



Model United Nations Position Paper Guidance

The following position paper guidance is based on that used at the Harvard Model United Nations (UN) conference. The intent of a position paper is to express the interests, policies, and areas of international cooperation related to your topic for the country you represent. It should, therefore, be from the point of view of your assigned country and specifically address the topic your committee will discuss. It should also include a bibliography of the sources you consulted in your research. If you directly quote the resources please be sure to cite them in the text. Sources should be “primary” resources as much as possible, such as:

- United Nations documents on the issue and country.
- Government sources from the country you represent.
- U.S. Department of State, Department of Defense, and Central Intelligence Agency sources.
- Nongovernmental Organizations working in your country and on your topic.

Once you have completed your preliminary research, you are ready to write your position paper. The paper should be no more than one single-spaced page.

Each position paper has three basic parts: your country’s national interests, your country’s national policies, and your opinion on potential areas of cooperation.

- National interests are what a country would like to see happen in the world for itself.
- National policies are the country’s attempts to secure its interests through various programs.
- Areas of cooperation are possible policies and programs that other countries would also agree to, either actively by helping or passively by not being in their way. These must align with your country’s national interests.

An example position paper follows.

Country: Mongolia

Committee: Futuristic

Topic: Privacy and Security in the Age of Surveillance

National Interests: In 2030, video surveillance systems and advanced recognition technologies are being used around the world and are being taken advantage of by governments to monitor and track the activities of people every day. The data captured from the systems are stored and protected by private companies as well as government security organizations. Undisclosed entities have hacked into thousands of the databases globally and have been able to obtain the personal data of millions of people over the world. Mongolia recognizes the high importance of dealing with issues induced by this situation, especially personal privacy rights and abuse of advanced video surveillance networks by governments to target ethnic minorities.

National Policies: The current policies of Mongolia are based in its Constitution, which guarantees the basic human rights of its citizens. In the past, a special law regulating relations connected with personal secrecy did not exist. The adoption of the Law on Personal Secrecy by the Mongolian Parliament in 1995 was, according to the Brookings Institution, "...a novelty in the legal practice of Mongolia, attesting to the legalization of the protection of human rights, honor, and reputation." With this law, there has been a significant step forward towards guaranteeing human rights, freedoms and "...realization of the concept that in settling civil suits and disputes the courts shall not apply legislation that contradicts the Constitution which like any country, are the general principles of the Civil Code of Mongolia." According to the Privacy Law, the government should also protect citizens' personal information in accordance with the procedures and on grounds determined by law. Only officials of authorized state organizations have access to personal data of citizens that is kept in accordance with procedures and on grounds determined by law.

Henceforth, the national interests and policies of Mongolia must conform with its laws and constitution. The National Program for Improving Human Rights' goals are to make the Privacy Law more detailed, develop an information list that contains citizens' private information, conduct training for officials dealing with citizens' privacy who are employed at all types of organizations, and to raise responsibility of the officials by obliging them to take an oath. This is one step that Mongolia has already taken to make sure the data of all citizens is kept confidential and the system is more difficult to manipulate. Mongolia's law of Intelligence Operations determines the lawful disclosure of private information. According to the law, only a few organizations have a right to conduct such activities as surveillance. However, they must first obtain a prosecutor's written permission based on probable cause.

Areas of Cooperation: As earlier stated, Mongolia already has implemented The National Program for Improving Human Rights- however it seeks to also improve personal privacy by creating technological barriers on the databases. Mongolia seeks to cooperate with other countries desiring increased protection for private information, to include a framework for international standards respected by all member states. Further, Mongolia believes technical assistance from the UN for countries with less technological sophistication would be valuable to this end.

References

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