

Guide for Position Paper Writing

“The following "position papers" are JUST an example of how these should be written and structured, based on "The guidelines for position writing". The following position papers have been submitted by students of Frederick University, who participated with a great success at the 14th Thessaloniki International Student Model United Nations 2015 (ThessISMUN).”

Position Paper Submission Guidelines

A Position Paper is a brief summarize of a country's policy and interests concerning the topics on the Agenda. It should contain a clear statement of the country's position on the topic and clear reasoning, also suggesting an action plan concerning the issues under consideration. It not a speech neither a statement, so there is no need for a salutation in the beginning.

The Position Paper should be a product of the delegate's own research and should be concise and substantial. After having researched on the topic and formed a precise idea about the external policy of the delegating state you are now called to make a small abstract on the situation linked to the topic, the position of your country, actions taken in a multilateral level and proposed actions for future consideration.

In the first part of your Position Paper you should briefly address the issues on the Agenda, the relevancy and the scope of the problem. You should mention the major players, the current developments concerning the issues under discussion, the action UN has taken in this respect, whether by specialized agencies, regional bodies or non-governmental organizations, the most significant resolutions that have been passed, international treaties and provisions for future action.

In the second part you should specify the official position of the country you represent in respect to the issues under consideration. It should include brief statements about where your country stands on the issue in question, past statements on the topic by representatives of your government, especially if these mention the significance of the issues on the Agenda to your country, specific suggestions that your country will support in providing a solution for the issues in question. You should also make reference to the role UN has assumed to confront this issue. You do not need to go into detail about your negotiating positions.

Remember that you have to represent the position of your assigned country. Therefore, you should not speak in the first person (“I”), but with the voice of the country you represent .You represent your people, the wholesome of your state so it is strictly forbidden to write in the first person. You may offer your own ideas on the solution of the problem, but bear in mind that the ideas that

you present the committee with, should not contradict with the policies of the country you represent.

FREDMUN requests that each delegate submits a position paper within the deadline set by your chairpersons respectively for each committee and council. These papers should not exceed in length one page for each topic on the Agenda of the committee or the council.

Position Paper Format (I)

Committee: Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council of NATO

Country: High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Represented by: Frederick University of Cyprus, Department of Law

Topic Area: "The threat of ISIS: Structuring a coordinated response"

According to the European Parliament Position, 2001/931/CFSP (hereinafter the Position), the term "Terrorist Acts" includes intentional acts, which given their nature or context, may seriously damage a country or international organisation and which are defined as an offence under national law.

The said Position mentions a list of activities that fall within the definition of a terrorist activity, generally classified as attacks upon a person's life that may cause death, as well as any attacks upon the physical integrity of a person or Government. Indicatively the list includes: kidnapping, destruction public facility (i.e. transport system, infrastructure etc), piracy, supply or use of weapons (of any kind); notably also the Position also include the conspiracy or the participation and collaboration in the activities of a terrorist group, including by supplying information or material resources, or by funding its activities in any way, with knowledge of the fact that such participation will contribute to the criminal activities of the group.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (hereinafter ISIS, IS, ISIL) is one of the most terrifying terrorist organisations of the 21st Century. The ISIS operates mainly in the countries of Iraq and Syria, whereas its methods and operation expands in the neighbouring regions through affiliated organisations. The ISIS is well funded and equipped with formidable man and weaponry. It continuously and successfully appeals to new recruits by feeding on the non-ending differences between the Sunni and the Shia denominations of Islam as well as the political, social and economic injustice, inequalities and divergences that are present in the region. Other factors such as fragmentation of the society, sectarian behaviour, religious beliefs (e.g. Alawi Kurds, Yazidis, Christians, Jews, etc.) work only to its advantage. The position of the European Union is that the vicious circle of terror and violence may devastate the lands in question

to an irreparable degree; a fact that may undoubtedly compare to total political social and economic destruction.

In this context, the European Union cannot disregard that one of the reasons that may have considerably contributed to the ISIS's establishment may have originated back those non-viable strategic choices beginning with the intervention of the US led Coalition of the Willing (in 2003), which left a power vacuum in Iraq that has subsequently led to sectarian fights (between the Sunni and the Shia). Notably this situation has escalated since the withdrawal of the US troops from Iraq in 2011.

Finally, for the EU the most important reason for the ISIS development has been the unprecedented phenomenon of the Arab Spring due to the conflicts, rebellions and civil wars that took place in the Arab world and that gave space to fanatics and to jihadists to expand their influence to the local people and implement their expansionist plans.

The European Union remains committed to achieving lasting peace, stability and security in Syria, Iraq and the wider region, as well as to counter ISIS threat and as well as finding a sustainable political solution that will bring peace. The European Union condemns indiscriminate attacks, killings, which are committed mainly against Christians and other religious and ethnic groups. The European Union supports the preservation of the multi-ethnic and multi-religious character of Iraq and Syria and supports the international efforts and initiatives to address these issues. The European Union is committed to support the efforts of the global coalition against ISIS including military action under international law but notes that this is insufficient and everyone must work to find a viable political solution. Humanitarian assistance and long-term assistance will have to remain the most important pillars of the solution and this is what it is currently pursued by the European Union. Humanitarian aid concerns the minorities, as well as vulnerable social groups regardless of religious, ethnic or geographic location and will be based exclusively on the principles of neutrality, impartiality and humanity

Finally, the European Union considers that any adopted solution must comply with the International Law.

