



HACIA

XXVI SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

| Guide to the Position Paper |

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Welcome to HACIA XXVI

Dear Faculty and Friends of HACIA Democracy,

Welcome to Harvard Association Cultivating Inter-American Democracy's Twenty-Sixth Summit of the Americas! My name is Valeria Zuniga, and I have the honor of serving as this year's President, alongside the Vice-President, Alejandro Lampell. We hope that with you, we will create one of the most memorable conferences in HACIA's history.

I am currently a third-year student at Harvard University, studying Economics and Government. I was born in Managua, Nicaragua and lived there my entire life before college. I attended Lincoln International Academy and was able to participate as a delegate in the Executive Cabinet of Omar Torrijos in HACIA XX and the Executive Cabinet of Salvador Allende in HACIA XXI. As soon as I arrived at Harvard, I knew that I wanted to be a part of HACIA and joined as the Director of the Executive Cabinet of Juan Manuel Santos in HACIA XXIV. In addition to HACIA, I served in administrative and business functions of Harvard's Model UN conferences in Boston. The following year I served as Recruiting Director for HACIA XXV, through which I worked closely with the Junior Recruiters program and oversaw several new and old initiatives, including the Essay Contest, Art Challenge, and the 25th Anniversary Challenge.

Through my several years of involvement at HACIA I found a passion for democracy and human rights, as well as a greater awareness of both the potential and responsibility that Latin American youth has for igniting positive change in society. HACIA has been a life changing experience, not only because of the powerful discussions it has ignited for me both within and outside of committee, but also for its ability to connect me to a diverse and talented group of peers and mentors who have helped me develop my leadership potential.

Truly, the HACIA experience is like no other conference: delegates spend months preparing and bring unique lived-experiences to the committee rooms; the Harvard chairs are some of the best and brightest of the University who share a commitment to Latin America and mentorship; the advisors serve not only as educators, but also as friends of the conference and as an unconditional support system for the board. Above all, those attending HACIA are committed to developing the youth of today who will become the leaders of tomorrow.

It is my goal to ensure that every student attending HACIA XXVI leaves the conference equipped with a deeper understanding of some of the complex issues facing our region, and the tools they need to exercise their full leadership potential in finding ways to solve them. The topics we will be discussing will challenge you to think critically and creatively and prepare you to find ways to make meaningful contributions in your communities and anywhere you go.

I look forward to seeing our old friends after a successful conference in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and meeting new friends who are just starting their HACIA journey. Our next conference will take place from March 12th to March 15th, 2020. Make sure to look out for announcements posted here, on our Facebook page, or through our mailing list in the coming month for information on where the next conference will be. On behalf of the whole HACIA staff, we sincerely hope that you will be able to join us next year to tackle head on some of the most important and controversial issues our region faces and try to find unique and innovative ways to solve them. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at president@hacia-democracy.org or to Alejandro Lampell at vicepresident@hacia-democracy.org.

All the best,
Valeria Zúñiga
President
HACIA Democracy XXVI

Introduction

The position paper is the foundation of your preparation and argumentation in committee. In simple terms, it is a declaration of the position that you—as a delegate, delegation, or character—will be taking in committee. It represents an opportunity for you to do four things:

1. **Provide information** on the preparation you have done as a delegate and some of the facts/statistics/arguments you will be using in committee.
2. **Set your ‘goals’ for the committee** and what you hope to achieve as delegation.
3. **Establish bloc positions**, or in other words, where your delegation stands relative to other countries (e.g. you agree with these 4 countries, but not with these 3.)
4. **Ground your arguments** in ‘real world’ debates, issues, and events.

In short, it is an opportunity for you to organize, clarify, and demonstrate your argumentative and substantive preparation before conference. The perfect position paper should serve as a road map for your debates, negotiations, and actions at conference.

Position Paper Template

A good position paper has five sections, outlining and clarifying your position on political, economic, and social issues, as well as any other related points of contention.

