

Position Paper Guide and Sample

What Is a Position Paper?

A position paper explains what your assigned country believes about the topics before its committee and what action that country wants the committee to take.

A position paper is not a general report on the topic. It is also not an essay about your personal views. It should show that you understand:

- Your country's interests and policies
- Previous international action on the topic
- The authority and limits of your committee
- The proposals your country could support
- The outcomes your country would oppose or seek to change

Writing the paper should leave you ready to speak, negotiate, and help draft a resolution at the conference.

MMUN Requirements

- Submit one position paper for each assigned committee.
- Address both committee topics in the order listed in the background guide.
- If two delegates represent the same country in a committee, they submit one jointly written paper.
- The paper may not exceed one page.
- Use single spacing, one-inch margins, and a readable font between 10 and 12 points.
- Include the country, committee, school, and delegate name or names at the top.
- Begin with one or two introductory sentences describing the country's overall approach.
- Use the complete topic titles as section headings.
- Do not include a cover page, flag, seal, photograph, or other graphic.
- Follow the submission and filename instructions posted by MMUN.
- Submit the paper by Monday, November 9, 2026, at 8 p.m. to remain eligible for position-paper awards.

These instructions apply to GA-1, GA-2, ECOSOC, UNEA, and the Security Council. International Court of Justice participants will receive separate preparation and submission instructions.

Required Format

Begin the paper with the following header:

Country: Norway

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

School: Example High School

Delegates: Student Delegate and Student Delegate

After the header, include one or two sentences summarizing the country's overall approach to the committee's work.

Then address the two topics in the order listed in the background guide:

1. Exact Title of Topic One

2. Exact Title of Topic Two

The introduction should frame the country's general priorities without becoming a lengthy summary of the committee or topics.

What Each Topic Section Should Do

A strong topic section usually accomplishes four things.

1. Define the Problem from the Country's Perspective

Briefly identify the part of the issue that matters most to your country. Do not attempt to summarize the entire background guide.

Ask:

- How does this issue affect the country?
- What political, economic, security, environmental, or humanitarian interests are involved?
- Which part of the topic would the country emphasize?

2. Establish the Country's Record

Refer to specific evidence of the country's position, such as:

- National laws or programs

- Government or foreign-ministry statements
- UN speeches and voting records
- Treaties and international agreements
- Regional organizations
- Previous UN resolutions
- Existing international programs

When no government statement addresses the exact topic, use related policies and actions to determine the country's likely position. Do not invent a policy.

3. Explain the Country's Priorities and Limits

State what the country wants the committee to accomplish. Where useful, identify proposals the country would oppose or conditions it would require before supporting an agreement.

A country's position should reflect its interests, not the delegate's personal opinion.

4. Recommend Realistic Action

Offer two or three specific proposals that fall within the committee's authority. Explain who would carry them out and, when relevant, how they could be financed or supported.

Useful proposals might:

- Expand an existing international program
- Request research or reporting from a UN body
- Establish common voluntary standards
- Improve coordination among governments
- Provide technical assistance or capacity-building
- Encourage national action plans
- Strengthen monitoring or information sharing
- Create a funding or partnership mechanism

Avoid vague recommendations such as "raise awareness," "work together," or "create change" unless you explain how the proposal would operate.

Research

Begin with the committee background guide, but do not rely on it alone.

Strong sources include:

- Official websites of the assigned country
- The country's foreign ministry or permanent mission to the United Nations
- UN resolutions, reports, treaties, and voting records
- International and regional organizations
- World Bank and IMF country information
- Reputable academic research and news organizations

Delegates should keep track of their sources while conducting research so they can verify claims and return to useful information during conference preparation.

Formal citations and a bibliography are not required. When relevant, identify important resolutions, treaties, international agreements, government programs, and UN initiatives directly in the text.

For example:

Norway supports UNEA Resolution 5/14 and the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

Direct quotations should be used sparingly and attributed to the speaker or document.

