



PSCI 3510 Terrorism and Political Violence Public Position Papers For Simulation*

Overview

Public position papers are intended as a public statement of a State's position on the topics being discussed in the Counter-Terrorism Committee. Each paper should include brief statements about where the State stands on the topics. It should also include the State's public position on the options for the United Nations in the future, noting proposals that a delegation sponsored, supported or not supported and why. Public papers do not need to go into detail about the delegation's negotiating positions or other behind-the-scenes issues, but should be seen as something that a diplomat might say in a public speech on the topic.

Items to Include in Public Position Papers

A well-written position paper is clear, free from jargon, and diplomatic in tone. There are a number of other items that you might include in a public position paper depending on the specific topic, the available information and your country's particular situation. Delegates should consider incorporating some or all of these elements in their position papers:

- References to past United Nations resolutions and international treaties, providing the specific number or name of the document and the year it passed (optional – except that you should at least refer to the Secretary General's report).
- References to statements in the United Nations Charter, as appropriate for the topic (optional).
- Past statements by the Secretary-General, a senior United Nations Secretariat member or by a Representative of a United Nations agency on the topic (optional).
- Reference to the work the United Nations has already done on the topic, whether by specialized agencies, regional bodies or working with non-governmental organizations (required; you can use the counterterrorism documents you've already read in assigned readings if you wish).
- Your State's national interests on the general topic of terrorism or ISIS (required). National interests are what a country would like to see happen in the world. These interests are generally idealized goals or methods of solving specific problems.
- Your State's national policies (required). What have you/are you doing to secure your national interests (domestically or internationally)?
- Actions by the UN and/or member states that you propose and are willing to support (required). There should be two (and only two) proposed actions.

Finally, it is important to note that a well-written public position paper is about what the country would like to accomplish on the topics of discussion. The debate is about UN action and/or actions to be undertaken by member states.

* Adapted from American Model UN guidelines.

Researching Your Position Papers

The key to success is thorough research. Two pages may not seem like a lot, but to write a clear position paper with substance, you have to know what you're talking about. That requires research. Refer to the research guidelines (<http://jimbutterfield.org/3510-sources.html>) and your notes from Maria Perez-Stable's presentation in early October.

Formatting Guidelines

- Length must not exceed two pages; any position paper over two pages will only have the first two pages considered.
- Margins: 1 inch for the whole paper.
- Font: Times New Roman or Calibri, 11 pt, double-spaced.
- List "Delegation from Member State (Firstname Lastname)" in bold on the top left of the first page. This should not be listed on the second page. NOTE: there is no title page.
- Underneath the "Delegation from Member State" at the top of the first page, include in italics, *Position Paper for the Counter-Terrorism Committee*.
- Next, enter the date of your paper (no bold, no italics).
- You may include a small flag in the upper right of the first page as part of the header.
- Header example (note that the header is single-spaced):

Delegation from Bhutan (Jim Butterfield)
Position Paper for the Counter-Terrorism Committee
November 16, 2017



- DO NOT use Word headers such as names and page numbers.
- Submit them as Word documents as before.

Citations and Bibliography

No citations are required in a position paper. But attached a *separate* bibliography page divided into two sections, one for each topic.