**Writing a position paper**

**Topic: How should we manage climate change for the future?**

* Position papers are usually one to one-and-a-half pages in length.
* Your position paper should include a brief introduction followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on the topics that are being discussed.
* A good position paper will not only provide facts but also make proposals for **resolutions.**
* Most Model UN tasks will provide a background guide to the issue. Usually, the background guide will contain questions to consider. Make sure that your position paper answers these questions.

**A good position paper will include:**

* A brief introduction to your country and its history concerning the topic and committee;
* How the issue affects your country;
* Your country's policies with respect to the issue and your country's justification for these policies;
* Quotes from your country's leaders about the issue;
* Statistics to back up your country's position on the issue;
* Actions taken by your government with regard to the issue;
* Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified;
* UN actions that your country supported or opposed;
* What your country believes should be done to address the issue;
* What your country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution; and how the positions of other countries affect your country's position.

**Here is a suggested way to structure your report, including some links to resources:**

1.**COUNTRY BACKGROUND:** Provide some background on your country e.g. location, economy, style of government. You could use: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

2.**CARBON FOOTPRINT:** What is your country’s carbon footprint? What has your country’s historic pattern of emissions been like? What activities are the most significant in producing GHGs in your country? You could use the following link as a starting point: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/datablog/2009/sep/02/carbon-emissions-per-person-capita>

3.**IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE:** What are the effects of climate change for your country (current/future?) A starting point here: <https://www.cgdev.org/page/mapping-impacts-climate-change>

4.**APPROACH TO MANAGING CLIMATE CHANGE:** Does your country have specific targets to reduce GHG emissions? What is your country’s government policy on climate change? Can you provide quotes from your country’s leaders? Has your country already initiated measures to curb climate change? What are these policies and how effective are they? Can you describe your country’s INDC? What would your country like to be done about this issue for the future? A starting point here: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/paris-2015-tracking-country-climate-pledges>

5.**PUBLIC OPINION:** What are the attitudes of the public on this issues like in your country? Can you provide any quotes? Does public opinion seem to match your government’s attitudes/actions?

**Once your position paper is complete then….**

**Write one or more resolutions that you would like to be addressed at the United Nations Assembly.**