

## Sample Position Paper 1:

**Committee:** Security Council  
**Topic:** Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea  
**Country:** The United Mexican States  
**Delegate:** First Name, Last Name and School

In 1945, World War II ended and Korea split into two separate countries., The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and the Republic of Korea (South Korea). The US became allies with South Korea and the USSR became allies with North Korea. Consequently, North Korea became a communist country and South Korea became a capitalist country. North Korea was in favor of reuniting with South Korea, but they could not agree on which type of government they would have. Then, North Korea wanted to invade South Korea but didn't get support from the Russia. In 1950, The Korean War began when Russia agreed with North Korea to attack South Korea. They were winning when the US came and helped South Korea push them out. To settle this conflict, they made a strip of land called the De-militarized Zone (DMZ) which is the divide between North and South Korea. This ended the Korean War but there is still tension and fighting between these two countries.

North Korea built a nuclear complex in the 1960s. In the 1970s, they expanded their plant into a more capable and complex facility. In 1985, they signed the treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction but then dropped out (Aftergood and Kristensen, 2). Since then, they have fired seven ballistic missiles and conducted two nuclear tests, the more recent test defied UN resolutions 1718 and 1695 (Lee, 1).

World-wide there are approximately 30,000 nuclear weapons among various countries and Mexico wants to put a stop to it. (Norris and Kristensen, 1). In the Security Council meeting 6141, Claude Heller (Mexico) states, "From the start, the Mexican Government strongly condemned the nuclear test, as well as the launches of short-range missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea." Mexico thinks the US should take away all nuclear weapons from North Korea and is in favor of any UN resolution that will prevent countries from getting nuclear weapons.

Mexico is a signer of the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty). According to the National Report of Mexico in the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Mexico believes that the key to Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons world wide is the NPT but also thinks that the NPT would be more effective if it was recognized by the International Court of Justice because countries would be more concerned with legalities of nuclear weapons.

Mexico also believes that North Korea needs to turn to the six-party talks so that they can continue to have an open line of communication with the UN. Finally, Mexico thinks that North Korea needs to realize that their nuclear weapon tests not just affects them, they are constantly a threat to the international community and should immediately stop the testing and production of nuclear weapons (Heller, Security Council 6141).

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## Sample Position Paper 2:

**Committee:** UN Habitat  
**Topic:** Elimination of slums worldwide  
**Country:** Federative Republic of Brazil  
**Delegate:** First Name, Last Name, School

The first inhabitants of the Brazilian slums (favelas) were freed slaves and poor people immigrating to urban areas. The slums are built on lands that the inhabitants have no rights to, therefore they are illegal. The hillsides are covered in the shacks of favela residents but they are mostly run down and messy. If people felt they own the land they live on they are more likely to invest in it but the government has tried several times to tear down sections of the favelas and replace them with public housing making people feel no need to do anything for themselves (Desmond, 2).

In the early 1950s resident's associations (Ams) were formed in many of the favelas at the request of the government and outsiders trying to deliver resources to the residents. During the authoritarian rule (1964-85), the Ams acted to protect the favelas from removal. As the Ams came into contact with more politicians the favelas got more attention and the politicians became more involved and as a result the Ams were weakened (Desmond, 2).

Drug trafficking has been and is still a huge issue in the Brazilian slums. In the 1980s, drug traffickers began to employ more favela residents, in their opinion providing needed assistants to the poor and solidifying their leadership (Kingsley, 1). Many families have no choice but to turn to illegal sources such as the drug cartels for jobs and money. If more jobs were created by the government or other agencies, the drug cartels would be greatly crippled.

The crime rate in the favelas is comparatively low to the areas around them. The main crime and theft occur in the surrounding areas. Crime within the favelas is centered on the drug trade. Criminals steal what they need and take into their homes. This is mostly accepted and allowed in most areas (Kingsley, 1). Clashes between the drug cartels and the police are common. This is because the cartels have become very powerful and what they say has a lot of political influence (Desmond, 2).

There are many issues in the slums of the world. In the favelas of Brazil alone nearly seven million people don't have access to clean water, over nineteen million people don't have access to any sanitation and over four million people don't have durable housing (Tibaijuka, 1). Many die at the early age or are very ill from curable diseases, their standards of living could be greatly improved if they had a better health care system.

The Brazilian Consul General, Marcos Caramuru de Paiva said, "Brazil, like other countries in the world became essentially urban during the twentieth century. Today, in Brazil, but also throughout the world, we need to rethink and renegotiate the fundamental bases of the city we want." "Our home planet is only one, we change addresses but consume the same global products, we travel the same way, we use the same natural resources and we develop together" (World Forum, 1).

The government has tried to remove the favelas, that didn't work; new people just moved in and used the land. They tried to make public housing; there were never enough houses for everyone. They tried to use force to control the favelas, but couldn't. Their most recent policy towards the favelas is the Program to Accelerate Growth (PAG), a four year investment plan, which includes the promotion of urban development for the favelas. Also in

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recent times, local governments have aimed several policies at the favelas to lessen the severity of the problems inside, if not completely fix them.

