



INVENTURE ACADEMY PRESENTS: MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2018

POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

A position paper is essentially an essay that details your country's stance and policies on the Agenda. It should be limited to one page - not including your bibliography. It should be written in Time New Roman, font size 12.

Your position paper can be split into three parts that will answer these questions: What is the problem? How does the topic affect your country? and What does your country think should be done to solve this problem?

In the first part of the paper - What is the problem? - You are meant to summarize the problem of the agenda. If it is a vague topic, you can decide to focus on particular aspect and that should be made clear in the first part. Make sure you include statistics and facts. Keep this part short.

In the second part of the paper - How does it affect your country - You are supposed to write about how your country is being affected by this agenda or how this agenda is relevant to your country. What role does your country play in this scenario? You can talk about laws, treaties, organisations, statistics, etc, pertaining to the topic. Make sure you have established your stance.

The last part - What does your country think should be done to solve this problem? - Usually talks about solutions. You can write about pre-existing solutions in your country or in other countries, that your country could implement. You may also include some original solutions if you'd like to give us a preview of the points you would bring up in committee.

Remember that this is just a guideline and you need not stick to three paragraphs but we do not recommend you write more than one page. If you have any other questions regarding the position paper, do not hesitate to contact your executive board members. I hope you find this sample position paper useful.



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SAMPLE POSITION PAPER

Name:

Country: The United Kingdom

Committee: UNESCO

Agenda: Climate Change Affecting Scientific, Educational and Cultural Heritage

Climate change is no longer a threat of the distant future. It is happening right now. The change in climate causes adverse effects such as the rising of global temperatures, the acidity of the seas and oceans rising, the rising of sea levels and the shrinking of the number of available water bodies on the surface of the planet. These in turn severely devastate World Heritage Sites, both natural and cultural. Rising temperatures have caused the permafrost in the Yukon to melt, slumping the soil; rising acidity of the Pacific Ocean has greatly bleached the Great Barrier Reef; the historic cities of Thatta and Badin in Sindh are being submerged by the rising sea level.

The United Kingdom, in North Western Europe, is in a unique position of possessing both natural and cultural heritage sites. UK places a high premium on the preservation of its heritage. It has seen firsthand the effects of sudden and immediate climatic upheavals. February 2016 saw the flooding of London city with the Thames Barrier having to be closed. This was following astronomical spring tides after Storm Imogen lashed the country. Heritage buildings such as the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, and Westminster Abbey are all at great risk. With such cataclysmic events becoming more common than sporadic, UK strongly believes the time is ripe for the UNESCO approach to change from “**Reactive Monitoring**” to “**Proactive Monitoring**”.

Reactive Monitoring seeks to take active measures for the preservation of a Heritage Site once it enters the Danger List. Proactive Monitoring seeks to identify vulnerable (to climatic conditions) sites before they are endangered and put precautionary systems in place. Early Warning systems, Rapid Response strategies, Public Awareness programmes need to be worked out and put into place. While these steps are being executed currently, we need to move it up to a war footing. Risk Assessment needs to be undertaken urgently to prioritize the most vulnerable sites. Finances can be allocated from the World Heritage Fund wherever required.

Since the State Of Conservation Information System is now online, UNESCO should promote the use of communication technology wherever possible. Expertise from around the world can be shared through the Internet, Video Conferencing, and Voice over Internet Protocol obviating the need for physical travel and reducing UNESCO’s carbon footprint.

The United Kingdom believes that practical realities have to be faced. Mitigation and conservation efforts cannot always overcome the forces of nature. UNESCO needs to identify sites where mitigation will have no further effect and divert focus onto sites where conservation efforts can bear fruit. UNESCO must take cognizance of the fact that climate change is a

pressing predicament. The United Kingdom feels that the entire approach has to be changed in order to effectively deal with it.

Bibliography:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/feb/12/london-flood-alerts-astronomical-tide-levels-thames>
- Khan, Sami (2012-01-25). "[Effects of Climate Change on Thatta and Badin](#)"
- UNESCO report "Climate Change and World Heritage"
- http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/new_report_shows_world_heritage_icons_at_risk_from_climate_change/#.V5t0_9J95dg