

Global Summits

Introduction

At the end of each quarter, we will be holding a summit to discuss and propose solutions to global issues. The issues will be based on the Sustainable Development Goals. For our purposes, the members of the summit are the following: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States.

Each of you will work separately or pair up with another student to represent a country (you and your partner are called a delegation, each of you separately is a delegate). You will then develop proposals based on your country's policies to solve the problems associated with the issue. Delegations will type up one position paper per issue outlining their policies and proposals. Papers will be turned in by all delegations prior to the summit.

Our summits will be three days in length. During that time delegations will meet to work towards creating a resolution (similar to a UN resolution) per issue. The entire time, you must stay "in character" as a representative of your country; this means putting aside your personal opinion and popular opinion, and staying true to your country's policies; it also means acting like a professional diplomat. Since the goal of each summit is to reach an agreement, you need to be prepared to listen to ideas that are different from your ideas and compromise to create solutions.

Research

Begin by going to the UN website and look for information there. You should analyze the most recent UNGA resolutions relevant to your topics. Additionally, go the website for the SDG's and see if there is any information on our topics. Also, many NGOs publish annual reports/reviews to keep track of problems and issues, past actions, and recommendations for the future. As such, you should analyze at least three years' worth of reports/reviews relevant to your topics.

After you understand past actions and proposed solutions by the UN and NGOs, you need to find out your country's positions on the topics. Start by going to the websites of their ministry of foreign affairs and their mission to the UN. You should analyze at least three years' worth of past speeches, press releases, and statements relevant to your topics. Additionally, you should also check out the websites of the relevant regional organizations (i.e. European Union, Organization of American States, African Union, ASEAN, Arab League, etc.).

The final stage in all of this writing the position paper, which will be covered in the next section.

The Position Paper

Position papers should:

1. be one page in length, single spaced
2. use size 12, Times New Roman font
3. be in black print only
4. have the Issue, Country Name, and Delegate Names in the upper left corner of the page
5. appear untitled
6. include citations (not considered to be part of the one page paper length)

Citations should be done in MLA style

With regards to content, you have considerable freedom. Most Position Papers are organized in a fashion similar to that outlined below:

1. Part 1 - Official position of the Member State (i.e. what has the Member State done in the past with regards to this problem, both domestically and internationally)
2. Part 2 - Solutions to the problem that are amenable to the Member State

As a stylistic suggestion, refer to what your country hopes to achieve and not you, the delegate. For instance:

"Her Majesty's Government desires...", "The people of Bolivia would like to see...", or "The Kingdom of Spain believes..."

would be appropriate instead of:

"I want...", "we feel..."

Sample Position Paper

Issue: Integration of the Sub-Saharan Least Developed Countries into the World

Economy

Country: The Kingdom of the Netherlands

Delegate: Mr. Karel van Oosterom

The Kingdom of the Netherlands fully supports and aligns with the United Nations' efforts to assist in the development of Sub-Saharan African countries. Our great nation continues to aid with the Millennium Development Goals in order to increase the productivity of the impoverished nations of Africa.

Previously, our nation has invested €4.6 billion in development aid to the world's least developed nations. The Netherlands has also met the United Nations member requirement of contributing .7% of our GNP to development aid. Our funds have increased the human capital in the regions in which we invested and have also continued to aid in the achievement of Millennium Goal number three, to promote gender equality and promote women. Although this goal may not be directly related to the economic development of African nations, research has shown that when women are given equal access to schooling to obtain a primary education, agriculture production increases up to twenty-four percent. Gender equality has also increased the ability to generate a healthy market for business, which further aids in the development of financing in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Our nation remains adamant that economic development will come from increased equality and education as well as new green technology. Developing sustainable energy in African regions is an extremely viable and supported option in the opinion of the people of the Netherlands, as well as the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated in regards to his Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, that "infrastructure development is an opportunity to go green". Sustainable energy would create not only energy free of unstable costs, but also free of possible environmental damage and energy dependence. Over all, the benefits of funding and developing clean energy are astronomical compared to the increases of oil consumption.

However, our nation understands and acknowledges the current obstacles that prevent growth and development. The member nations of the United Nations have not been fully committed to the current development of Sub-Saharan Africa. Many African nations face financial hardships due to lack of funding and cooperation. The Netherlands holds a staunch position that all member nations must be urged to contribute not only the designated .7% GNP for aid. In addition, trade policies should be implemented to break down barriers and embargos to promote private investment for new business and a solid market structure to African nations. Nations are urged to create incentives for hiring women increases gender diversity in the work place, as well as in schools, as a result human capital and economic success increases. In regards to developing energy infrastructure, all forms of energy obtained in Africa must be renewable resources that will remain reliable for future generations. The Netherlands remains steadfast, in the ideal that in order to better one region, all nations must participate in restructuring.