



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

The Global Call to Action for a
Human-Centred Recovery

GLOBAL CLASSROOMS DC
SPRING 2022 MODEL UN CONFERENCE



INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE: INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

The International Labour Organization was founded in 1919 with the mission to promote **social justice** and **decent work** around the world. The ILO is the only **tripartite** agency of the United Nations, meaning that it gives an equal voice to workers, employers, and governments. Through its tripartite structure, the ILO facilitates **negotiation** and dialogue between government representatives, representatives of employers' organizations, and representatives of workers' organizations. This is unique compared to the rest of the UN, which facilitates dialogue between member states' governments.



The three parts of the ILO work together to set **labor standards** and develop policies and programs to promote decent work for all women and men. These standards aim to create safe working conditions, ensure workers' rights, and support **social dialogue** between workers and employers. They work towards achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, with a specific focus on Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.

In 2019, the 100-year anniversary of the ILO, a report by the ILO's **Global Commission on the Future of Work** was prepared by a group of leading global figures from business, **trade unions**, think tanks, government and non-governmental organizations. The Global Commission's Report, entitled "Work for a Brighter Future," outlines a human-centered development agenda that seeks to boost labor productivity through improved skills, better and more even access to technology, and greater investment in the economy.



Image Via ILO

The **ILO's Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work** took this strategic vision further by outlining some key steps in a human-centred approach to future work.¹ The Declaration is focused on four core principles: (1) set and promote standards about worker's rights; (2) create greater opportunities for women and men to decent employment and income; (3) enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all; and (4) strengthen the tripartite structure of the ILO.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

¹ "ILO Centenary Declaration on the Future of Work, 2019." International Labour Organization. <https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/mission-and-objectives/centenary-declaration/lang--en/index.htm>.



In late December 2019, a mysterious Coronavirus-Related pneumonia was identified in Wuhan, China. In late January 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global public health emergency, as related to the now-named COVID-19 pandemic.²

As the virus spread, many governments cut off border access to their neighboring countries, initiated shutdowns that closed businesses, places of worship, schools, and other activities, and enforced mask **mandates** and social distancing protocols. As of October 2021, there have been 244 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, including almost 5 million deaths, as reported to the **World Health Organization** (WHO). Almost 7 billion **vaccine** doses against the COVID-19 virus have been administered.³

In addition to posing a major health crisis, the pandemic has also caused the worst global economic recession since the **Great Depression**. Every region of the world has been impacted differently; but while every country has experienced a decrease in their **gross domestic product (GDP)** in 2020, the negative impact was the most significant and harmful in the poorest countries.⁴ Over 33 million workers have become unemployed and 81 million more are unable to search for jobs.⁵



Due to preventative measures to contain the virus, many businesses closed and workers were fired, resulting in many individuals losing access to income that supports them and their families. Interruptions in the global **supply chains** only worsened the issue and widened inequalities in the labour market as low-income workers suffered massive job losses. During the crisis, workers who had been fired or laid off have increasingly relied on their own economic and social assets, which depleted their funds and led to considerable economic and emotional strain.

To combat some of these hardships, the ILO passed the **Global Call to Action for a Human-Centered COVID-19 Recovery** in June 2021. In this committee, delegates will need to consider solutions for recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in their country. To do so, delegates will need to refer to the Global Call to Action for ideas to promote decent work, while also coming up with original solutions.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

² “Background to Coronavirus (COVID-19).” ICM Anaesthesia COVID-19. <https://icmanaesthescovid-19.org/background>.

³ “Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard.” World Health Organization. <https://covid19.who.int/>.

⁴ “Social and economic impact of COVID-19.” Brookings Institute. <https://www.brookings.edu/research/social-and-economic-impact-of-covid-19/>.

⁵ “Social and economic impact of COVID-19.” Brookings Institute. <https://www.brookings.edu/research/social-and-economic-impact-of-covid-19/>.



