

The United Nations logo, featuring a world map surrounded by a laurel wreath, is centered in the background.

SelaQui International School  
Model United Nation Conference 2018

*Inclusion et Egalite*

## **A letter from the chairperson**

Greetings Delegates,

It is an absolute pleasure to welcome you all as members of the Security Council at QMUN 2018. This year, the committee aims to challenge the delegates' persuasiveness, efficacy and ability to present cogent arguments. On the same lines, we have selected 'Nuclear conflicts in the Middle East' as our agenda.

Being relevant to the world's present scenario, engrossing and challenging at the same time, we anticipate that it will be interesting to see the committee navigate through these agendas over the course of two days.

About myself, I'm an avid reader with a keen interest in contemporary history and political science. I also have a great interest in volleyball and badminton. Besides this, I have also participated in various debates

I look forward to seeing you all here in SelaQui

Shaurya Veer Singh

(Chairperson-Security Council)



## Introduction to the Committee

*The United Nations Security Council is the principal organ of the United Nations, being its executive and most powerful body. The Council deals with matters of great international importance. Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.*

*The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of the settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.*

*The Security Council also recommends to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and the admission of new Members to the United Nations. And, together with the General Assembly, it elects the judges of the International Court of Justice*

*The challenge before the council is one of prodigious magnitude, over the past few years, Iran has continued to move towards nuclear proliferation, and continues to do so today. As this is an incredibly important question of international security, what steps should the United Nations take in this event/conflict? Should Iran be persuaded to stop? Given an ultimatum? Allowed to finish?*



# Summarization

*Many factors come into the mix of the issue of Iran's nuclear program. The question of the intended purpose of the program arises first and foremost. From the Iranian perspective, it is the unalienable right for the Iranian people to develop a peaceful nuclear program created solely for civilian purposes such as energy production. Most nations would agree with this premise were it not for speculation that Iran was in fact secretly developing a nuclear weapons program. The question of international security arises next to the United States*

*And several European states supporting the latter view of a secret weapons program. This speculation has roots in Iran's less than full cooperation with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections in recent years.*

*In addition, a general atmosphere of distrust between the US, which labeled Iran as part of the "Axis of Evil" in 2003, and Iran, led by its new leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has not allowed much room for negotiations.*



# The situation in the Middle East and its Challenges

The Middle East, as we know, has been a politically unstable region for several decades. It has been marred with crises related to extremist movements, political tensions arising from religious disputes, with religious and cultural differences forming a strong foundation for these disputes.

Presence of terrorist groups like the Al Qaeda has played an integral role in disrupting state machinery and causing widespread damage to life and property in the region. These groups exploit fragile situations to gain control and profit from spreading terror. Examples of this can be seen through the daily bombings and persecution of rights and freedoms in Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Lebanon, etc.

However, the biggest threat (in terms of the magnitude of destructive potential) to the stability of the region is the issue of proliferation of nuclear weapons of mass destruction. With few guarantees of governments' stability and intent, the possession of such weapons is a major cause of worry.

Although there are guidelines in treaties that have been successful in converting regions into NWFZs, the Middle East has unique challenges of its own. Certain issues further complicate the attempt to establish a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East.

Some of these are:

- Israel giving no clarity on whether it possesses nuclear weapons or not (also termed as nuclear ambiguity ),
- Iran's nuclear enrichment program and firm political ideology, and
- Non-recognition of statehood - Israel isn't recognized as a state by 31 nation states, including Iran, Syria, Palestine, and Lebanon. Without official diplomatic relations, negotiations cannot consist of all state parties in the region.
- In many countries, governments are in flux right now, and support for various political groups has been expressed by the nations rather than trust in one consolidated vested authority.
- The presence of extremist groups like ISIS, whose ideological goal to create a large-scale theocracy made up of Syria, parts of Iraq, Lebanon, and much of Palestine and Jordan.

These issues are intricately linked to each other and have defied efforts to resolve them to the satisfaction of all stakeholders, including the governments, citizens, ideological groups, and international players.

Other technical questions that need to be tackled are deciding whether political or geographical parameters be considered to determine the area of application, the exact nature of "nuclear weapons", as opposed to "nuclear explosive devices", etc.

# Background/History

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The history of Iran's nuclear program begins surprisingly with the strong US and European backing of the pre-Islamic Revolution regime in Iran from the 1950s up until the revolution in 1979.

American and European corporations including Siemens, General Electric, AEG, and others invested billions during this period to help develop the then Western-friendly regime's nuclear program, which aimed at developing 23 plants by 2000 which would produce 23,000 MW of electricity for the developing country.

