



DELEGATE PREP HANDBOOK

Writing a Model G20 Position Paper

Research methods, PESTEL analysis, a full sample paper and a fill-in template. Everything you need before committee day.

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01 What a position paper is

A position paper is your country's opening argument: one or two pages that say what your country wants, why, and what it will propose. This handbook shows you how to research it, how to use PESTEL to organise that research, and what a strong paper looks like.



READ FIRST

How to prepare for a Model G20 or Model UN conference

Our guide to the whole conference, from research to committee day:

oneyoungindia.com/resources/how-to-prepare-for-a-model-g20-or-model-un-conference

A position paper is a short, formal statement of your country's view on the agenda topic, written before the summit. Chairs read it to judge your preparation. Other delegates read it to decide who to work with. A strong paper does three things:

1. States a clear position

What does your country want from this topic? One sentence a reader can repeat.

2. Backs it with evidence

Facts, figures and past actions that show the position is real, not invented for the debate.

3. Offers solutions

Concrete proposals your country would sign, and the partners likely to support them.

How Model G20 differs from Model UN

The G20 is a forum of 19 countries plus the European Union and the African Union. Together they hold most of the world's economic output. That changes how you write.

	Model UN	Model G20
Members	193 states, one vote each	19 countries + EU + African Union
Decisions	Resolutions, often by vote	Communiqués and declarations, by consensus
Focus	Peace, security, human rights, development	Economy, finance, trade, climate finance, health, digital
Typical tracks	Committees (GA, SC, etc.)	Finance Track (ministers, central banks) and Sherpa Track (leaders' agenda)
What wins	Building a voting majority	Finding language every member can accept

CONSENSUS CHANGES EVERYTHING

Because the G20 works by consensus, your paper must show **where you can compromise** as well as what you want. A paper that only lists demands will struggle in committee.

Length and format. Unless your conference says otherwise: 1 to 2 pages, 11 or 12 pt font, single-spaced, with your country, committee and topic at the top, and sources at the end. Always follow your conference's own rules first.

02 Research methods

Good research moves from the topic, to your country, to the other delegations, in that order. Plan about 6 to 8 hours across a week, not one night.

The six-step research workflow

- 1 Unpack the topic (1 hour).** Read your conference's background guide twice. Write down every key term and look up any you cannot explain to a friend. List the 3 to 4 sub-questions the committee must answer.
- 2 Learn what the G20 has already said (1 hour).** Read the most recent G20 Leaders' Declaration and the relevant ministers' communiqués. Note the exact language already agreed. Delegates who quote past agreements sound prepared, and it is easier to build on old text than to invent new text.
- 3 Find your country's real position (2 hours).** Look for speeches by your head of government and ministers, national policy documents, and statements at the UN or G20. Your position must match what your country actually says, not what you personally think.
- 4 Gather evidence (1 to 2 hours).** Collect 5 to 8 key numbers: GDP, emissions, trade figures, budgets, targets. Use official and international data sources (see the source tiers below).
- 5 Run a PESTEL analysis (1 hour).** Sort what you found into the six PESTEL lenses (section 03). This shows you why your country holds its position, and where it can bend.
- 6 Map the room (1 hour).** For each major bloc, note what it wants on this topic. Mark likely allies, likely opponents and swing countries. This becomes your negotiation plan.

Where to look: source tiers

Not every source is equal. Build your paper mostly on Tier 1 and 2.

Tier	Source type	Examples	Use it for
1	Official government and G20 documents	G20 declarations and communiqués, ministry websites, national budgets, official climate pledges (NDCs)	Your country's stated position and targets
2	International organisations	World Bank Open Data, IMF World Economic Outlook, OECD, UN agencies, IEA, WTO	Comparable statistics across countries
3	Research institutes and think tanks	Brookings, Chatham House, ORF, CSIS, university research centres	Analysis and context (check who funds them)
4	Quality news outlets	Reuters, AP, BBC, The Hindu, Financial Times	Recent events and quotes from leaders
Avoid	Unsourced blogs, social media, AI chatbot answers		Never cite these as evidence

ABOUT AI TOOLS

You may use AI to explain a hard concept or suggest search terms. Never copy a number, quote or date from an AI answer into your paper. AI tools often invent figures that sound real. Find every fact in a Tier 1 to 4 source and cite that source.

