



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
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Paper Position Guide

MUNCH

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The Purpose of this Guide

The purpose of this guide is to inform you on the expectations of MUNCH in regards to how Position Papers should be written.

POSITION PAPERS ARE REQUIRED TO BE TURNED IN BY THE FIRST COMMITTEE SESSION TO YOUR CHAIRS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AWARDS. If your school will not be present at the first committee session, please email your position paper to your chair by the time of the first committee session to be eligible for awards.

What is a Position Paper?

A position paper is a short brief written by delegates prior to the Model UN conference, and is presented to the chair at the beginning of the conference. MUNCH encourages that all delegates write a position paper, as a means of preparing/researching for well-informed debate. MUNCH requires delegates who wish to be considered for awards to write a position paper. **During the Awards Ceremony at the Closing Ceremony, the delegate with the best-written position paper will be awarded “Best Position Paper.”**

How to Write a Position Paper

Topics are dealt with differently throughout different committee types. General Assemblies and GAPs have three topics to be discussed over the course of a weekend. Crisis committees and the Joint-Crisis Committee (JCC) give delegates a position to represent in context of an overarching issue and many smaller crises. **Delegates that are selected for the ad-hoc committee do not write a position paper, as they have limited time to prepare for their committee.** Below, we have outlined what to include in your position paper depending on which committee type you are placed in.

General Assemblies and GAPs

All papers must include a heading consisting of your committee, topic, country, and school, as shown in the example at the end of this guide. Follow the header with the body of the paper:

1. **Topic Background:** Make sure you establish that you know what the topic is! Take the time to define any major terms, give some statistics regarding the issue and provide a brief historical context.

2. **Past International Actions:** Address the United Nations' past involvement regarding the issue along with any UN committees, resolutions or programs that are directly related to the issue. Additionally, take into account the major players that have been involved with the issue previously and how their actions mesh with your own country's policy.

3. **Country Policy and Possible Solutions:** This section should cover your country's stance on the issue and what actions your country would support to help resolve the issue. Research whether your country currently supports any particular programs relevant to the topic. Please remember to stay away from your own personal feelings about an issue, and represent the country you have been assigned the best you can. In this section, you can also list any possible solutions your country will be pursuing during committee.

The above must be completed for each topic. All GAs and GAPs will have THREE topics discussed in their background guide. Please limit each topic to a SINGLE page; three topics means you will have a three-page position paper turned in at the beginning of committee on Thursday. Any works cited will not count against page count. Do not cite the background guide, Wikipedia, Google, etc. Use UN-affiliated and government sites (there's no specific citation format for MUNCH). Completing this background guide will not only help you be prepared for the topics of committee, but will also give you a headstart on thinking about resolutions you can write with other countries. REMEMBER: Pre-writing resolutions for your committee is strictly forbidden, however you are allowed to bring notes and research with you.

A standard font such as Times New Roman or Arial at 12 pt size is acceptable.

Crisis and Joint Crisis Committees

All papers must include a heading consisting of your committee, position, and school. The example at the end of this guide reflects a position paper for a single topic in a GA committee, but the formatting of your position paper for a crisis committee should be similar. Follow the header with the body of the paper:

1. **Topic Background:** Make sure you establish that you know what the topic is! Take the time to define any major terms, give some statistics regarding the issue and provide a brief historical context.

2. **Positions' Stance and Possible Solutions:** This section should cover the stance of the person you are representing and what actions you would support to help resolve the issue. Please remember to stay away from your own personal feelings about an issue, and represent the position you have been assigned the best you can. In this section, you can also list any possible solutions you will be pursuing during committee.

Please limit your position paper to 1-2 pages; you will have to turn in your position paper at the beginning of committee on Thursday. Any works cited will not count against page count. Do not cite the background guide, Wikipedia, Google, etc. Use UN-affiliated and government sites (there's no specific citation format for MUNCH). Completing this background guide will not only help you be prepared for the topics of committee, but will also give you a headstart on thinking about directives you can write with potential allies. REMEMBER: Pre-writing directives for your committee is strictly forbidden, however you are allowed to bring notes and research with you.

