



## FORMATTING OF A POSITION PAPER:

Position Papers are the published work of a delegation outlining country specific information related to the topic area at hand and an official position and plan toward resolving the problem.

Position papers should

Utilize size 12 Times New Roman font

Be in black print only

Have the Committee, Topic Area, Country, and Delegate(s) headings in the upper left corner of the page

Appear untitled

Be one page in length (single spaced)

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

For  
instance:

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

Would be appropriate in place of:

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

Position Papers should follow the formatting guidelines stipulated by the MUNUC Secretariat. However, with regards to content, delegates have considerable leeway. Most Position Papers are organized in a fashion similar to that outlined below.

Paragraph 1 - Background of the topic with relation to the Member State

Paragraph 2 - Official position of the Member State

Paragraph 3 - Solutions to the problem that are amenable to the Member State



## **SAMPLE POSITION PAPER 1:**

**Committee: Security Council**

**Topic Area A: Former Yugoslavia**

**Country: Ghana**

**Delegate: Mr. Kofi Annan**

Ghana strongly believes that U.N. policy regarding the situation in the Balkans has been flawed from the start. First, Ghana would like to remind the Security Council of Article 51 in the United Nations Charter.

Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individuals or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security.

This article of our Charter clearly establishes the right of any sovereign nation to defend itself from an external attack. However, the U.N.-imposed arms embargo over the regions of the former Yugoslavia clearly takes this right away from the nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. While the U.N. has blindly imposed this embargo over all of ex-Yugoslavia, the amply supplied Serbs have used the armaments left behind by the Yugoslavian Federal Government to beat the poorly armed Bosnians into submission. As such, Ghana believes that the U.N. is doing a tremendous injustice to the nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Thus, unless this body acts immediately to halt Serbian aggression in Bosnia, we are obliged to lift our blanket arms embargo to allow the Bosnians to defend themselves. It should be noted here that we can, and should, lift the arms embargo against Bosnia while keeping it against Serbia, as the Serbs are not currently fighting for the safety or integrity of their nation (as the international community recognizes it), but are rather the aggressors in this situation.

However, Ghana would like to stress that it strives for a peaceful solution to the conflicts in Bosnia and Croatia, and to the tensions in Macedonia and Kosovo, and thus would not simply endorse an escalation of warfare within the region. As the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is of the utmost importance, as the greatest number of human lives are being lost there, Ghana believes that the Security Council should deal with this nation first. Although Ghana does not like the fact that the Bosnian-Croat federation would hold only 51% of the land of Bosnia-Herzegovina, we believe that if the Bosnian-Muslim and Croat leaders can agree to this type of reduction in land, then it should be acceptable to the world community.



Because two of the combatants have agreed to this type of land agreement, Ghana believes that it is up to the Security Council to force the Bosnian Serbs and Yugoslav Serbs to accept this new partition of Bosnia, or face a collective onslaught and erosion of their currently held positions. As such, Ghana approves of the fact that the Yugoslav Serbs have ostracized the Bosnian Serbs for not agreeing to the aforementioned plan; however, to make sure that no aid is reaching the Bosnian Serbs, Ghana believes that the U.N. should force the Federal Serbs to allow U.N. monitors between the internationally recognized borders of Serbia and Bosnia. If Serbia does not allow this, Ghana believes that the Security Council should tighten the embargo against Serbia, not even allowing humanitarian aid into the country.

Although this may seem unnecessarily harsh, we believe that more direct pressure on the Serbian people and leaders will force them to quickly change their stance, thus saving more lives in the longterm. In addition, Ghana believes that the proposed Bosnian-Croat federation should receive military backing from the U.N. and NATO in order to safeguard its existence. Although we know that the U.N. cannot control NATO, we believe that our positive working relationship in the past will allow for continued cooperation in this realm. Thus, we believe that only a significant and overt military support for the Bosnians will result in an end to this conflict.

Ghana believes that a continued U.N. presence in Croatia and Macedonia will be the best way to defuse tensions in those nations. Although UNPROFOR has experienced difficulties in Croatia, Ghana would like to point out that many of the recent breaks in the cease-fire there have been due to offensives by the Croats, who were the people that UNPROFOR was originally trying to protect. Thus, unless both the Croats and Serbs in Croatia are willing to stop fighting, UNPROFOR should not take on a further role.

However, as the preemptive peacekeepers in Macedonia seem to be working, Ghana fully supports them and requests the Security Council to reevaluate the situation and perhaps send more troops there to safeguard the peace.

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- I. Report on the special committee to investigate Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories

As the Palestinian people negotiate with the Israelis for the declaration of an independent Palestinian state, Palestinians living in the Palestinian territory, which is still under Israeli occupation, have become victims of persecution. Many have been killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians. Others have been harassed, ill-treated or placed under curfews. A number have escaped Israel as refugees. According to Israeli there is to be an absolute veto on any refugee return to Israel. Israel's justification is that repatriation of Palestinians would dilute Israel's character. The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) claims that the refugees have a right to return to their lands and/or receive compensation. The position of the (PLO) is affirmed by UN Security Council Resolution 194 of December 1948. As a country that was liberated from communism almost a decade ago, we have had firsthand experience of violations of human rights. After experiencing relief from such oppression, we have come to highly value human



rights and desire to promote human rights all over the world. Furthermore, any country that fails to comply with the regulations of the United Nations should be punished with sanctions appropriate under UN rules.

