

## **WHAT IS A POSITION PAPER?**

The position paper is designed to introduce a specific Member State or Observer State's stance on the topic being discussed by the committee. In this paper, you will represent your country's ideas and positions while looking deeper into the issue. Position papers include four main sections: the abstract, the problem-importance paragraph, the frameworks paragraph, and lastly the solutions section.

For ChargerMUN, your position paper should be no more than one (1) page!

As opposed to a working paper, position papers are written before the conference. They allow delegates to get an idea of the positions of other countries. Position papers are the most research-heavy aspect of the conference. Your work on your position paper will help you to better understand your topic and to better prepare for the conference.

Position papers have a simple format. There should be no photos, especially of your country's flag, on your position paper. Following the descriptions of the position paper sections, you will find an example of a completed position paper.

Your position paper should be an original piece of writing created specifically for ChargerMUN. Plagiarism is not tolerated. Please refrain from taking others' work, copying sections verbatim from the background guide, or otherwise using work that is not your own.

### **THE ABSTRACT:**

The abstract is the most simple section of the paper. Its role is to simply introduce the committee and the topics that are being discussed. The final sentence of this section should reaffirm your country's commitment to discussing and working to solve the issues being brought forth. This section should be 2-3 sentences at a maximum.

After the abstract, make sure to write the full name of your committee's topic. It should be bold and centered, with a roman numeral "I." before it is written. The problem-importance paragraph will follow below.

### **THE PROBLEM-IMPORTANCE SECTION:**

The problem-importance paragraph is the first major paragraph within the position paper. This section should include 3 major elements: the historical context of the issue, the negative implications of the problem, and the identification of major gaps that need to be addressed.

The historical context is a few sentences that quickly give a historical context to the topic. Note how long the topic has been an issue, how the problem stands today, and any other key details that give a background to the issue. The second element should present the negative implications of the issue, and back up those claims with statistics. Your statistics should come from reputable sources, such as the United Nations, and should note the source within your paper. Finally, your paragraph should end with a call for further work on gaps within your topic. Looking at your background guide, you can find key gaps in the "Further Research Section!"

### **THE FRAMEWORKS PARAGRAPH:**

The frameworks paragraph is where your research on the issue will come in handy! This paragraph can be broken down into two sections: your international and regional frameworks, and then your domestic frameworks.

Frameworks are things like UN resolutions, conferences, declarations, global treaties or agreements, regional programs or agreements, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and domestic

policies/programs. Frameworks review previous efforts to address the problem and detail potential ways to address the problem moving forward.

-International frameworks are usually from the UN and do not pertain to a specific area of the world.

-Regional frameworks are directed towards/created by countries in a specific area. A quick search of your Member State's "region" or "voting bloc" is useful here!

-Domestic Frameworks only exist in your country and were most likely enacted by your country's government.

Your frameworks paragraph is typically the longest paragraph of the paper. In chronological order, first name and describe what your international and regional frameworks have done to address the problem. The first framework should be the oldest. Each framework should connect to the next; whether that be directly through frameworks building off of one another or through themes, you should be able to find to showcase how they are related! After going through your international and regional frameworks, please describe what your Member State has done to address the issue. This is where your domestic frameworks will come in. The final sentence of your frameworks section should be a statement of your country's position on the topic.

### THE SOLUTIONS SECTION:

This is the last paragraph of your paper! The solution section starts off with identifying a gap that needs to be addressed within the topic. This gap should be one of the ones noted in the problem importance paragraph. When identifying the gap, note a previous framework that has attempted to address the issue. Next, propose a solution that helps to address the gap. When introducing the proposed solution, be as specific as possible! It is recommended that you give a name to your solution, and propose potential implementors and funders. Finally, explicitly explain how the solution addresses the topic.

Your solution section should include two (2) solutions! The solutions you propose should be original in nature and applicable to the real world. The most successful solutions are those that could be used someday! Make sure that your solutions are still reflective of the needs and perspectives of the country you are representing.