Checking a source: four questions

- **Who wrote it?** A government, an international body, an expert, or someone anonymous?
- **When?** Prefer data from the last 2 to 3 years. Note the year beside every number.
- **Why?** Is it informing, or trying to persuade? Advocacy is fine to read, but check its facts elsewhere.
- **Can you confirm it?** A key number should appear in at least two independent sources.

Taking notes that turn into a paper

Keep one research log with these columns. It makes your bibliography easy and stops you losing where a number came from.

Fact or quote	Source and link	Date	PESTEL lens	Use in paper
<i>Example: India's target of net-zero emissions by 2070</i>	<i>Government of India statement at COP26</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>Political / Environmental</i>	<i>Country policy section</i>

Write facts in your own words. Put direct quotes in quotation marks with the speaker's name, so you never plagiarise by accident.

03 PESTEL analysis

PESTEL is a checklist of six lenses. Use it to explain *why* your country holds its position. If you know what pressures a government faces at home, you can predict what it will accept abroad.



The six lenses and what to ask

Lens	Questions to ask about your country	Where to find answers
Political	Who is in power, and what did they promise? Which alliances and blocs does the country belong to? What is its relationship with the other big players?	Government websites, leaders' speeches, foreign ministry statements
Economic	How big and how fast-growing is the economy? What does it export and import? How much debt does it carry? Who pays the cost of the proposed policy?	World Bank, IMF, national statistics office, central bank
Social	How large and young is the population? How many people are poor or lack basic services? Which jobs depend on the issue? What do citizens care about?	UN population data, UNDP Human Development Report, national surveys
Technological	Does the country make or import the key technology? How strong is its research and digital base?	Industry ministry reports, IEA, WIPO, OECD
Environmental	How exposed is the country to climate risk, pollution or resource shortages? What are its emissions?	IPCC reports, national climate pledges (NDCs), Climate Action Tracker
Legal	Which national laws and international treaties bind the country? What has it already signed?	Treaty databases, national law portals, UNFCCC, WTO

From analysis to argument

PESTEL is research, not a section of your paper. Do not paste a table into your final paper. Instead, ask of each finding: *does this push my country toward or away from a deal?*

Pressures to act → reasons "As a country highly exposed to extreme heat, India..."	Constraints → conditions "...provided that finance is affordable and does not add to debt burdens."	Strengths → offers "India will share its experience of..."
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Worked example: India on financing a just energy transition

This is the PESTEL a delegate wrote before drafting the sample paper in section 05. Notice that each line ends with what it means for the negotiation.

Lens	Finding	What it means in committee
Political	India positions itself as a voice of the Global South; during its 2023 G20 presidency the African Union became a permanent member	Lead a coalition of developing countries; frame demands as fairness, not self-interest
Economic	Fast-growing economy with very large energy demand still ahead; clean energy needs huge upfront investment, and borrowing costs are higher than in rich countries	Push for cheaper capital: blended finance, guarantees, reform of multilateral development banks
Social	Emissions per person are low (2.2 tonnes of CO ₂ in 2024 against a world average of 4.7) while energy demand keeps growing; coal-mining regions depend on coal jobs	Insist on a <i>just</i> transition: retraining and support for coal workers, no forced fast phase-out
Technological	Large solar and wind build-out under way; still imports much of its solar manufacturing supply chain	Ask for technology partnerships and manufacturing investment, not only loans
Environmental	Highly exposed to heatwaves, floods and water stress; its power system still depends heavily on coal	Supports climate action strongly, but needs time and money to move off coal
Legal	Party to the Paris Agreement; national pledge includes net-zero by 2070; principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" under the UN climate convention	Anchor demands in agreed legal principles that richer countries have already signed

EXERCISE

Before you read the sample paper, fill a PESTEL table like this for your own country and topic. Aim for at least two findings per lens, each with a source.

04 Structure of the paper

Most strong position papers follow the same five parts, in this order. Use the word counts as a guide for a one-page paper of about 600 words.

