

# Position Paper Guide

Anáhuac Querétaro  
Model of the United Nations Conference



### What is a Position Paper?

A position paper is a formal statement exposed by a Member State, Delegation, or otherwise active participant regarding a concrete topic. Position Papers must contextualize the issue at hand, summarize the current state of the situation, outline the Member State's current position on the subject matter, and propose solutions per the framework of the United Nations or the specific organism of the United Nations said issue comprehends.

Delegates are required to submit a position paper on the topic/topics exposed in their Committee Background Guide. To do so, it is crucial that each delegate first becomes acquainted with the subject matter by thoroughly examining their Committee Background Guide and associating their delegation's current posture on the issue and system of government with viable solutions. Likewise, consulting trustworthy bibliography is of the utmost importance (delegates are encouraged to consult the bibliography either referred to within the framework of the United Nations or endorsed by it).

As opposed to Resolution Papers, Position Papers must reflect each Member State's stance and impact on the topic discussed. However, they must also attest to the delegate's individual qualities, such as their ability to weave an exhaustive, well-thought-out, and comprehensive statement that vouches for the delegate's Member State regardless of its present posture on the issue. Position Papers must also affirm the delegate's presence within the committee—a well-written Position Paper exposed with the proper intonation and technicality warrants engagement and active participation.

### Guidelines

AQMUN 2023 exhorts all delegates to adhere to the following standards for submitted Position Papers:

- Position Papers must have a maximum length of two pages, excluding sources of information.
- Delegates must avoid pronouns to refer to themselves or other Member States. Instead, delegates are required to use the following phrases:
  - The delegation of—followed by the name of the Member State, e.g., Ukraine.
  - The delegate for—followed by the name of the Member State, e.g., Ukraine.
  - This delegation.
  - The representative of – followed by the name of the Member State, e.g., Ukraine.
- Paragraphs must have justified text.
- The vocabulary must be vast and rich. Delegates are encouraged to abstain from repeating words, terms, or expressions throughout their statement, particularly if these stray from formality.
- The tone must be strictly formal. Delegates must refrain from using colloquialisms and abide by the forenamed phrases.
- All Position Papers submitted must abide by the standard formatting:
  - Font: Arial or Times New Roman.
  - Size: 10-13.
  - Margins must be 2.54 cm for the whole paper.
- Delegates must list their solutions at the end of the paper. These solutions should preferably be short, medium, and long-term, as well as strictly feasible per the framework of the United Nations.
- Position Papers are an overview of a Member State's posture on the issue at hand; as such, delegates must err on the side of data and the policy of their Member State and stray from voicing personal biases or prejudices.
- Delegates should briefly introduce the issue at hand at the beginning of the paper rather than dwelling on thoroughly explaining it to a fully informed committee.
- All Position Papers submitted must heed the formatting exemplified below.

## Formatting & Recommendations

AQMUN 2023 urges all delegates to adhere to the following configuration for submitted Position Papers:

- Heading, which must comprise:
  - Delegate's name.
  - Home institution name. Independent participants may omit this part.
  - Name of Member State or Delegation.
  - Name of Committee.
  - Topic.
- Brief introductory paragraph:
  - Delegates are required to introduce the subject on their committee's agenda, heeding brevity and straightforwardness.
  - Likewise, the opening statement should clearly outline the Member State's posture and commitment toward the addressed issue.
  - Finally, each delegate must be capable of accurately yet concisely correlating their Member State's policy, administration, or current political situation with the addressed issue.
- Position statement:
  - In this section, delegates must thoroughly address the geopolitical context of the topic. It is of the utmost importance to incorporate endorsed data, relevant statistics, and information to evidence the subject matter.
  - Delegates must provide an insight into past efforts, steps, or measures their Member State has previously taken to tackle the issue.
  - By the end of this section, the position of the delegate's Member State toward the subject matter should be evident; current efforts, policies, and approaches toward the betterment of the situation are exhaustive and unmistakable.
- Proposed solutions:
  - As the name suggests, delegates must put forth a proposed plan of action regarding the subject matter.
  - This plan of action must be strictly viable within the framework of the United Nations. While creativity and originality are encouraged, delegates must heed the feasibility and viability of their proposed course of action.
  - Delegates should assess the possible outcomes/repercussions their proposed course of action might harbor. Likewise, it is advisable to heed potential short, medium, and long-term alternatives to work on throughout the session.
- Closing statement:
  - Delegates should be able to recapitulate the most significant points exposed throughout their paper.
  - In addition to this, the closing statement must emphasize the importance of the delegate's Member State within the proposed solutions; the involvement of the delegate's Member State within the possible courses of action must be thoroughly detailed at the end of the paper, preferably reinforced with factual statistics and numbers.
  - The closing statement should be strong, capable of engaging the committee, and evidencing the delegate's exhaustive knowledge on the topic.
- Academic References.

