**HOW TO WRITE A POLICY STATEMENT?**

A **policy statement** is a document written by delegates before an MUN conference. It is usually presented at the beginning of specific debates, taking the place of an **opening speech**. It is a document concerning a particular topic, briefly but comprehensively defining the issue being debated and clearly explaining the policies as well as national interests of a given Member State. It may prove to be useful during the informal lobbying process that occurs before debating sessions where you will look for co-submitters (co authors) in merging similar resolutions. The policy statement is also the basis of the resolution every delegate needs to write beforehand.

Please note that you may not insult other members of the United Nations or present your own delegation in an unworthy fashion.

To sum up, a policy statement consists of four components:

1. a short summary of recent international action related to the question

2. reference to key documents relating to the issue

3. a general statement of the country’s policy on the issue

4. specific suggestions for a solution to the question, which may provide ideas for the operative clauses the resolution (more on this later).

**SAMPLE POLICY STATEMENT**

“Delegation: Japan

Commission: Disarmament

The Question of Space Arms Proliferation

Honourable Chairs, Distinguished Delegates,

Japan continues to be a leader in the development of peaceful space technology. Since 1970, when the first successful launch of a satellite from Japan was achieved, applications in communication, broadcasting, meteorology, and earth observation followed in rapid progression. Japan has worked to co-operate with the United States, Western Europe and Canada in the construction of an earth-orbiting space station.

The government of Japan believes that space technology development is critical for the nation’s future, so it is encouraging active participation in this industry by Japanese firms. Because of its international approach to peace and security Japan strongly supports the Outer Space Treaty. Preventing the deployment, placing, or testing of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction in space must be accepted as a fundamental principle of this new frontier.

The Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty (SALT 1) also set a precedent in establishing protection from attack from a country’s orbiting satellites. This convention should be extended as a matter of international law.

The government of Japan commends the Advisory Committee and the

Preparatory Committee for preparing so quickly the draft report of UNISPACE III, the Executive Summary, and the Vienna Declaration. However, Japan is concerned at the cleavages that have been accentuated between Western space powers and the non-space states. Japan emphasizes the continued practical benefits to life on earth of the diverse spin-offs of space technology.

The delegation of Japan is certain that the debates in our committee are going to be stimulating and will provide new solutions to this problem.

(I am open to points of information) / (I yield the floor back to the Chairs).”