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Position Paper format

Report of the hosting advisors for IIMUN

Summary

To be considered for research awards, position papers are due Friday, 19 March 2021 before 11:59pm. Email addresses are provided at the top of each topic synopsis. **You will receive an automated reply email indicating we have received your email. If you do not receive an automated email reply, please check that you are sending to the right email address.**

Specifications for the position paper: Times New Roman size 12 font, single spaced. Please offset each section by using Roman Numerals and descriptors (just like the sample page with descriptions is laid out.) The length of your position paper (Sections I-IV) should not exceed 2 pages. It is acceptable if Section V (Sources) extends on to a third page.



- Committee: Committee name here. Include “Novice” or “Advanced” if committee is named as such.
- Topic: Topic title goes here. Shortened titles are fine (Child Soldiers, DPRK Nuclear Proliferation, etc). Each topic gets a separate position paper.
- Country: Your country name goes here.
- Presented by: Your name goes here. This is only used as an additional way to identify paper authors in case of miscommunication or misidentification.
- School: Your school name goes here. This is only used as an additional way to identify paper authors in case of miscommunication or misidentification.

I. Background

A brief historical description of the topic should serve as an introduction. After several sentences, address the more immediate consequences of the problem at hand. For example, cover the last few major developments or considerations from the past decade or two. Next, explain why this topic is of global significance and should be addressed by the United Nations.

II. United Nations Involvement

Briefly describe the initial actions the United Nations took to address the issue. Analyze how those strategies changed over time (if at all) and the degree to which they have been effective. Current scholarship on the topic is encouraged (UN documents search is a good resource for this, as are newspapers and news websites). We have provided some links and search terms to help springboard your own research. It is expected you will go beyond these sources as you dive into the committee topic.

III. Country Policy

This is one of the most scrutinized parts of your position paper. This is where an explanation of how your country is affected by the topic is provided. Sometimes a country is very directly influenced by an issue, and other times some inferences have to be made. (For example, ethnic violence in one region may parallel a period of religious or social unrest in your country’s past. Or, civil unrest elsewhere may create a refugee crisis which might affect your country’s immigration system). Please explain your country’s viewpoint on the topic and what steps it has taken as a result. Be sure to make your country’s policy clear and succinct. Papers that are off policy will be penalized. In the case of policy that is unclear or has yet to be established, make a research-based conjecture.

IV. Possible Solutions

Create realistic and practical solutions to the issue at hand. Solutions that are creative and well thought out are highly encouraged. Solutions that address all sides of the topic will be given more credit than those that are too general or lack specificity. Some suggestions for specifics include a timeline for implementation, sources of funding, etc.

V. Sources

Please list sources used. Sources will be evaluated based on relevance to the topic. As a result, Wikipedia is only acceptable as a starting point for those who have no familiarity with the topic. More effort should be put into finding relevant and robust sources. The topic synopsis provides some places to start. Please also consider current news sources such as the BBC and Al Jazeera, as well as in-depth magazine sources such as Time, Newsweek, and the Economist. For basic country information, the CIA World Fact Book is a good start. Please realize, of course, that the CIA has an inherent US bias. Sources should be listed in the same way the topic synopsis lists them. For example:

Name of Source, Specific Title
websiteaddressgoeshere.com