple **50%** majority vote.

How is a resolution structured?

- The resolution is written by the **main submitter** (1) and **co-submitters** (3 max.)
- **Signatories** are delegations who sign the resolution, thereby showing their support of the clauses outlined.
- A resolution needs at least 4 signatories and 1 co-submitter to be considered for discussion in the committee
- The resolution is made up of preambulatory clauses and operative clauses
- The [resolution template](#) includes all details for a resolution to be considered valid

Passed Resolution Examples

UK: Resolution on Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare (**WHO**)

Russia: Resolution on Yemen Crisis (**UNSC**)

France: Resolution on Maintaining the Iran Nuclear Deal (**UNSC**)

Thailand: Resolution on Single-Use Plastics (**UNEP**)

Resolution Template

The MUNI MUN resolution
template is linked [here](#).



FOR AND AGAINST SPEECHES

For Speech

- Supports one side
- Usually for resolution
 - State the **benefits** of adopting this resolution
 - Be persuasive, try to encourage delegations to vote for the resolution
- Highlight strong clauses in the resolution, expected outcomes, and how the recommendations link to the topic
 - Try to appeal to a diverse range of countries - from LEDCs to MEDCs.
- The main submitter & co-submitters are required to give a speech in support of their resolution
- Any delegations can deliver a for speech
 - For speeches should be **under 2 minutes**

Against Speech

- Denounces one side
- Usually against resolution
 - State the **flaws**
 - Try to persuade delegations to not vote for the resolution
- Pick out any bits of the resolution that are weak and/or are not explained clearly
 - Highlight any inconsistencies throughout the document or impractical clauses
- Any delegations can deliver an against speech
 - Against speeches should be **under 2 minutes**
- **Example of an Against Speech- [Here](#)**

CHAIR REPORTS

Chair Reports

Chair Reports will contain helpful background **information** that is pertinent to the issue at hand, including region-specific information and reliable sources, which also provides **guidance** for your resolution writing.

Chair Reports should be available to you by

All delegates must read the Chair Report.

All chair reports can be found in due course under the Documents section of our [website](#)

Unmoderated/ Moderated Caucus

Unmoderated caucus is a period in the committee session where delegates can **talk freely** to whomever they want. Things like asking to be a signatory on a resolution, **join a resolution** or talking about anything related to the topic.

Moderated caucus is formal debate. Delegates **take turns** making for and against speeches for their resolution while delegates on the floor ask points of inquiry.

In moderated caucus, the Chairs will preside over formal debate. In unmoderated caucus, informal discussions will take place (while maintaining decorum).



OTHER TIPS

How to find valid information

- Reputable News Sources
 - E.g. Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Al-Jazeera
 - Allows insight into specific events and an overview of it
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
 - E.g. The United Nations, Amnesty International
 - [Past resolutions](#) and conferences on the issue at hand
 - Information provided by NGOs can generally be trusted
- International Treaties
 - [Wikipedia](#) has all international treaties
 - Search the topic on the [Official Document System of the UN](#)
- Google Scholar
 - [Google Scholar](#) allows you to search for scholarly sources from articles, theses, books, court opinions, etc.
 - Written by academic publishers, professional societies, and universities.



How to check if information is usable

- Evaluate the website
 - If the article is full of spelling errors and generally seems untrustworthy, the information provided might not be factual and you should conduct additional research using different sources and compare the information found
- Go to the Primary Resource
 - If the website provides a bibliography, follow it to the primary source of information to see if it is valid
 - This also provides you with more information
- Check if the article is biased
 - An article can be biased for many reasons - to make someone look bad or to make themselves look better
 - Look out for these by reading through, researching the author's views, and evaluating if it is biased or not
- If you cannot determine whether or not a website is reliable, ask your Advisor for help.

Rules of Procedure & Schedule

You should look through the Rules of Procedure: [Rules of Procedure](#).

The **schedule** for the conference will be sent in due course.



FSSMUN Checklist

- Position paper** for the primary topic
 - Must be submitted to your Chair before the deadline (***Saturday, 25th February***)
- Opening speech**
 - Time yourself to make sure you are under 60 seconds
- [Optional] **A drafted resolution**
 - Highly recommended for **significant countries** to arrive to the conference with a drafted resolution
- Thoroughly **research** your country's position on both committee topics
 - Research your country's relations with other countries in your committee to make allies
- Read through the chair email sent to your committee and familiarize yourself with the **Rules of Procedure**
- Be ready to attend the workshops conducted by chairs

Thank you!

We hope that this resource was helpful in guiding your preparation for the upcoming MUNI MUN conference.

Should you have any questions, please email your **Committee Chairs** or:

Secretary-General (Basil):

azizbasil04@gmail.com

masarykmun@gmail.com
