

## Sample Position Paper for the UNPFII

Writing an expert position paper can in some respects be compared to writing an essay at university. Firstly, you need to research the agenda items and gain as much information as possible. On the basis of your knowledge you should write a brief synopsis of the agenda items and emphasis actions and policies that you believe should be undertaken. However, unlike an essay, you will not necessarily be articulating your own opinion. Instead, you should frame your view on the topics with respect to the expert you are representing. To identify the position of “your expert” you should research whether she or he is assigned by government or nominated in other ways; which indigenous groups there are to be represented in your expert’s state of origin; which indigenous group the expert belongs to; which previous views she or he has expressed, etc. All these things will help you determine how independent your expert is from the state, which particular issues she or he might find important, and so forth. Instead of researching a State, in other words, you are researching an expert and her or his background.

The following is a sample of the standard format and style that an NMUN position paper for an expert committee should follow. Delegates serving in the **United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues** at the NMUN 2008 should apply this style and format to the agenda items of their committee. The sample should be used by delegates to understand the style of writing that is appropriate for their position as experts at the NMUN Conference. Please remember that a maximum of one double-sided page (or two pages total in an electronic file) will be accepted. Only the first double-sided page of any submissions (or two pages of an electronic file) will be considered for awards.

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**Delegation from**  
*(Insert Member State Name)*

**Represented by**  
*(Insert Delegation/School Name Here)*

### *Position Paper for (Insert Committee Name Here)*

The issues before the Committee are: The Situation in Sub-Saharan Africa; Racism and Racial Discrimination, and A Comprehensive Review of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. All of the above are of crucial importance for the international community and deserve a high rank on the agenda of all stakeholders involved. The necessity of ensuring full realization of the Right to Development as declared in the Declaration on the Right to Development and the Final Report of the Working Group on the Right to Development needs to be recognized. The implementation of national development plans with the cooperation of regional organizations, the United Nations, and the international community need to be supported. Stronger attention should be paid to the underlying factors in particular.

#### **I. The Situation in Sub-Saharan Africa**

Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the most ethnically diverse regions in the world. The lack of development in the region constitutes the root cause of political instability and conflict. The report of the Secretary-General, *An Agenda for Peace: Recommendations*, if implemented, could enhance the work of the United Nations in its efforts to bring about sustainable development in Africa. The use of preventive development in Africa could ensure that conflicts such as those in Liberia, Rwanda, Angola, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo can be avoided before they erupt. While the obstacles to be overcome are many, international support for effective national programs to ensure the relief to rehabilitation to development continuum through post-conflict peace-building, can enable Sub-Saharan Africa and the entire developing world to achieve the sustainable development which alone will guarantee regional peace and stability. Increased cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in all aspects of dispute settlement and peace-keeping should be supported. Increased support for such regional efforts, when combined with measures to eliminate the root causes of regional conflict, serves to further enhance the prospects for lasting peace, security and development in Sub-Saharan Africa and throughout the entire international community.

#### **II. Racism and Racial Discrimination**

The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance offers the global community an opportunity to establish an updated plan of action to completely eradicate racism and racial discrimination throughout the world. The necessity for all Member States to sign, accede to and ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination is an integral part of this plan, as

policies and practices based on racism and racial discrimination remain devastating to regional social, economic and infrastructure development. States, international organizations and Non-governmental Organizations should increase their efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and to provide assistance to those affected by such practices. The lack of financial resources that prevented the international community from realizing its objectives in the three previous United Nations Decades to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination must not continue to hinder the international community in guaranteeing the fundamental human rights of all peoples.

### **III. A Comprehensive Review of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations**

The continued role of the United Nations Security Council as the primary agent for the maintenance of international peace and security, as mandated under Chapters IV and V of the *UN Charter* is essential. Authorization, determination, composition and financing of peacekeeping operations should be determined by the Council, as authorized by Articles 24, 25 and 26 of the *Charter* and in conjunction with the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. Additionally, the current role of the Secretary-General as administrator of the Operations established by the Council should be endorsed. Addressing all threats to international peace and security through regional arrangements and multilateral forums requires firm commitment by all actors. The international community must address the underlying causes of these conflicts and the destabilizing effects of such conflicts on entire regions. Increased utilization of regional and sub-regional peacekeeping mechanisms can enhance the ability of peacekeeping missions to take into account historical, social, and cultural values and traditions within areas of conflict. As operation costs continue to escalate, however, all Member States and the Secretary-General must devote greater attention to the monetary and management aspects of peacekeeping operations and provide serious consideration for the establishment of operation termination dates. Furthermore, the endorsement of the proposal within A/Res/44/49, calling for Member States to develop and maintain an inventory of supplies and equipment to be made available for Operations on short-notice, remains a crucial goal yet to be achieved. Member States should recognize the need to maintain voluntary contributions for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations to reduce the continuing problems incurred by funding deficits.