- 1. Introduction:** What is your country/delegate's relationship to the issue at hand? Example: Colombia plays a pivotal role in the war on drugs.
- 2. Agenda and Top Priorities:** What are your largest concerns and top priorities for committee? What can be done—by the committee—to achieve these goals? What has already been done? Example: Colombia wants to reduce violence and the power of the drug cartels. Colombia hopes the committee will do so through increased economic aid.
- 3. Issues to Avoid:** What debates does your country/delegate hope to avoid? Are there certain issues or solutions that are 'off the table?' Why? Example: Colombia does not support drug legalization efforts for political reasons.
- 4. Anticipated Controversy and Interest Blocs:** What are your country/ delegation's most controversial positions? Why are they controversial? Which delegations do you expect to be opposed to and in support of your positions? How can the position be made less controversial for other countries? Example: Colombia's reliance on military force in the war on drugs is controversial and opposed by many of the Andean countries. However, Colombia expects to receive support from the US, Chile, and Brazil.
- 5. Conclusion:** How do you accomplish your goals for the committee? References: The best position papers will use at least 5 sources.

Guidelines and Suggestions

All Delegates Must Submit Position Papers by 26 February 2019!

- Send via email to your committee's e-mail (listed on HACIA website)
- Address the email as you would a letter
- Attach one or both responses (1 response per topic) in Microsoft Word

Format

- Two-topic committees: 1 to 1.5 pages double-spaced per topic
- Single-topic and crisis committees: 2 pages double-spaced per topic
- 12 point, Times New Roman
- 1-inch margins
- Keep headers in bold
- 1-indent, no white line after each paragraph (except before headers)
- The following needs to be in bold in the upper left corner: your name and e-mail, your committee name and Country or Character represented, your school and Advisor name.

Stylistic Tips

- Keep your language clear and straightforward.
- Avoid confusing wording, or extremely long sentences.
- Support your points with facts, but don't lose sight of the issue.
- Explain how your topic is interesting and has an impact on real people.
- Use the active voice and present ideas in the simplest way possible.
- Write in a concise, journalistic style rather than an expository or academic style.
- Write in the third person.
- Use international conventions (Write US \$4.5 billion rather than just \$4.5 billion. Format dates in the European fashion, i.e. 17 April 2002, not April 17, 2002).
- Try whenever possible to be fair and unbiased.
- Look hard into arguments presented against your beliefs; you may find surprisingly strong ones.
- Avoid Western-centric or sexist bias.

Plagiarism

“Plagiarism is passing off a source's information, ideas, or words as your own by omitting to cite them: an act of lying, cheating, and stealing.”

(Writing with Sources, section 3.1)

Plagiarism is a very serious charge: if you have plagiarized any part of your response paper, you will be reported to your advisor and you may be removed from the conference. Please cite everything. When in doubt, cite. Statistics and figures must be cited in text and in the bibliography. We will not tolerate plagiarism; such work reflects poorly on you, as well as on HACIA.

Preparation Process

The following is a brief outline of the preparation process and the drafting of the position paper. Except for part one—reading the bulletin is mandatory—these are guidelines on how to write the most effective position paper.

- Part (1):** Read the bulletin carefully, taking notes on anything that pertains specifically to your country.
- Part (2):** Brainstorm key debates and issues. Try to sketch out what you think will be the top three debates and points of contention in the committee. The Crux of the Debate section is helpful for this step.
- Part (3):** Understand the context. Think about why this issue exists and why it has not been resolved. Jot down the main roadblocks and obstacles to consensus. Reading outside news articles and other sources can be very helpful for this step.
- Part (4):** Make an outline. Fill in the above template with one or two bullet points on what you will write for each.
- Part (5):** Gather research sources and data. Think about what information you need to find to make a strong argument for why your country would argue a certain way. Use the internet or your local library to find that missing information.
- Part (6):** Write the position paper. Go back and re-read sections of your paper as you continue to write. Keep a single focused argument in mind. Convince us. Make sure your style is rhetorically strong and well-supported by your research.
- Part (7):** Edit the position paper. Read your paper out loud from start to finish. Print your paper and read it on paper. Go back and make edits as is needed. Ask a friend or advisor to read your paper.
- Part (8):** Finalize the formatting. Make sure that the format of your paper meets the required specifications. Use headers and sub-headers to separate the sections of your argument.
- Part (9):** Submit the position paper! Be sure to communicate if you have any further questions or comments about the process.

