Position Papers + Research

VMUNC VIII

Disclaimer

This slidedeck is tailored to VMUNC (vista model united nations conference). All of the content/sections are adapted towards our position paper guidelines. If you are composing a position paper for a different conference, please check your conference's position paper guidelines and policies.

This slidedeck focuses primarily on General Assembly committee position papers. For specialized, most of the covered content is applicable. If you are representing a character, please factor that in as well.

Past and Current International Action

Past and Current International Action

This section should explain what has already been done about the issue. Analyze previous actions taken by your country including leading actors and perspectives. Include resolutions, initiatives, and statements that have been implemented. Instead of just list past actions, it's worth examining how whether they worked, why they mattered, and what problems still remain. Definitely do not hyperfixate onto your country specifically...

- What have the UN, regional bodies, or international groups already done?
- Which actions had real impact and which ones failed?
- Was it popular? (Do not talk about your country in this section...)
- What gaps still need to be addressed?
- Did the measures taken work? If so, why? If not, why not?

Past and Current International Action

Analysis of the efficiency of past action turns a regular paper into an extraordinary one. Do not hesitate to critique past solutions. Something to take into account, primarily for proposed solutions: a common trend you will see in UN passed resolutions is the lack of enforcement. Unfortunately, that is the nature of the United Nations as its resolutions are merely recommendations. That said, it is nice to see creative forms of indirect enforcement that bypass these limitations or if your solutions do not require enforcement, or not depended on other countries.

History repeats itself; use this to your advantage. Take a look at the past action part of your paper, especially the analysis.

- ➔ What worked? Use aspects that DID work.
- ➔ What didn't work? Use these as a stepping off point, but add the aspects that made the successful solutions work.

Country/Character Position

Country Policy

When writing this, the most important thing is to take the position of your country/character, and not falling back on your own beliefs. Figure out what stance your delegation/character takes on the issue being discussed. You should refrain from deviating from representing your chosen country/character's values. It is helpful to consider your country/character's foreign diplomatic tactics, allies, policies, etc.
Hit these points:

1. How does this issue affect your country/character?
2. What is the history of your country's/character's policy?
    a. What is your current policy?
        i. What has informed this current policy?
3. How does this affect committee?

In plain English, talk about how your country/character has been affected by the issue at hand. In specialized committee, this will be your character's policy.

Country Stance:

For the last 3 decades Guyana has proved its commitment to climate change and working towards a carbon emission free world. We recognize the urgent, global threat that climate change poses as the sea level rises and weather grows extreme, two issues that citizens all over Guyana have been facing (Domonoske and Kellman). Guyana is leading the globe in environmentally sustainable and productive practices with its Low Developing Carbon Strategy (LDCS). Among developing clean energy and keeping carbon emission rates flat, this plan works to support both states' economies as well as the environment (Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy). In fact, Guyana's LCDS outlines a future in which the country attains a "tenfold increase in demand for electricity supply by 2040 whilst retaining greenhouse gas emissions at 2018 levels" (Yeşim). Guyana is becoming a leader in green development and is ensuring environmental growth in all forms. In an interview, His Excellency, our President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, stated through that all aspects of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy, "a full commitment to ensuring our forest remains intact remains sustainable (Ali). Guyana has emphasized the power of forests as about 85% of its land area is made of forest area, making it absolutely critical that we guide development that is "rooted in sustainable land use, including reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation(REDD+)" ("Guyana"). Under the LDCS, Guyana has been a leader of sustainable practices that leave forests thriving, stimulates clean energy development, protects biodiversity, and aligns national, economic goals with global climate goals.

Proposed Solutions

Why to care

This is the most significant part of your paper, chairs will be analyzing this part in greater detail. They already know the topic background and past action, and can easily skim to see policy. What they need to know for committee are your plans. The better researched and more flexible your solutions are, the better you'll act in committee. It's important to walk in knowing what you want to do, everyone who didn't do that research will begin to trust and follow you.

- Consider:
  - Audience (Who does it direct to?)
  - Agenda (What is your country's agenda/main focuses?)
  - International Feasibility (Applies to everyone)
- Get creative by titling it with Acronyms/catchy names

Components of a Solution

Funding : Without funding, it'll get shot down by committee immediately. Look to the World Bank, or relevant, existing UN managed funds.

Within UN's Sovereignty: If this can be perceived as a threat to national security, it'll get voted down very quickly.

Time Frame: Good solutions have checkpoints, or times listed to check in on implementation. Sustainable Development Goals, for example.





Questions to Consider Example

Guyana

Questions to Consider:

1. Perceptions of vigilante violence are a perpetual clash between two parties–the government and the citizens. Typically on news outlets, the blame of vigilantism has been exclusively burdened on the vigilantes. Oftentimes, their reason for violence is on account of the government's inability to address crime. The media may cover in this specific way in an attempt to increase their trust towards the government, but their lack of accountability may foster skepticism nevertheless.

4. Lack of international action on weak justice, crime systems, as well as inaccessibility to resources may play a role in the amplification of vigilante violence. Absence of proper policing and criminals, allowing them to affect the citizens, is an ongoing incentive for vigilante groups to take justice in their own hands. By combating corruption within the government, citizens would be less inclined to resort to violence and vigilantism.

Formatting:

- Please submit in pdf here
- 1-inch margins on all sides
- Header
  - Committee
  - Country
  - Topic
- 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font
- 4-page maximum; not including bibliography (works cited)
- All citations should be done in MLA format and formatted as a bibliography
- Acceptable bibliography example on next slide

Works Cited

Dolor, L.I. *Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit*, 1998. Print.

Dolor, L.I. *Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh.* *New York*: Columbia UP, 1998. Print.

Doe, R. John. *Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh,* 1998. Print.

Resources

SFMUN Position Paper Guide

NMUN Position Paper Guide

Best Delegate: How to Write a Winning Position Paper

United Nations Digital Library

BMUN Position Paper Guidelines

Portions of VMUNC's delegate-training materials were adapted from educational resources published by San Francisco Model United Nations and Best Delegate. All materials have been modified to reflect VMUNC VIII procedures and policies.