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RESEARCH GUIDE





Introduction

In order to make the most of any conference experience, it is best if a delegate is fully aware of what they are talking about during committee sessions. There are 2 key areas to focus on:

1. The topics on the committee's agenda
2. The country represented (and by extension, the views of the country on the topic)

It can also prove useful if the delegate acquires some deeper knowledge about the history and the ways of working of the committee they will be taking part in.

This guide is designed to assist delegates with carrying out their preparation for the LIMUN Conference. It covers strategies on how to research one's assigned country, the topics on the agenda, and also ways to help formulate one's policy. Finally, it covers Position Papers and proposes ways to write an outstanding Position Paper.

Before we go into the substance of this guide, a note to the reader: this guide is intended to serve as a recommendation – we know that every person has their own preferred research style! The most important takeaway message from this guide should be “don't forget to do your research!”



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Researching Topics on the Agenda

Some delegates will begin by researching their country, others will start with the topics on the agenda, and others still will be going back and forth. Although each approach has its own merits, it is generally more advisable that you begin your research with an investigation of the topics. This is the case for one simple reason.

A delegate's knowledge of his or her country doesn't need to be extremely extensive, but just sufficient to grasp his or her country's position on the topics. But how could one understand their country's position on the topic if they yet do not grasp the topic itself?

An understanding of the topics to be discussed enables you to establish a scope to their investigation of their country, hence delegates are advised to explore the topics before they delve into their own country. It is seen time and time again, that Delegates who have done a bit of extra work to get more details about the topic tend to have a better committee experience. We thus begin by considering how to research topics.

Areas to Focus On

Any topic that makes it onto the agenda for a committee at LIMUN will probably have a number of aspects for consideration and may seem a bit daunting to start with.

To get started, we suggest that you spend a few minutes to highlight keywords of the agenda item and ensure all terms are fully understood.

From there on, here are some other key areas you should focus on during topic research:

- The History of the Problem (every agenda item is a formulation of a problem to be resolved)
 - Its roots and primary stakeholders
 - Why has it persisted? (If new, focus only on the roots)
- Past attempts at addressing the issue, their strengths and their weaknesses (especially weaknesses – which in many cases will be strongly related to why the problem persists)
 - Include both domestic and international efforts, primarily focusing on international efforts, especially any UN-led efforts



- Potential solutions (in general terms):
 - Recommendations and plans from policy-advisors; recommendations from academia and think tanks; plans of international organisations etc. Ultimately it is the potential solutions that matter most, hence this point is worthy of careful thought
 - It is a good idea to keep a solution bank - some of the solutions proposed may not fit with national interests, but this will become apparent during your country research

Below, you can find sample research approaches for 2 example topics:

Example 1: An issue relating to a dispute between 2 countries

“Violent Separatism in Georgia”

- Find out about the recent history of Georgia
 - Used to be a member of the Soviet Union
 - After its collapse a peaceful revolution came about
 - In the early 1990s there was a war and 2 regions, South Ossetia and Abkhazia declared independence
- It is very helpful to make a list of notes about the history of a conflict, including reasons why the dispute has come to be. The more the delegate knows about the history of the topic at hand the better equipped s/he will be to debate effectively
- In this case, a delegate would have to find out about the numbers of displaced persons from the dispute area, the details of particular treaties, the number of peacekeepers in the regions and when the last serious clash between the regions took place after the war
- Download a map and take notes on it - this may help to make the geographies of the topic clearer
- Follow the day-to-day headlines for recent developments
- Read the latest UN resolutions about this particular issue
- In addition to unbiased, authoritative sources offering a neutral perspective, consider reading potentially “biased” sources from nationalist websites and media articles from both sides. There is nothing better than understanding how the locals think
 - *Actions and reactions are often based not on the true reality but also an apparent reality*
- In what way are world superpowers involved in the dispute?



- Which countries might be sympathetic to each side, and who are potential allies?
- Are the parties involved in the conflict in favour of a peaceful settlement or in favour of a violent conflict? What are their reasons? And how popular are the involved governments' policies?

