**A Guide to Writing Opening Speeches and Samples**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

An opening speech or a position paper is your very first impression upon your chairs, who are directly responsible for awarding you. Therefore, writing an effective opening speech/position paper is crucial for taking the first step towards success.

There are five things that must be included within the opening speech/position paper:

- Status quo

- Past measures

- Possible Solutions

- Related organizations

- Country’s Stance

They may be written in any order, but it is generally recommended to follow the order listed above.

The **status quo** is the current state of matters regarding the agenda. When talking about the status quo, you must emphasize statistics or cases that are related to your country’s stance or possible solutions.

**Past measures** are the previous methods that the global community has attempted to solve the agenda’s issues through. Evidently, the reason why the conference is being held is that the issue has not been solved. Therefore, you must not only research what past measures were used but also which measures were effective, which were not, and regardless of the degree of success, *why* the method had that kind of impact. Through this process, you can find a basis for your possible solutions.

**Possible solutions** are exactly that - they are potential solutions to the agenda. Needless to say, this will be the most important part of your opening speech/position paper. When coming up with possible solutions, you must break down the agenda to sub-issues. This is referred to as *framing*. Through framing, you can find solutions to smaller issues which will assist in your quest for solving the agenda itself. The possible solutions you write in your opening speech/position paper are the ones that will be the main basis for your resolution.

**Related organizations** are UN committees, funds, and programs, and also non-government organizations that directly or indirectly influence your agenda. A good understanding of these is needed if you wish to make an effective solution. For example, if you wished to create better crop strains for overcoming poverty in Africa, you should work alongside Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations instead of creating a whole new organization. Since, in the real UN, cooperation between various organizations is a key part of every resolution, you should try to emulate that as much as possible.

**Country stance** is, arguably, the most important part of your opening speech/position paper excluding your possible solutions. Sticking to your country’s real stance is a big part of acting like a true ambassador; in fact, it is not a stretch to say that it is the biggest of them all. If you wish to learn more about your country’s position about a topic, the first thing to do is research primary sources, which are direct quotes by the government or a country leader. Government websites and speeches are also primary sources. If no primary source exists for that particular agenda, there is always the quote, “actions speak louder than words”. In terms of global politics, ‘actions’ mean ‘voting records’. Look up previous UN resolutions related to the agenda and find your country’s voting record on it. This will help you understand how your country behaves. Lastly, understanding your country’s interests will help you gauge what your country prioritizes. A country that has the United States of America as a key trade partner, like South Korea, is likely to rarely adopt policies going against USA’s interests. Trade partners or regional blocs help determine whose side your country will take on the issue. In addition, knowing what really is important to your country (hint: think security and/or economy) also assist in understanding your country’s stance.

\*Opening speeches are not commonly found outside of GAIC-MUN. A position paper is more common and is the format more often used. It can be defined as a paper handed in to the chairs that explains your country’s opinion on the agenda.

\*\*OPENING SPEECHES SHOULD BE MAXIMUN 90 SECONDS

1. **Sample Opening Speech: The Netherlands**

Honorable Chairs and Fellow delegates, it is an honor to represent The Netherlands at this conference. The Netherlands recognizes the need for multilateral efforts to achieve a greater balance in terms of development between nations of the world. However, The Netherlands also believes that any hope for achieving an acceptable economic balance in terms of global standards of living must take into consideration the environmental impact of such developmental efforts. The post-World War II era emphasized development on a grand scale without respect for the environment. We have since learned that aid and development do not automatically lead to development. We also know that the environmental impact of development projects must be taken into consideration or the resource base of the very society one is seeking to create and foster may be destroyed.

The Netherlands applauds the recent emphasis on sustainable development and calls for greater attention to be paid to the interrelatedness of development planning and environmental security. That is why The Netherlands stands firmly behind the idea that development aid and investment should occur at the local level, where traditional knowledge about the environment can play an important role in the modernization process. Thank you.

1. **Sample Opening Speech: East Timor**

Honorable chairperson and fellow delegates, East Timor is honored to attend this meeting. Today, it is clear that claims to the right of self-determination are not abating; many afflicted minority groups claim that such right has been breached by the nation states from which they are bound to. Only in this recent decade has East Timor successfully achieved independence from Indonesia, and fully aware of the agony and pain of such cases, it passionately supports the autonomic rights of ethnic minority groups. It would like to resolve this issue by recommending a separate committee that would create specific guidelines required for the process of self-determination. East Timor realizes that it is essential for the international community to develop more efficient ways of addressing these demands that avoid destructive, unnecessary conflict and violence. Thank you.