

How to: Position Paper

Writing a position paper is the next step after you finished your research. Writing the position paper will not only help you to deepen your knowledge about your country's position on the topic, a well written position paper is also an important basis for your work in the committees. Position papers can be uploaded on the KarlMUN website; that allows the delegates of a committee to inform themselves about other countries' interests and opinions. That means a structured and informative position paper can help to find possible allies or identify opponents before the conference starts. It will also help to organize support for working papers during an unmoderated caucus.

Short Tips	Formal Requirements	Structure of a Position Paper
Keep your language simple and avoid too complex sentence structure. This makes it easier to understand your point.	Using a standardized layout makes it easier for everyone to read position papers.	Even though a position paper does not have a defined structure, using this structure will help you to write a good paper:
Position papers are not epic novels, but listing only facts and information is not the idea either. It is about describing a possible future and answering important questions related to the topic.	Heading: committee, country, delegate, topic DIN A4 format: 1-2 pages Font: Times New Roman (12pt) or Arial (11pt) Line and paragraph spacing: 1,5x	1. (Ir-)Relevance of the topic for your country 2. Direction of the debate 3. Evaluation of the results a) desired result b) minimum goal c) unacceptable results 4) controversial issues, possible solutions, attainment 5) conclusion
Break the topic up into smaller problems, which can be analyzed and solved more easily.	Layout: justification and hyphenation Document type: PDF National symbols (flags, seal, etc.) are inappropriate	
Read and reread your position paper. Check if your paper makes sense and correct your spelling and grammar.		
A good position paper is a great basis for a speech in the committee. It helps you to stick to your country's policies.		

1) **(Ir-)Relevance of the topic for your country**

At the beginning, you give a short introduction to the topic from the perspective of your country. You explain how your country is affected or involved in the topic and why it is (ir-)relevant for your country to discuss the topic. This is not the time for judging the work of involved institutions and NGOs, focus on your country's domestic political situation and changes. Maybe a short quote from a leading politician or a significant statistic can help for illustration.

2) **Direction of the debate**

Now you formulate why it is (not) important for the committee to take action and in which direction the debate should go according to your country. A short summary of previous measures by the UN or individual countries, which have or have not worked, can help to clarify your country's interests.

3) **Evaluation of the results**

In this part of your position paper you evaluate the possible results of the work in the committee:

a) **Desired Result**

What would be an ideal result from the perspective of your country? What are points your country would support in a draft resolution?

Possible diplomatic formulations could be:

- would support / endorse
- suggests / recommends / proposes
- promotes

b) **Minimum Goal**

What must be included in a draft resolution for your country to vote for it or abstain? Which aspects are non-negotiable?

Possible insistent and clarifying formulations could be:

- demands
- emphasizes
- requests

c) **Unacceptable Results**

Which points will be rejected, because they are against your country's policies / principles? What would be a draft resolution your country would not support?

Possible diplomatic formulations could be:

- does not support
- rejects
- refuses to accept

4) **Controversial issues, possible solutions, attainment**

Usually there are plenty of controversial issues and subjects which must be discussed, because not every country shares the same opinion regarding the topic. Therefore, it is essential to name problems (political, financial, historical, etc.), which must be solved to attain your country’s desired goals. Make yourself clear where conflict lines between your country and other states, NGOs or international organizations are and think about possible compromises.

Combine your creativity and the results from your previous research to draft recommendations, which shall be included in your working paper and draft resolutions.

5) **Conclusion**

Write a short conclusion, in which you summarize your country’s opinion on the topic. What is the solution your country has to offer?

Example position paper by Israel on the Golan Heights issue (shortened)

Example for a position paper	
(Ir-)Relevance of the topic for your country	The Golan Heights are considered as part of the Israeli territory. The territorial integrity is permanently endangered, therefore measures for defending and securing the territory and the recognition of the Israeli Golan by the international community are in Israel’s interest.
Direction of the debate	The most important step for easing of tension of the conflict is the withdrawal of the Resolution 497 (1981) by the UN-Security Council. The continuous attacks in the past on Israeli settlements coming from this strategic important area cannot be tolerated. The redirection of the river course of the Jordan or cutting the water resources in other way is not acceptable, as well. The international community should accept the Golan Heights as reparation for the Syrian attacks on Israel during the Six-Day War.
Evaluation of the results	
Desired result	Israel demands, that the Security Council withdraws the Resolution 497 (1981). Furthermore, the sovereignty of the Israeli Golan should be accepted. Israel recommends appreciating the Israeli settlement-building as peacekeeping measure in this region.
Minimum Goal	Israel can agree on a Resolution, as long as no additional aggressions, sanctions or other negative measures against Israel are adopted.
Unacceptable Results	Israel strictly rejects any form of request to assign Israeli territory. Additionally, negative formulations concerning the settlement-building are not acceptable. Also, an affirmation of the Resolution 497 (1981) is unacceptable.
Controversial issues, possible solution, attainment	Especially Syria and other neighboring states could vote against Israel’s position. This is a result of their cooperation with the Hezbollah and other terror organizations. The international community should not pay attention to that. The Golan Heights are the key for Israel’s security and water supply. Therefore, the handing over of this important territory cannot be the