Example 2: An issue of environmental concern

“Prohibition of dumping of radioactive and toxic waste”

- Find out what materials can be classed as radioactive and toxic waste, and what are the harmful effects
- Find out who is responsible, what they are dumping, where they are dumping it, and why they are dumping it
- Any key events?
 - The dumping of over 3,500 tonnes of toxic waste at Koko, a town in Delta State, Nigeria by Italy in 1988
- Find out which International bodies exist that deal with hazardous waste, as well as any relevant international treaties/conventions
- Search for previous actions have been taken by these bodies to do with this problem and how successful these have been
 - After toxic waste was dumped in Koko, the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP, set up a centre for the handling of waste, especially hazardous waste, at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria

Research Resources

The world of the internet offers a multitude of potential resources for tackling the research questions we suggested above. Below we describe some that we think are most useful.

Study Guide

Any delegate's first port of call during the research process should be the committee study guide, which is compiled by committee chairs after the agenda for the committee is decided. All delegates will have access to the study guide, as it will be emailed to them by the chairs and will also appear on the committee page on the LIMUN website.

The study guide will give an overview of the topic, some historical background, a brief overview of positions different blocs may have, and will give some brief



ideas on potential solutions. It aims to serve as a starting point for delegates' research; it is up to the delegate to seek more in-depth information about the topic.

For instance, if a guide mentions a failed UN resolution as a past attempt at solving the problem, and briefly outlines its content, you should go and have a read of that resolution; similarly, when a guide mentions that one aspect of the problem is a result of some other state of affairs, and proceeds to provide a basic account of the relationship between the cause and the effect, it is up to you to perform further research on that cause.

The resources listed below will all help you gain a deeper understanding about a topic than what can be gained through the study guide alone.

Encyclopedias

Wikipedia, although potentially unreliable due to being open source, is a great source to get a grasp on aspects of the topic, even if superficial. This applies especially to the historical causes and context of a problem. In essence, Wikipedia can play the role of a second Study Guide; even though it may too often not provide adequate in-depth understanding, it can reinforce the understanding gained from the Study Guide, build upon it, and suggest the course of further research. And the references, although too often dysfunctional, can be of great help too when they include legitimate sources like news companies, think tanks, and international organisations. This is not to say, however, that Wikipedia's factual information is entirely reliable, so do exercise caution and prudence in assessing the reliability of Wikipedia's content and its sources. Wikipedia should only be a source to obtain an overview of the topic!

UN Website

Quite unsurprisingly, a very helpful source for Model United Nations research is the [United Nations website](#), which contains information on, amongst other subjects, peace and security, development, and human rights, which covers most topics to be discussed at a MUN conference.

It also provides links to other useful bodies in the UN System, and archives of every session of every UN system entity since the UN's beginnings. The UN Website also covers the information necessary for a thorough grasp of a problem, with reports written by people tasked with tackling these issues in real life!



The [UN's News Centre](#) reports daily on the UN's activity all over the world, while [UN Documents](#), the UN's document depository contains every single document UN System bodies have produced since the UN started operating, including resolutions and expert reports.

Committee Website

When LIMUN staff compile the agendas for LIMUN committees, they do not simply invent topics; rather, the topics are researched before being selected. In many if not most cases, these topics stem directly from the agenda, past or present, of the specific UN body being simulated. As such, for instance, a delegate in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) might do well to visit unenvironment.org and see what they have to say about the topic they are researching.

Additionally, often the body performs work akin to that of a think tank, providing research on, and interpretations of, the problem at hand. If delegates cannot find sufficient information for their research from the website of the body they will be simulating, they should try the websites of similar bodies – for instance, the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) website might have information on the World Health Organisation (WHO) topics; similarly, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will surely have extensive information on the status of women, which can be useful for UN Women delegates.

News Agencies

Most topics in Model United Nations bear direct relations with current affairs, and so news agencies – which, by nature, address current affairs – figure amongst the most useful sources. They can help delegates in, primarily, 2 intertwined ways:

1. They provide more in-depth analyses of specific aspects of the problem
2. They enable delegates to increase their powers of persuasion by appeal to examples and statistical information

The best MUN delegates will not restrict their speeches to general concepts, like 'corruption' or 'state-failure' –, but also back-up their claims with concrete examples: e.g., in the case of corruption, the countries where corruption is worst, estimates on how it affects GDP, theories of its effect on social cohesion and so forth.



