

GALCON Position Paper Guide

When preparing for a conference or a simulation (MUN practice), a delegate needs to do sufficient research on the topic, the country the delegate represents and on possible solutions for the topic. As such a delegate can bring with them all of their research material to the simulation. However, it is useful for the delegate to prepare (**in addition** to the research material) a summary of their research. This is called a Position Paper. It should be between 1 to 1.5 pages long. **In GALCON, there is no obligation to write and submit a position paper.**

How to write a Position Paper?

A position paper is a one/two page document. It should be a summary of the research done by the delegate. It has to include the following four paragraphs:



1. Background information about the topic: In this paragraph, one should summarize relevant material about the topic. This can include historical background, statistical information, recent news, etc.



2. United Nations' actions: The second paragraph should include information about how the United Nations dealt with this problem before. A delegate should mention different UN resolutions, treaties, reports, committees that are relevant. Information about other relevant international organizations and actions are also useful and should be added to this paragraph.



3. The situation in your country: How does the topic relate to the country of the delegate? How does it affect it and how did the country act in the past to deal with the topic?



4. The delegate's suggested solutions to the problem: In the last paragraph, the delegate should summarize their proposed solutions to the issues of the topic. These solutions should be summarized and should fit their country's policy.

Note: All submitted position papers will be checked for AI. Any detected use of AI when writing the text of the submitted position paper, whether used to create whole sentences or used to fix grammar and spelling, will **exclude the position paper from being considered for a Best Position Paper Award.**

Sample Position Paper

Name of Country: The Republic of South Africa
Committee: The United Nations Human Rights Council
Delegate name: M**** *
School: St. Joseph Seminary and High School
Topic: Water Crisis

As of July 2010, the General Assembly recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights. However, 780 million people lack access to clean and safe water and 2.6 billion people lack access to sanitation. Contaminated water supplies are responsible for 80% of the diseases of developing countries, and the main cause of the death of 1.4 million children annually and there is a risk that these figures could rise higher as the years pass by. Moreover, many children are losing school hours because they have to collect water instead. While it is quite clear that this crisis has plagued the nations with diseases and deaths, we should not be deceived into believing that the health risk is the only dimension of the problem.

The United Nation has recognized the right to water as a human right; therefore, it has worked on providing it to all Member States by setting up a coordination mechanism for all water-related issues called UN-Water. This coordination works alongside UN organizations such the World Health Organization, and is also responsible for International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' which is meant to promote efforts to fulfill international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015. Moreover, the UN recognized March 22nd as the World Water Day to raise awareness on this issue among member states.

The Republic of South Africa respects the right to water and has considered it as a basic right in the constitution. However, the country is challenged by climate change, industrialization, and sometimes poverty. Ever since the end of the apartheid, the new governments have been committed to increasing access to clean water and sanitation, by increasing access to improved water sources in both urban and rural areas. Nevertheless, the progress that has been made in the same period of time on sanitation was much slower for financial reasons. Such progress has happened because of the Water Services Act which was the first step into achieving our goal. It was later followed by Free Basic Water Policy and a Basic Sanitation White Paper, and, cooperation with neighboring countries.

The Republic of South Africa calls on all countries to work together to solve the problems. We recommend that the following course of actions be taken:

1. Raising the awareness on the issue especially on the World Water Day.
2. Reducing consumption of water and encouraging citizens to pay for the water used by involving all stakeholders through participatory water management.
3. Improving access to water in rural areas by securing safe transportation.
4. Working with NGOs that will help assure the efficiency of every step taken to improve the situation.

(You can write this section as a paragraph instead of using bullet points)