

Foreign Policy Statement

3.2. FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT (FPS)

3.2.1. Introduction

A document that each participating delegate must prepare and submit to the chairs of their committees is called the Foreign Policy Statement (FPS). This document presents the delegate's country's current stance on the topic of discussion, the actions that have been taken for or against the topic, as well as any future plans the country has made. The FPS is extremely important as the delegate must adopt his/her country's stance throughout the entire conference.

The FPS conveys only the country's position on the topic at hand, and should not contain any of the delegate's personal opinions or notions. It is vital that the delegate sticks to their country's position on the topic during the conference, as the chairs will constantly be verifying all the information provided by the delegate with the submitted FPS, to make sure the delegate is in accordance with the government he/she represents.

The FPS is written in a precise format, and must be submitted to the chairs of each delegate's committee by the set deadline. Each FPS is graded by the chairs, and they shall decide on the best FPS written in their committee. An award is presented at the end of the conference in each committee, to the delegate who submits the best FPS.

3.2.2. Guidelines for FPS Preparation

The FPS focuses on three key areas in relation to a topic:

- The country's stance on the stated topic
- The actions already implemented by the country in relation to the topic
- The future actions the country is planning on implementing in relation to the topic

An ideal FPS is not one that is filled with facts and statistics. For a truly excellent FPS, the delegate must address each of the mentioned criteria in a very concise, methodical and informative manner that is logical in its structure and information presentation. In addition to all of this, a high standard of research must be evident as well. Listed below, are some ways in improving an FPS:

+ Excellent Research:

An effective FPS is one that informs its reader of exactly what is relevant. The key to this, is research. The delegate must provide accurate and precise information, and this can be done by researching in depth

about their topic in general, as well as their country's position. Delegates may use books, newspapers, the internet and any other means to obtain their information but it must be certain that the gathered information is current, as well as completely accurate. Also all the information included in the FPS must be relevant to the topic. It is important that delegates do not simply copy information from their sources, as this is plagiarism. As a representative of a nation, it is up to you to make sure that your FPS does not include directly copied information unless you may be quoting facts or statistics or statements made by public figures, in which case it must be stated explicitly. If plagiarism is observed, it reflects very poorly on the delegate, and represents laziness and disinterest, and will not impress the chairs.

+ Concise, Logical Presentation:

The presentation of the research is also a very important aspect of the FPS. It should not be a simple regurgitation of facts and research; instead it must be structured in a clear and comprehensive manner. The three main questions should be clearly answered, with sufficient information and presented systematically. This is in fact, a very important criterion, because in essence, a good FPS will display logical presentation, an accurate and a comprehensive presentation of required information in a clear and understandable manner.

+ Good Language Skills:

Many delegates try to hide their lack of research and information with complex and obscure language. This in many cases is quite clear and does not impress the chairs at all. Good language refers to the effectiveness of communicating the information, in the clear and logical manner as mentioned above, in an official and engaging tone. It is not supposed to be poetic or overly descriptive in any way, and must maintain formality in its entirety. It must present all the information the delegate decides to include efficiently and must be grammatically accurate.

If these criteria are adhered to and are observable in an FPS, it will impress the chairs.

FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT TEMPLATE

Committee:

Name of delegate:

Delegation:

Date:

School:

State Questions/Topic

a) Does my country support question/topic one?

b) What has my country done to support or condemn question one?

c) What does my country plan to do in the future to condemn or support question one?

SAMPLE FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT

Committee: General Assembly 2 **Delegation:** Pakistan

Name of delegate: xxx **Date:** xxth February 2010

School: xxx

Questions

1. External debt sustainability and development
2. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East-Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

1 a) Does my country support question one?

Yes

b) What has my country done to support or condemn question one?

Debt sustainability is generally defined by IMF and World Bank as the ability of a country to meet its current and future debt provision obligations without resorting to debt deferment or accumulation of debts and without compromising growth. Consequently Pakistan is barely able to meet the said conditions of debt sustainability. It has been concluded that the primary fiscal and current account imbalances were the main causes of public debt sustainability issues. Both the public and external debt ratios have remained far from the sustainable levels during 1970s to 2000s. The steadily rising growth rate in the early 2000s i.e. the year 2000 to the year 2007 from 3.1% to 6.6% indicated that the external debt sustainability conditions had been met to a certain extent with a reasonable growth rate, however these conditions did not hold for long and growth rates fell to 2.7% in the year 2009, nevertheless as of recent growth rates are gaining and currently stand at a 4.8%. Regardless of the constantly fluctuating growth rates which may be considered a cause of concern it should be noted that the GDP growth rate in Pakistan never fell to below 0% indicating that Pakistan was not affected adversely by the credit crunch or the global recession and that there always has been a certain degree of growth and development.