Position Paper Format (II)

Committee: Council of Europe

Country: Turkey

Represented by: Frederick University Cyprus

Topic Area A: Ensuring full inclusion of children and young persons with disabilities into society.

People with disabilities and parents having children with special needs are often looked down on in society due to lack of information. Values such as democracy, equivalence and human rights frequently mentioned during the globalization process determine the necessity of the participation of the disabled in the society like the other non-disabled persons as a standard of judgment. The most vulnerable groups in every country's society are children and young people. These groups often face discrimination, exclusion, abuse and negative attitudes. Young people with disabilities do not have the opportunity to enjoy the same human rights or equal access to goods and services as people without disabilities. In addition, children with disabilities may lack opportunities to receive proper education. Without equal opportunities in education, employment, public life and healthcare youth with disabilities will never be self-sufficient and will always depend on other household members or Government welfare, which will impact their lives negatively.

In September 2009, Turkey ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and has always been articulating its policies in the Disability Sector on the basis of the Human Rights Approach and Equality of Opportunities. In Turkey, according to Statistics Institute of Turkey figures, there are about 8.5 million people with different physical and mental disabilities which count approximately 12.29 % of the total population and the mean age of disabled people is 33 which means most of them are young and in working age. In order to build up inclusive and participative societies, children and young people must be a priority for every country's society. Education can be regarded as the basis for the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities in society. Special education is continued by the Ministry of National Education in Turkey and it is a subject of concern according to the principle of "Equality of Opportunity and in Education". It covers children between the ages of 0-18 who show some differences from other children because of their physical, mental, psychological, emotional or social characteristics and cannot therefore, benefit from the regular education services. Turkey recognizes the right of people with disabilities to education without discrimination, ensuring an inclusive and life-long learning educational system. Persons with Disabilities must not be identified by their disability but as ordinary people, with the same rights and obligations with other citizens, equally under the law. In addition, Turkey believes that the first and most important obligation of a state is to adopt, as soon as possible, all the effective measures to raise public awareness regarding the rights of persons with disabilities. Turkey stresses the importance of raising public awareness especially concerning the recognition of the abilities of People with Disabilities and their contribution to the workplace and recognizes that Youth with Disabilities are not primarily characterized by the existence of their disability, but by their skills, merits and abilities and can therefore fully contribute to the labor market with equal rights. Furthermore, Turkey recognizes and emphasizes the importance of raising public awareness within society, regarding persons with disabilities to all the aspects of daily life, highlighting the special role of the family, as family plays a vital role in the development, care and encouragement of young people with disabilities so as to be fully aware of their needs and their rights. Turkey strongly believes that

all persons with disabilities should be considered equal with non-disabled people.

Position Paper Format (III)

Committee: Council of Europe

Country: Turkey

Represented by: Frederick University Cyprus

Topic Area B: Combatting discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Discrimination affects everyone, whether it is about age, race, religion, gender or any person who differs from another. It is a major problem that exist in the whole world in the 21st century. However, there are certain basic rights that every country must respect under any circumstances. Some if these basic rights are civil liberties and political rights but the most fundamental is the right to life and physical safety. Every country has the obligation to protect their citizen's rights and ensure people's safety. LGBT rights are human rights and this is why all countries and governments have to make LGBT rights a part of their national laws and implement international human rights conventions in order to make freedom and equality a reality for all people in the world.

Although Turkey is a strong Islamic country, homosexuality in Turkey is not illegal. There is no law criminalizing homosexuality. Instead, it is recognized that people having sexual relationships with the same sex at the age of 18 and over, is considered as legal just as it is with two heterosexual people. In addition, Turkey recognizes that homosexuality has always been a legal act since 1923 and since 1988 transsexuals have been allowed to change their legal gender or identity. In fact, in 2014, a beauty contest for transsexuals was held in Istanbul for the first time. The freedom of sexual orientation is sealed and turkish government shows tolerance in this circumstances. The Turkish Criminal Code states the prohibition of public infestation like kissing or hugging etc. and other offenses against public morality concerning gay people. The main reason of that is to secure the Public Order and to maintain the World of Nature according to Islam. Moreover, a law has been established that separates gay prisoners from heterosexual prisoners in order to ensure their protection and prevent attacks against them.

Due to Turkish State welfare, it is worth mentioned that many improvements should be done through the national legislation concerning the LGBT people and their rights. These improvements should be complied with the Islamic Religion. Furthermore, Turkey should act for equal treatment at the workplace for the LGBT people. In detail, Turkey plans to ensure that outlaw discrimination should not be taking part in the workplace against LGBT people. In addition, Turkey in order to comply with the EU Law and especially with the EU Charter

of Human Rights, obligates to establish measures to reduce racism against LGBT people and provide them with equal opportunities in employment. Moreover, establishing these measures will secure their private-family life.

However, Turkey is an Islamic country and as Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said recently "homosexuality is a sexual preference that is contrary to Islam." Turkey recognized certain rights for LGBT people but since it's an Islamic conservative country, it's not that easy to legalize more homosexual activities. The idea of Turkish masculinity and national identity are as important as religion.