**1. Position Paper (or Policy Statement)**

The[Position Paper](https://bestdelegate.com/a-formula-for-the-perfect-position-paper-solution-oriented-research/) is a one or two page document that is essentially **a summary of your knowledge of the topic and the position your country plans to take** when it enters committee. It typically contains four sections: Background of Topic, Past International Actions, Country Policy, and Possible Solutions. Position Papers are usually due before the conference.

The key starting points for researching each section are listed below. They will help you get started with participating in your first Model UN conference, but you will want to dig deeper as you develop more experience.

* **Background of topic**: Background guide of the topic provided by the conference, Google, the news, Wikipedia (to frame the topic)
* **Past international actions**: UN website, your committee’s website, key treaties or resolutions mentioned in your background guide, UN or NGO reports
* **Country policy**: CIA World Factbook, your country’s foreign ministry website, domestic programs within your country, and your country’s voting record on key treaties or resolutions
* **Possible Solutions:** NGO or think tank policy recommendations, past UN resolutions that you’d like to change or expand on, and your own creativity!

**2. Opening Speech**

The [Opening Speech](https://bestdelegate.com/wimun-guide-to-acing-a-debate/) typically lasts about 1 minute or 1 minute and 30 seconds and is the first speech you give to the committee. It is the **best opportunity for you to explain your country policy** and the key sub-issues you would like the committee to focus on. Opening Speeches are the main way for countries to determine who they want to work with, so it’s important to prepare a speech that conveys this. There are many tips and strategies on how to deliver an Opening Speech, but use your Position Paper as a guide when you are starting out. The most important action is to just be brave and make your first speech.