*Position Paper Overview/Guidelines*

Position Papers are written before you attend the conference. These documents are what the name implies; “a paper with your country’s position.” Requiring lots of research, you will need to understand your committee, your topics, your country’s stance on them, and possible solutions to these issues. Reading through your committee’s background guide is a great place to start your research. From there you can move on to other resources. Helpful resources may include:

* Official UN Documents (Sustainable Development Goals, UN Charter, etc.)
* Previous Resolutions/Reports pertaining to your committee’s topics
* Statements from your country’s actual Representative to the UN, Embassy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
* News headlines proving your country’s stance and any recent action/opposition

**Position Papers should be two pages or less, single spaced, Times New Romans, Font Size 10-12.**

Each topic in a Position Paper should follow this general structure:

[Paragraph 1: Background on the issue, why it’s important, what has happened, etc.]

[Paragraph 2: What my country thinks, what it has done, what it sees as the problem]

[Paragraph 3: What my country proposes, what solutions we think will help, etc.]

**Please reference the following sample Position Paper when writing your own Position Paper!**

***Delegation from*** ***Represented by* [FULL COUNTRY NAME]** **[SCHOOL/DELEGATION]**

**Position Paper for the [FULL COMMITTEE NAME]**

The issues before the General Assembly Plenary are: Energy Security and the Use of Nuclear Energy, and Implementation of the Responsibility to Protect. The Republic of Finland is eager to work with other member states to create effective resolutions to tackle issues which require immediate long term and short term actions to take place. We hope to produce fruitful dialogue with other countries regarding both of these issues.

***I. Energy Security and the Use of Nuclear Energy***

The Republic of Finland sees nuclear energy as both an important resource for long-term energy sustainability and as a major potential hazard to the environment, public health, human rights and safety. As nuclear energy produces approximately 30% of Finnish energy, and as more nuclear power plants are being built at the moment, Finland is concerned how to ensure energy security while still using it as an economically and environmentally viable energy resource. The recent crisis in Japan demonstrated to Finland and the rest of the world that for all its benefits, nuclear energy is highly unpredictable and more international precautions must be taken to taken to continuously update nuclear safety standards.

Finland is party to all major international treaties and agreements regarding nuclear safety, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapons state, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Renewable Energy Agency, and held the presidency of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization Preparatory Commission. Our safeguards agreement under the NPT came into force in 1972, and in 1995 we became party to the Euratom safeguards arrangement. In 1998, it signed the Additional Protocol in relation to our safeguards agreements with both the International Atomic Energy Agency and Euratom. Domestically, we passed the Nuclear Energy Act in 1987, which outlines Finland’s approach to construction of new energy plants, the handling of nuclear materials within and across Finland’s borders, and the proper disposal of nuclear waste. As one of the highest producers of per capita nuclear energy worldwide, we place high importance on advising and assisting other nations, notably in our neighboring Northern European States and within the framework of the IAEA. Despite excellent safety and performance records for our nuclear power plants, we have begun to re-evaluate our plants to ensure they meet nothing but the absolute highest safety standards and operate at low risk levels during unpredictable scenarios.

Finland remains strongly committed to international cooperation in the peaceful and safe use of nuclear energy. We strongly support the continuing and increased adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Although properly functioning nuclear installations are a national responsibility and specific to each power company, international cooperation is of vital importance and we implore Member States to actively participate in international projects of safety improvement. We welcome the stress tests underway in many countries, focusing on the response preparedness to natural disasters and loss of power. Finland would like to open up dialogue on the possibility of a defined list of safety standards for nuclear energy facilities which countries can use as a guide and evaluate periodically. Finland also urges countries to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty so it can into effect, and for those countries which have already committed to it to continue their adherence to the Treaty.

***II. Implementation of the Responsibility to Protect***

The Republic of Finland is committed to building a more secure and just world through the United Nations. Finland sees the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) as a programmatic, rather than a legal, concept. The success of the implementation of R2P must be measured by how well it guides the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, to act in a timely manner in order to prevent humanitarian catastrophes. Finland’s commitment to supporting development in Africa and ensuring gender equality worldwide means that we are especially interested in discussing with other Member States the most effective and efficient systems for implementing R2P. We also look forward to leading discussions on preventative measures that the international community can take to avoid the need for implementing R2P.

Finland recognizes our responsibility to uphold R2P, and to integrate it into the heart of our foreign policy and development projects. We are particularly committed to joining the European Union in supporting African peace, security, and development, and Finland currently finances UN peace operations with more than 40 million euros per year. Over the years Finland has contributed more than 50,000 peacekeepers to international peace operations, many of them in Africa. Currently Finland contributes, inter alia, to the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia and to the training of Somali security forces. Finland also believes that mediation plays a key role in the peaceful settlement of disputes, in conflict prevention and in conflict resolution. Finland partnered with Turkey to establish a Group of Friends of Mediation at the United Nations in September 2010. The tasks of the Group are to promote the use of mediation as well as to generate support for the further development of mediation, with the African Union and several African countries as key stakeholders. We are participating in financing an African Peacebuilding Coordination Programme, and in July 2011 Finland funded the first ever ECOWAS ministerial conference on humanitarian assistance and internal displacement. In accordance with UN Security Resolution 1325 “Women, Peace, and Security”, Finland has adopted a national plan of action to partner with Kenya to help them set up their own national plan of action as required by the Resolution, and has already assisted the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi in doing so as well.

Finland would like to emphasize that in the implementation of the R2P, particular attention must be given to preventing the escalation of situations through early warning systems and capacity building. We strongly advocate that the international community should assist States in building capacities to exercise this responsibility and live up to their obligations in times of instability and conflict. Finland also recognizes the important role of local and international civil society organizations, which can advocate for protection of human rights as well as deliver services for those in need. Peaceful mediation can be an excellent resource for the prevention of escalation, and we urge the international community to further support regional and non-governmental initiatives to develop mediation capacity. Finland reaffirms its commitment to putting special emphasis on protecting women in conflict situations, and urges Member States to do the same and to reaffirm their commitment to S/RES/1612 regarding children in armed conflicts. Finally, Finland firmly believes that the fight against impunity goes hand in hand with peace mediation and that these two processes complement each other. We encourage Member States to support both national and international attempts to bring justice to those leaders responsible for humanitarian crises.