Pertinent news articles will generally provide such examples. Among the most prominent agencies include the BBC, the Guardian, Reuters, the Economist, and the Financial Times.

Other

Other potentially useful sources include think tanks and non-governmental organisations, which conduct high level research and may work with the UN itself. Examples include:

- [Human Rights Watch \(HRW\)](#) - An independent global watchdog for Human Rights, the HRW monitors and reports on violations and threats to human rights occurring around the world
- [Transparency International](#) - the organisation was founded in 1993 and since then, it investigates and reports on potential cases of state corruption with the aid of a network of whistleblowers
- [Global Policy Forum](#) - branding itself as a 'global policy watchdog', the Global Policy Forum will help delegates keep track of the UN's actions, as well as giving information about the main parties involved in world issues and their policies



Researching your Country

Once you have gained a deep understanding of the topic from a generic perspective, the next step is to frame the topic from the viewpoint of your allocated country. This requires some key information about the country you represent. The sort of information a delegate needs will vary, as what needs to be known differs depending on the topic at hand.

Areas to Focus On

Before going into researching the implications of any given topic for your country, you must first gain an understanding of some general aspects about your country - we list these below:

- Geography:
 - Any bordering countries and relations with those, any unresolved border disputes
 - Topographical and climatic characteristics that may aid or hamper development - e.g. is there a major mountain range that cannot be developed, is there an area with exceptionally low rainfall that isn't suitable for human habitation
 - Geopolitical considerations e.g. control of shipping routes, natural resources, is the country landlocked
- Demography
 - Population size and distribution over the country's territory
 - Ethnic and religious groups making up the population
 - *Are there any ethnic and/or religious tensions that might affect foreign relations?*
- Political Structure:
 - Format of the regime - e.g. parliamentary democracy, presidential democracy, monarchy, dictatorship etc.
 - Key leaders and political parties and their public influence
 - Political affiliations of the government and key policies
 - Previous political systems, any history of coups
 - Is there freedom of speech and freedom of press?
 - What is the relationship between the government and military leadership?
 - What is the relationship between the government and religious leaders? Is the country secular?



- Economy
 - GDP per capita, World Bank classification
 - Levels of dependency and debt
 - Trading partners and key imports and exports
 - Main sectors of the economy
 - Levels of foreign investment and aid
 - Membership of trade blocs and agreements
- Defence
 - Size and structure of the military
 - Existence of a nuclear programme
 - Dependency on other nations
 - Ongoing military conflicts/tensions or border disputes with other nations
 - Overseas military operations
 - Defence partnerships and memberships of military alliances (e.g. NATO)
- International relations
 - Role and influence in the world
 - Memberships of blocs and other geopolitical groupings
 - Status of implementation of treaties key to the topic
 - Key allies and rivals

It is important to note, also, that the depth of knowledge a delegate will need about their country will differ on the country represented and the topic under discussion. A country that has a key role in the topic, like North Korea on an issue of nuclear disarmament, or Pakistan on an issue regarding drones, will have its position on the problem known to every delegate in the committee, and its own delegate will be a cornerstone to the flow of debate.

As such, delegates from key countries – which will usually include the Permanent Members of the Security Council, the P5 (USA, China, Russia, France, UK), regardless of which topic – will need to perform more in-depth research on their country's position than other delegates.

Research Resources

The resources below can prove incredibly useful when researching on a country on general terms:

- [CIA World Factbook](#): Offers facts on several aspects which characterise a nation, like people, government or geography



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- [Permanent Missions to the UN](#): Almost all UN member states have websites detailing the work of their permanent mission to the UN. These portals can provide you with an overview of your country's policy on issues discussed by the UN. They can be incredibly useful, as they will often host recordings or transcripts of speeches made by ambassadors - a priceless resource for determining what national policy is
- Foreign ministry websites: Sometimes, a member state's UN mission website will not be fully up to date. A potential workaround might be to have a look at the website of the foreign ministry of the member state (if it has an English version), as this is very likely to host important documents and statements pertaining to their national policies on a variety of topics
- [BBC country profiles](#): The BBC offers fact files on every single country in the world containing facts and figures, as well as recent events of note which happened in the country