Therefore, it is in our interest that the United Nations becomes involved in this situation and impose appropriate sanctions until either this mistreatment stops or an independent Palestinian State is declared.

## II. Participation of volunteer, "white helmet," in activities of the UN in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development

Our position on the participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in activities of the UN is much like most member states. Especially in the Balkan region, volunteers are needed to provide various forms of assistance. Relief is constantly needed in times of natural disaster to provide humanitarian relief. At this time we are not able to fully assist its people in times of natural disaster. In order to fully recover from a communist society, we need all the help we can get from other nation states. Technical cooperation for development is needed to help ease the transition of our people from a communist society to a thriving democracy. Rebuilding cities, businesses, and creating a national highway system are the most important issues at hand for us. United Nation volunteers, "White Helmets" can provide an enormous hand in assisting in this transition. In order for successful volunteer missions many things are needed.

The first would be a more secure source of funding for its humanitarian and development assistance missions. We support any resolution and effort that will increase the funding of the White Helmets. We are willing to work with other member states to acquire and setup additional sources of funding, whether it is through government financial assistance, loans from the IMF and World Bank, the United Nations themselves or philanthropists willing to support the White Helmets. We also support any resolution and effort that encourages nation states to sign up willing citizens to become United Nation volunteers in the White Helmet program. We are also in favor of enhancing in any way possible United Nation Volunteer cooperation at all levels of United Nation activities. Setting up a direct chain of command, such as liaisons between different UN organizations to further help United Nation activities will be looked upon with favor by us. Finally, the safety and security of UN personnel are of the utmost importance. We support and are willing to work with other member states to provide the highest possible safety and security for personnel on the ground.



## **SAMPLE POSITION PAPER 2:**

**Committee: Disarmament and International Security**

**Topic: Small arms in Regional Conflict**

**Country: The Republic of Sierra Leone**

**School: Lahore University of Management Sciences**

### **I. General Position Statement**

The Republic of Sierra Leone believes that the worldwide circulation of small arms obstructs the process of disarmament thereby, shaking national, regional and global security. In order to resolve these issues of security, small arms ought to be dealt with in a comprehensive manner. Although Sierra Leone is not a producer, it faces the problem of small arms and light weapons (SALW) to a great extent. It is deeply concerned about small arms primarily because of its use in a decade long civil unrest within the nation, its continued possession by the indigenous population, especially by rebels and children and its exchange with diamonds.

In solving the issue of small arms, the international community must implement the UN Programme of Action (PoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons

effectively. Strong emphasis should be laid on strengthening existing national, regional and international institutions that deal with small arms. Within Africa, Sierra Leone is part of the Mano River Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It has also initiated the Sierra Leone Action Network against Small Arms (SLANSA). It believes that regional initiatives under an international guideline like the PoA will be most effective in dealing with small arms. The focus of states should be towards sharing information about arms, maintaining a central register for arms, curbing cross-border trade of weapons, monitoring and collecting arms within states and regions, initiating joint security patrols, building confidence of the police, armed forces and customs services, improving the existing small arms moratorium and creating awareness about small arms within Africa.

### **II. Responses to Questions a Resolution Must Answer**

A small arm is typically divided into three categories put forth by the UN- small arm, light weapon, ammunition and explosives. It involves revolvers, self-loading pistols, rifles, carbines, machine guns, grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft guns and anti-tank guns. Under ammunition, it includes cartridges, shells and missiles for light weapons, hand grenades, landmines and explosives. Legal trade consists of government-to-government exchange and industry-to-government exchange. Illegal trade comprises black-market sales to governments



of 'pariah' countries and to insurgent and separatist forces, theft and consequent sale of government and privately owned arms, exchange between insurgent and criminal organizations, covert transfers from governments to armed militias, paramilitary organizations, insurgent groups and separatist groups within a nation and abroad.

Legal trade defined earlier, should be deemed as the business of states but not entirely. The international community should have the right to define the amount of weapons exchanged, since an influx of weapons in a particular country or region can disturb national, regional and international stability. All aspects of illegal trade should be regulated internationally because of grave spillover effects associated with such trade.

Viable incentives for weapons manufacturers to stem production involve (i) a higher rate of return on alternate sources of income such as money invested in different funds within and across countries and (ii) compensation by governments and organizations to facilitate the shift in production of weapons to the production of goods that utilize similar technologies. Since weapons cause more harm than good, disincentives to the production of weapons will be more effective. The government could impose higher taxes and severe penalties and the international community could impose sanctions.

In post-conflict situations, the UN Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) program is comprehensive enough to be followed by states. Sierra Leone has been under a DDR program for the past five years, headed by the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). Although the guidelines are sufficient, an effective DDR program is hard to implement in poverty-stricken nations like Sierra Leone. Lack of resources, infrastructure, proper legal and judicial systems restrict the process. Emphasis should be laid on creating strong police and armed forces, rehabilitating the ex-combatants, providing opportunities for infrastructure and social-sector development. The international community must generously provide funds for such elaborate programs.

Indeed, international task forces can be utilized in the DDR program. Their jurisdiction will be in accordance with existing UN conventions that allow task forces to collect and destroy weapons, train local police and armed forces, guard border areas, and educate the indigenous population about small arms.