Many racial and ethnic minorities, especially those in developing countries, have been disproportionately affected by the impacts of the pandemic. These groups face additional difficulties in accessing healthcare and finding employment as a result of their existing status as a vulnerable population in their home countries, as well as the immediate impacts of COVID-19.

A large proportion of marginalized populations tend to operate in the **informal economy**. Over 1.6 billion informal workers, who already face vulnerability in unstable working conditions, were significantly impacted by the pandemic. Informal work has increased among many workers globally and the lack of access to social safety nets to help families survive the pandemic has made the situation even worse for the poor.

Women and Children

Women are a vulnerable population that have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. During COVID-19, women's jobs were 1.8 times more vulnerable, or subject to **layoffs**, in the crisis than men's jobs.⁶ Not only were women working their office jobs, but they were also bound to obligations at home, including childcare and other household tasks.



Image via UN.

Children have also faced increased **child labor** due to the economic ramifications of lockdown measures to contain the global pandemic. After their parents lost jobs or income, children began working long, grueling, and hazardous hours for little pay and have reported violence, harassment, and **pay theft** at their jobs.⁷

Racial Minorities

Many racial minority populations have faced increased vulnerability during the pandemic for reasons such as limited access to healthcare. A study of 17 million adults in the United Kingdom indicated that between White populations and racial minorities, minority groups had higher COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and even deaths.⁸

Racial minorities also operate in unsafe working conditions due to the nature of their jobs. For example, warehouse workers at Amazon in the United States, 57.4% of which identify as Hispanic or Black, complained of unsafe conditions early in the pandemic where people would show up to work sick and social distancing was not enforced.⁹

⁶ "COVID-19 and gender equality." McKinsey & Company. <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/future-of-work/covid-19-and-gender-equality-countering-the-regressive-effects>.

⁷ "COVID-10 pandemic fueling child labor." Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/05/26/covid-19-pandemic-fueling-child-labor#>.

⁸ "Racial minorities face more severe COVID-19 outcomes." University of Minnesota. <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/05/racial-minorities-face-more-severe-covid-19-outcomes>.

⁹ "Our Workforce Data." Amazon. <https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/workplace/our-workforce-data>.



While vaccinations have become a crucial way to slow the spread of COVID-19, many racial minorities are inoculated at rates that are slower than White populations. One reason for the disparity is vaccination hesitancy due to medical mistrust and a history of racial discrimination. Other reasons include the lack of access to healthcare or transportation to a vaccination center.¹⁰

Migrant Workers

Another vulnerable population are **migrant workers**. Because migrant workers are not citizens, they have a temporary legal status that makes it difficult for them to receive social protections. Between March 2020, when the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and February 2021, nearly 105,000 movement restrictions were implemented around the world.

Already at risk of COVID-19, migrant workers also faced declining support from international organizations and national governments, who closed their borders or limited travel. As of July 2020, the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** has identified 2.75 million stranded migrant workers due to travel restrictions, loss of jobs and income, and a lack of resources to return home. Since many of these forced migrants are internally displaced, they may face additional challenges such as health issues and poor living conditions.

WHAT IS HUMAN CENTRED RECOVERY?

In order to make a change following the devastation of COVID-19, a **human-centred recovery** focuses on creating a foundation for recovery that is fully inclusive, sustainable and resilient. Recovery aims for all workers to have decent work and jobs that are full, productive, and by their own choice. The human-centred approach focuses on the needs of the most vulnerable and those hardest hit by the pandemic and supports sustainable enterprises and strategies that consider and better the living conditions of marginalized groups, including women, children, racial minorities, and migrant workers.



Image via UNHCR.

