



LEMUN

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Policy statements

The Policy Statements will be published online this year to ensure the highest quality of preparation for debate during LEMUN. This document contains information about how to write a policy statement.

What is a policy statement?

A policy statement is a summary of the position of your (assigned) country or organisation, regarding an issue. In addition to that, it contains the most important points of your research. You will have to write a policy statement on every issue of your commission/council etc.

Why is it important?

Policy statements can be used as the basis of a speech during a debate. Some people find it difficult to talk in front of their commission, but with a well prepared policy statement, it will be easier to take the floor. And you can use it to check your information during debate. For example if you forgot what a NWFZ is, you can use your policy statement to read Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone.

Your chair may ask delegates to read their policy statements aloud. If you already have one prepared, you will always be in a better position than someone who is unprepared.. Most important a good policy statement can be used as the start of a resolution.

How do you write a policy statement?

If you have done your research well, writing policy statements should not be a difficult job. They should be backed-up by some fact and figures, but be careful: too many will make it a statistical summary. At the conference itself you will have the possibility to support the policy of your country with more facts and figures.

A policy statement should not be too long: half a A4 format is more than enough (approximately 250 words). The more concise, the better your policy statement. At the end of this document, you will find two sample policy statements.

What should be included?

Introduction

Write about your country in context to the issue, incorporating some historical references, but keep it short! Show how and why your country is affected, and last but not least, give an explanation of the issue and define some key-terms (What is a Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone?).

Policy

Include your country's position regarding the issue and the justification of it. Discuss the measures already taken by the government and Non-Governmental Organisations.

Possible solutions

This is the most important part of your policy statement. You should state the solutions which your country deems necessary. Of course, you should also add a justification.



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Tips and advice

- Keep it formal:** MUNs are formal events, so your policy statement should be formal as well.
- Keep it simple:** The more complicated you make it, the less understandable it will be. Use uncomplicated language and avoid woolly sentence structures.
- Make it well argued:** Do not only list what has to be done, but why it has to be done, justification. Otherwise you will never be able to persuade other delegates.
- Be structured:** Each issue should have its own paragraph. Does your statement make sense? Reading the policy statement aloud could help.
- Suggest solutions:** Do not only point out the problems, try to solve them. Your policy will appear more reliable when it proposes solutions.
- Keep it brief:** To make it readable, your policy statement should be concise. If you make it too long, the reader's or listener's attention will fade away, and your point will not be fully understood.

What you shouldn't do

Founding unnecessary Non-Governmental Organisations is most of the time not a good solution. This increases bureaucracy and costs a lot of money. Also it will take years before the organisation has been set-up and is ready to function. This is way to get rid of a problem by giving it to others, so ask yourself if it is really necessary.

Another "solution" is a leaflet campaign. Although many people, especially in Africa, Asia and South-America are illiterate, this is often used by delegates. Avoid using it, as it will pollute the environment and could cause lasting damage to nature.

Policy statements at LEMUN 2009

Each delegate must write a policy statement of approximately 250 words about each of the assigned issues. These policy statements can be submitted online on our website, www.lemun.org.

The Student Officers will check the policy statements. They will screen them and if they discover false contents, they will write a short remark which will be e-mailed. The Student Officers will also check it on spelling and grammar mistakes and try to change them. If they discover too many errors, they will write a remark as well and try to make corrections whenever possible. If everything is fine, your policy statement will be published on the LEMUN website. Please note that the delegate remains responsible for the contents and language.

How to submit policy statements?

1. Go to www.lemun.org.
2. Go to 'checkin' (right top of the screen).
3. Click on 'I'm a participant'.
4. Select your school and name and fill in your password (sent to you after your MUN director has registered you).
5. The participant menu (left bottom of the screen) contains the link to the policy statement submitting system.



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Plagiarism

If you quote, you should give the source, if you don't, it is plagiarism. LEMUN is not responsible for any actions, undertaken by companies or individuals which are fighting plagiarism. If plagiarism is discovered by the LEMUN staff, you may be removed from the conference. Such offense could have consequences for any future participation of your school in LEMUN.

More information

For more information, please check our website, www.lemun.org, where you can find our instruction booklet (under 'LEMUN 2009', 'downloads'), or the THIMUN basic guidelines for new delegates (www.thimun.org).



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Sample policy statements

Sample policy statement 1

DELEGATION: Japan
FORUM: GA 1: Disarmament and International Security
QUESTION OF: Space Arms Proliferation

Japan continues to be a leader in the development of peaceful space technology. Since 1970, when the first successful launch of a satellite from Japan was achieved, applications in communication, broadcasting, meteorology, and earth observation followed in rapid progression. Japan has worked to co-operate with the United States, Western Europe and Canada in the construction of an earth-orbiting space station.

The government of Japan believes that space technology development is critical for the nation's future, so it is encouraging active participation in this industry by Japanese firms. Because of its international approach to peace and security Japan strongly supports the Outer Space Treaty. Preventing the deployment, placing, or testing of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction in space must be accepted as a fundamental principle of this new frontier.

The Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty (SALT 1) also set a precedent in establishing protection from attack from a country's orbiting satellites. This convention should be extended as a matter of international law.

The government of Japan commends the Advisory Committee and the Preparatory Committee in preparing the draft report of UNISPACE III, the Executive Summary, and the Vienna Declaration eight months in advance. However, Japan is concerned at the cleavages that have been accentuated between Western space powers and the non-space states. Japan emphasises the continued practical benefits to life on earth of the diverse spin-offs of space technology.



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Sample policy statement 2

DELEGATION: Brazil
FORUM: Disarmament Commission
QUESTION OF: Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

Brazil fervently supports measures to support the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs in its attempts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction (WMD), as it firmly believes such efforts are necessary to combat the global threat of terrorism.

Brazil endorses the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit, adopted 13 September 2005, which condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and strives to set up an international system that strictly monitors the transfer of materials that may be used to produce WMD.

Brazil, one of the driving forces behind the 1967 Treaty of Tlatelolco, which turned Latin America into the world's first nuclear-free zone, applauds the recent efforts made by the Members of the UN to free the world of any type of WMD. We feel especially responsible as our nation commands huge uranium resources. We view with satisfaction the recent efforts of Member States to prevent the use of WMD by terrorists. However, Brazil expresses its deepest regret that, in spite of recent efforts to combat the acquisition of WMD by terrorist groups, some countries have refused to abide by the will of the international community. It is our deepest interest to ensure a world untroubled by the transfer of WMD and materials that can be used in the production of any such weapons.

Source: Basic guidelines for new delegates, The THIMUN foundation.