



WRITING A POSITION PAPER

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1. INTRODUCTION

At the start of the committee session, all delegates are required to hand in a position paper: a small (1 A4) formal document describing your country's position related to the issue of the committee. You could see this document as a "biography" for your country.

Writing a position paper will help you understand your country's foreign policy while also structuring your thoughts. Writing a position paper should therefore be seen as preparation for the ASMUN conference

2. FORMAT

When drafting a position paper, it is important to adhere to the standard format (read more below), but one must not forget that a position paper should look attractive. Common methods for creating a work of art are adding the country's flag, the flag of the United Nations and a watermark with the country's coat of arms.

Heading

A position paper should always start with the heading. This part of the document contains the following general information:

- The committee: The name of the committee ("United Nations Development Programme")
- The topic: The topic of the committee session ("Infrastructure for peace").
- The country: The name of the member state that you are representing ("The Plurinational State of Bolivia")

First paragraph

Your first paragraph should give general introduction on your country and a few examples on how the topic of the committee session affects your country. A good start is noting down the foreign policy in relation to the topic at hand of the country you are representing.

"The homicide rate in Bolivia is 12.1 per 100,000 inhabitants, placing us 36th on the list of "Murder Rate", compromising our positive peace."

"Illegal drug trade has always been the core of the problem. As such, we hold a hard line against drug trade."

Second paragraph

The second paragraph should be a short history lesson on what actions the country you represent did and did not take, on both a local and international scale. You could mention passed laws, signed treaties or international organisations for example.

“Bolivia has been tackling drug issues for some time now, with great effect: just recently, the government passed a law that resulting in a decline in illegal drug trade.”

Third paragraph

The third paragraph describes what you plan to do in the future: What would you like to see in the draft resolution? But more importantly: What solutions does your country bring to the table? The most effective way to promote change is by taking the initiative: proposing solutions goes a long way in that regard.

“We, however, do not have the financial resources to solve these issues at hand within our own border, let alone in other countries. As such, the Plurinational State of Bolivia urges the importance of financial aid.”

“The Plurinational State of Bolivia proposes to not punish those who trade in drugs, but rather help them get back on their feet”

3. EXAMPLE POSITION PAPER



Position Paper Plurinational State of Bolivia



Committee: United Nations Development Programme
Topic: Infrastructure for Peace
Country: Plurinational State of Bolivia

Bolivia is a South-American country with 11,4 million inhabitants which has been democratic since the 1980's. As the poorest country in South America, Bolivia has been struggling with increasing and keeping the positive peace within our borders. The homicide rate in Bolivia is 12.1 per 100,000 inhabitants, placing us 36th on the list of "Murder Rate", compromising our positive peace. Since we did not have any wars and/or conflicts in the past 50 years, we can conclude that our negative peace is at a fine level as is.

Bolivia has been tackling drug issues for some time now, with great effect: just recently, the government passed a law that resulting in a decline in illegal drug trade. We have seen a decline in cultivation for cocaine for multiple years now. After reaching an all-time high in terms of corruption, we are slowly trying improve our position with some moderate successes, but also some major setbacks. As such, one can conclude that we are greatly improving, depending on the field of expertise. One can also conclude that we are a very hard-working country and truly believe that tackling this issue is of great priority.

As mentioned in the Committee guide, Bolivia is a developing nation with Western ideals. As such we welcome any effort that positively impacts negative and/or positive peace. We do however not have the financial resources to solve these issues at hand within our own border, let alone in other countries. As such, the Plurinational State of Bolivia urges the importance of financial aid for all member states that require it. Since we are a strong believer in global cooperation, we would also like to see a resolution that promotes global cooperation between all member states on tackling this issue.

Note

The above-mentioned are guidelines for writing a position paper. Delegates can deviate from those guidelines, as long as the position papers are conforming the requirements.

We emphasize that plagiarism is by all means forbidden and will be followed by consequences.