Socially, a Human Centered Recovery means access to healthcare, preventative measures, and vaccines, especially for vulnerable populations. Access to healthcare is a key part of social protection measures, especially during a global pandemic. If workers contract COVID-19 or any other illness, they should have insurance through their employer and timely care through capable healthcare providers. Additionally, as the pandemic continues, workers should have access to

¹⁰ “The real cost of Amazon.” Vox. <https://www.vox.com/recode/2020/6/29/21303643/amazon-coronavirus-warehouse-workers-protest-jeff-bezos-chris-smalls-boycott-pandemic>.

¹⁰ “COVID-19 Vaccine Equity for Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups.” Center for Disease Control. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/vaccine-equity.html>.



Image via BBC.

personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks, gloves, and other sanitization measures to protect them from COVID-19 and other diseases in the future. Moving forward, universal requirements and equal enforcement of worker health and safety are necessary.

The ILO and other organizations that engage in social dialogue are uniquely positioned to spur a Human Centred Recovery. The ILO advocates for a space for employers and workers' organizations to discuss what the future of work looks like and to prepare for the impact of any

possible changes. Together, they can implement innovative and effective change and counter those that increase inequality, exploitation, and poverty. They can also better understand the differences between more highly-skilled, service sector workers as compared to low-skilled and manual workers.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

All solutions should consider the following four pillars to create an inclusive and sustainable Human-Centered Recovery:

(1) Economic Growth

Country governments, workers' organizations, and the ILO can promote economic growth and the creation of productive employment through investment in sectors and populations that can be a source of decent jobs and that support vibrant labour markets.

All recoveries should be gender-inclusive so women are able to rejoin the workforce safely. More childcare options, increased remote work, and the reduction of inter-workplace violence and harassment are all initiatives that can support women in a Human-Centred Recovery.



Image via CNBC.

One such sector is **teleworking**. As a result of the pandemic, remote work has increased and will likely continue to be a part of the way we do work. In a remote environment, workers are safer and have more opportunities to social distance. Many workers also have the flexibility to set their own schedule. While this flexibility can be helpful to some, others have unequal access to opportunities due to the **digital divide**.¹¹ In the US, only 35.4% of Black adults and 25.2% of Latino adults reported that they can do their work remotely, compared

¹¹ "Today's Challenges." International Labour Organization. <https://www.ilo.org/infostories/en-GB/Campaigns/future-work/global-commission#seizing/challenges>.

with 43.4% of White adults.¹² Additionally, the nature of some jobs, such as in the service industry, cannot work in a remote environment.

(2) Support Household Incomes & Labour Market Transitions

Country governments, workers' organizations, and the ILO can also support household incomes and labour market transitions, particularly for those most affected by the crisis. This support can be through active labour market policies, public employment services, and publicly provided, high-quality healthcare services.

Since the COVID-19 vaccine is now a prerequisite for many jobs, vaccine sharing is extraordinarily important for the recovery of the global economy. Being vaccinated also prevents workers from becoming seriously ill even if infected with the virus. Access to the vaccines, however, is not universal across the globe and to different demographics within each country.

Currently, the United States and other wealthy vaccine-producing nations are vaccinating their populations against COVID-19 at a much faster rate than developing countries who are struggling to find access to vaccines.¹³ After a global outcry, the United States has shared 4 million vaccine doses with Canada and Mexico. The UN has also implemented a vaccine-sharing plan called COVAX. If low-income countries had the same vaccination rates as high-income countries, they would be able to add \$38 billion to their GDP.



Image via FDA.

Another example of vaccination inequity is **vaccine hoarding** by richer nations. Even if countries factor in third-dose boosters for high-risk groups, high-income countries are hoarding an estimated 870 million doses, which could potentially save one million lives by 2022.¹⁴

(3) Strengthen Institutional Foundations

All parties should work towards policies that strengthen the institutional foundations of inclusive, sustainable, and resilient economic growth and development. This is done by enhancing social protection systems and ensuring that all workers, regardless of their contractual arrangements, have the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining, safe and healthy working conditions, and adequate minimum wages.

