



C'MUN BARCELONA
CATALONIA MODEL UNITED NATIONS

POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

What you have below are recommendations/suggestions regarding the structure of your position paper. As you will see in the examples at the end of this document, there are different ways to write Position Papers, so take this as guide to help you, delegate of C'MUN, in your writing.

WHAT IS A POSITION PAPER?

A Position Paper is a brief outline of a country's policy and interests concerning the topic to be debated during the simulation. It should contain a clear statement of the country's position on the topic and the reason/s behind it, and it should suggest a plan of action/some kind of proposal concerning the problem under consideration.

The Position Paper should be the result of the delegate's own research and should be written concise and up to the point. The usual length of a position paper is 1 to 2 pages (A4, normal Font Type & Size, single line spacing)

STRUCTURE

The beginning of your Position Paper should state the following items:

Committee

Country

Issue

In the first part of your Position Paper you should briefly specify the issue of your Committee. Try to answer the following questions when you write this part of your statement:

Why is this issue relevant? What is the scope of the problem? Options could be naming statistics, mentioning the major players or the current developments concerning the issue under discussion. It is very typical also, make some reference to the UN action that has been taken in this respect already.

Which resolutions have been passed so far? Which conferences have been held?

What is planned for the future?

In the second part, the most important, you should specify the official position of the country / organization you represent in respect to the issue that is going to be debated in the Committee. In this part of the position paper you should give an answer to questions like this:

What is your country's / organization's policy on the topic? Why? What issues in this area are particularly relevant to the country / organization you represent? What action has your country / organization taken already?

What are the possible solutions to the problems in this area? What is the type of resolution your country / organization tries to accomplish?

A FINAL REMARK

An important thing to remember when you write your policy statement is that you represent the position of your country / organization in the Committee. Therefore, you should not speak in the first person (“I”), but with the voice of “your” country, for what you should use the third person (for example: “Algeria suggests...” “Germany proposes....”). Offering your own ideas for a solution of the problem is not forbidden, but you have to be sure that what you propose doesn’t contradict the policies of the country you represent.

To conclude, in the following pages you have three examples of Position Papers from the first edition of C’MUN.

Third Committee

7 April 2006

Alliance of Civilizations

Policy-Statement by the delegates

Ana Naplocja, Verena Klug and Anna Schuesterl, University of Salamanca

As one of the 51 original countries to sign the UN Charter, Australia has made a long and active involvement to the United Nations. In September 2005, it signed the Nuclear Terrorism Convention as a first step to prevent possible achievement of nuclear material to international terrorism. But this can only be one of our aims to gain control over a growing international treat.

We also need to consider improvement of international dialogue to prevent emerging distrust and misunderstanding. Difference has always been difficult to grasp for the human being. For that, it is a basic fundament of terrorist strategy. Like the UN Secretary- General, His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan said: "...the perception of diversity as a threat is the very seed of war". On behalf of our nation, it is vital to eliminate this kind of religious fundamentalism through intensified education and understanding.

Australia has managed to build up a multicultural nation, with people from various origins and cultural values, but still living together in peace and tolerance within the frames of democracy. This does not mean that we do not see possible threats. The incidents and acts of violence towards Muslim youth caused by irresponsible and rebellious youngsters in Sydney last year, or not to mention the crisis occasioned by certain Danish cartoons, which depicted the prophet Muhammad as a terrorist, are just two examples of the widening conflict between Islam and the Western world. The clash between two competing conceptions of culture is visible, where freedom of speech is violating profound religious beliefs.

Last December, we had a chance to welcome His Excellency, Recep Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, who agreed how important it was to expand the horizons of understanding between not only the great religions of the world such as Islam and Christianity and Judaism, but also to broaden it from a dialogue into what he described as an "Alliance of Civilizations", a proposal launched by Mr. Zapatero, the Spanish Prime Minister. Australia believes that the future of

the world, the future security of the world, and the future success in our joint fight against terrorism is based upon a greater understanding of what not only the religions of the world, but the civilizations of the world have in common. As our Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, said at the UNGA 60 last September: “There remains an urgent need for nations to come together to confront terrorists in the battle of ideas, contest extremist ideologies...and build greater and more productive dialogue between faiths and civilizations.”

With the implementation of “Alliance of civilizations”, Australia calls for efficient action. Our aim is deliberate cooperation with other civilizations and not inflationary production of numerous initiatives. We want to work for practical improvements through a combination of measures including bilateral and multilateral agreements as well as technical assistance to implement human rights standards. In other words: We need to insure that community values intersect with human rights values. This is the secular roadmap that we will all need to consult, no matter what our religious belief or level of economics or community resource allocate, as we navigate our way through a global community that aspires to civil discourse and behavior. After all, we live in one world that requires the cooperation of all of us to face global problems.



GUATEMALA

Committee: Human Rights

Delegation: Royal Holloway, University of London:

Miss Nathalie Carter, Mr Lukas Port and Mr Grzegorz Gniadik

We, the delegation of Guatemala speak on behalf of our government and all those committed to Human Rights within our striving country. Having considered resolution [A/RES/60/251](#) discussed in the plenary on the 15th March 2006 regarding the draft resolution A/60/L.48 we voted in favour of the proposed reform of the Commission on Human Rights, approving the creation of a Human Rights Council.