Going beyond the more generic resources, information on specific aspects of a country can be gained from the following websites:

- [World Bank](#), which provides data on economies and serves as the prime authority on the level of economic development
- [World Bank Governance Indicators](#), which provide data on the level of 'political development'
- Human Development Index, which provides data on important aspects of social well-being
- [Freedom House](#), which provides data on the level of personal freedom enjoyed in a country
- Democracy Indices, of which there are many, which provide data on the level of democratic governance



Formulating a Policy

After completing their research on both their country and the issues in their committee, delegates have to try to decide on the stance they will adopt during debate on the issues on the agenda. Even where policy statements on the specific issues are available from the country concerned, simply becoming familiar with them is not sufficient for active participation in the conference. Solely focusing on public statements may even cause delegates to be misled. The key to a good/strong delegate is the ability to accurately interpret national interests, recognizing when public statements do not necessarily reflect a country's national position, and successfully formulating a coherent policy on an accurate interpretation of national interests regarding the topic at hand.

Delegates should be able to take the initiative (with the knowledge they have acquired through research) to form a policy and it should be flexible enough to adapt to new situations which may arise before or during the conference. A “wait and-see” policy is not advisable since organisation and preparation from beforehand is essential in order to get the most out of the MUN experience. Delegates should be able to walk into a committee meeting with some clear ideas about potential solutions, but should also be prepared to amend their proposals should it be needed. Therefore, an element of creativity is also necessary, although it is not normally available to professional diplomats. Delegates should use their imagination to achieve a breakthrough and take initiatives, but also be careful not to jeopardise or sacrifice the country's legitimate interests in attempts to show originality.

The delegate's national policy should be the framework based on which they operate during the conference. It is suggested that the delegate makes a list of the most important policies of the country. This may also include possible allies on given issues. This should be done to make communication between the delegates at the conference easier as one would know the outline of the other's aims. Such a list could also help you to determine which your diplomatic red lines are, and which issues you could potentially compromise on to achieve a diplomatic outcome during any negotiations.

It is however the case that some countries do not have a well-defined policy on specific issues. In such cases delegates must make assumptions based on the politics and history (e.g. if the country was a colony) of the country.



Position Papers

What is a Position Paper?

A position paper, otherwise known as a policy statement, is a document outlining your country's stance on a particular topic. The purpose of a position paper is to demonstrate that delegates have sufficiently researched the topic, their country's position on that topic, and given thought towards potential solutions that their country would like to see discussed during the committee session. LIMUN, like many conferences, expects delegates to complete and submit a position paper on *all* topics on the Committee's Agenda to be considered for an award.

Chairs will not "mark or grade" a position paper, but may provide feedback on the submitted papers for delegates' use in the future. Beyond eligibility for awards, completing a position paper to a high standard is important for 3 main reasons:

1. It demonstrates that you have researched the topic thoroughly
2. If shared with your committee, it streamlines debate by guiding other delegates on what your position(s) on the topic(s) are
3. If shared with your committee, it helps increase debate quality by suggesting solutions that your fellow delegates can deliberate, which shortens the time needed to uncover what approaches and solutions are favored by the committee

A good delegate almost always looks through their fellow delegates' position papers if the Dais shares the papers with the committee prior to the conference.

There are several key components to a good position paper. Ideally, a position paper should be about 1 side of A4 in length for every topic, and should cover the following 3 points: "overview of your country's engagement with the topic, current objectives and policies guiding your country's approach to the topic, and potential solutions your country proposes to be considered." The next section will cover how you can write a strong position paper that 'ticks all the boxes'.



How to Write a Position Paper

As alluded to earlier, writing a strong position paper is an important way of preparing for the conference. This section will cover how to write a position paper by looking at how you should research for a position paper, what to include in each section, and general formatting and stylistic choices. Delegates are reminded that any position paper must include a list of citations - chairs are flexible as to what form this takes (simple URL/link or Harvard/Chicago/APA/MLA citation) but delegates must include a short citations list.