Please do not hesitate to contact your chairs for any topic-related questions. Additionally, if you have any communication problems or general position paper questions, you may get in touch with Julian Ubriaco, Director of English Committees, at english_committees@hacia-democracy.org, or with Lucas Graciano, Director of Spanish Committees, at spanish_committees@hacia-democracy.org.

Example Position Paper

Introduction

Both cyberwarfare and current armed conflicts are issues of imminent concern to Brazil and other nations in the Americas. Although economic disparities in Brazil's population have become more visible during the last decade, so have Brazil's economy and military power. Along with South Africa, Brazil has taken a leading role in the Community of the South (COMSUL), and consequently exerts massive influence in other South American nations such as Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. Furthermore, Brazil and COMSUL as a whole have also become very influential in the United Nations (UN) and, to a lesser extent, in the Council of Sovereign States (CSS) after the group joined in late 2016. This delegation strongly believes that the current, greatest security threats to Brazil and the Americas include cyberwarfare, state weakness, and the growth of organized crime and international tension due to these issues.

Agenda and Top Priorities

Since the situation in Nicaragua is becoming increasingly critical, the delegation of Brazil considers that the MCMFA must address this issue as the top priority. Brazil was rightfully opposed to the Nicaraguan Canal project since its proposal; now it has left not only massive environmental damage, but also unprecedented violence and political turmoil. As a member of COMSUL, this delegation believes Latin American nations should act more independently with their affairs, and thus, an ideal solution would include decreasing the state's dependency on the Chinese government and letting Nicaragua decide the legitimacy of the Communitarian Nation of Moskita (CNM) movement by its own. However, this must be done in the long term; a dependency already exists, and immediately removing it would increase the risk of the Armed Forces Against Inequality in the Americas (FADA) influence growing out of control.

As for cyberwarfare, Brazil and other COMSUL members have been successful in establishing a strong cyber-defense, which has also contributed to rooting out FADA influence. This delegation believes that a top priority for all Latin American nations is to improve their own cyber-preparedness. One immediate solution that has already been effective for COMSUL is establishing Electronic War centers, which continuously improve cyber-defense. Another solution is implementing Quantum Physical Unclonable Functions (PUFs) on security systems, which are extremely secure against any form of cyber attacks. Although such technology could only be implemented in cards and keys in the present, investing on creating similar technology for networks could potentially mean the end of cyberwarfare in the near future.

Issues to Avoid

Although FADA has limited presence in Brazilian territory, this delegation recognizes that the group's reach is becoming more alarming. However, long-term solutions addressing inequality are not sufficient to address the ongoing crises in the Americas, especially considering current homicide rates in countries such as Nicaragua. Issues such as aiding the Nicaraguan population must also be avoided until the main conflict is stabilized. The main issues require immediate solutions, and prioritizing these topics would only deviate the committee from reaching a consensus.

Anticipated Controversy and Interest Blocs

The existence of regional blocs in the Americas and their ongoing disputes will obviously increase the difficulty of reaching solutions for both issues in hand. This delegation can already expect that China and Russia will exert influence in most countries from the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas (ALBA), while countries from the Alliance of the Pacific (ALPAC) and the Group of Liege will be against both internet restriction policies and Chinese influence in Latin America. After the incidents that occurred in 2013 involving National Security Agency (NSA) surveillance against many world leaders (including president Dilma Rousseff), this delegation believes that a minimum set of regulations must be established to which countries must abide to. No regime with sufficient cyber-capacities should be permitted to use their power against other nations and violate their sovereignty with impunity. On the other hand, this delegation does not believe that resorting to disarmament is viable; not only due to the nature of cyberspace, but more importantly because countries' cyber-defenses must keep improving against attacks from other threats like Anonymous, FADA, and CNM.

Conclusion

Alarmed by the growth of violence and conflict in the Americas, the delegation of Brazil believes that addressing the Nicaraguan crisis must be the committee's top priority. On the other hand, cyberwarfare is also a great security threat to all nations, and addressing the issue would also weaken the reach of criminal organizations such as FADA. Along with the rest of the members of COMSUL, this delegation would like to see solutions in which not only the issues would be effectively addressed, but also where Latin American countries can recover from state weakness and act more independently.