	<p>solution offered by the international community. Israel could agree on a peace treaty offering a solution for the conflict, including the Jordan issue. Under certain circumstances Israel could consider agreeing on a demilitarized zone, perhaps administrated by Syria.</p>
Conclusion	<p>Israel stands up for a peaceful and permanent solution of the conflict related to the Golan Heights. A permanent recognition of the area as Israeli territory provides clarification for all involved parties, prevents violation of the territorial integrity of Israeli settlements at the foot of the Golan and recognizes the casualties of Israel during the Six-Day War. Therefore, this solution is the only one, which will bring justice for all parties.</p>

Musterbeispiel	
(Ir-)Relevanz des Themas für Deinen Staat	<p>Die Golanhöhen sind Teil des israelischen Staatsgebietes. Da die territoriale Integrität dieser Gebiete dauernd bedroht ist, ist eine Verteidigung und Sicherung sowie die Anerkennung des israelischen Golan durch die internationale Gemeinschaft von zentraler Bedeutung für den Staat Israel.</p>
Richtung der Debatte	<p>Der bedeutendste Schritt für die Entspannung des Konflikts ist eine Zurücknahme der Resolution 497 (1981) durch den UN-Sicherheitsrat. Der ehemals andauernde Beschuss israelischer Siedlungen aus diesem strategisch wichtigen Gebiet kann nicht hingenommen werden, genauso wie das Abführen und Umleiten bedeutender Mengen an Wasser. Vielmehr sollte die internationale Gemeinschaft die Golanhöhen als Reparation Syriens für den Angriff auf den Staate Israels im Sechstagekrieg anerkennen.</p>
Ergebnisbewertung	
Ideal-/Wunschergebnis	<p>Israel fordert, dass der Sicherheitsrat die Resolution 497 (1981) zurücknimmt. Weiterhin sollte die Souveränität über den israelischen Golan anerkannt werden. Israel empfiehlt den Siedlungsbau Israels als Sicherungsmaßnahme für den Frieden in der Region zu begrüßen.</p>
Minimalergebnis/ Minimalziel	<p>Israel kann einer Resolution zustimmen, sofern sie keine weiteren Aggressionen, Sanktionen oder andere negative Maßnahmen gegen den Staat Israel beschließt.</p>
Ablehnung bestimmter Ergebnisse/ inakzeptable Ergebnisse	<p>Israel lehnt konsequent jegliche Aufforderung ab, israelisches Staatsgebiet abzutreten. Weiterhin sind ablehnende Formulierungen gegen den Siedlungsbau nicht hinnehmbar. Auch eine Bekräftigung der Resolution 497 (1981) ist inakzeptabel.</p>

Hindernisse, mögliche Differenzen, mögliche Lösungen/ Kompromisse, Zielerreichung

Insbesondere Syrien und andere Anrainerstaaten Israels könnten gegen eine solche Haltung stimmen. Dies ist insbesondere eine Folge ihrer Kooperation mit der Hisbollah und anderen terroristischen Vereinigungen. Dem sollte von der weltweiten Gemeinschaft keine Beachtung geschenkt werden.

Für Israels Sicherheit und die Versorgung mit Wasser sind die Golanhöhen der geografische Schlüssel. Daher kann die Übergabe dieses wichtigen Gebietes nicht die Lösung der internationalen Gemeinschaft sein. Mit einem vollumfänglichen Friedensvertrag, der auch eine Lösung für den Konflikt um den Jordan einschließt, kann Israel unter bestimmten Umständen über ein demilitarisiertes Gebiet unter syrischer Verwaltung auf den Golanhöhen nachdenken.

Zusammenfassung

Israel tritt für eine friedliche und langfristige Lösung des Konflikts um die Golanhöhen ein. Eine dauerhafte Anerkennung als israelisches Gebiet schafft Klarheit für alle beteiligten Parteien im Konfliktgebiet, verhindert die Verletzung der territorialen Integrität israelischer Siedlungen am Fuße der Golanhöhen und erkennt die Verluste Israels während des Sechstagekrieges an. Somit ist es die einzige denkbare Lösung für diesen Konflikt, mit dem alle Parteien gerecht behandelt werden.