



North American Invitational Model United Nations

SAMPLE POSITION PAPERS

INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

The General Assembly papers were written by former NAIMUN Director-General Casey Wetherbee as the delegation of the United Kingdom in DISEC at a college-level conference. Notice the structure, the clear language, and the reasonable yet creative solutions put forth. The entry for Topic A is what is expected in a position paper, while the entry for Topic B exemplifies going above and beyond.

The Crisis Position Paper was submitted by the current Executive-Director of NAIMUN's collegiate sister conference, National Collegiate Security Conference, Govind Prabhakar when he attended NAIMUN LVII as a delegate and competed in Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's Cabinet. Notice his description of the situation in Libya at large and more specific research relevant to goals and initiatives related to the portfolio and agenda of the Minister of Finance. This paper exhibits excellence in research and critical thinking for the realm of a crisis committee.

To learn more about Position Papers, consult the NAIMUN Model UN Toolbox page for [Position Papers](#).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
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DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

TOPIC A: FOREIGN MILITARY BASES

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Topic A: Foreign Military Bases

As one of the relatively few countries with active military bases in foreign countries, the United Kingdom is intimately aware of their significance on the world stage.⁽¹⁾ As the number of military bases operated by P5 countries diminished since the Cold War, more countries have entered into agreements to operate their own, such as China, India, Pakistan, and Turkey. As more and more states seek to expand their influence in the form of military bases, it is the First Committee's responsibility to establish reasonable guidelines in order to ensure uniformity among the agreements that will take form in the coming years. In the meantime, it is worth addressing some of the concerns of the global movement against foreign military bases of any kind, by increasing international transparency and specifying the legal frameworks under which military personnel can be held responsible.

The North Atlantic Treaty Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), which includes the UK and 28 other member states, is the first and only multilateral agreement of its kind and therefore acts as a model for other legislations. Its first article sets forth a number of useful definitions that will help to standardize future agreements. ⁽²⁾ Though there are bilateral agreements, such as the US-Japan SOFA, they have certain issues that the First Committee should address in setting up guidelines for future agreements. For example, in the aforementioned agreement, US military personnel are subject to US laws while in Japan, which has created a great deal of friction with local authorities and has even led to increased death via traffic accidents due to American drivers only needing a military permit to drive on Japanese streets. Servicemembers should be held accountable for breaking the laws of the host country, and that process should be stipulated in the SOFA. Article VII of the NATO SOFA states that "the authorities of the receiving State shall have jurisdiction over the members of a force or civilian component and their dependents with respect to offenses committed within the territory of the receiving State and punishable by the law of that State."⁽³⁾ A similar clause should appear in a DISEC resolution addressing future guidelines for status of forces agreements.

The UK does not support a cap on foreign military bases and would like to see the expansion of mutually beneficial agreements across the world. With this, transparency between countries in a bilateral agreement as well as among the international community is essential. The UK advocates for an independent body to be established by the First Committee, constituted of representatives of neutral UN member states, to monitor the conditions of foreign military bases and ensure that the regulations of their founding agreements are followed. This body may also listen to any concerns that the host nations may have in order to facilitate communication and solve problems before they become exacerbated. This body will also oversee a comprehensive database of foreign military bases across the world and the agreements that lead to their creation, in order to streamline its work. Since there are many different kinds of SOFAs, the UK would create a detailed tier system to classify foreign military bases by size, while also providing qualifiers for various other characteristics—this system would also include ways to classify SOFAs that do not establish foreign military bases, such as the US-Iraq agreement that established the American withdrawal of troops in 2011.(4)

(1) "The Status and Location of the Military Installations of the Member States of the European Union" (PDF). Policy Department External Policies: 13–14. February 2009. Retrieved 4 November 2018.

(2) "Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA): What Is It, and How Has It Been Utilized?" EveryCRSReport.com, Congressional Research Service, 15 Mar. 2012, www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32453.html.

(3) "Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty Regarding the Status of Their Forces." NATO, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 14 Oct. 2009, nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_17265.htm.

(4) Isaacs, John, and Travis Sharpe. "How Comfortable Is the U.S.-Iraq SOFA?" Arms Control Center, Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, 24 Nov. 2008, armscontrolcenter.org/how-comfortable-is-the-u-s-iraq-sofa/.

DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

TOPIC B: TREATMENT OF WAR PRISONERS

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Topic B: Treatment of War Prisoners

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has a 438 page-long briefing for all UK Armed Forces interacting with Captured Persons (CPERS – one category of which is Prisoners of War, or POWs) under British authority, the Joint Doctrine Publication on Captured Persons.⁽¹⁾ This exceptionally detailed series of policy ensure that the United Kingdom follows all international standards for treatment of prisoners, and more. Extensive training is required for all armed forces, and the atrocities of places like Abu Ghraib are utilized as examples for shaping the conduct of commanders and thus the culture of respect needed to follow the Geneva Convention. The United Kingdom firmly believes in the necessity for each member state of the United Nations to similarly establish and clarify the connections between internal procedures and international law. Through transparent training and regulations that are internationally available and accessed, reviewed, and given recommendations by the International Committee of the Red Cross, all member states can ensure their armed forces behave in an informed and respectful nature.

The changing nature of warfare in the modern era has changed the nature of CPERS and therefore the relevancy of the Geneva Convention. Due to light footprint warfare, the number of irregular combatants has increased. With warfare shifting away from state-to-state warfare, the number of CPERS who the Geneva Convention protects has decreased. United Kingdom believes that a particularly concerning failure in the Geneva Convention is the massive exception of POWs accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity. It is the position of the United Kingdom that those accused of being war criminals and non-traditional combatants should be classified outside of traditional POWs and civilians into a modern protection, potentially set forth into international law through a Fifth Geneva Convention. The previous conventions do not have the specific language needed to ensure nations do not circumvent the nature of the law in places such as Guantanamo.

Nonetheless, even with the actual implementation of international law in each nation, the legal statutes currently outlined in the Geneva Convention as well as individual nations' mandates are thus lacking, with several loopholes. One of these is that many safeties and rights retained by CPERS do not apply to those detained or arrested domestically or in territorial/internal waters. These gaps mean that national law instead of international humanitarian law to take precedence, allowing for dangerous ambiguity. Additional areas for improvement include explicit language for Vulnerable CPERS, defined by the United Kingdom as "an individual who by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness, is or may be unable to take care of himself or is unable to protect himself against significant harm or exploitation or is dependent on others for assistance in the performance of basic physical functions." Those with disabilities or other identity-based differences from other CPERS and/or the armed forces overseeing the CPER face undue neglect and abuse. Language must be added to Geneva Convention protections to include brainwashing as a form of abuse, laying out explicit timelines for release upon cessation of conflict, and international repercussions for a failure to follow these standards. Videography and photography of CPERS should additionally be banned, except for proof of life or communication outside of pressures of coercion that may be released to the government of the nation of origin of the CPER and, through the government, their families. This can ensure that CPERS are not used as political tools to exert pressure on nations of origin towards the cessation of a conflict, as well as to respect the privacy of the CPER.

From a pragmatic perspective, it is necessary for the United Nations to initiate connections between Non-Governmental Organizations and nations overseeing the care of CPERS. This allows for an impartial presence to provide medical treatment without cost to the host nation, including often underserved medical needs such as mental and dental care. The UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment is limited in the failure of ratification on the part of twenty-six countries worldwide, including some which have come under fire for human rights abuses in recent years.⁽³⁾ This subcommittee must be empowered by an increased emphasis on the part of the United Nations to encourage non-signatories to sign on, removing term limits for experts which can cripple their ability to create lasting change. Additionally, by collaborating with other multilateral organizations with mutual defense provisions, such as NATO, this solution would be bolstered further by increased accountability.

(1) Joint Doctrine Publication 1-10, 3rd Edition, Captured Persons (CPERS). Ministry of Defense of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Chiefs of Staffs. January 2015. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/455589/20150820-JDP_1_10_Ed_3_Ch_1_Secured.pdf.

(2) "Who Is a Vulnerable Adult?" Western Bay Safeguarding Boards. <http://www.wbsb.co.uk/4482>.

(3) "Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture," International Justice Resource Center. <https://ijrcenter.org/un-treaty-bodies/subcommittee-on-prevention-of-torture/>.

ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF'S CABINET

MINISTER OF FINANCE ANTOINETTE SAYEH

Govind Prabhakar
Minister of Finance Antoinette Sayeh
Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's Cabinet

The nation of Liberia has just come out of one of the bloodiest civil wars in recorded history. The war resulted in up to 300,000 lives lost¹, as well as heinous crimes against women, the use of child soldiers, and drug addiction. In addition to the tenuous social situation left in the wake of the conflict, the economy is in shambles. Major sectors such as agriculture and mining have collapsed and Liberia's economic divides have never been more pronounced. The infrastructure of the country has also been crippled by the disastrous civil war. The government of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has much to address in order to restore Liberia. Namely, the government must respond to the issue of restoring a balanced social order and addressing the wrongs of the Second Liberian Civil War. Additionally, the government should work on promoting the rights of women and children who suffered greatly during the war. However, above all, the primary intention of this committee should be to focus on economic development and rebuilding Liberian infrastructure. Currently, the country is over \$3 billion in debt, with unemployment around 80%. The economy is in shambles and ordinary people are suffering the consequences. Through efforts made in supporting local entrepreneurship and actively seeking involvement in international trade, it will be possible for Liberia to gain economic success and consequently, restore social order. Every member of President Sirleaf's cabinet, especially myself as the Minister of Finance, must commit to economic growth and social justice for the Liberian people.

