

# Policy Statements (Position Papers)

**STEPS:** Transfer your bullet-point notes from MUN Part 2 Issue Research and Part 3 Country-Issue Connection into prose (fluent sentences with transitions) using this template:

## TEMPLATE (see more helpful info below this template)

<i><b>MUN Part 2 Issue Research</b></i>	<i><b>Prose</b></i>
Part 2a: Explain and define the issue and its most important terms;	
Part 2b: Provide a short summary of recent international action related to the issue;	
Part 2b: Refer to key documents that relate to the issue.	
<i><b>MUN Part 3 Country-Issue Connection</b></i>	<i><b>Prose</b></i>
Part 3 (1-5): State the country's general position on the issue	
Part 3 (6-7): Summarize solutions/actions your country would support, and why	

A **policy statement** sets out to answer three basic questions:

1. What is the background to your country (or organization's) point of view on the issue?
2. What is your country's current position on the issue?
3. What does it hope to achieve in relation to the issue?

The policy statement can serve as a draft document in the process of preparing both a resolution and opening speech.

**The focus:** Remember, that your policy statement should not focus primarily on your country's internal issues, but rather on the relevance of the issue to the international community, and about what your country would like to accomplish regarding the issue. If your country is a clear example of a successful UN program in action, or if your country is a member of an affected group, you may want to include a reference to that in your paper; otherwise, it is not necessary to mention specifics about your country in a position paper.

**\*\*TIP:** Although you should be as realistic and as professional as possible, you should allow yourselves some imaginative thinking on issues, while remaining within the realm of your country's position.

***Breakthroughs in diplomacy do not occur by strict adherence to the status quo, but delegates should not jeopardize or sacrifice their country's legitimate interests while seeking a breakthrough.***

## Sample Policy Statements from Conference Prep Docs

### **Brazil: Policy Statement on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMDs (THIMUN Singapore example)**

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.

### **Japan: Policy Statement on North Korean Disarmament (THIMUN Singapore example)**

The Delegation of Japan feels that The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has not complied with the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty and has continued their production of illicit Nuclear Power. By North Korea generating Nuclear Power without any observation by the IAEA, OPCW or the United Nations, North Korea poses themselves as a threat to the international community as they would abuse all rules on obtaining such power therefore causing a violation of the UN Charter on Peace and Security of Member States. Japan wishes that a solution would be raised allowing satisfaction to both North Korea and the member states allowing a stable cooperation in North Korea's Nuclear Advancement. Japan further wishes that if North Korea does not comply with the terms of the house, sanctions and such measures should be imposed, as Japan and South Korea are most at threat from North Korea's Nuclear Power. The Delegation of Japan hopes for constructive debate and fruitful ideas to be given in debate on the matter.

### **Sources for this document include:**

- THIMUN Singapore's [Guidelines for New Delegates](#)

\*\*For more tips on Policy Statement research and writing see: [http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/modelun/prep\\_tips\\_3.html](http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/modelun/prep_tips_3.html)