There are several indicators as to the fact that the external assistance offered to Pakistan has been used for the purpose of development, there have been improvements in the literacy rate, life expectancy, reserves of gold and such, and a reduction in infant mortality, deaths due to HIV and so

on. However pressing problems seem to be the continued and drastic increase in both unemployment and inflation. Although the problem of inflation could be attributed to the rising prices of oil and the rise in global food prices and therefore having a direct effect on the rates of unemployment due to the falling levels of demand for both goods and labour due to higher prices, the Pakistani government are making an effort to address this problem through subsidization of

local industries and encouragement of Foreign Direct Investment with incentives for Multinational Companies to relocate in Pakistan.

c) What does my country plan to do in the future to condemn or support question one?

Pakistan being a rather small but open economy has always borrowed externally to finance its savings and foreign exchange gap. Pakistan further recognizes the importance of using aid to fund the savings gap which would directly result in increased levels of investment and fund the foreign exchange gap which would mean that now capital goods can be purchased from abroad to increase the amount of consumer goods in the long run. However the expected level of growth and development are harder to achieve with Pakistan's rising debt servicing costs. 67% of the net revenue receipts of the federal government are allocated to foreign debt repayment and debt servicing costs. According to the a statement released by the government recently the danger of debt default continues to increase as foreign exchange reserves fell by over 70% due to rising oil prices. Nevertheless the government of Pakistan is doing all it can to prevent defaulting from the debt owed by trying to increase its sources of revenue by promoting exports and encouraging Foreign Direct Investment. Pakistan further only calls for debt relief in dire and drastic circumstances and stresses that it does not recommend debt relief as a primary option. Pakistan has been in the past struggling with the issue of debt sustainability and will do all within its power to continue to pay its debts however also calls upon for emergency debt relief in the face of a natural disaster as with the floods of 2010.

1 a) Does my country support question two?

Yes

b) What has my country done to support or condemn question two?

The Israeli – Palestinian conflict and the Israeli- Arab war has been one of great concern to the government of Pakistan over a long period of time and as per a statement made by the President of Pakistan, Pakistan will not recognize the state of Israel until an independent Palestinian state has been established. The Pakistani government has always strongly believed that the Palestinians be given permanent sovereignty of the currently occupied Palestinian territory. Although many have attributed this support rendered to Palestine to the lack of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Israel, the Pakistani government like the rest of the Arab world have far more profound reasons for this support. The government of Pakistan deems it unfair that the Israelis have been exploiting, damaging and depleting the natural resources of Palestine namely oil, causing the country to fall into stark levels of poverty with extremely low levels of growth. Moreover Pakistan believes that as a nation the

Palestinians have the constitutional right to the resources and wealth of the state therefore proving that by harming the environment, including dumping of waste materials in the occupied Palestinian and Syrian territories, and by destroying vital infrastructure, including water pipelines and sewage networks and by constructing a wall in

The Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, Israel has violated international law and critically deprived the Palestinian people of their natural resources. The Pakistani government in the past has always shown its support for Palestine concerning the issue, adding to the refusal of Pakistan to recognize the state of Israel, Pakistan also sent in pilots to aid the Arab forces in the Arab-Israeli war. Although many negotiations have been attempted over the years in between Pakistan and Israel, Pakistan has always stood its ground and continues to support Palestine in the situation. Pakistan further approves the advancement of the negotiations of the peace process in the Middle East as endorsed by the Security Council in the past. Pakistan further believes that the Israelis should withdraw from the Gaza Strip and dismantles all strongholds and settlements within the aforementioned territory. This continued territorial dispute will only lead to the further exploitation of Palestine for its oil, especially given the rising prices of oil and therefore Pakistan believes that the Palestinians have the right to claim restitution due to the illegal measures taken upon by the occupying Power which has not only caused damage and depletion to the natural resources of Palestine but the acts of terror and prolonged battles have left its mark upon the citizens of both countries.

c) What does my country plan to do in the future to support to condemn question two?

Pakistan believes that if Palestine is given control of its resources and sovereignty the nation could flourish provided that it is given sufficient aid as it would be emerging from dire circumstances. This would be in the best interests of Pakistan and other nations as now diplomatic relations can be established with Israel and peace in Palestine would mean an increase in the level of trade having a sound impact on Pakistan's economy. This would increase exports for Pakistan which means that the Balance of Payments will improve and increase our stocks of foreign exchange. Pakistan believes that a settling of this conflict and providing the Palestinian people the constitutional right to their wealth and resources will encourage growth in the Middle East, as a growing nation always has positive spill over effects on its neighbours and trade partners. The settling of this war could also mend ties between other nations which have taken opposite sides on this issue. The end to the conflict also means that now money used in the past for defence could be funnelled into more productive channels such as health and education causing growth and development and therefore the government of Pakistan believes that they are justified in their support of Palestine.