

## **Florida Model United Nations Position Paper Guidelines and Requirements**

Position papers serve multiple functions at Model United Nations Conferences. Position papers are educational and informative for delegates as it directs committee debate and leads to solutions on a topic. Each delegate that attends FMUN is encouraged to submit a position paper as committee directors review each paper and all committees (excluding crisis committees') are considered for a position paper award. FMUN prides itself on giving as much individual feedback to delegates as possible at the conference. Position papers are reviewed by committee directors and for content, adherence to position paper structure, and other possible errors that occur at Model United Nations events.

The position paper has three essential components; a brief history and status of the topic from your country's point of view, and what solutions your country will offer the committee at conference. A position paper should present a culmination of research on where the topic has been and where it is going in accordance with your country's policies'. Nevertheless, this must be presented in a clear and concise manner. FMUN has standardized guidelines that delegates must follow to be considered for awards. The specifications for position papers are as follows.

- 1 Inch margins for the entirety of the document
- Times New Roman Font, size 10-12
- Single spaced paragraphs, with only one space before and after each heading
- **Position Papers should be no longer than two pages**

Below, you will find an example of a position paper for a selected delegates representation at an unspecified conference. This paper has been minimally altered to ensure quality in educational materials and anonymity for the volunteer who submitted the paper.

Please see the FMUN Website for announcements regarding position paper submissions, and email the Secretary General ([Sg@fmun.org](mailto:Sg@fmun.org)) if you have any questions.

**Delegation from  
The Republic of Austria**

**Represented by  
A Higher Education Institution**

### ***The United Nations Populations Fund***

The topics before the United Nations Population Fund are: Integrating Cultural Approaches to Reproductive Health and Preventing the Spread of HIV/AIDS among Women. The Republic of Austria understands and appreciates the gravity of these topics and their impact on the international community. We believe each of these pertains to the mandate of the UNFPA and requires our dedicated attention in the coming days and beyond.

#### **I. Alleviating Poverty Through Family Planning**

The Austrian Republic views family planning as a most crucial means to alleviating poverty throughout the world and believes education, the empowerment of women, increased medical care, and provision of birth control to be the most viable paths toward progress in this area. We have demonstrated the positive effects of education through our three-year program *Action Plan 2003 – Gender Mainstreaming and the Promotion of Women in Schools and Adult Education*. *Action Plan 2003* has been a factor in Austria's low rates of teenage pregnancy, unplanned pregnancy, and abortion, which have in turn contributed to less than six percent of Austrians living below the poverty line. In our efforts to increase family planning capabilities throughout the region, we acted as the leader and primary funder of the recently completed four-year long *United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) project Gender Responsive Budgeting in South Eastern Europe: Advancing Gender Equality and Democratic Governance through Increased Transparency and Accountability*, which aimed to make government budgets more inclusive and responsive to the needs of both men and women. We have further supported the empowerment of women internationally through our participation in and support of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/52/231)*, the ICPD, and CEDAW.

As sexual violence greatly impedes the possibility of family planning, we continue to work toward the goals stated in *S/RES/1888* and *S/RES/1960*, especially the implementation of a Special Representative to monitor the use of sexual violence in armed conflict. Austria supports progressive policies including family planning, abortion, treatment of STD's, and provision of contraceptives as a way to increase the ability of individuals to reduce unwanted pregnancies. Noting the decline of funds made available for family planning on a per-woman basis over the past decade, we urge Member States to increase their commitments to this issue, as slowing the growth rate in less developed countries has been demonstrated as a viable means to combat poverty and achieve economic growth.

We believe that reproductive health rights are of the utmost importance, and therefore cultural norms or religious beliefs must not impede any basic right outlined within the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Austria encourages the creation of programs specifically tailored to each country to be run under the full authority of the government concerned, bearing in mind fundamental liberties such as principle VII of the 1994 ICPD *Program of Action* deeming forced birth control programs a breach of human rights. Our nation will continue to work with the *United Nations Development Program (UNDP)* and the UNFPA toward the goal of providing universal reproductive health care as a key factor in family planning. We will persist in our efforts toward *A/RES/64/217*'s call for the empowerment of women and the need to eliminate gender discrimination in education by 2015. In addition to alleviating poverty, family planning provides opportunities for progress in nearly all eight of the Millennium Development Goals. We believe research and development of new means of family planning, such as new forms of contraceptives/birth control and emergency contraception is crucial, as progress in these areas will make family planning a more attainable goal.

## *II. Preventing the Spread of HIV/AIDS Among Women*

Since the beginning of the HIV/AIDS outbreak the Republic of Austria has maintained a solid commitment in the fight against this pandemic both within our own borders and abroad. We highlight with particular concern the increasing feminization of the disease, especially in lesser-developed countries. In 2008 our nation contributed an additional 1.2 million Euro to the UNFPA to be used specifically for addressing gender inequality in the context of HIV/AIDS. Recently Austria was honored to host the 18<sup>th</sup> *International Aids Conference* in Vienna, the largest international meeting on HIV/AIDS at which stakeholders from across the globe came together to both discuss progress and assess future priorities. Soon after the disease was discovered Austria enacted national policies that provided free testing, treatment, and care to our population while ensuring the prevention of nosocomial infections in hospitals and treatment facilities. These policies were carried out while taking into consideration gender and discrimination issues arising from the disease. Our national policies were updated and strengthened in 1997 and since then mother to child transmission has been virtually eliminated in our country. Austria achieved the national goals outlined in *A/RES/S-26/2* the 2001 *Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS* several years before it was created, taking a course of action we believe can be used as a model for other Member States.

The Republic of Austria emphasizes that in many areas where HIV/AIDS is most prevalent the appropriate care and treatment to prevent infected women from transmitting the disease to their children remains nonexistent or inaccessible. In 2003 Austria committed \$400,000 to the *United Nations Children's Fund* for their operations combating childhood HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia in order to moderate the rate of regional childhood infection. While Austria supports a range of current actions in the fight against HIV, actions taken to combat the spread of the disease are more effective if seen as contextual components of overall development approaches rather than specialized themes in themselves. The Republic of Austria provides support in developing the health sectors in two Atlantic regions of Nicaragua, with an emphasis on the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. Our country also works within the European Union's efforts to address the challenges of HIV, and we remain committed to the EU benchmark requiring that 0.56% of gross national income be used for development cooperation purposes. As the UN community strives to achieve the benchmarks set by *A/RES/60/262*, the 2006 *Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS*, Austria will continue to argue that prevention is the key measure by which new infections can be minimized and we believe the increasing feminization of the AIDS pandemic provides an opportunity for other Member States to find useful strategies from Austria's successful national policies.

Inherent power imbalances between men and women only exaggerate the increased female infection rate, and therefore measures empowering women on the individual level should be considered as part of any overall prevention effort. The provision of HIV/AIDS examinations in concert with maternal healthcare and female health treatment should be considered both for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of the disease and to inform women if they have been infected. As was enacted in Austria early after the discovery of the disease, public information campaigns providing information on how to prevent transmission are crucial and can be targeted toward women in order to reduce the rate of new female infections. As the UN nears the deadline for the completion of *MDG 6: Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases* it is clear that our success depends on a strong focus in combating the spread of the disease in women specifically, and the Republic of Austria will bring to bear all available resources to achieve this end.