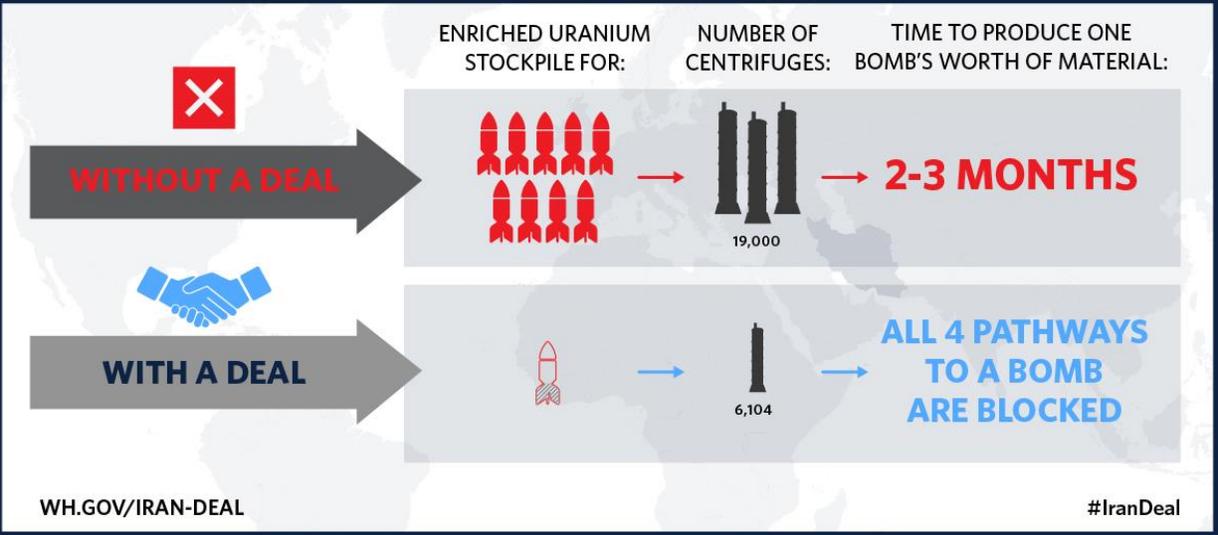
Under the progressive Shah Mohammad Pahlavi, Iran signed the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty in 1968 and ratified it in 1970. The NPT is aimed at preventing further proliferation of nuclear weapons while at the same time allowing nuclear energy for strictly civilian purposes.

The revolution temporarily put the program on hold, and when it resumed, this time it would be based on indigenously produced materials. During this period, Iran worked with the IAEA, the nuclear watchdog of the UN, under its Technical Assistance Program until US pressure forced the IAEA to stop the program. The Iran-Iraq War created another standstill in the program. Iran did not seek to resume the program again until 1990 and signed deals with Russia and China between 1995 and 1996 to help resume their program.

New developments in the conflict began in 2002 when Alireza Jafarzadeh, a prominent Iranian dissident, leaked information about secret nuclear sites including an underground uranium enrichment facility and a heavy water facility. Iran voluntarily allowed the IAEA, under the Additional Protocol, to inspect the sites and it concluded no weapons program was being developed.

In November 2004, the IAEA's report on Iran's nuclear program comprehensively listed Iran's violations of the NPT including its failure to inform the IAEA of importing and using Chinese uranium for conversion and enrichment activities, experiments with the separation of plutonium, and black market centrifuge purchases. On February 4, 2006, the IAEA voted to report Iran to the UN Security Council, and shortly after, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced on April 11, 2006, that Iran had successfully enriched uranium. This accelerated the international response and on July 31, 2006 the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1696 which gave Iran a deadline until August 31, 2006 to suspend uranium enrichment until the IAEA could once and for all conclude the program's fully civilian intentions. Iran refused to suspend enrichment, declaring its unalienable right to nuclear power. This refusal has prompted possible sanctions by Western states, led by the US, and possible UN sanctions

**IF IRAN TRIES TO BUILD A NUCLEAR BOMB TODAY,  
HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE?**



# Current Situation

Currently, Iran does not yet possess nuclear weapon capabilities. Diplomatic authorities estimate it would take about five years for Iran to transcend the technical hurdles for creating a nuclear weapon, but given the government's prudence, it may be ten to fifteen years before they finally produce an actual nuclear weapon. Experts believe Iran has yet to produce sufficient fissile material as well as build an actual working warhead, obstacles of which must be overcome in order for Iran to develop its nuclear weapons capability.



