
I. DEVELOPING A POLICY

In order to formulate a policy, both in writing (Policy Statement and Resolution) and in speaking (Lobbying, Opening Speech and Debating), students must prepare by doing thorough research. It is important for all delegates to be informed about their country, to have specific knowledge of the issues on the agenda, and to be aware of the opinions of the experts.

| RESEARCHING THE COUNTRY | |
|--|---|
| When researching your country, make sure you know all of the following: | |
| <u>Political Structure</u> Origin of Political Structures Constitution and Government Present Stability and Policy Government | <u>Natural Resources</u> Basic Commodities Produced Trade Agreements Degree of Self-sufficiency |
| <u>Cultural Factors</u> Ethnic Groups Religions Cultural History | <u>Defense</u> Military Structure Dependency on other Nations Membership of Alliances |
| <u>Geography</u> Bordering Countries Topography Geopolitical Considerations | <u>Views on World Problems</u> Role and Influence in the World Membership of Blocks and Geopolitical Groupings |
| <u>Economy</u> Monetary System Dependency and Debt Membership of Economic and Trade Organizations | <u>History</u> General Last 50 Years Recent History |

WRITING THE POLICY STATEMENT

Each delegate must write a brief, yet comprehensive, policy statement for every issue on their committee's agenda. This serves three important purposes. Firstly, writing a policy statement generally allows the delegate the opportunity to think out his policy more thoroughly. Secondly, it is in the interest of every delegation to have a document that contains that country's policy on all issues at the conference so that there will be consistency among the various members of the delegation on all policy lines. Ideally, all delegates should have some familiarity with all the issues so that they will feel comfortable in representing their country's view, when asked, even if they are not specifically prepared on a particular issue. Thirdly, a policy statement serves as an outline for the preliminary draft resolution.

COMPONENTS OF A POLICY STATEMENT

- * An explanation and definition of the question and its key terms exactly as they appear on the committee agenda. In a discussion of the creation of a nuclear free zone (NFZ) in Central Europe, for example, it is essential for a delegate to define terms such as NFZ, what would or would not be part of an NFZ, and the limits of what constitutes "Central" Europe.
- * A summary of recent international events related to action on the question
- * Some reference to key documents relating to the issue (these should be underlined)
- * A general statement of the country's position on the issue
- * Specific suggestions for a solution to the question (as the first draft for the operative clauses of a resolution)

Delegates should share their policy statements only with those directly concerned in the lobbying and negotiation process. These policy statements are not meant for general distribution.

-Background of the Topic

Historical background and causes of the problem

What nations are directly involved with or affected by the issue?

What effect does this problem have on the international community?

-United Nations Involvement - How is the UN involved?

How did it originally become involved and what actions has the UN taken on this issue (resolutions, conferences, etc.)?

What organs, NGO's and other UN affiliated groups are involved in the situation?

-Country Policy and Involvement

Your nation's position and policy on the topic and opinion on the UN's actions regarding the topic.

Your nation's past actions regarding the topic (voting records, resolutions, conference attended and conventions signed)

Your nation's proposals or plans in dealing with the issue.

In the sample policy statement below, note the format and the way in which the above outline is followed.

POLICY STATEMENT

Delegation: Russian Federation

Committee: Security Council

Question of: Situation in Iraq

Russia strongly reaffirms the absolute necessity of Iraq's compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions. In many cases, however, Iraq has actually fulfilled many of the requests and this fact must be acknowledged, too. UNSCOM reported "significant" and "important" progress. All facilities and components of the manufacturing of chemical weapons have been eliminated. Russia believes that this action alone already shows not only Iraq's willingness to cooperate but also the strong degree to which it is willing to do so.

Numerous IAEA inspection teams have confirmed the absence of activity relating to nuclear weapons. Nonetheless, Russia is willing to acknowledge that there may have been some drawbacks in this cooperation. Such isolated instances, however, in no way justify the adoption of additional sanctions. (This was provided for in Reso 1115.)

The situation continues to deserve serious attention. We cannot, however, continue to punish Iraq for the reason that they are not complying with respective resolutions when, in fact, they are doing so at this moment. We must note the progress UNSCOM has made in the Iraqi program of products of mass destruction and draw our consequences from this, which should not be additional sanctions.

According to the reports by the IAEA, there has been significant progress in the nuclear sphere so that we can now view this part of the UN mission as accomplished. The Russian Federation fails to comprehend why these valuable reports made by the IAEA are so often brushed aside by many of our fellow delegates. We also do not understand the problems that to our knowledge are being created about the composition of the investigative groups that draw up these reports.