Researching for your Position Paper

Position paper research essentially combines country and topic research, and policy formulation, into a single package. A good position paper will be well-researched from the perspective of understanding the background of the topic, your country's general and topic-specific position(s), and what potential topics are or not in your country's interest(s).

As the previous section on "[Researching topics on the agenda](#)" covered, delegates are generally advised to start with researching the topics. When placing your topic research into the context of the writing position papers, you should focus on understanding the fundamentals of the topics.

As delegates research the topics' fundamentals, uncover previous solutions' shortcomings, and formulate their policies towards the topic (please see "[Formulating a policy](#)" for a refresher), they should begin to get a sense of what potential solutions they could propose from the perspective of their respective countries. Here, the point made in the previous section "[Formulating a policy](#)" is crucial: you will often find that a potential solution appears to contradict or generally not align with your country's publicly stated positions. However, the key to writing a strong position paper and becoming a strong delegate is to be able to parse through the rhetoric of public and official statements and uncover what the country's national interests are.

Additionally, delegates should also evaluate their interpretation of their country's national interests on the topic against what their country's track record in that field. This would allow delegates to obtain a more comprehensive, holistic, and precise view of their country's national interests and subsequently, national policy on a given topic.

Through understanding national interests and using that to formulate their policies, a delegate who does their country research well will be able to devise



potential solutions for the position paper that conforms to their country's official policies be close enough to the "middle ground" to serve as a starting point for negotiations with other delegates during committee sessions, putting them in a position as a strong, well-researched, well-prepared and most importantly, *diplomatic* delegate.

The outline below should help conceptualize the research phase of the position paper, particularly in relation to topic background, current situation, and your country's current position(s) and policies.

"Discussing and regulating currency manipulation on a global scale"

- Research more about currency manipulation
 - What is the definition of currency manipulation? Is this definition universally accepted? What are the effects of being labeled as a currency manipulator?
 - How do countries manipulate their currencies? What, if any, are considered acceptable and what, if any, are considered unacceptable?
 - Why do countries manipulate their currency? What domestic or foreign policy objectives drive their currency manipulation?
 - What does the current policy discourse on currency manipulation look like?
- Research more about the topic and potential solutions
 - What, if anything, has been proposed to solve the topic?
 - How effective were these solutions?
 - If these solutions were not effective, why has it not been effective? What were the causes of past failures?
- Research more about your country's history on this topic
 - What has your country's historical position been on currency manipulation?
 - Given that currency manipulation relates to monetary policy, what does your country's monetary policy look like? What are its monetary policy objectives?
 - Does it "manipulate" its currency? If so, for what reason(s)? Are any of these reasons a result of domestic or foreign pressures? If so, what are these pressures and why do they exist?
- Research more about your country's policies and/or positions on this topic



- What are the national interests at stake for your country on this topic? How important are these interests? Are they tactical, strategic, grand strategic or supreme national interests?
- What has been said on how your country seeks to uphold these interests?
- What were the responses of your country when its national interests on a similar topic were threatened? Specifically, in that situation, how has your country sought to defend its interests?

Advice on Content

As mentioned previously, a good position paper will cover the background of the topic, the current situation, the delegate's country's official position and policies on the topic, and a selection of potential solutions proposed from the delegate's country's perspective. While stylistically this may vary based on factors ranging from personal preferences to how MUN was introduced to each individual, generally it is advisable to stylistically divide your position paper into 3 sections: country and topic background, country's policies relating to the topic and/or past solutions attempted, and finally, potential solutions proposed from the perspective of your country.

For the first section, country and topic background, delegates are advised to largely follow the advice given in the above sections. Generally, a strong position paper would summarize the delegate's evaluation of the topic, its core contestations, and link the topic to their country's research by generally discussing your country's relevant actions. Alternatively, delegates can consider beginning by discussing their country's background and aspects of it that relate to the topic. For instance, in the example topic provided above on currency manipulation, a potential approach to the first section would be to cover what the definition(s) of currency manipulation are, why nations engage in currency manipulation, and what your country's (e.g. Russia) history relating to currency manipulation has been.