#	Part	What it must do	About
0	Header	Country, committee or track, topic, delegate name, school	4 lines
1	Introduction and stance	Hook the reader with why the topic matters, then state your country's position in one clear sentence	80 words
2	Background and global action	Define the problem with 2 to 3 key facts, and say what the G20 and other bodies have already agreed	120 words
3	Country policy and interests	Show what your country has done and why it cares (this is where your PESTEL findings go)	160 words
4	Proposed solutions	3 to 4 specific, realistic proposals: who does what, funded how, measured how	200 words
5	Conclusion	Restate the stance, name the partners you will work with, and signal where you can compromise	60 words
	Sources	Every fact and quote you used, in one consistent citation style	separate list

THE ONE-SENTENCE TEST

If a chair reads only your introduction, can they repeat your position in one sentence? If not, rewrite it until they can.

05 Sample position paper

A model answer of about 650 words. Read it once for the argument, then again with the notes in section 06. Facts checked against official sources as of October 2026; check the latest figures before reusing any of them.

Country Republic of India
Committee Sherpa Track, Energy Transitions Working Group
Topic Financing a Just Energy Transition in Developing Economies
Delegate [Name], [School]



INTRODUCTION

No country can meet the Paris Agreement goals without the developing world, and the developing world cannot transition without affordable finance. The Republic of India believes the G20 must turn climate ambition into investment that developing economies can actually access. India's position is clear:

A just energy transition requires cheaper, larger and more predictable finance from developed economies and reformed development banks, together with technology partnerships, so that growth and climate action go hand in hand.

BACKGROUND AND GLOBAL ACTION

Developing economies will produce most of the growth in world energy demand in the coming decades. Yet clean energy projects there face much higher borrowing costs than in advanced economies, which makes the same solar farm far more expensive to build. In 2009, developed countries promised to mobilise USD 100 billion a year in climate finance for developing countries by 2020, a goal the OECD says was first met only in 2022. At COP29 in 2024, parties agreed a new goal of at least USD 300 billion a year by 2035, which India said "does not meet the needs and priorities of developing countries".

The G20 has already laid foundations. In the 2023 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, leaders said they "will pursue and encourage efforts to triple renewable energy capacity globally", endorsed a Green Development Pact, and backed reforms for "better, bigger and more effective" multilateral development banks (MDBs).

INDIA'S POLICY AND INTERESTS

India is acting at home. It has pledged net-zero emissions by 2070. Its latest climate pledge (for 2031 to 2035, approved in March 2026) commits to cutting the emissions intensity of its GDP by 47 percent from 2005 levels by 2035 and to reach 60 percent non-fossil power capacity by 2035. India reports it already reached 52.57 percent non-fossil capacity in February 2026, five years ahead of its 2030 target. India co-founded the International Solar Alliance with France in 2015, launched a National Green Hydrogen Mission, and promotes sustainable lifestyles through Mission LiFE.

India emitted about 2.2 tonnes of CO₂ per person in 2024, less than half the world average of 4.7 tonnes, while its demand for energy keeps growing. Its power system still depends heavily on coal, and coal-mining regions depend on coal jobs. A transition that ignores these

workers would be neither just nor politically possible. India therefore upholds the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities: countries that industrialised first should do more and pay more.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

The Republic of India proposes that the G20:

1. **Lower the cost of capital.** Direct MDBs to expand guarantees, currency-risk cover and blended finance so that private investment in clean energy flows to developing economies at rates closer to those in advanced economies.
2. **Deliver MDB reform at scale.** Implement the G20's roadmap for better, bigger and more effective MDBs, including stretching their balance sheets, and report progress against clear yearly targets.
3. **Fund just transition partnerships.** Create a G20 framework for country-led plans that pair clean energy investment with retraining, social protection and new industries for coal-dependent regions, without forcing a fixed phase-out date.
4. **Share technology and build supply chains.** Support joint research and manufacturing investment in solar, batteries and green hydrogen in developing countries, so that the transition creates jobs where the demand is.

CONCLUSION

India stands ready to work with all members on an ambitious, fair outcome. It will build on the New Delhi commitments with its partners in the Global South, including the African Union, and seeks common ground with developed economies on finance and technology. India is flexible on the mechanisms and timelines in this proposal. It is not flexible on the principle that the cost of the transition must not fall on the world's poorest people.

