Security Council Team Guide

Teams in the Security Council are made up of one to three students. This guide outlines the pre-conference preparations and three primary at-conference roles taken on by delegates. While they can be separated from one another, most students will take on multiple, and oftentimes all, of these roles at one point or another. Successful teams will participate in all aspects of the Security Council and will work as a team to consistently represent the true policy ambitions of their nation.

Pre-Conference Preparations:

Position Paper
Each team is responsible for submitting, at minimum, a three-page single-spaced Position Paper about the issues in the 2023 Issue Agenda. Each paper should be split into five sections: “Introduction,” “Energy Insecurity,” “Economic Insecurity,” “Children and Armed Conflict,” and “Major Conflicts.” Write this as if you were giving a report to the President of the Security Council on your positions.

Introduction – Brief summary of your country’s demographics (location, population, etc.), Security Council history, and major relationships on the Security Council (positive and negative).

Issue Specific Sections – In-depth research on your country’s position regarding the issue laid out in the three Issue Briefs. What are your policy priorities? What does your country oppose? How would your country respond to Security Council resolutions within that policy area? Focus on answering applicable questions in the “Questions to Answer” section of the briefs.

NOTE: With the Security Council redesign every country will have ample material to fill this portion of the paper. Having a neutral position is still a position. If you don’t think your country has a public opinion on the issue, look at its historical record, the positions of allies, and if it would be willing to make a deal to be swayed one way or another and discuss those things.

Major Conflicts – Respond to any conflicts mentioned in the brief that concern your nation. Also, research other conflicts that the Security Council might address that involve your country. Just because your country isn’t directly involved doesn’t mean they don’t have stake in a conflict. For example, if the UN is debating whether or not to intervene in a Civil War it will likely use the same logic when debating a Civil War in your country.

After you complete your Position Paper, you should work together to summarize the key points of your country’s major positions in a single page document to be referenced by other Ambassador Teams. List your policy priorities (positive and negative) and conflicts you wish to address, as well as any other information other countries might find useful.

Examples of a Position Paper and a Position Summary, developed by your Presidents of the Security Council, can be found in the resources folder.
**Resolutions**

One of the first orders of business after arrival at the conference is writing and filing Security Council resolutions. Each team **must review** the Security Council Resolution Writing Guide prior to the conference so they can be prepared to write resolutions at conference. It is also **recommended to begin pre-writing** resolutions to be submitted at conference. Pre-writing can be done in two ways:

- **Full Resolutions** – Drafting complete Security Council resolutions in accordance to the drafting guide. This strategy allows teams to automatically begin garnering signatures for resolutions upon reaching the conference and grants them more control over the content of their resolution. Teams using this method might experience more opposition if they aren’t able to account for other countries’ position pre-conference.

- **Individual sets of Preambulatory and Operative Clauses** – Teams might find it easier to draft specific sets of Clauses that could be incorporated into full resolutions after they arrive to the conference. Resolutions are often expansive and address multifaceted issues so drafting these individual sets gives teams more flexibility once they arrive at conference.

The Security Council Resolution Writing Guide and an example of a KUNA Security Council Resolution can be found in the resources folder.

**Diplomatic Relations**

Prior to the conference each team should **identify its current relationships** with other Security Council members. In addition, knowing the policy positions of other countries in relation to your own is incredibly important. Two countries could be similar on policy positions, but a hostile relationship between the two could spoil a joint resolution. Alternatively, countries might have opposed policy positions, but a positive relationship could lead to compromises that make little sense from an outside perspective.

**Policy Positions** – Teams can utilize the Security Council Relations Chart or their own method to determine whether their policy positions align with other members of the Council. In addition to this general overview, it could be beneficial for teams to research the positions of other countries specifically on their top policy priorities, identifying potential opposition before arriving at conference. Position Summary pages will be released on the Assembly Page after the submission deadline passes.

**Diplomatic Relations** – Teams should look at the historic and contemporary diplomatic relations of their country to determine likely partners. Remember, countries can differ on specific policies, but still be close diplomatically. This research should influence how you act at conference. Two countries with a hostile diplomatic relationship should not suddenly be friendly when operating at conference.

Countries should pay **special attention** to the Big 5 nations (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) as their veto power allows them additional power over the agenda of the Security Council.

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**Example of an Individual Set:**
- **Calls for the ceasing of all nuclear weapon development programs;**
- **Requests all member states to destroy 50% of their nuclear arsenal by 2030;**

These two clauses could be attached to almost any Nuclear Disarmament resolution or could be used as the start of negotiating a new resolution.
At-Conference Roles:

NOTE: It is encouraged for team members to switch within these positions frequently. Team members may switch roles at any time so long as they are not disruptive and aren’t switching in the middle of a speech.

Speaking
Each team will be allowed one “speaking seat.” While fulfilling this role, team members should:
- Contribute to debate through the lens of their country’s position by giving speeches and voting on resolutions
- Engage with parliamentary procedure, stalling or speeding up votes on resolutions based on the needs of their team
- Maneuver the speaker’s list to recognize their country’s amendments and resolutions
- Listen to feedback given by their team and adjust their strategy to match updated positions

Research and Policy Development
Research and resolution development is an integral part of every ambassador team. While fulfilling this role, team members should:
- Determine their country’s position on resolutions and amendments based on the true positions of their country and prior voting record on similar issues
- Convey these positions to the rest of their team to promote consistency
- Provide information (statistics, policy positions, voting record) for speeches
- Write resolutions that further their country’s goals and contribute to other nation’s resolutions through amendments

Diplomacy
Building partnerships with other countries is necessary for countries to gather enough support for their position. While fulfilling this role, team members should:
- Foster partnerships, create deals, and convince other countries their position is the most favorable
- Garner signatures for resolutions their country wishes to bring before the Security Council
- Coordinate with other countries to amend portions of resolutions unfavorable to your position

Scenario 1 – Passing a resolution
Your country has a resolution you wish to pass, but it is currently opposed by a member of the Big 5

1. The “Speaking” student is serving as the resolution sponsor and is occupied with giving speeches and answering questions
2. The “Research” student is providing answers and information to the “Speaking” student while searching for any hidden reasons the Big 5 nation would be against the policy alongside the “Diplomacy” student
3. The “Diplomacy” student is coordinating with the opposed Big 5 delegates trying to convince them to support the resolution or to work on an amendment that will garner their support

If the “Diplomacy” and “Research” students are successful at crafting an acceptable amendment they will signal the “Speaking” student to request a friendly amendment be called up and a vote to follow quickly

Scenario 2 – Making a deal
Another country is getting signatures for a resolution you don’t support, and they are neutral on the current bill being debated, which you support

1. The “Speaking” student is giving speeches on the current bill and is stalling the vote until enough people are supportive
2. The “Research” student is providing information to the “Speaking” student and the “Diplomacy” student while doing research on another resolution about to be debated
3. The “Diplomacy” student is coordinating with the country attempting to get signatures and other country’s that support your position, attempting to change the resolution before it is debated

The “Diplomacy” student eventually makes a deal with the country: A signature and affirmative vote on that country’s resolution, dependent on the change being made and an affirmative vote on the current resolution. This information is given to the “Research” student to confirm the deal and pass along to the “Speaking” student who will implement the vote