A new approach is needed to treat this issue. If tearing down houses to build apartments only makes people homeless, build the apartments first, then tear down a section of the favelas and build in that location next. This approach will require new land to be developed in only a few places, once the first people are moved to that housing, the land where they lived will be developed for others to move into and their land will be used to build for the next group of people, and so on. People will not feel as violated because they will never be homeless; they will go from one home to another.

A new health care system is also needed; most of the favela residents lack access to health care and sanitation, new clinics and health centers must be set up within the favelas if a higher standard of living is to be reached. Action must be made now, mass urbanization will continue throughout the twenty-first century. Favelas will continue to grow to unpredicted sizes. Housing must be built now and health care needs to change now.

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## Sample Position Paper 3:

**Committee:** UN Habitat  
**Topic:** Elimination of slums worldwide  
**Country:** Burkina Faso  
**Delegate:** First Name, Last Name, School

Today the estimated number of slum dwellers worldwide is about 998 million (Urban Poverty & Slum Dwellers). That is one third of the world's total urban population. In any country around the world there are up to five predicaments, called shelter deprivations causing poor living conditions: lack of access to water, lack to access to sanitation, non-durable housing, insufficient living area, and security of tenure. Not all slum dwellers suffer the same degree of deprivation – some have better living conditions than others (UN-HABITAT), State of the World Cities 2008/2009). Resolutions to improve conditions in slums worldwide and access to basic urban services are serious steps to take to improving the lives of many in poor conditions.

In sub-Sahara Africa, where urban areas grow most rapidly, slums grew 4.5 percent annually between 1990 and 2001 (UKAID Department for International Development). In 2000, Africa's population in poverty was 295 million and is predicted to double by 2030 (Yuwei). Sixty-two percent of the urban population in sub-Saharan Africa live in slums or suffer from at least one of the five shelter deprivations. Slum-dwellers in Africa suffer mainly from three of the five shelter deprivations. Slum-dwellers in Africa suffer mainly from three of the five shelter deprivations: lack of water, sanitation, and housing. Addressing all of these three problems can significantly improve the lives of many slum dwellers, but the number one demand for countries like Burkina Faso and nearby countries is the improvement of sanitation (UN-HABITAT), State of the World Cities 2008/2009).

Burkina Faso, the third poorest country in the world has a population of 13,002,000 and suffers tragically from lack of sanitation (UNICEF). The percentage of the population living below the poverty line was 44.5% in 1994 and rose by 1.9% in 2004. Burkina Faso's water coverage wend from 39% in 1990 to 51% in 2002, but the sanitation coverage dropped from 13% to 12%. The country is attempting to improve its economy by improving the infrastructure, food and supplies, and make agriculture more effective (UNICEF).

Four years ago, a plan was brought into action to eliminate slums in Burkina Faso. The UN-HABITAT developed a proposal for a City Development Strategy (CDS) for the capital of Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou. The plan focused on improving access to urban services for people who live in inadequate housing. The goal was to assist the government of the country and develop a plan to improve the infrastructure and the access to the urban services for the poor. Some actions included the capacity building of national and local institutions, identifying weaknesses and strengths of the country, preparing the city economic profile using the Local Economic Development (LED), and incorporating lessons from the African Local Economy Recovery programme (ECOLOG) (UN-HABITAT City Development).

There was a Cooperation agreement signed with the Municipality of Ouagadougou to provide support for the project. Two committees agreed to advise the project and working groups such as urban mobility, basic urban services, urban governance, urban poverty, environment, and spatial have been established (UN-HABITAT City Development Strategy). On October 12, 2005, a community gathered to witness UN-HABITAT's global campaign on urban governance and secure tenure in Burkina Faso. Alliance Cities Without Slums action plan (MDG Target 11),

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includes promoting secure tenure, access to shelter finance, and policies to help cities prevent the growth of new slums and has also provided spending \$600 million for several more years until 2010 (Slum-free by 2010: Global campaigns for secure tenure and urban governance). This plan is important because improving conditions in slums will reduce urban poverty (UKAid).

“This plan will serve as a guide for all action in the field of housing and urban development, and the Government will take the measures necessary to make it work,” stated Mr. Hippolyte Lingani, Minister of Infrastructure, Transport, and Housing and also the Mayor of Ouagadougou and the Chairman of the Association of Mayors of Burkina Faso. The action plan included security of tenure and to strengthen with the governments so they can deal with the issues in Burkina Faso. The Burkina Faso plan launch was attended by the Housing and Planning Ministers from Senegal, Chad, and Niger (UN-HABITAT Slum-free).

Because 82.6% of Burkina Faso’s population is mostly in rural areas, people are beginning to migrate from farms to cities either because they are kicked out of their homes from the situations of natural disasters or ecological changes, or they are just seeking for jobs or satisfactory education (MMUN). If cities overpopulate with homeless inhabitants, more slums will expand. Burkina Faso’s population is growing by 3 percent annually, and if that continues to happen, the country will have more than 20 million people by 2020 (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs).

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