

## HOUSTON MODEL UN (2024) / LONE STAR MODEL UN 2024

### Frequently Asked Questions / Position Papers



### What is a position paper?

A position paper is **brief statement** summarizing the most important views of the country that you will represent in your committee. You should list and refer to the resolutions, conventions, protocols, and programs that are relevant to the policy of your assigned country. It should also include **proposals** or **solutions** to the problems that will be discussed in your committee.

The summary of the previous actions taken by your country are as important as the future actions that your country recommends must be taken by your committee.

### These questions can be helpful to write your position paper:

- 1.** Why is this problem/issue important? Who should care about this problem? Why is this problem/issue relevant for the United Nations? What are the repercussions of not addressing this problem?
- 2.** What actions have been taken to address this issue? What United Nations' agencies or commissions have dealt with it? What protocols have been created to effectively address this issue? What specific conventions, conferences, meetings, have been held to address the issue and propose courses of action? What documents have resulted from these meetings (resolutions, treaties, conventions)? (Framed in terms of your country's support or rejection of these diverse efforts) Has your country signed/ratified those documents?
- 3.** Can you identify a link (in terms of your country to the work that has been done)? Has your country contributed with any resources to address the issue (financial resources, human resources (missions)? Has your country sponsored or attended the conferences or signed treaties? Has your country taken notable steps domestically to address this issue?
- 4.** What solutions can your country propose to solve the problem? (While there is some freedom to produce these ideas and that the proposals do not need to be directly linked to your country's position, they should not contradict the country's interests. Focus can be on multilateral steps, or on regional organizations, or on pursuing domestic/national legislation that will address the problem. **It is advisable to limit the proposals to no more than three clear and concrete plans of action.**

## What is the format of a position paper?

Position papers should have a specific format:



**Length:** no more than two pages



**Font type:** Arial, size 10 points



**Margins:** must set at 1 inch or 2.54 cm. for the whole paper.

*Justify* the text for your paragraphs so the left and right margins both have straight edges.



**Labels:** Country (“delegation of”) and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page.



**The document (file) should be in PDF format (Word document converted to PDF)**



You should **NOT** provide your name, grade, or school.

You should **NOT** write the paper in the first person of the singular or the second person of the plural (“I” or “we” statements should not be part of your paper). You should write the paper from the perspective of the country that you are representing. For example, you can write: “The Russian Federation believes that...”



You should **not** include national symbols (headers, flags, etc.). They are deemed inappropriate for Lone Star and Texas Model UN position papers.



## What is the content of a position paper?

Your position paper should address **both topics listed** in the **background guide** of your committee. Each committee topic must be developed and labeled in a separate section. The topics should be presented in the same order in which they are listed in the background guide. In other words, the first section should be about topic 1. The second section should be about topic 2.



**You do not need to include footnotes or formal citations as you do in a regular academic paper.**

While these elements are not required, you should use quotations marks if you are referring to a direct quote or if you need to give credit or to acknowledge the source of a statement.

The paper should be written with a formal tone. It should be written as if you are giving voice to a foreign minister of your assigned country. **The content of your paper should be original.** After you do research, you should write your own ideas (consistent with the country that you are representing). **You should not present others' works as if they were yours.**



## When should I submit the position paper?

You should submit the position paper of your delegation by **NOVEMBER 14th, 2024** by **11:50 P.M. (Eastern Time)**. If you worked with a delegate partner, you should submit **ONE** position paper written collaboratively as a delegation. Your sponsor should send it to [osgoodcenterprograms@gmail.com](mailto:osgoodcenterprograms@gmail.com)