The Iranian government, however, claims to be developing its nuclear program for power generating reactors intended for peaceful use rather than for weapons technology. Yet

experts believe the same technology used by Iranian scientists to develop their nuclear program can also provide fissile material for a nuclear bomb. The United Nations furthermore set an August 31st deadline to halt its uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities which Iran neglected to comply with. This defiance parallels its failure to adhere to other IAEA and UN resolutions.

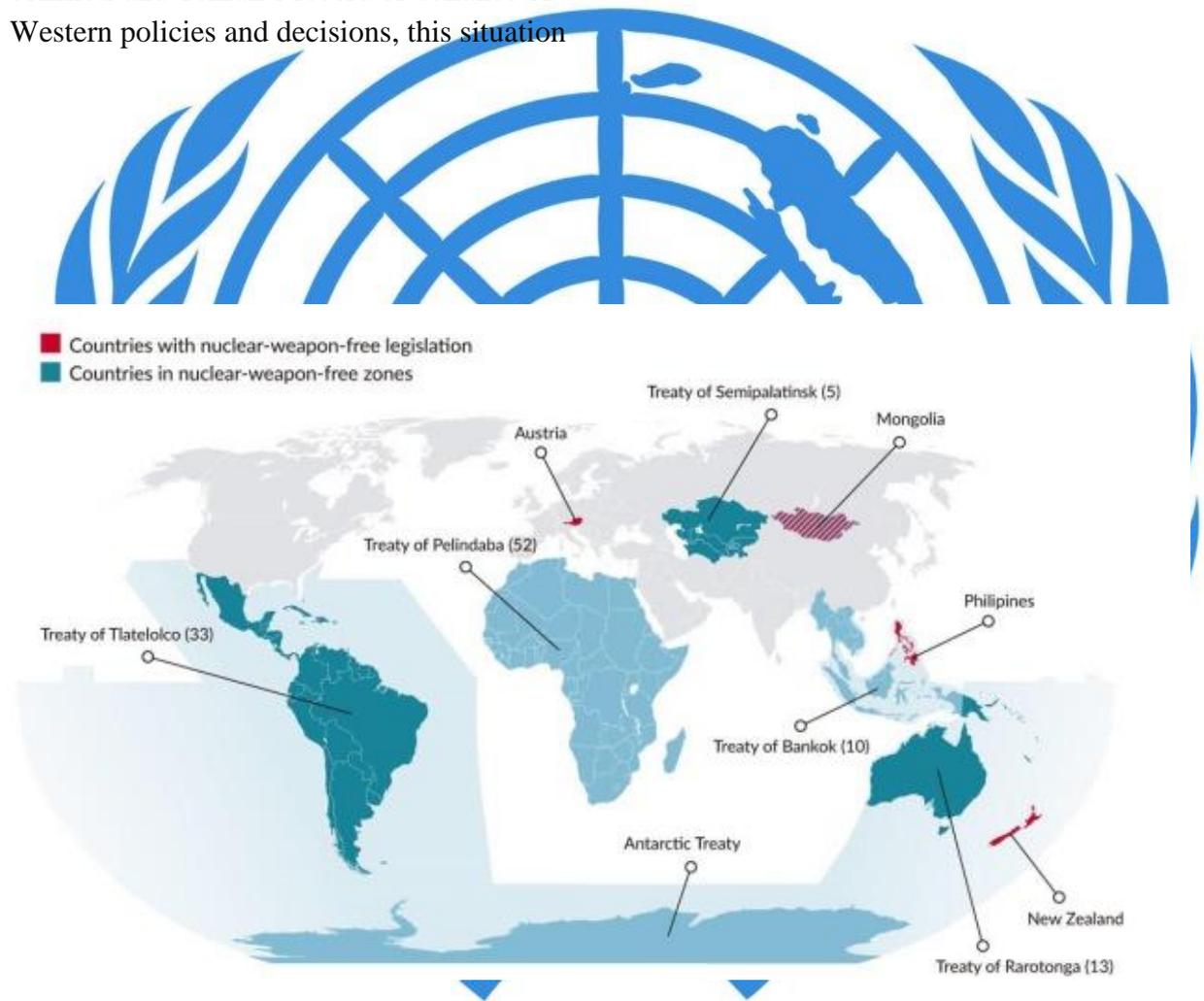
Many significant divisions have arisen between vetoing members of the UN security council

in light of this current conflict. Given Iran's incompetence on this issue, the United States and other western powers have pushed for United Nations sanctions against it. On the other hand, China and

Russia has both urged for patience over the issue and expressed their lack of support for severe punishments against Iran. More specifically, Russian and Chinese scientists have played a crucial role in Iran's nuclear program development. Furthermore, the Russian government has agreed to support Iranian government in its launch of the Bushehr nuclear reactor September 2007. This reactor will be fully operational by November 2007.