¹² "How COVID-19 is Affecting Black and Latino Families' Employment and Financial Well-Being." Urban Institute. <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/how-covid-19-affecting-black-and-latino-families-employment-and-financial-well-being>.

¹³ "Coronavirus: how wealthy nations are creating a 'vaccine apartheid'." The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/30/coronavirus-vaccine-distribution-global-disparity>.

¹⁴ "US must stop hoarding excess COVID-19 vaccine doses." Doctors Without Borders. <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/news-stories/news/us-must-stop-hoarding-excess-covid-19-vaccine-doses>.



(4) Elevate the ILO's Platform

The ILO's tripartite structure can be used as a forum to engage in social dialogue between workers and their employers to develop and ensure the effective implementation of human-centered recovery strategies. These strategies are better designed and more effective when they are the product of dialogue and negotiation between governments and employers' and workers' organizations.

In general, **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)**, or partnerships between the public and private sectors, play an increasingly important role in promoting decent work around the world by enhancing knowledge and expertise and mobilizing resources. Since the ILO already serves as a platform for connecting the private sector (workers and employers) with the public sector (governments), the agency is uniquely positioned to help create and facilitate PPPs.

The ILO promotes PPPs as an effective and collaborative way to sustainably achieve its objectives and to promote ILO values, principles, and standards. By partnering with the ILO, companies, foundations, and universities can increase the scale and impact of their activities to advance decent work.

The ILO is also looking to strengthen its relations with financial institutions such as the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**, **World Bank**, and **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** to create coherent policies in the areas of trade, finance, social protection, and economic policy to advance the human-centred agenda. This agenda is likely to bring out partnerships in the coming months as we all work to build back better after the COVID-19 pandemic.

CASE STUDIES

The Impact of COVID-19 in Thailand

Outside of China, Thailand was the first country to identify a COVID-19 case within its borders. After an initial high spike in cases, the country went into lockdown and deployed teams to isolate and treat confirmed cases, and to contact trace and quarantine affected individuals. Schools and non-essential businesses, including gyms, markets, restaurants, and public parks were closed. Between May and September 2020, Thailand had no reported cases of COVID-19. Its strong healthcare system protected its citizens, including its workers.¹⁵

While Thailand was successful in combating the spread of the virus, its lockdown measures came at the cost of economic growth. Thailand's economic growth has been projected to expand at 2.2% in 2021, down from original projections of 3.4%. The Thai tourism industry has especially suffered, losing \$50 billion in 2020 and is projected to lose more in 2021.¹⁶ As the Thai government introduces more lockdown measures in July 2021, because cases have

¹⁵ "Thailand: How a Strong Health System Fights a Pandemic." World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/thailand-how-a-strong-health-system-fights-a-pandemic>.

¹⁶ "COVID-19 Crisis Lowers Thailand's Growth, Continued Support for the Poor Needed." The World Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/07/15/covid-19-crisis-lowers-thailand-s-growth-continued-support-for-the-poor-needed>.

increased, the economy, including many workers who have been laid off, continues to suffer. Indeed, the jobless rate is likely to rise from 2%, which is the highest level since 2009.¹⁷

Thailand, however, has performed remarkably well in terms of providing its citizens with the necessary tools to weather the pandemic. The government implemented a program to give all its citizens cash that prevented more than 780,000 people from falling into poverty, including workers in the informal economy.¹⁸ The country is also facing a shortage of vaccines, with less than 70% of its population being vaccinated.



Image via the Bangkok Post.

A large part of Thailand's economy is spurred by the labor of migrant workers from Cambodia and Myanmar. These workers operate in Thailand's lower-paid, low-skilled jobs that Thai workers are averse to. Due to Thailand's previous lockdowns, they are unable to find work or steady income. Many of these workers are **undocumented**, so they are unable to access government aid or receive free COVID-19 testing, especially in situations where a negative test is essential to their employment.¹⁹

A human-centered recovery in Thailand should continue to build on the existing healthcare system and the strong social protections that exist within the country. The Thai government should engage in social dialogue with migrant workers, who contribute a large amount to their economy. Increased vaccination efforts, especially in the tourism sector, could spur the industry and bring many workers back to their jobs.

