**Position Paper Guide**

**Committee:** United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

**Topic:** The impact of climate change on the global economy

A position paper is a document describing a topic, your country’s position, and possible solutions. It is important to write a position paper for each of your topics because it will help you gain insight on the issue and prepare you for the MUN conference. Writing a good position paper not only requires research skills, but also involves the ability to critically analyze the information you gather through your research.

A typical position paper is 1-2 pages long and contains the following sections, which should each be 1-3 paragraphs long: Topic Background, Past International Action, Country Policy, and Possible Solutions. In this article, we will be discussing how to write the first section of a position paper–the **topic background**. This is the introductory section of your position paper, where you give a brief overview of the topic and why it is important.

**Essential Questions for this committee**

1. What is climate change?
2. What is the global economy?
3. How has climate change impacted your country’s economy?
4. What has your delegation done to combat climate change?
5. How has your nation adapted vulnerable sectors to the effects of climate change?
6. Have the adaptations been successful? Why or why not?
7. What is the Paris Agreement? Is your country a signatory to it? If so, what has your delegation done to mitigate global warming?

**Format of a Position Paper**

**I. Topic Background**

Knowing the definition to the topic you’re writing about is essential, and it is a good way to start your research. After you know the short, general definition of your topic, you should try to gather details about the issue. Read articles, reports, background guides, and other sources to get a comprehensive view of the topic.

For example, the topic of climate change is defined as “ a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere” by the United Nations. After finding this, you can now use the aforementioned sources to develop your research.

This section of the position paper should contain an overview of the assigned topic. It should also highlight how the topic has impacted the world as a whole. Delegates are recommended to refer to authorities on the subject and use reliable statistics, facts, figures, etc. to emphasize their point.

**II. Country Policy**

In this section, delegates are required to research about the connection the assigned topic has to their country. Delegates should write about their country’s policy on addressing the topic and include facts and/or statistics which demonstrates the effectiveness of the policy.

**III. Proposed Solutions**

This part of the position paper requires delegates to think of creative solutions to the problem at hand. Please keep in mind that the solutions should be realistic and a natural extension of their country’s policy.

More information on how to write a position paper can be found here: <https://bestdelegate.com/how-to-write-a-position-paper-part-1-topic-background/>

**Example Position Paper**

**Committee:** The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

**Country:** Canada  
**Topic:** Ensuring the rights of journalists in conflict zones  
**School:** San Roberto International School, Campus San Agustin

**Delegate:** Natalia Montero

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) aims to promote peace and justice around the world through education, science and culture. The American Press Institute describes a journalist as an individual involved in “gathering, assessing, creating, and presenting news and information.” Governments and armed organizations are increasingly targeting journalists in an effort to prevent the spread of information. According to Reporters Without Borders, 101 journalists died in 2015 and 74 were killed in 2016. The most dangerous countries for journalists to work in are Afghanistan, Iraq, Mexico and Syria.

In its annual World Press Freedom Index, Reporters Without Borders ranked Canada as the 18th safest country in the world for journalists to work. Press freedom is guaranteed in the nation’s constitution; however, this is not actually the case. There has been increasing concern about new laws passed in the country. For instance, in 2016, a court in the province of Quebec passed laws that allowed police to wiretap and data mine the phones and laptops of six journalists. Moreover, several journalists have been ordered by various courts across the nation to reveal the sources of their stories related to corruption, organized crime and terrorism, which is a clear breach of long established confidentially agreements between journalists and their sources. In light of this, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, a firm supporter of independent journalism, has pledged to promote press freedom across the country.

In order to address this serious issues, the delegation of Canada suggests the following solutions: First, offer specialized training for journalists who operate in conflict zones. The Rory Peck Trust and Reporters Instructed in Saving Colleagues (RISC) are just two organizations that teach journalists important skills related to first aid, evasive driving, etc. Second, educate military forces about the rights of journalists operating in conflict zones. All journalists are protected under the Geneva Convention and UN Security Council Resolution 2222. Knowledge of their rights and freedoms would greatly decrease illegal detentions and harmful acts committed against them. Finally, all crimes committed against journalists must be investigated. This is the responsibility of every nation according to Resolution 2222. Therefore, Canada suggests the creation of a specialized body that would track, monitor and encourage the investigation of crimes committed against journalists. This would hold nations and specific armed groups responsible for the crimes committed against journalists in their territories.

**Works Cited**

“2016 Round-Up: 74 journalists killed worldwide." Reporters Without Borders. Reporters Without Borders, 19 Dec. 2016. Web. 08 Feb. 2017. <https://rsf.org/en/news/2016-round-74-journalists-killed-worldwide>.

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“UN Adopts Resolution on Protection of Journalists in Conflicts." DART Center for Journalism & Trauma. DART Center for Journalism & Trauma, 2 Jun. 2015. Web. 30 Jun. 2017. <https://dartcenter.org/blog/un-adopts-resolution-on-protection- journalists-in-conflicts>.