



How to Write a Good Position Paper

A Position Paper is a formal document where a delegate explains the stance of the country being represented, according to the topic and the committee assigned. Thus, it is crucial that the information and data stated are accurate and that no inconsistencies can be found. You should show the chairs that you fully understand the topic and that the measures you propose are coherent and realistic. You need to know that this document can guide you throughout the conference, as it will include the most essential information not only for the country you represent but also in general.

For a well-written position paper, it is key that delegates search for trustworthy and credible information. **Reliable sources are important** as they back up a delegate's argument, and it is important to give statistics and mention legal documents relevant to your case.

Sources range from past UN resolutions of your committee to official databases and governmental press releases. These sources must be correctly quoted, and a delegate must never plagiarise. However, a delegate's view on the issue must stand out, because if not, the document will simply read as a list of facts.

The document is structured in five **sections**: an introduction, historical background of the topic, position of the country, proposals or measures and, finally, conclusions.

The **introduction** is a short paragraph where the topic is briefly announced and explained. It is recommended that the nation being represented is not mentioned, as it is not relevant in this part of the document.

In the **historical background** paragraph, you should explain how the conflict or problem began, the block positions that exist (if any), and the most important events that have happened since the issue arose. This section is useful to better understand the situation and should also be general; meaning that you shouldn't mention the country you represent.

The third paragraph (**position of the country**) is the one in which you must state the most important measures your country has made, some resolutions they have signed, plans for the future, **legal background**, etc. It is essential to always side with the country you are representing. Nevertheless, a delegate can acknowledge faults and have hopes for improvement. This must all be done following the true line of thought of the country's high representatives and decisions of the government.

Then, the delegate presents some **measures** that target the goals that must be achieved in the topic at hand. The delegate must prioritize what is in the best interest of the country they are representing, and tackle the main issues. These measures can be: continuing previous commitments, getting inspired by past measures to solve a similar subject, etc. Do not be afraid to be creative! These proposals are usually short ones, tackling the issue at hand briefly and concisely. They are usually bullet points and are more direct.

In the end, a **conclusion** can be used to remark on your priorities and a final statement that summarizes the main points of the document.

It is important for you to know that, since it is a formal document, it must have a specific **format**. In the header of the paper, you should first include the flag of the country (on the left), the official name of the nation (in the centre) and the logo of the committee (on the right). Beneath this, you should again write the name of the country, the full name of the committee and, finally, the topic. Last but not least, you can include the symbol of the nation beneath the text. Also, a watermark of the country's flag or official symbol is highly recommended.

Flag	Official country name	Logo committee
Country: Committee: Topic:		

Here you have an **example** of a position paper that can guide you in structuring it.



United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland



Country: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR)
Topic: Situation of Human Rights in Yemen
University: Pompeu Fabra

The Republic of Yemen is once again immersed in what has become the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The year 2020 has been a challenge for a very weakened country that has faced an escalation of violence in the context of the civil war and uncountable violations of human rights. 70% of the population suffers from food insecurity or malnutrition. According to the UN, every 10 minutes, a Yemeni child dies from preventable causes such as malnutrition or diarrhoea. Of the 30.5 million Yemenis, more than a third need humanitarian aid to survive. The Republic is sentenced to a 90% dependence on foreign resources, and it is on all nations' hands to solve it.

Yemen is going through an apparently indefinite war that started decades ago but became especially important in March 2015. Over the years, most of the world has ignored a conflict that adds more than 10,000 deaths, 3,000,000 refugees and a famine crisis that the UN classified as the worst up until today. Yemen was one of the few Arab countries where the revolutionary process took hold. The Yemenis wanted change and its president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, was forced to abandon the position to his second, Mansur Hadi in November 2011. The transition of power was marked by hunger, massive unemployment and a separatist movement in the south of the country. The consequence was war. On one side, the Houthis followers of a branch of Shiite Islam. These rebel militias receive financial support and weapon supplies from Iran and also from armed groups loyal to the former president. The other side is constituted by the military ranks led by Saudi Arabia supported by forces loyal to the legitimate president Mansur Hadi.

The United Kingdom is deeply concerned about the situation in Yemen and is fully committed to tackling the humanitarian crisis and the violation of human rights as soon as possible. Our nation has provided significant intelligence and logistical support to the coalition of Saudi Arabia with no other purpose other than to administer all basic needs for a population that has suffered unimaginable despondency and starvation. We have also cooperated with both the United States of America and the Republic of France to provide fuels for the transportation of aid. As stated in the resolution (A/HRC/45/L.51) of the forty-fifth session of the HRC, we are aware of the distressing situation regarding the terrorist menace and we emphasise our duty to end this unacceptable behaviour. Thousands of innocent people suffer the consequences of terrorist attacks daily, and our nation is alarmed at the damage they cause. Bearing this in mind, the UK has so far committed over £970 million in medical, infrastructure and food aid to support the well-being of thousands of Yemenis. Besides, we have implemented border controls to prevent the entry of weapons that could cause further destruction. Even with the difficult situation our nation is facing right now, we won't back off the measures ratified in all previous resolutions (e.g. (A/HRC/RES/45/26), (A/HRC/45/L.51), (A/HRC/42/17)), nor the ones signed in the Stockholm Agreement in 2018.

Taking all these measures into account, we strongly believe that much more could be done to alleviate both the human rights violations and the crisis:

- Take all precautions to avoid and to minimise harm to civilians and infrastructure such as markets, schools and medical facilities by increasing security personnel.
- Tackle the spread of COVID-19 (and other diseases) by providing over 700,000 medical consultations, training 12,000 healthcare workers and building 4,000 health centres to continue fighting against the outbreaks.
- Fund charities and NGOs with a minimum of £10 million to give education to as many children as possible, by constructing schools and by bringing voluntary teachers.
- We are fully aware of the potential danger of a massive leak of crude from the SAFER oil tanker, and we are committed to avoiding this from happening by transferring it to a sealed tanker.
- Collaborate with all nations to achieve a feasible peace agreement not only to stop the war but also to make sure all Yemenis stop suffering its consequences and the multiple violations of human rights¹.
- Funding NGOs or other organizations to inform civilians through mass media means such as pamphlets, talks or lectures and posters about the possible dangers associated with staying in areas where the combat is present. They will be used for areas that are likely to develop into combat zones and they will indicate and map out the medical centres and the food providing facilities.

The UN thrives on its very first and primal promise to promote human rights through the ever-so valuable international cooperation its members aimed to create. Yemen shall be no exception. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland very much looks forward to opening the debate and to cooperating with all the nations present, to make sure this crisis ends up as soon as possible. No human should suffer as much as Yemen civilians do and we cannot give up because as Ayman Gharaibeh² once said: *"The world cannot let Yemen fall into an abyss."*

¹ Articles 1, 2, 3, 5, etc.

² UNHCR Representative in Yemen