A standard font such as Times New Roman or Arial at 12 pt size is acceptable.

Ad-hoc Committee and Press Corps

Delegates that are selected for the ad-hoc committee do not write a position paper, as they have limited time to prepare for their committee. Delegates that are selected for the Press Corps will receive instructions from the Director of Press Corps, Trevor W. Stephens.

Additional position paper resources include:

1. Best Delegate, <https://bestdelegate.com/how-to-write-a-winning-position-paper/>
2. <https://www.wisemee.com/how-to-write-a-mun-position-paper/>

EXAMPLE POSITION PAPER

Committee: United Nations Special Session on Terrorism

Topic: Narcoterrorism

Country: Republic of Tunisia

School: School XYZ

In the mid 1800's, the Opium War became the first major drug-based conflict to be recorded in history. Although the opium war itself came to an end in the 1860's, opium trade continued in China (Britannica). Even now the selling of illicit drugs such as opium continues to increase, as can be seen with Al Qaeda forces (AQIM). The Taliban began harvesting and selling opium in order to self finance and fund the Afghan warlords insurgency against the Soviet Union. By the 1990's, the Taliban were producing 75% of the world's supply of opium, and, by 1990, Afghanistan accounted for 4,600 tons out of the total global opium production. For the purpose of combating the rising influence of terrorist organizations, the United Nations has called for three special sessions regarding the disarmament of violent regional organizations so, in 1989, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was established. The UNSC came together to pass two resolutions: 1368 and 1373 (UNODA), which addressed the nexus between terrorism and narcotics. Resolution 2253 was passed in 2015 in order to limit ISIS and other organizations as well.

The largest step that United Nations has taken to work against terrorist organizations was creating the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 1997. The annual UNODC drug reports help to prevent illicit drug trading to occur by noting the level of drug production, amount of drug abuse, as well as where certain organizations can be found. In 2001, the UNSC passed Resolution 1373, addressing the intertwining of international terrorism and drug trafficking. 13 years later, the UNSC passed resolution 2195 (UNODA) that further urged member states to combat the relationship between terrorism and illegal drug trade and help the UN build up capacity to respond to drug trafficking and persecute international terrorists. Outside of formal resolutions, a few monitoring teams have been established such as the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team (ASSMT).

Terrorism plays an immense part in Tunisia's history (BBC). Due to the country's detrimental economic status, Tunisia is an ideal spot for terrorist organizations to congregate. A local group, the Ansar al-Sharia (FRIDE), has caused violent acts and created havoc since they first assembled after the Tunisian Revolution in 2011 (Dworkin) and have recently sworn their loyalty to Al-Qaeda (AQIM) forces (Herbert). Walid Doudech, the permanent Representative of Tunisia and President of the Conference on Disarmament, welcomed opportunities to engage with the Tunisian population on the new disarmament agenda and other issues relevant to the work of the Conference on Disarmament (UNODA). After a suicide bombing, which took place in October of 2018, the president of the Tunisian Parliament proposed accelerating consideration for a bill. The "Rejection of Assaults Against the Armed Forces" bill protects security forces from attacks and authorizes the use of lethal force against protesters to defend property and maintain public order. However, this bill was deemed unfavorable and was said to "[reinforce] a culture of impunity" (Grewal) by many human rights activists. Tunisia also joined forces with the EU and Morocco in order to increase security and. By providing training and equipment, these countries are able to enforce effective counter-terrorism methods.

The delegation of Tunisia believes that we should develop a new committee designed specifically for terrorism. As terrorism continues to branch out into other fields such as the illicit drug trade or the acts of smuggling, the ability to deal with intertwining issues are growing more and more difficult. In order to delve deeper into each individual subtopic, Tunisia believes that it would be beneficial to constantly monitor and discuss global narco-terrorism activity and means to terminate the relationship between illicit drug trade and regional terrorist organizations.