Remember: Your Position Paper is a substantial part of your performance at AQMUN 2023. You are encouraged to do your best and exceed expectations.

#### Example

On the next page, you shall find an appropriately formatted position paper illustrating the previously established guidelines.

Delegate: Andrea Leal García  
School: International School of Querétaro  
Country: Mexico  
Committee: Organization of American States (Permanent Council)  
Topic: Political Conflicts in the Americas Due to Migration



Good afternoon, fellow delegates, and honorable chairs.

“The problem in Central America is not that people are not struggling to build these kinds of sustainable alternatives. The problem is that when they try to do so, so often they’re violently attacked” —Elizabeth Oglesby, University of Arizona professor.

Migration represents an unprecedented issue in Latin America due its massive numbers and usual lack of resource availability concerning the migrants. Currently, migration in Venezuela involves one of the biggest and most rapid flows of immigrants due to the unparalleled humanitarian crisis the Venezuelan government is facing; approximately, more than 4 million people have fled the country since Nicolás Maduro came to power. In the United States of America, migration from Central American countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, referred to collectively as “The Northern Triangle”, has recently spiked to a total of 3 million people, as of 2017, due to a series of economic, political, and social issues.

The massive flow of immigrants seeking to reside in the United States represents a growing issue for both the destination and transition nations, in which Mexico becomes inherently involved. Central American migration transiting Mexico has become a notorious humanitarian situation in regards to the more than 102,000 underage immigrants travelling unaccompanied and without supervision between 2013 and 2015. This movement owes its roots largely to the mobilization as a response to the political-military conflicts in the 1980s, related to an unprecedented economic crisis, which accentuated the situations of poverty, inequality, and violence. In this sense, the number of immigrants is directly related to the social conditions in the country of origin, as is a prevailing issue in the Northern Triangle: violence. The extreme violence is reflected in data from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which ranks Honduras as first, El Salvador as fifth, and Guatemala as sixth for countries with the highest rates of homicide.

In 2016, The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees interviewed Central American women seeking asylum in the United States and found that 85% came from neighbourhoods controlled by criminal armed groups. Women also experienced or were at risk of rape, assault, extortion, and other threats, which 64% of the women cited as their main reason for migrating to the United States. (United Nations University, 2016).

A prevailing issue continues to arise from the overpopulation born of pop-up ghettos, which lack the proper ailment, do not provide the resources necessary for the recovery of refugees, and represent a violation to the basic human rights due to their degrading conditions. Estimates of the number of undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. range from 10.5 million to 12 million, or approximately 3.2%–3.6% of the population, of which 1.9 million hails from Central America, which also poses an ethical question; why pass through several different

countries and not stop at one with a sustainable economy, a similar culture and language, and less prone to racially-aggravated conflicts?

Mexico is a nation characterized by openly receiving migrants, as well as representing a transition point to the United States of America. As such, our delegation looks forward to enhancing current migration policies to ensure the safety and proper treatment of all migrants whilst respecting human rights from both parties; the host governments and the people requesting asylum.

Immediate support and processing for migrants must be conducted. Mexico, in collaboration with the United States of America, have reinforced the 116th Congress, which has continued to fund and oversee U.S. migration-related assistance to Mexico provided through the Mérida Initiative and the MRA account. The House passed FY2020 minibuss, would provide \$126.8 million for the Mérida Initiative overall (not just migration) and an unspecified amount of MRA funding to support COMAR (Mexican Refugee Assistance Commission, 2019).

Thereafter, the maintenance pertaining to providing basic human needs, a sustainable source of income, and the right to migrants shall be carried out. On average, 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States amount to an estimated of \$11.64 billion in state and local taxes. Regarding the costs for maintenance, The State Department provided \$7 million in FY2018 and \$32 million in FY2019 through the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account to UNHCR to improve access to asylum in Mexico, provide legal assistance and alternatives to detention for asylum seekers, and increase COMAR's asylum processing capacity. (Congressional Research Service, 2019)

Integration shall be the final step, in which a stable, racially aggravated environment must be constructed as we, as members of the Organization of American States, provide both physical and mental health resources for all subjects, as well as equal opportunities and an overall sustainable lifestyle for the citizens of our fellow nations.

**Works Cited:**

González J. (2016). *Migración centroamericana en tránsito por México*, from *Situación Demográfica en México* Retrieved From: [https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/232085/10\\_Fagoaga\\_Zapata\\_Anguiano.pdf](https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/232085/10_Fagoaga_Zapata_Anguiano.pdf)

Congressional Research Service. (2019). *Mexico's Immigration Control Efforts*, from *IN FOCUS* Retrieved From: <https://fas.org/sqp/crs/row/IF10215.pdf>