Diplomatic concerns also arise from Iran's geographic proximity to Israel due to its previously expressed distaste and criticism of the state. The Israeli conflict poses much concern over the potential outbreak of chaos that could erupt should Iran further develop its nuclear program. Given the regional conflicts and Tehran's record of defiance of Western policies and decisions, this situation

has the potential to explode into a very dangerous global conflict.



# Non-Proliferation Treaty

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The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT, is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.

Opened for signature in 1968, the treaty entered into force in 1970. As required by the text, after twenty-five years, NPT Parties met in May 1995 and agreed to extend the treaty indefinitely. More countries have adhered to the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the treaty's significance. As of August 2016, 191 states have adhered to the

treaty, though North Korea, which acceded in 1985 but never came into compliance, announced its withdrawal from the NPT in 2003, following the detonation of nuclear devices in violation of core obligations. Four UN member states have never accepted the NPT, three of which are thought to possess nuclear weapons: India, Israel, and Pakistan. In addition, South Sudan, founded in 2011, has not joined.

The treaty defines nuclear-weapon states as those that have built and tested a nuclear explosive device before 1 January 1967; these are the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China.



# Questions a Resolution Should Address

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- Israel following the policy of nuclear ambiguity.
- Iran's nuclear enrichment program and its government's firm political ideology.
- Non-recognition of statehood - Israel isn't recognized as a state by 31 nation states, including Iran, Syria, Palestine, and Lebanon. Without official diplomatic relations, negotiations cannot consist of all state parties in the region.
- In many countries, governments are in a state of crisis right now with many of them just existing on paper and not in authority.
- The presence of extremist groups like ISIS, whose ideological goal to create a large-scale theocracy made up of Syria, parts of Iraq, Lebanon, and much of Palestine and Jordan.

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# The relevance of The Agenda

## Nuclear Weapons Free Zones and their Significance

Several regions of the world have previously become Nuclear Weapons Free Zones (NWFZ), which has been significant in reducing political tensions and the threat of a global nuclear arms race (this is also called confidence-building measures of CBMs). An NWFZ is a zone recognized by the UN, where there is the absence of nuclear weapons and where an international system of verification is established "to guarantee compliance with the obligations under the IAEA statute". Examples of this are NWFZs in Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and most recently in Central Asia.

- The establishment of such a zone is controlled through an agreement between the countries of the region, without any participation by other countries of the world in the process of negotiation. To paraphrase, it follows a regional approach, where only people living in that region have a say over the matter. Therefore, NWFZ negotiations aren't subject to the dominance of other nuclear weapon states, nor are they subject to any veto in the Security Council.
- This regional approach does face some issues from the influence that other states might have over the countries part of the region. For example, think about how powerful states like the P5 have used their influence in the past and are using it in the present to shape the world to their liking.
- The importance of NWFZs lies in its ultimate goal to abolish nuclear weapons in different geographical regions and eventually, the world. It works towards eliminating the possibility of a nuclear war, region by region. The states who sign the binding treaties move towards disarmament, thus improving regional security and reliance. Analysis of some of the NWFZs have shown that they have two fundamental criteria common to them -
  - they have a strong regional bond and
  - they have stable relationships with nuclear weapon states (who give NWFZs certain "security guarantees" against the use of nuclear weapons against them).It has been proven that the establishment of NWFZs has a tremendous role in non-proliferation and disarmament. This task, which seems complex and impossible to many, could be a success if continued with the same strategy, i.e., to first turn regions to NWFZs and then ultimately, to turn the world into a more secure, disarmed place.
- A secondary but long-term aspect of such a measure is the faith it builds in states, which can now direct their energies and resources to build up their economies. Sharing of people, goods, and services in these regions becomes easier, and this opens up many opportunities to enter many bilateral and multilateral agreements for growth.

