

Position Paper Guidelines

Position papers are formal public statements of a delegation's position on the topics a particular committee will be considering. They can act as a starting point for negotiations and debate at conferences, and they are useful for a delegation's conference preparation, for signaling a public position on a topic, and for gaining insight into other delegations' positions prior to the conference. You can start your research with the background research guides, looking up information about the people you're representing in committees (such as the JCCs, historical councils, and FDA committee), looking up past UN resolutions, and searching for domestic and international actions done by your country.

Position papers should focus on what a specific delegation would like to address or accomplish at the conference, rather than describing a delegation's experience with a certain issue. Each paper should include a short statement about the delegation's position on each topic and on its opinions about recent action, especially UN action, on each topic. It should also include some indication as to the delegation's public position about how the committee should act moving forward, particularly commenting on proposals that a delegation has or intends to have sponsored, supported or not supported and why. Position papers do not have to go into specific detail about the delegation's negotiating positions or other behind-the-scenes issues, but they should be viewed as something a diplomat might say in a public speech on the topics.

Delegations should consider incorporating the following elements in their position papers, depending on the committee's agenda items and available information:

- References to past UN resolutions and international treaties
- References to the UN Charter, as appropriate for the topic
- Reference to work the UN has already done on the matter, whether by specific agencies, regional bodies or work with NGOs
- Statements relevant to the topic by government representatives
- Suggestions of actions that the representatives' State will support in solving the issue being considered

Each delegation should submit one complete position paper, around about 300 words (one half page, single-spaced) per topic. These papers should not be formatted in any way (bold, italics, footnotes, etc.). Each topic for your country's committee/council assignments should be covered. Some exceptions:

- Topics in Security Council simulations are not pre-designated. Delegations on the Security Council should select the two or three topics that are most important to their country and submit a position paper with about 300 words per topic.
- Position papers for IPD delegations do not have to be as long or formal as position papers for other committees. IPD position papers should mainly highlight your media outlet's political lean and any stances on international issues or controversies.

- Instead of writing a position paper, we ask that future Justices of the ICJ complete a worksheet to develop their positions on the cases that we'll be hearing during AZMUN 61. Please submit this through the same link on our website as any other position paper. Although we ask you to complete this to research the cases and have an idea about them going into committee, we ask that you keep an open mind when you hear the cases presented by the Advocates and remain open to changing your position on any of the issues presented. Feel free to refer to the Background Guide, any links provided on that document, or outside sources to answer these questions thoughtfully.

Position papers can be submitted through the position paper google form link below. They will be due on February 13, 2023. Position papers for Spanish committees need to be in Spanish. Position papers for bilingual committees can be in English or Spanish.

Link to google form: <https://forms.gle/T3X3hfvbotCom8SZA>