



POSITION PAPER WRITING

In preparation for the conference, delegates are responsible for doing extensive research on their country's position in the topic of the respective committee. Prior to the start of the first committee session, each delegate is highly encouraged to submit a position paper, which is a short write up of the research that has been made. By submitting a position paper, delegates give a good first impression to the committee director. Please note, however, that delegates who choose to not submit a position paper will be ineligible for awards.

What is in a position paper? The most important element of a good position paper is the content. Such content presents the country's position on a particular subject, and not a background piece of the topic. This means that a position paper should have ideas on how to solve the topic at hand, such as Child Malnutrition for example, and not just what the country has done in the past regarding such topic. In addition, the position paper should be compatible with your country's interests and foreign policy. Keep in mind if your country would support a particular policy in the real world, and how it would actually react, and apply that to your position paper. Furthermore, this is the position paper from your assigned country, not yourself. Your own personal viewpoints may be different from the foreign policy of your assigned country. It is important act as a representative and not yourself. Remember that part of the learning experience of Model UN is learning and presenting a different perspective. The position paper is your opportunity to demonstrate to the committee staff and your fellow delegates your depth of knowledge on the issue. Stating that Belgium wishes to see a strengthening of the verification protocols of the CFE Treaty by allowing more overflights of territory shows a greater depth of knowledge and nuance than merely saying that Belgium supports a strengthening of the CFE Treaty. It is highly encouraged to be specific when presenting an idea and not just general knowledge.

Quality of writing – The second most important element of a good position paper is the quality of writing. The quality of ideas is the most important factor, but how well they are presented is also important. Quality of writing includes how well organized the position paper is and how clearly the ideas are presented. Appropriate syntax and vocabulary are also important factors. Remember to use diplomatic and academic language. It is also important to avoid colloquialism.

Format – A position paper that has is poorly formatted or has spelling and grammatical errors can distract the reader from the quality of the content and writing. When writing a position paper, one should keep in mind the flow of the words and your ultimate goal is to make the reader have an easy time going through the content and not having to worry about the format or spelling and grammatical errors. It is recommended that after writing your position paper, have it proofread in order to avoid these errors.



POSITION PAPER FORMAT SPECIFICATIONS

- Position papers should be about a page on each topic, along with a short, brief introduction
- Position paper must **NOT** exceed 2 pages in length, but should be longer than one
 - Devote one page per topic
 - Any position paper that is longer than 2 pages will not be read. Prospects for winning an award will be lowered if a position paper is longer than 2 pages
- Font size 10, 11 or 12 point
- Times New Roman or Arial
- The content of the position paper itself must be single spaced
- Topics in the position paper should be addressed in the order that they were presented in the background guide of the respective committee. In addition, topic 1 would be addressed first with a roman numeral I, then the topic itself would follow. Same goes for the second topic
- Top left-hand corner of the paper should read:
 - *Delegation from* (Italicized)
United States of America (In Bold)
- Top right-hand corner of the paper should read:
 - *Represented by* (Italicized)
Name of School (In Bold)
- Please follow the Sample Position Paper below as a reference when writing your position

INFORMATION FOUND IN A GOOD POSITION PAPER

1. A brief summary/definition of topic
2. A brief history of topic including international efforts
3. Description of related international acts and U.N. Resolutions pertaining to the topic
4. Description of NGOs and other international organizations related to the topic
5. The official domestic stance of the country on the topic
6. At least a few quotes from government officials
7. If applicable, domestic actions by their government related to the topic
8. Sample ideas; what you want to propose in the committee



POSITION PAPER DO'S AND DONT'S

Do's

- Present a Foreign Policy Position on all topics
- Use historical examples that apply to your country if they support your position/claim to expertise
- Follow the correct format (See Sample Position Paper below for guidance)
- Cite sources (if applicable). It is recommended to site your sources by footnote
- Research the topics extensively, come with an idea in mind on what you want to accomplish at KnightMUN
- Have someone proofread your work
- Make the position paper easy for the reader to understand
- It **MUST** be no longer than 2 pages