As delegates gain an understanding of the country and topic background, delegates can begin identifying and completing the next section: country policy relating to the topic and/or past solutions attempted. As mentioned previously, in this section, delegates are encouraged to critically evaluate what their national policies are based on past track record(s) on the topic (or similar topics) rather than solely relying on public statements. Within this section, a strong position paper will also potentially identify what has previously been attempted, why it has not been successful, and what their country's general policies and assessments of past solutions have been. Your country's assess



assessment of past solutions may not necessarily match your personal view of why a solution has failed - it is important to remember that you must author your position paper from the perspective of your country. Going back to our example topic, in evaluating previous attempts to regulate currency manipulation (e.g. by transiting to free-floating exchange rates), you may personally find that the reason for this solution's failure is a result of the (newfound) ability of countries to devalue their currency relative to its trade partners' to gain comparative advantage. However, when thinking from your country's perspective, say Russia's, this may be different: as a commodity exporter, Russia's official evaluation of this previous solution's shortcoming may be that Russia's status as a commodity exporter, combined with foreign sanctions, exerts a downward pressure on the Russian rouble's value, hence compelling the Russian government to intervene in the currency market to stabilize the Russian rouble or face currency depreciation and reduced domestic purchasing power.

Once delegates understand why previous solutions have failed and establish their country's national policies on the topic, they can complete the third section: proposing potential solutions from their country's perspective. A strong position paper will almost always include some possible solutions as it presents the delegate as having researched the topic sufficiently to understand what solutions would be favored by their country, and/or even proposed by their country should discussion on the topic take place in the real world. Moreover, this creates the impression that the delegate has carefully thought of what they will present in committee and is diplomatic and constructive, as they are capable of actively supporting the committee's deliberations by pitching in solutions to be considered and negotiated.

Generally, it is advisable to suggest 3 solutions that approach the topic from an institutional, systemic, and localized perspective. Delegates do not need to include only 3 solutions, nor should these 3 solutions be all a delegate has in mind as solutions to be included in a draft resolution. Delegates should note that they are not required nor should they feel compelled to include all their solutions, particularly they consider some to be controversial or their unique selling point. To this end, it is generally advisable to include a statement at the end of your position paper regarding your country's overall objectives for the committee sessions as well as your willingness to discuss and negotiate an appropriate solution based on your policies and objectives. Combined with potentially withholding controversial solutions, this will assist in strengthening the quality of a delegate's position paper and present them as a constructive and diplomatic member of the committee.



Stylistically, there are some conventions followed by the vast majority of delegates and are preferred by chairs. Delegates are advised, above all, to conceptualize this position paper as a public document circulated by their country's foreign ministry or mission to the United Nations. As such, it is important to ensure that a position paper is consistently and without fail based on your country's perspective, whether regarding the topic, their own track record, and possible solutions. This reflects Model UN's mission to encourage its participants to appreciate, see, and think from someone else's perspective, no matter the policy, cultural/religious, or political differences relative to personal convictions. In terms of language usage, delegates should not feel compelled to use the same "language" as they would in committee sessions (e.g. this delegation) - in fact, delegates are invited to use slightly more personal language, such as "our" or "we," so long as it is used in reference to the delegate's country. For instance, delegates could state "Russia considers ____" and later on, "It is our position that..." This is consistent with the fact that delegates are encouraged to, and expected by some chairs, to view position papers as official statements made by their assigned country on a given topic.

In line with this conception, stylistically, delegates are encouraged to add elements such as their country's flag, official coat of arms or seal, as well as a statement such as "Permanent Mission of ____ to the United Nations," amongst other possibilities. These are by no means mandatory but are appreciated by chairs as it demonstrates effort and most delegates have found this approach helpful in constructing the mindset of representing a country's view(s), rather than their own. As always, delegates should exercise their judgment when including these stylistic elements and ensure that they do not detract from the content of the position paper.

To help you get started on your position paper, we have provided a blank position paper template on the LIMUN Website. You can download the Word document and add the stylistic elements we mention above as you see fit.