The Impact of COVID-19 in India

As of October 2021, India had the second-highest number of confirmed number of COVID-19 cases in the world following the United States, and the third-highest number of deaths. While India quickly went into a lockdown after the pandemic began, its fragmented healthcare system led to mistrust and inequitable access to necessary testing and treatment services. Despite widespread urbanization in recent years, 68.84% of the Indian population still lives in rural areas. The hospitals in urban areas are more well-funded and better supplied than medical centers in rural areas, leading to a wide discrepancy in treatment along class lines.²⁰

¹⁷ "As Thailand is hit by its worst COVID outbreak, economic risks rise." Al Jazeera. <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2021/7/12/as-thailand-hit-by-its-worst-covid-outbreak-economic-risks-rise>.

¹⁸ "COVID-19 Crisis Lowers Thailand's Growth, Continued Support for the Poor Needed." The World Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/07/15/covid-19-crisis-lowers-thailand-s-growth-continued-support-for-the-poor-needed>.

¹⁹ "Migrant workers suffer as coronavirus cases surge in Thailand." Reuters. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-migrants-workers-trfn/migrant-workers-suffer-as-coronavirus-cases-surge-in-thailand-idUSKBN29D11T>.

²⁰ "The Coronavirus Response in India – World's Largest Lockdown." US National Library of Medicine. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7405894/>.

One major social policy was the government's announcement of the equivalent of a \$24 billion stimulus package to support individuals with food and petroleum. These cash packages, however, did not reach all individuals due to complications with identifying households, especially those that operated in the informal economy. The effectiveness of the distribution of cash also depended on each state's infrastructure.²¹

From April to June 2020, India's GDP dropped by a massive 24.4%. The overall rate of contraction in India was a historical 7.3% for 2020. 1.5 million Indians lost their jobs, as the unemployment rate continues to soar. While the economy is slowly recovering due to higher petroleum prices, it hides the effect that the pandemic had on wealth and income inequality in the country. In 2020, the top 1% of the population held 42.5% of the wealth, while the bottom 50% had only 2.5%. Post-pandemic, the number of poor, including workers who had been fired or laid off from their jobs, is projected to have more than doubled.²²

Vaccinations are extremely important as workers return back to their jobs. While India celebrated their 1 billionth dose in October 2021, only 30% of its total eligible population has been fully vaccinated. Vaccine rollout was initially slow; even though India was home to the world's largest vaccine manufacturers, logistical issues and shortages made it difficult for their population to be vaccinated. While the vaccination drive has now gained momentum, there is a gender gap, as women are vaccinated 6% slower than men. This is especially true in rural India where women have limited access to the internet and are hesitant to take the vaccine.²³



Image via the New York Times.

For India, a Human-Centered Recovery would include equitable social protections to all classes and genders. Increased vaccination efforts, including building sustainable infrastructure to do so, would allow workers to return to their jobs without fear of exposure and illness.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1) How has your country been affected by COVID-19 economically, socially and politically? What has the national government done so far to combat these challenges?

²¹ "Social policy as an integral component of pandemic response: Learning from COVID-19 in Brazil, Germany, India and the United States" Global Public Health Journal. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17441692.2021.1916831>.

²² "The pandemic in data: How Covid-19 has devastated India's economy." Scroll.in. <https://scroll.in/article/999275/the-pandemic-in-data-how-covid-19-has-devasted-indias-economy>.

²³ "Covid vaccine: India administers more than one billion Covid jabs." BBC. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-56345591>.