Dont's

- Present a Foreign Policy Position that is your own and not your country's
- Present a historical background on the topics
- Rely solely on the background guide for your research
- Procrastinate
- Rely solely on speeches as your primary source of research
- Not doing enough research
- Not following the correct format
- Position paper being longer than 2 pages
- Just rely on spell check – it misses errors such as “Untied Nations”



SAMPLE POSITION PAPER

Delegation from
Kingdom of the Netherlands

Represented by
University of Central Florida

Position Paper for General Assembly 4th Committee

The Kingdom of the Netherlands is committed towards addressing both topics before this session of the General Assembly 4th committee, that of combating organ trafficking and the promotion and integration of indigenous peoples. Our government wants what is best for our people and for the international community and through dialogue and diplomacy, we believe our goals can be achieved.

I. Combating Organ Trafficking

With the world becoming an ever smaller and interconnected place, local events in one country can transcend borders and affect the international community. Regarding the continuous problem of organ trafficking, the Kingdom of the Netherlands stands against it. As organ trafficking having links with human trafficking in part to the extraction of the victim's organs, and their abuse of human rights, foreign affairs minister Uri Resenthal wishes to "pursue a coherent and compact human rights policy with which the Netherlands can achieve concrete results"¹. Furthermore, "the protection and promotion of human rights worldwide are an integral part of our foreign policy"². Though the Netherlands is an industrial, wealthy country, we are seen with the increasing problem of transplant tourism³. Through former efforts and commitments to reduce transplant tourism, the Netherlands in 1998 ratified the UN Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons⁴, and just recently a Dutch delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) backed Serbia's resolution on human organ trafficking in which it recommended closer cooperation in the exchange of information and more efficient operations of institutions⁵. Such initiative was not the only one taken, as years before the Netherlands enacted the Dutch Organ Donation Act in 1998⁶. This act regulates the donation of organs and tissues for the medical treatment of other individuals and highlighted that there was and still is a lack of knowledge about the opportunity to donate, where steps needed to be taken are have been⁷. Also, it imposed automatic consent, where all citizens not getting registered in the national registry for organ donation, would receive a letter to inform them that if they do not explicitly refuse to be a donor they will automatically⁸. As such, the Kingdom of the Netherlands encourages member states to consider the Dutch Organ Donation Act and implement what constitutes their interests to their home governments. Recommending to member states that the act of donation should be regarded as heroic and honored as such by respective governments and civil society organizations, as stated by the Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism⁹, the Netherlands sees this as an opportunity to bring the issue of organ transplantation into the civil spotlight and thus given more consideration by state governments. The Netherlands would also like to point out that out of the many aims

1 "Human Rights". *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. http://www.minbuza.nl/en/Key_Topics/Human_Rights

2 "Human Rights". *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. http://www.minbuza.nl/en/Key_Topics/Human_Rights

3 Ambagtsheer, Frederike. The battle for human organs. Kidney markets and transplant tourism from the Netherlands in the global economy. http://www.esot.org/Files/Elpat/Content_Files/fo2pMorgantrade.Frederike%20ambagtsheer.pdf

4 "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish trafficking in Persons". *UNODC*.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/countrylist-traffickingprotocol.html>

5 Netherlands to back Serbia's organ trafficking resolution. *B92*. http://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics-article.php?yyyy=2011&mm=07&dd=07&nav_id=75319

6 Ambagtsheer, Frederike. The battle for human organs. Kidney markets and transplant tourism from the Netherlands in the global economy. http://www.esot.org/Files/Elpat/Content_Files/fo2pMorgantrade.Frederike%20ambagtsheer.pdf