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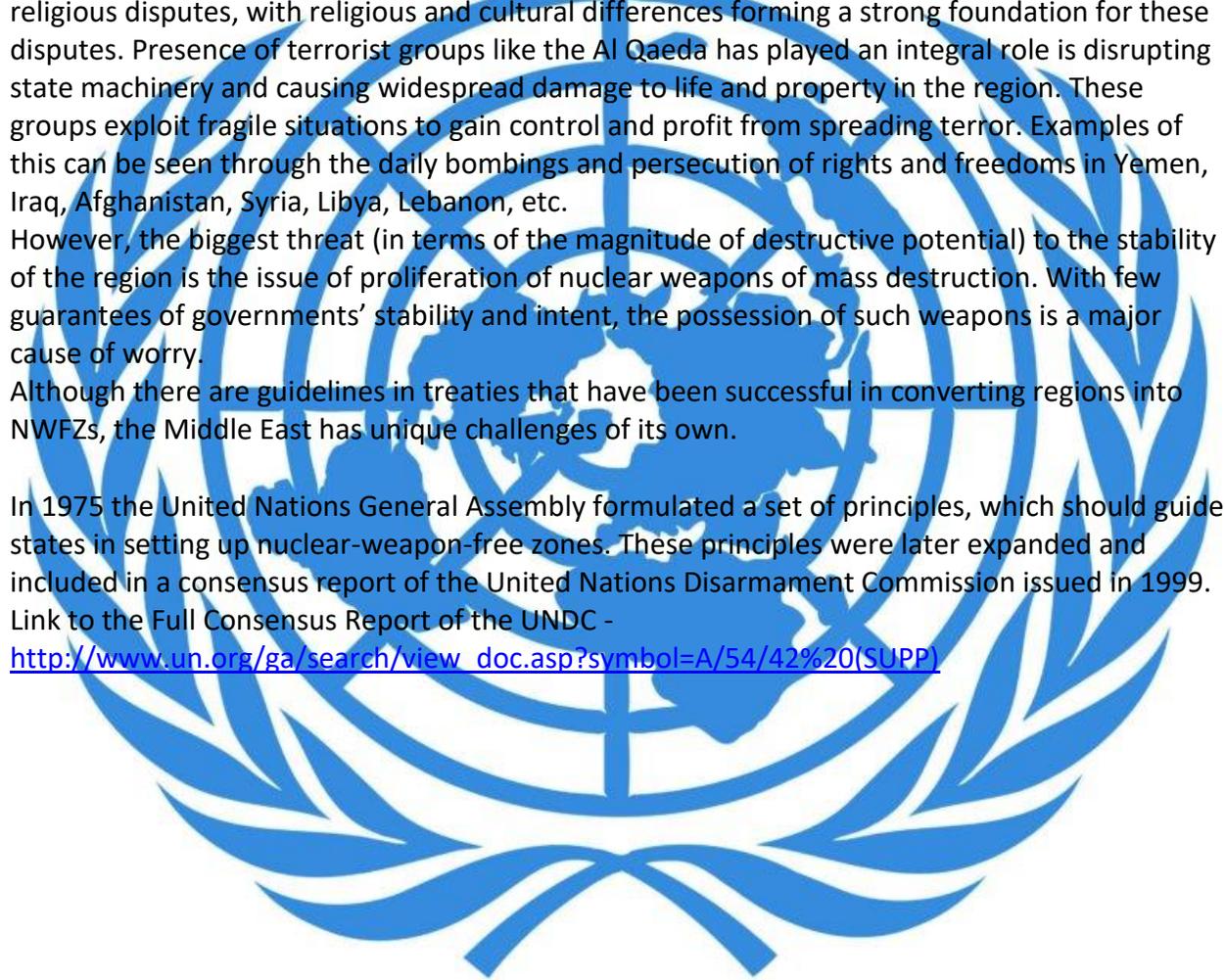
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In 1975 the United Nations General Assembly formulated a set of principles, which should guide states in setting up nuclear-weapon-free zones. These principles were later expanded and included in a consensus report of the United Nations Disarmament Commission issued in 1999.

Link to the Full Consensus Report of the UNDC -

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/54/42%20\(SUPP\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/54/42%20(SUPP))



# Links to Follow

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1. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/geneva/cd/an-introduction-to-the-conference/>
2. [https:// www.unog.ch/](https://www.unog.ch/) | Official Website of UN Office in Geneva
3. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/geneva/cd/annual-reports/>
4. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/> | Details about the NPT
5. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/geneva/enmod/> | Details about the ENMOD
6. [http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/sea\\_bed](http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/sea_bed) | Status of Ratifications and Text of the Seabed
7. Treaty <https://www.un.org/disarmament/geneva/bwc/> | Details about the BW

## Position Paper Guidelines

Position papers are usually one to one-and-a-half pages in length. Your position paper should include a brief introduction followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on the topics that are being discussed by the committee. A good position paper will not only provide facts but also make proposals for resolutions. A good position paper will include:

- A brief introduction to your country and its history concerning the topic and committee;
- How the issue affects your country;
- Your country's policies with respect to the issue and your country's justification for these policies;
- Quotes from your country's leaders about the issue;
- Statistics to back up your country's position on the issue;
- Actions were taken by your government with regard to the issue;
- Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified; • UN actions that your country supported or opposed;
- What your country believes should be done to address the issue;
- What your country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution; and
- How the positions of other countries affect your country's position.