- 2) What social safety nets are available to unemployed workers in your country, such as access to healthcare, unemployment insurance, distance learning, tax relief, and access to credit for small businesses?
- 3) What can be done to provide vaccines to those who do not have access to them? Whose responsibility is it to ensure that workers are vaccinated? What policies should be in place to help reduce infection rates?
- 4) How will your policy proposals lead to an equitable and sustainable recovery? What can be done to help workers in the most vulnerable communities?
- 5) How will you provide assistance and training to young people who have just entered the workforce?
- 6) Will your policy encourage remote work? How does this impact those whose jobs cannot be done remotely? If so, how will you build or strengthen the appropriate and sustainable infrastructure and institutions for that?
- 7) How will you create resilient supply chains and what protections are needed to ensure that workers' rights are not violated?
- 8) How can your country work with the ILO to guarantee a human-centered recovery? What does your country need to better address the recovery (i.e. data and research, technical advice, financing, new legislation, retraining programs)?
- 9) What are other countries and organizations doing to guarantee safety and health, and can your country learn from other's examples?



GLOSSARY

Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work: 100 years after the formation of the ILO, the body created a roadmap of future policies and goals that they would like to implement.

Child labor: the use of children in business or industry, usually before the legal age to work.

Digital divide: the separation and difference between individuals who readily have internet access and those who do not.

Decent work: involves opportunities for work that are productive, deliver a fair income; is productive and delivers a fair income; provides security in the workplace and “social protection” for workers and their families; offers prospects for personal development and encourages social integration; gives people the freedom to express their concerns, to organize and to participate in decisions that affect their lives; and guarantees equal opportunities and equal treatment for all.

Global Call to Action for a Human-Centered COVID-19 Recovery: a global agreement reached at the 2021 ILO summit to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gross domestic product (GDP): a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in a specific time period.

Great Depression: the worldwide economic depression that occurred between 1929 and late 1930 that resulted in high unemployment rates, job losses, and hunger.

Global Commission on the Future of Work: an ILO commission tasked with the mission to consider policy that can deliver decent work legislation in the 21st century.

Human-centered recovery: focuses on creating a foundation for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that is fully inclusive, sustainable and resilient.

International Organization for Migration (IOM): a United Nations agency that provides services and policy concerning migrants that travel within and across borders.

International Monetary Fund (IMF): an organization of 190 countries, working to secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.

Informal economy: economic transactions that occur outside of government regulation.

Labor standards: government rules and regulations that ensure workers are protected when they are working.

Layoff: a temporary discharge of workers.

Mandates: an official order from the government to do something; for example, a mask mandate means that every person needs to wear a mask, as instructed by the government.

Migrant workers: a person who moves to another area, sometimes outside of their country, to find employment.

Negotiation: a discussion between two parties that has the goal of reaching an agreement.

Pay theft: the denial of wages or benefits that are rightfully earned by an employee.

Personal protective equipment (PPE): clothing and equipment that is worn or used to provide protection against hazardous substances or environments.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPP): a collaboration between a government and private company to fund and build social infrastructure and social projects.

Social dialogue: the process in which labor unions, employer associations, and/or governments discuss issues related to the world of work.

Social justice: equitable distribution of wealth and income within a country.

Supply chains: a system of organizations, people, information, and resources involved in supplying a product or service to a consumer.

Teleworking: working from home through the Internet or the telephone.

Trade unions: an organized association of workers with the same type of job, formed to protect and further their rights and interests.



Tripartite: the ILO structure where a country is represented by the government, workers' organizations, and employers' organizations.

Undocumented workers: workers that live in a country without the proper documentation that allows them to live there.

Vaccine: a preparation that is used to protect the body's immune response against diseases.

Vaccine hoarding: when one country keeps its extra shares of vaccine doses, instead of sharing them with other countries in need.

World Health Organization (WHO): an agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health.

World Trade Organization (WTO): an international institution that oversees the global trade rules among nations.