7 Ibid

8 Ibid

9 "The Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism". http://www.isodp2011.org.ar/downloads/Declaration_of_Istanbul.pdf

towards solving organ trafficking, one of them should not be to prevent transplant tourism in itself, as transplant tourism does not always involve the purchase, but commercial transplant tourism does, in which the trade actually takes place. Through better clarification of our objectives, as the UN Trafficking Protocol does not cover different types of organ trafficking that occur in practice, and the global comparison of trafficking in human organs is constrained by the lack of a uniform definition and the absence of consistent statistics and criminal reports¹⁰, the international community will be able to find a common solution to a complex, growing problem. Finally, the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers and restates the invitation from the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, Doc. 9822, regarding trafficking of organs in Europe, not only to the European continent, but to all members of the General Assembly in the United Nations, to adopt and adhere to the recommendations in the World Medical Association's (WMA) statement on Human Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation, adopted by the 52nd WMA General Assembly in Edinburgh, Scotland, in Oct. 2000, and now the revised version in the 57th WMA General Assembly, in Pilanesberg, South Africa, in Oct. 2006¹¹.

II. The Promotion and Integration of Indigenous Peoples

As the Kingdom of the Netherlands being the 5th largest aid donor in relative terms, and 8th in absolute terms in the world, our ability to fund programs and initiatives aimed at cultural issues have given fruit to organizations such as the Netherlands Centre for Indigenous People (NCIV)¹². As such, NCIV has sought to integrate the Frisians indigenous people of the Netherlands into modern society¹³. Our constitution states, under Article 1, that “all persons in the Netherlands shall be treated equally in equal circumstances, and that discrimination on the grounds of religion, belief, political opinion, race or sex or on any other grounds whatsoever shall not be permitted”¹⁴. As a result, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in its efforts towards the promotion and integration of indigenous peoples, have ratified the ILO Convention 169 in 1998 and voted in favor of the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2007¹⁵. Encouraging dialogue among the international community, the Netherlands seeks to achieve MDGs for indigenous peoples, safeguards for indigenous rights in sustainable forest management, as well as sustainability criteria for biomass, and preventing human rights violations of indigenous peoples¹⁶. Though such initiatives, indigenous peoples would be able to integrate into today's fast paced and ever changing society in an efficient and 21st century way. In addition, the Kingdom of the Netherlands reaffirms the 10 year old comment, as believing it still is applicable today, from Kenneth Deer, a Mohawk from the Canadian Kahnawake reserve near Montreal, before attending the World Conference Against Racism in 2001, that “racism against indigenous peoples is the most overlooked racial problem of our time”¹⁷. Congratulating once again the efforts of Cross Cultural Bridges (CCB) as in 2005, it implemented its first project called “mixed couples” in the Netherlands and since then has continued to foster activities in the areas of fair trade, and sponsoring indigenous leaders to visit Europe as it organized a public debate in Balie, Amsterdam; as well as initiating in 2008 the “Happiness, Felicidad, Geluk” project which was the result of an idea from a primary school in the Netherlands¹⁸. With this in mind, the Netherlands invites member states to be creative and initiate a cultural innovation project in their countries where students will be asked to create ideas such as “Happiness, Felicidad, Geluk”, which will in turn spark creativity and learning about indigenous, cultural issues in the respective country through a cost effective and community empowerment manner that can help solve world problems.

10 Ambagtsheer, Frederike. The battle for human organs. Kidney markets and transplant tourism from the Netherlands in the global economy. http://www.esot.org/Files/Elpat/Content_Files/fo2pMorgantrade.Frederike%20ambagtsheer.pdf

11 Parliamentary Assembly. *Council of Europe*. <http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/WorkingDocs/Doc03/EDOC9822.htm>

12 “Government”. *Netherlands Centre For Indigenous Peoples*. <http://www.indigenouspeoples.nl/for-who/government>

13 Ibid

14 “The Status of Indigenous and Minority People in the Netherlands”. *Netherlands Comparative Law Association*. <http://www.ejcl.org/64/art64-1.html>

15 “Government”. *Netherlands Centre For Indigenous Peoples*. <http://www.indigenouspeoples.nl/for-who/government>

16 Ibid

17 “Indigenous Peoples Plan for Conference Against Racism”. *Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*. <http://www.shfwire.com/node/2997>

18 “Geographical Areas”. *Cross Cultural Bridges*. http://www.puenteentreculturas.org/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=6&Itemid=28