### FORMAT:

For ChargerMUN, the following rules should be followed when formatting your position paper:

- Your position paper should not exceed one (1) page in length
- Each paragraph should be justified so that both the left and right sides of your paragraphs are straight
- The paper should be in Arial font, size 10
- The first line of the page should be **The Delegation from the [Member State/Observer State]**
  - The first line should be in bold and centered on the page
- The second line of the page should be ***Position Paper for the [Full Committee Name]***
  - The second line should be in bold, italicized, and centered on the page
- There should be no pictures included in your position paper
- There should be no mention of your name or school in the position paper.

On the following page, you will find a properly formatted position paper example that you can refer to as you work on your own. We hope that you have a wonderful time researching your country's position and topic, and enjoy writing the position paper itself!

**The Delegation from the Republic of Albania**  
**Position Paper for the General Assembly First Committee**

The topic before the United Nations (UN) General Assembly First Committee (GA1) is Countering the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices. The Republic of Albania looks forward to working in a united effort to advance solutions in the areas such as the protection of civilians against IEDs, among other key issues.

**I. Countering the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices**

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are among the world's oldest types of weapons; in recent years, they have been the predominant weapon of insurgents in the Iraq War and the Afghanistan War. IEDs continue to remain a considerable threat to civilians due to easy access to components, easy operation by untrained personnel, and the indiscriminate nature of the devices. The destructive capability of IEDs has led to more civilian deaths in the last decade than any other explosive weapon type and without action to curb this threat, will continue to do undue harm to both noncombatants and combatants alike. According to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), a review of international media reports from 2011 to 2015 found that IEDs caused over 6,300 explosions and 105,000 deaths. Furthermore, a letter from the Chair of the Security Council Committee, *S/2014/41* (2014), states that about half of the world's countries have been impacted by IEDs. Albania believes further collaboration is needed to create a universal definition for IEDs and organize additional initiatives to limit the illicit diversion of precursor chemicals and diversion of ammunition and safeguard access to knowledge pertinent to creating IEDs.

On many levels, the international community has increased efforts to mitigate and prevent the impact of IEDs globally. In accordance with the 1980 *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons*, which calls to ban the use and distribution of specific inhumane weapons, the 1997 *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (The Mine Ban Treaty)* is the only international treaty to mention IEDs, categorizing them among "other devices". On a regional level, the 2009 *Tirana Workshop on Achieving a Mine-Free South-Eastern Europe* discusses the number of mines located within countries as it pertains to *The Mine Ban Treaty*, while also taking note of mine-related casualty and victim assistance data. Furthermore, UNODA has taken steps to track data pertaining to the creation of IEDs; for instance, the SaferGuard Programme, which oversees the implementation of the 2011 International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG), helps Member States better manage ammunition stockpiles, a resource that can be used to manufacture IEDs. Similarly, Interpol's Program Watchmaker Program (2015) identifies and tracks individuals who have manufactured or used explosive devices. *S/RES/2370* (2017), also focused on non-state actors, advising all Member States to refrain from supporting persons involved in terrorist acts, while strengthening terrorist monitoring and upholding the Security Council-mandated arms embargo. Domestically, the 2009 *Declaration of the Completion of Implementation of Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction* discusses how Albania has worked to reduce and dispose of mines within its borders. Albania is committed to all previously noted and future efforts to decrease the threat posed by IEDs.

While positive measures have been taken to help mitigate the threat of IEDs globally, gaps remain in a concrete definition of IEDs as well as safeguarding the materials used in their creation. Previous efforts such as *The Mine Ban Treaty* have named IEDs but not described them in detail, while also making efforts to eliminate the device's global production and trade. Albania recommends creating a conference dedicated to allowing Member States to negotiate a universal definition of IEDs to better distinguish the threat of IEDs. This conference could be supported by GA1 and both led and funded by UNODA. Member States' efforts to create an agreed-upon definition of IEDs would lead to a better understanding of the threat posed and facilitate discussion on how to eradicate it. Albania further suggests creating the Safeguarding Ammunition and Other Materials Initiative (SAOMI), which would give Member States access to funds and security experts to better protect ammunition and chemical stockpiles. Run adjacent

to UNODA's SaferGuard Programme, SAOMI will initiate the exchange of security field experts and provide funding through UNODA to ensure the IATG is met, and to implement SaferGuard guidance. Both the definition conference and SOAMI will help reduce the IED threat by bridging gaps in current efforts.