AI output is not a source. Delegates are responsible for checking every factual claim and writing the submitted paper in their own words. Do not submit copied, purchased, or AI-generated text as original work.

Writing Standards

- Write in the third person: "Brazil supports," not "I support" or "we believe."
- Use clear, diplomatic language.
- Prefer specific evidence over sweeping claims.
- Distinguish between what the country has already done and what it proposes.
- Keep recommendations consistent with the country's actual or likely policies.
- Stay within the authority of the assigned committee.
- Use complete paragraphs rather than resolution clauses.

- Edit aggressively. Every sentence should provide evidence, explain policy, or advance a proposal.

Prewritten resolutions are not permitted. A position paper may identify policies and possible actions, but the language of resolutions must emerge through discussion and negotiation at the conference.

Final Checklist

Before submitting, confirm that the paper:

- Includes the required header
- Begins with a brief introductory statement
- Addresses both topics
- Uses the topics in the correct order
- Accurately represents the assigned country
- Includes relevant national and international action
- Makes specific, realistic recommendations
- Identifies important national priorities or limits
- Is written in the delegates' own words
- Fits on one page
- Has been reviewed by both delegates, when applicable

Winning position papers follow the formatting instructions, demonstrate excellent research and diplomatic writing, and remain true to the country's actual or likely positions.

Sample Position Paper

Sample only: These are archived topics, not the 2026 MMUN topics.

Country: Norway

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

School: Example High School

Delegates: Student Delegate and Student Delegate

Norway believes environmental protection and sustainable economic development must be pursued together through measurable standards, international cooperation, and practical support for implementation.

1. Environmental Sustainability in the Tourism Industry

Norway considers tourism an important source of employment and regional development, particularly in rural and coastal communities. However, Norway's fjords, Arctic ecosystems, and small destination communities are vulnerable to transportation emissions, waste, congestion, and habitat disturbance. Norway therefore supports tourism policies that create local economic value while protecting natural and cultural resources.

Norway's national tourism strategy, *Big Impact, Small Footprint*, established a goal of reducing tourism-related greenhouse-gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030. Norway also supports the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism and uses its Sustainable Destination program to help communities measure and improve their environmental performance. Norway has also adopted phased zero-emission requirements for tourist ships and ferries operating in the World Heritage Fjords.

Norway would support a UNEA resolution requesting that UNEP and UN Tourism develop common indicators for tourism emissions, water use, waste, and effects on biodiversity. UNEP should provide local governments and small tourism businesses with practical planning tools and technical assistance. Destination-management plans should include local communities, Indigenous peoples, conservation authorities, and tourism workers. Small island developing states and least developed countries should receive financial and technical support so that environmental standards do not become barriers to development. Norway would not support sustainability labels that lack meaningful measurement or place new costs on lower-capacity states without assistance.

2. Addressing Marine Plastic Pollution

Marine plastic pollution crosses national borders, damages ecosystems, threatens fisheries, and imposes cleanup costs on coastal communities. Norway's economy and food security are closely connected to healthy oceans. Its national plastics strategy therefore addresses the full life cycle of plastic, including production, product design, consumption, collection, recycling, and disposal.

Norway supports UNEA Resolution 5/14 and the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. Norway and Rwanda helped launch the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution, which seeks to end plastic pollution by 2040. Norway believes cleanup and recycling alone cannot solve the problem. International action must also prevent unnecessary plastic production and stop plastic waste from entering the environment.

Norway would support common standards for product design, chemical transparency, reusable products, and producer responsibility. Member States should prepare national action plans with measurable targets and regular reporting. UNEP should expand technical support for waste collection, port-reception facilities, recovery of abandoned fishing gear, and environmentally sound recycling. Developing countries should receive financing and

flexible implementation schedules. Norway would not support an agreement limited to voluntary cleanup projects. An effective framework must address the full life cycle of plastics while providing the financing, technology, and capacity required for implementation.