On the next page is the outline used in the previous section to conceptualize the position paper. Note how certain language (in "s) is used to reflect how governments may use to state their position/policy.



Example Position Paper

Committee: International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Country: Russian Federation

Delegate: Anonymous Delegate, University of London

Topic: "Discussing and regulating currency manipulation on a global scale"

- Research more about current manipulation
 - The US Treasury Department has set out a criterion for being defined as a currency manipulator by the US Government
 - Currency manipulation can be achieved through monetary policy by affecting the currency's exchange rate on the foreign exchange market. Many countries do this for the purpose of stabilizing domestic prices or devalue their currency to increase their exports' competitiveness on the international trade market
 - Currency manipulation rose to the forefront of international discussion after current US President Donald Trump accused China of being a currency manipulator and artificially keeping its currency weak to stimulate Chinese exports vis-a-vis American goods
 - However, currency manipulation of some degree has been practiced by almost all countries, to the extent that there has been an effective but implicit agreement that currency manipulation is permissible so long as it does not trigger the US Treasury Department's criteria
 - Countries who are primarily exporters of commodities (accounted and traded in US Dollars) have traditionally more significantly experienced the effects of US Federal Reserve's monetary policies on the US Dollar's exchange rate (vis-a-vis their home currencies, as that is how profit is later converted into and accounted for domestically)
 - General understanding of how currency markets and foreign exchange markets work
- Research more about your country's history on this topic
 - Russia has "redenominated" its currency following the 1998 Financial Crisis, an act of directly manipulating the value of the currency



- Russia switched from using US Dollars to a basket of Russian rouble and Chinese renminbi as the unit of account for Russian-Chinese bilateral trade
- In 2014, Russia implemented a mechanism to free-float its currency, rather than being anchored against a currency basket
- Russia suffered a financial crisis between 2014-2016, prompting the Russian central bank to “stabilize” the value of the rouble by selling its foreign currency reserves to shift its reserves away from the US Dollar by purchasing alternative currencies such as the Chinese renminbi
- Research more on your country’s policies on this topic
 - As a primary commodity exporter, significant shares of Russia’s exports are impacted by its exchange rate with the US dollar (which is the unit of account for most commodity trading). As a result, Russia faces significant pressures from falling oil prices and elected to insulate its economy by purchasing foreign currencies to stabilize the Russian rouble
 - Russia considers “hostile foreign influences” such as US sanctions, as the main reason why the Russian rouble’s value has fallen (owing to growing domestic demand for USD instead of rouble) and the subsequent need for active intervention in the foreign exchange market to preserve the rouble’s value and stability
 - Therefore, Russia’s primary policy on the topic of currency manipulation would be ensuring that “manipulation” of currency values to ensure a stable currency value and avoid significant depreciation, which causes a decrease in domestic purchasing power and living standards, is permitted. This is phrased from the Russian government’s perspective as “defending a nation’s right to set its own monetary and currency policy, the prerogative of sovereign nation-states”
- From your country’s perspective and policies, suggest potential solutions
 - Based on the rationale laid out previously for countries to engage in currency manipulation, Russia urges for a re-commitment towards lowering barriers to entry to reduce incentives for currency manipulation
 - Moreover, Russia urges countries to reduce the implementation of economic sanctions to reduce the need for government intervention to stabilize currency values



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- Finally, Russia calls for the strengthening of IMF and WTO as institutions to deal with incidents or accusations of currency manipulation - to that end, Russia seeks the creation of a WTO-IMF dispute-resolution mechanism to redress accusations of currency manipulation and for reevaluating highly questionable currency values, moving the international currency manipulation determination body away from a single source in the US Treasury
- Highlight your country's primary objectives and what it hopes to achieve in the committee session as a diplomatic message
 - Russia agrees in principle that currency manipulation may be distortionary but is committed to the view that current account surpluses/deficits and currency/monetary policies remain the prerogative of their respective national governments

Note: The position paper example given above is written in bullet point form to help you better see how the argument can be developed. Bullet points are not required in an actual position paper submission. In fact, we do encourage you to write your position papers in continuous prose. You may use headers if you feel these can help you better organise your thoughts.