Sustainable Development Youth Convention 2018

- Position Paper Guidelines -

Position Paper Guidelines

What is a position paper?

A position paper provides an overview of the stances and proposed solutions of a country or organization. The contents of the position paper are meant to serve as a guide to developing a delegate's position in council and to inform the dais of the delegate's stance. The stance in a position paper should be substantiated by the recent actions and foreign policy decisions made by the delegation.

All delegates, are required to submit a single position paper on each committee's topic. Double delegations are only required to submit one position paper for each country, per topic.

Format of a position paper

The position paper should be written in the format of an essay written in standard English. The position paper should be written using standard fonts (Calibri, Times New Roman, Arial, etc.), size 12, single spacing, normal margins, and should include the name, country/NGO and committee of the submitter. There will be a strict 1-page limit for your position papers, excluding your bibliography/references. A position paper should follow the format of:

Background	The background of the position paper should make reference to the historical context and current situation of the issue being debated. This context should be specific to the stakeholder being discussed but should show a nuanced understanding of the global context. The background should highlight why the issue is relevant to the stakeholder.
Stance	The stance of a country is the position of a country on a particular topic. A country may support, oppose or be neutral toward a topic and its solutions. Such stances are usually formed as a result of the cultural, political and religious landscape of a country and its people. The stance of a country may be explicitly stated through foreign policy statements or speeches of county representatives, or may be derived from the current solutions and actions undertaken by stakeholders.
Solutions	The solutions proposed should align with the stance outlined in the position paper. Solutions may be novel or may be extensions of currently existing solutions. Delegates should also consider the effectiveness of their solutions and how to mitigate the consequences of their solutions.
Bibliography	The bibliography should include the references and primary sources used for the position paper.

Submission Guidelines

Position papers are to be sent to sdyc@nushigh.edu.sg. The subject of the email and document name should follow these guidelines, unless otherwise stated:

<Committee Name> - Position Paper - <Country Name>
e.g. UNSC - Position Paper - USA

Please do note that the deadline for position papers is Friday, 10 August 2018. A position paper submission is a pre-requisite for all awards. Requests for deadline extensions for position papers (with valid reason) may be made by contacting your dais through their council emails, and shall be approved on a case-by-case basis. If you have not received an email from your dais that you can reply to, you may email sdyc@nushigh.edu.sg for clarification.

How to Research

An excellent position paper is underpinned by a strong understanding of the fundamental issue at hand. Delegates are recommended to begin their research by reading through the topic guides of their committees. With this understanding in mind, delegates should then specialise their research to focus on their stakeholder. Delegates are recommended to read up on key facts about their stakeholder and news articles from reputable sources. Think tanks, conference statements and past United Nations (UN) resolutions could also be used as platforms to formulate the stance of a country. The following resources may provide some insight in your research:

Background of a Country	1. CIA World Factbook https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/ 2. BBC Country Profiles http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country_profiles/default.stm
Past UN Resolutions	1. UN General Assembly Resolutions http://www.un.org/en/sections/documents/general-assembly-resolutions/ 2. UN Security Council Resolutions http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/

It is important to consider not just the solutions to be implemented, but also the negative consequences of implementing such solutions. Most solutions face challenges in terms of funding, feasibility or breach of sovereignty. As such, measures to mitigate these challenges would demonstrate the practical and realistic approach the delegate has chosen to take in resolving the issue.

In accordance with SDYC's ethics policy, plagiarism is strictly forbidden. Plagiarism is defined as the appropriation of the work of others as one's original work without accrediting the original creators of the content. Any verified instances of plagiarism is sufficient grounds for disqualification from all awards.

Sample Position Paper

Name: Antonio Guterres
Country: Islamic Republic of Iran
Committee: Economic and Social Council - Post-Disaster Rehabilitation

Background
Iran is ranked as one of the most disaster prone country in the world by the UNDP. Iran's most frequent natural disasters are floods, droughts and earthquakes. In the year 2013 alone, the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters had recorded 334 natural disasters, which have claimed approximately 22,600 lives and affected 97 million people. Iran acknowledges that managing the effects of disasters is a public health priority. In the UNDP agenda, the strengthening of disaster management capabilities in Iran is held in high regard.

Stance
Iran finds itself under great strain and difficulty when recovering from the aftermath of natural disasters due to its numerous sanctions by the European Union, United Nations and United States of America. The illegal sanctions placed on Iran only have negative implications on this disaster-stricken country as aid supplies are greatly restricted. While Iran is willing to help its people and other countries in post-disaster rehabilitation, sanctions should be lifted to allow the Iranian government to operate in its fullest capacity in this matter.

Proposed solution
Iran emphasises on the need of a creation of a crystal clear framework to integrate all current frameworks. This is to ensure that the framework will be top-down and all encompassing. The this concept should be set by the UN to ensure that it will not be biased to anyone. The framework will be put in place by the regional bodies themselves, likely with the help of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). The aid will be provided to the country's government to be allocated to the affected areas which may be supported by the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI), assisted by community leaders to effectively disseminate aid to their communities, reaching out to all members of the population.

The framework would also have to work hand in hand with existing frameworks to increase effectiveness, such as the new Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction. Integrating regional frameworks are also important. In the case of Iran where 5 main agencies are in charge of disaster risk reduction in that region, namely National Disaster Management Organisation (NDMO), Building and Housing Research Centre (BHRC), Tehran Disaster Mitigation and Management Organisation (TDMMO), Office of Vice-President for strategic Planning and supervision (SPAS) and Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS). Iran strongly feels that the main issue for the ineffectiveness of current frameworks is simply the localisation of such frameworks. These frameworks aim to target issues pertaining to one particular region, however this is seemingly too segregated in an increasingly globalised world. Therefore, integrating all the frameworks into one greater network will help align approaches towards disasters, improving the harmony for different organisations to work together, under one common standard concept.