

## SAMPLE POSITION PAPER

Committee: General Assembly  
Topic: Children in Armed Conflict  
Country: Peru

War has forever been a part of our world's history. Not only has war ravaged the countries and homes of millions of men and women, but also those of children. The effect of war on children is most often devastating, and today, the involvement of children in war, is only worsening the devastation. We, the state of Peru, are strictly against the use of children in any form of armed conflict. Though the amount of children in the military within our state is than 4%, even this small amount is unacceptable. The Shining Path terrorist group's guerrilla war in the 1980's marked the peak of amount children in arms, it still remains a problem not only in our country, but also in many other countries to date.

Today, Peru has been active in many anti-child involvement organizations, and we have signed many petitions and acts against the practice. Preventing child soldiering in our own country has proved difficult, as much of the population that faces this issue lives high in the Andean mountain range. Birth registry is dangerously low, making it hard to determine what child is missing, and if they are soldiering. After our many attempts to end the practice failed, we have hit a dead end on the subject matter. Many of the children involved are indigenous, making them nearly impossible to track. We take any recommendations on where the whereabouts of child armies are located, and pursue them. As a country we are aware that many countries do the same, and that they are having similar issues. We believe that it is the duty of the United Nations to come to a solution as to how we can solve this issue and make the world of war void of children, as it should have been in the first place.

We as Peruvians are open for ideas that the United Nations might have for our country. Currently there are many agencies that allow people from other countries to sponsor a child from Peru that has been active in any armed conflicts. All though there are laws against child soldiering in Peru, it is hard to find the few children that are kidnapped for warfare because of poor registry. We believe that a solution to that specific issue might include, making it an obligation to register every child at birth. We believe this might aid in the search for lost children and also prevent some organizations from trying to kidnap children for soldiering. We also believe that there should be a better justice system for those who are forcing children to be engaged in warfare. Ms. Romy Tincopa, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Peru to the UN stated at a Security Council meeting in 2006, "Those responsible for grave abuses against children should be brought to justice. In that regard, I would like to highlight the case of Thomas Lubanga, arrested by the International Criminal Court last March for recruiting and using boys and girls as soldiers in hostilities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. That case represents important action taken against those responsible for such acts."

As previously stated, Peru is welcoming and highly appreciated any ideas that might be available for the aid of our country concerning child soldiering.

## EXAMPLE POSITION PAPER

Committee: UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Topic: Food Aid

Country: The Republic of Haiti

Food Aid is one of the most important topics of the current age. The Republic of Haiti has experienced this first hand, as it is both an agricultural nation and a country racked with natural disasters. The 2010 earthquake in Haiti is just one example of the immense devastation that food aid attempts to address. In addition, changes in the global climate have greatly hurt the agriculture in Haiti. Over 80% of Haitians are subsistence farmers, and rely on their crops for food. The Republic of Haiti supports aid programs that address the problems caused by natural disasters and programs that build sustainability in the recipient country.

As major recipients of food aid, the government and people of Haiti are very interested in this issue. Haiti has been promised monetary aid by many countries to aid in the rebuilding of the country after the earthquake. The debt caused to Haiti by the disaster is being addressed by the United Nations, the IMF and bilateral agreements. Unfortunately, much of this aid has failed to come through. In fact, only 10% of the aid promised has been received by the Haitian government. Even before the earthquake, Haiti had received aid from the United Nations World Food Programme in response to its high levels of poverty and hunger. While all of this aid has certainly helped Haiti combat the havoc caused by poverty and natural disasters, it has also forced Haiti to become dependent on donor countries. Like any country, Haiti wishes to increase its global influence, and can only do this as an independent and sustainable nation.

The Republic of Haiti supports solutions that promote the sustainability and independence of the recipient country. Haiti feels that the international community needs to stop the cycle of dependence caused by thrusting mostly monetary aid at countries. Of course, there are instances in which direct financial and food aid are necessary, such as in the wake of an immense natural disaster. However, these forms of aid should be reserved for emergency aid, and general aid should focus on building up the recipient's food security and sustainability. In this way, both recipient and donor countries can benefit from loosening dependence on international aid.

## **EXAMPLE POSITION PAPER**

**Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

**Topic: Security in Refugee Camps**

**Country: The Republic of Kenya**

The Republic of Kenya affirms the importance and urgency of security for refugees worldwide. Providing security not only for the millions of refugees globally, but to host states as well, is a matter of critical importance for the United Nations. Since gaining independence in 1963, Kenya has hosted and supported refugees from across East Africa. Today the Kenyan government and various organizations supply and protect over 750,000 refugees and persons of concern. In order to best provide for those victims of the unfolding situation throughout the Horn of Africa, the Kenyan government has taken all steps possible to provide for those displaced by conflict, drought, and the subsequent famine, including the expansion of the Dadaab Refugee Complex, the largest in the world. The Republic of Kenya pledges its unwavering support to the refugee in its Constitution: "Every person has the right to freedom and security of person."

Kenya supports many of the key international agreements on the rights of refugees, including the 1951 Refugee Convention, the 1967 Protocol and the Refugees Act of 2006. Kenya maintains one of the largest programs for refugees in the world and always keeps security and safety as a central priority. In July of 2011, Kenya expanded its operations and opened a new refugee camp at the Dadaab Complex, for a total of four sub-camps, to help deal with many concerns, including security. The government has also pledged an additional 100 million USD to improve standard of living and security for the refugees of Kenya.

The government has also taken crucial steps in Somalia to improve security and begin long term solutions to the refugee crisis. In November 2011, Kenya took steps to combat Al-Shabab, the organization operating within Southern Somalia that has caused a drastic increase in the insecurity of both Somalians and neighboring states. In commitment to the national security of Kenya, the state will, as expressed by President Mwai Kibaki, "defend our territorial integrity through all measures necessary to ensure peace and stability. Our security forces have begun operations within and outside of our borders against militants who have sought to destabilize our country. In this regard we are working closely with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union, and the UN in order to find a long term solution and ensure the stability of Somalia." Furthermore, Kenya is progressing in its effort to create a buffer zone along the border in Somalia with the intention of helping to establish the stable state of South Jubaland. The Republic of Kenya strives towards lasting solutions to the refugee security question.

In November of 2011, Kenyan, Somali, and Ugandan leaders met to discuss the conflict in Somalia. "The meeting reviewed the political and security developments in Somalia and noted that the protracted conflict had generated numerous problems notably terrorism, organized crime, influx of illegal arms, the refugee crisis, internally displaced persons in Somalia." - Kenyan Foreign Affairs Minister Moses Wetangula

Present-day refugee crises require burden-sharing as well as decisive measures to combat the source of refugee security issues. The Republic of Kenya believes that immediate action needs to be taken by the international community to reduce the alarming security concerns. Through international collaboration, each nation must join in the effort to provide security to refugees, in areas of personal security, food security and resource security. Plans must also be made to secure buffer zones in the regions of risk to control the movement of refugees, weapons, and hostile groups. To address the growing issues in the Horn of Africa, international monetary support is necessary for Kenya to effectively expand its support for and security of refugees. In conclusion, through the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees all nations must create enduring resolutions that provide secure food supply, access to water, and safe environment to end refugee problems at the source.