We are fully aware of the current Human Rights abuses in Guatemala and our violent past, yet we have taken measures to improve the situation. We have been actively working towards safeguarding specific rights. Fulfilling this commitment includes ratification of CEDAW, CERD, CMW and CRC. The UN has also acknowledged our efforts towards the indigenous minorities, in specific the humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation we provided in 2005 post the hurricane that devastated both Guatemala and El Salvador.

Reaffirming our efforts is the recent government / UN agreement creating an international commission to investigate clandestine groups responsible for acts of political violence in recent years. The commission, known as the Commission of Investigation into Illegal Groups and Clandestine Security Apparatuses (CICIACS), will be led by a U.N.-appointed commissioner and work with the Guatemalan Attorney General's Office. We have also observed "consensus" among all elements of the Guatemalan administration to support such moves.

Guatemala expresses its hope that through the creation of the Human Rights Council increased resources will be dedicated towards a vast range of issues, many of which affect Guatemala. We therefore believe that the Human Rights Council should meet in regular sessions throughout the year in order to become an effective organ. Furthermore we propose that in the long term, the Human Rights Council should not be subordinate to ECOSOC and should have the same status of the main bodies, thereby emphasising the importance of Human Rights within the UN system.

Due to the lack of commitment from forces in society such as rebel military groups the achievement of universal Human Rights within Guatemala will not be achieved without great effort. We therefore welcome foreign assistance and support not only in material terms, but as a source of external advice.

Taking into consideration the achievements possible, the Guatemalan Republic manifests its absolute will to collaborate in the creation of a Human Rights Council and is positive it will assist in the further participation of Southern countries to fundamental UN debates.

Position Paper for the Security Council

Terrorism fed by anger and despair has come to all those States which have lived it directly in their territory, and also those who have not seen attacks on their own soil have still shared in the sorrow. The lesson is clear: There can be no safety in looking away, or seeking the quiet life by ignoring the hardship and oppression of others. Either hope or violence will spread, we must take the side of hope.

Sometimes our security will require confronting threats directly, and so a great coalition of nations has come together to fight the terrorists across the world. All States have the solemn obligation to stop terrorism at its early stages and to defend our citizens against terrorism, to attack terrorist networks and deprive them of any safe haven, to promote an ideology of freedom and tolerance that will refute the dark vision of the terrorists. Acts of terrorism emerge from a radical ideology that tolerates no dissent, and justifies the murder of innocent people as the best way to achieve its objectives.

We must do all we can to disrupt each stage of planning and support for terrorist acts. Each of us must act, consistent with past Security Council resolutions, to freeze terrorists' assets; to deny terrorists freedom of movement by using effective border controls and secure travel documents; to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons, including weapons of mass destruction. Each of us must act to share information to prevent a terrorist attack before it happens. The United States will continue to work with and through the Security Council to help all nations meet these commitments.

According to resolution 1624 (2005), adopted by the Security Council, which condemns the incitement of terrorist acts and calls upon all states to take appropriate steps to end such incitement, the United States reaffirm its resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1535 (2004), 1540 (2004), 1566 (2004), and 1617 (2005), the declaration annexed to its resolution 1456 (2003), as well as its other resolutions concerning threats to international peace and security caused by acts of terrorism.

The United States proposes the following measures to end up with terrorism:

To reaffirm that acts, methods, financing, planning and inciting practises of terrorism are contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

To work together to help break up terrorist networks that cross borders, and rout out radical cells within our own borders.

To condemn terrorism acts the incitement of terrorist acts irrespective of their motivation, whenever and by whomsoever committed, and calls on all states to take appropriate steps to end such incitement and repudiate attempts at the justification or glorification.

To ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all the obligations under International Law.

To use diplomatic and financial tools to cut off their financing and drain them of support. To deny terrorist groups access to the international financial system, to impair the ability of terrorists to fundraise, ad expose, isolate and incapacitate the financial networks of terrorists.

To complete the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism that will put every nation on record: the targeting and deliberate killing by terrorists of civilians and non-combatants cannot be justified or legitimized by any cause or grievance.

To stop the terrorists and their allies from acquiring the terrible weapons that would allow them to kill on a scale equal to their hatred. For that reason, more than 60 countries are supporting the Proliferation Security Initiative to intercept shipments of weapons of mass destruction on land, on sea, and in air. The terrorists must know that wherever they go, they cannot escape justice.

Not to make concessions or agreements with terrorists and to put pressure on those who support or protect them in order to change their behaviour.

To sign and implement the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, so that all those who seek radioactive materials or nuclear devices are prosecuted and extradited, wherever they are.

To spread a vision of hope, the United States is determined to help nations that are struggling with poverty. We are committed to the Millennium Development goals.

To help raise up the failing states and stagnant societies that provide fertile ground for the terrorists. We must defend and extend a vision of human dignity, opportunity and prosperity.

To call upon all States to become party, as a matter of urgency, to the international counter-terrorism Conventions and Protocols whether they are party or not to regional Conventions on the matter, and to give priority consideration to signing the International Convention for the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism adopted by the General Assembly on 2005.

To judge all the terrorists for humanity crimes, genocide crimes, extermination crimes and war crimes.

To report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, as part of their ongoing dialogue, the steps taken to implement all the resolutions and measures adopted by the States.

The United States consider, as almost every democratic State, that terrorism and armed conflict are not only threats to our security, they're the enemies of development and freedom for millions. Terrorist acts are war acts against all the Countries of the World lovers of liberty.

The United States strongly believe that as we fight, the terrorists must know that the world stands united against them. The far corners of the world are linked more closely than ever before, and no nation can remain isolated and indifferent to the struggles of others.