SOURCES

- G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, September 2023
- Government of India, Nationally Determined Contribution (2031–2035), April 2026
- Prime Minister's Office, Government of India, on India's non-fossil capacity, 2026
- OECD, *Climate Finance Provided and Mobilised by Developed Countries* (2013–2022)
- Global Carbon Project, *Global Carbon Budget 2025*, via Our World in Data
- Statement by the Prime Minister of India at COP26, Glasgow, November 2021
- UNFCCC, decision on the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance, COP29, Baku, 2024
- International Energy Agency, *World Energy Outlook* (latest edition)
- G20 Independent Expert Group, *Strengthening Multilateral Development Banks*, 2023
- International Solar Alliance, official website

06 Why the sample works

Each part of the sample uses a specific technique you can copy.

Part	Technique	Look for it in the sample
Introduction	A global hook, then the stance in one sentence	"No country can meet the Paris Agreement goals without the developing world..."
Background	Cites what the G20 has <i>already agreed</i> , so new proposals build on accepted text	The New Delhi Declaration on tripling renewables and MDB reform
Background	Uses dates and figures, not adjectives	USD 100 billion by 2020; USD 300 billion by 2035
Country policy	Proves the country is acting before asking others to act	Net-zero 2070, the 47 percent intensity target for 2035, the International Solar Alliance
Country policy	Turns PESTEL findings into reasons	Social lens (coal jobs) becomes the case for a <i>just</i> transition
Solutions	Each proposal names an actor, an action and a mechanism	"Direct MDBs to expand guarantees, currency-risk cover and blended finance"
Solutions	Realistic, not utopian: nothing the G20 could not actually agree	No demand for a single global fund or a new treaty
Conclusion	Names allies and signals flexibility, which is vital in a consensus forum	"Flexible on the mechanisms... not flexible on the principle"
Throughout	Speaks as the country in the third person, never "I" or "we think"	"The Republic of India proposes..."

NOTICE WHAT IS MISSING

The sample has no PESTEL table, no long history, and no personal opinion. All the research is there, but it shows up as evidence and reasons, not as notes.

07 Mistakes, checklist and template

Common mistakes

Mistake	Fix
Writing your own opinion instead of your country's	Ask: "Has my country's government actually said this?" Find the speech or document
Long background, short solutions	Solutions should be the longest section
Vague proposals ("raise awareness", "all countries should cooperate")	Name who acts, what they do, how it is paid for, and how success is measured
Numbers with no year or source	Every figure gets a year and a citation
Ignoring the G20's own past agreements	Quote or build on the latest Leaders' Declaration
No room to compromise	End with what your country is flexible on, and what it is not
Copying from AI or websites	Write in your own words; check every fact in a real source

Submission checklist

- ☐ Header has country, committee, topic, name and school
- ☐ The stance fits in one sentence and appears in the introduction
- ☐ At least 3 facts with years, each with a source
- ☐ At least one reference to an earlier G20 agreement
- ☐ Country section shows what your country has already done
- ☐ 3 to 4 specific proposals, each naming an actor and a mechanism
- ☐ Conclusion names partners and signals flexibility
- ☐ Written in the third person ("The Republic of India...")
- ☐ Within the conference's length and format rules
- ☐ Sources listed in one consistent style
- ☐ Read aloud once to catch errors

Fill-in template

Copy this into your own document and replace every bracket.

Header

Country: [Official name of your country]

Committee: [Track / working group]

Topic: [Exact topic title from the background guide]

Delegate: [Name], [School]

Introduction

[Why this topic matters to the world, in one or two sentences.] [Country] **believes that** [your position in one sentence].

Background and global action

[2 to 3 key facts with years.] [What the G20 and other bodies have already agreed.]

[Country]'s policy and interests

[What your country has done: laws, targets, programmes.] [Why it cares: your strongest PESTEL findings.]

Proposed solutions

[Country] proposes that the G20:

1. [Actor] + [action] + [mechanism or funding]

2. ...

3. ...

Conclusion

[Restate the stance.] [Partners you will work with.] [What you are flexible on, and what you are not.]

Sources

[Author or organisation, title, date]



Keep going. Read [How to prepare for a Model G20 or Model UN conference](#), and find programme details at oneyoungindia.com/model-g20.