World Bank: an international financial institution that provides loans to the governments of low- and middle-income countries



GLOBAL CLASSROOMS DC POSITION PAPER OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

What is a Position Paper?

A position paper is a short document that outlines a country's opinion on an issue. The paper includes a short summary of what the issue or problem is, explains why the country is interested in the issue, and communicates the country's stance on what should be done to address the issue. A position paper is written as if you were the actual representative of the country stating its position. Your personal opinions on the issue should not be included. A position paper is not a summary of your country's GDP, government, economy, languages, etc. unless directly relevant to the issue. Only one position paper is written per country, per grade school committee; if there are 2 or 3 delegates representing the same country on a committee, they should write the paper together.

Why write a Position Paper?

Writing a position paper will help you organize why an issue matters to your country and what your country wants done on the issue. The first thing you will likely do in committee is present an opening speech about your country's position. You should be able to pull portions of a well written position paper into an introductory speech on your country's perspective. Also, your delegation is not eligible to win best / outstanding delegation without the submission of a position paper. There are separate awards given for best position paper.

How to Write a Position Paper

- (1) Research the Issue. The questions you want to answer are:
 1. How does this issue affect your country?
 2. How does this issue affect your country's neighbors or allies?
 3. Is this a global problem that impacts everyone?
 4. What would your country like to see done on this issue?
 5. Are there countries or groups of people who will be particularly sensitive to addressing this issue?
 6. Are there any conventions or resolutions on the topics that your country has signed or ratified?
 7. What are UN actions on the issue? Has your country supported or opposed these actions?
 8. Keep in Mind: What a country says, and what it actually believes should be done may be different. Also, some countries may believe that no action should be taken on an issue. They may disagree with how others feel or may not want international involvement. It is okay if your position is that the international community should do nothing, but you will need to explain why.
- (2) Brainstorm Specific Actions. Come up with 3-4 specific things that can be done to reach the outcome your country desires. For example: "The United States believes we should send a peacekeeping mission to monitor human rights abuses in Syria and encourage talks between both sides." You will present these ideas in committee as possible solutions to the problem and attempt to pass a resolution which includes these actions.



- (3) Outline Your Paper. Make an outline of what points you want to cover in your paper and the order in which you would like to address them. Remember a good paper should briefly explain the problem, explain why your country cares about the issue, and inform others what your country should like to see done. If you know other countries favor a solution that you will disagree with, make sure to include why your country disagrees.
- (4) Write your Paper. Position papers should be no more than one page long and be written from the perspective of the country you are representing. Rather than being a report on the topic, a position paper should explain what your country wants to see done to address the issue. Start by giving a brief summary of the issue and how it impacts your country. Then explain the specific actions you would like to see taken. Close by summarizing your country’s overall position. Proper grammar and spelling are a must!

Award Criteria and Eligibility

- One position paper award will be given out per committee.
- The ideal position paper will have a clearly defined and summarized topic with your country’s position clearly outlined. Points are also awarded for organization, style and correct grammar.
- GCDC Staff will be fact checking position papers, so be sure to include the most up to date information and a works cited (or list of all the sources you use).
 - Proper source citation: if an idea or quote came from another source, you must provide a footnote / citation.
- Papers will be disqualified if the conference staff has discovered that students did not write their own papers or that content has been plagiarized.
- Make sure your position paper must have the required header below! Do not create any additional title pages - points will be deducted for improper format.
- Formatting Requirements: 500 words minimum, 1,500 words maximum. Times New Roman font, 12-point size
- All position papers must be sent to gcdc@unanca.org by **March 18, 2022 at 11:59 PM EST**.

REQUIRED POSITION PAPER HEADER

Committee:	<i>Examples:</i>	UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
Topic:		Climate Change
Country:		The United States of America
Delegate Name(s) and Grades:		Bob Smith and Jane Doe (gr. 7)
School (Teacher/Coach):		Madison High School (Mr. Jones)

The United States of America believes ...