As an economist who has studied the many complexities inherent to global economics and commerce, I understand the effects of this civil war on Liberian finances and Liberia's international standing in the world of trade. Among the first steps that I would push for the Liberian government to take is the resolution of Liberian debt abroad. Currently, a third of Liberian debt is commercial debt and I would cooperate with financial advisors to properly address this debt. The debt resolution process must be made transparent, with reports published frequently for the public to be aware of what the government is doing. While it will require the assistance of foreign groups and

¹ Lydia Polgreen, "A Master Plan Drawn in Blood", NY Times, April 2, 2006.

² Bank, World, director. 12:02 / 57:02 Decoding Debt: Getting Transparency Right. YouTube, YouTube, 17 Oct. 2019, www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=711&v=HEp9Wmn1n4g&feature=emb_logo.

may be seen by some as intrusive, it will ultimately yield good results as strong governance will create an economy other nations are interested in working with. Programmes such as the Governance Economic Management Assistance Programme, or GEMAP, have already made ministries more efficient and generating wealth for the Liberian government. The foreign capital that can be channelled with the resolution of Liberia's multilateral debt will be critical to developing a number of industries and sectors of Liberia's economy. In particular, development should be focused on the timber, iron ore, and rubber industries, as these industries were particularly profitable for the Liberian economy before the conflicts. Through cooperation with foreign companies, these industries can be revitalised, helping to employ Liberian citizens and assist in funding critical sectors of the Liberian budget. Foreign assistance can also manifest with Liberia's active seeking of aid from other countries and international institutions. With the help of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries or HIPC Initiative, it will become possible for the Liberian government to enjoy debt relief. In addition, working with groups like the US Agency for International Development can also secure lines of funding for various sectors of the economy. With regards to the social works that must be implemented, I would strongly support the extradition of Charles Taylor as his being put on trial for his war crimes is crucial to uniting the country. Additionally, the status of women and children must be improved, through such programmes as helping women become entrepreneurs and giving children opportunities to get an education and seek rehabilitation for drug addiction. Through all of these programmes, it will become possible for the Liberian government to rebuild efficacy in its financial institutions and ultimately reduce poverty.

In committee, my main focus will be on implementing the economic reforms I see are necessary to the redevelopment of Liberia. I will make agreements with companies like Firestone and Malaysian firms like Samling and Rimbunan Hijau in order to develop the countries' rubber and timber industries. With the mixed human rights record of these companies' operations, I will extract concessions from them as part of their entering the Liberian economy. I will also find ways to play the multinational bodies entangled in Liberian affairs off one another, especially groups like the UN and ECOWAS. By trying to gain economic and military assistance from these groups, I will be able to improve Liberian stability. I am also ready to offer economic concessions to the government of Nigeria in order to secure the extradition of Charles Taylor. Such a feat would earn me public commendation and support, which will mask my efforts with firms the people may not support. In case lines of credit are drying up, I can use my connections with the World Bank to support the country's economy, having worked there for 17 years prior to becoming the Minister of Finance. Additionally, I will also ensure that the treasury is secure and be ready to expose public officials attempting to steal from it. I will also subvert those public officials in the cabinet that impede my plans for economic cooperation with other countries by hindering their plans or framing them for fraud, even if that means slowing down the transfer of funds or doctoring public budgetary reports so my plans will progress smoothly. My personal interests are very much aligned with those of Liberia, however I am ready to do whatever it takes to ensure my initiatives go through.

³ "GEMAP : Liberia Governance and Economic Management Assistance Program." Liberia Governance and Economic Management Assistance Program : About GEMAP : The GEMAP Model, www.gemap-liberia.org/about_gemap/index.html.

⁴ "Antoinette Monsio Sayeh." Center For Global Development, 19 Oct. 2019, www.cgdev.org/expert/antoinette-monsio-sayeh.

⁵ "Liberia Qualifies for Complete Debt Relief under HIPC Initiative." World Bank, www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2010/06/29/liberia-qualifies-for-complete-debt-relief-under-hipc-initiative.

⁶ Johnston, Patrick. "Timber Booms, State Busts: The Political Economy of Liberian Timber." *Review of African Political Economy*, vol. 31, no. 101, 2004, pp. 441–456. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/4006966. Accessed 12 Feb. 2020.

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