

HMDC Presents... SPECPOL: Opening Speech Outline

HMDC Presents... Opening Speech Outline: SPECPOL: Corporate Surveillance, Accountability and Privacy

THIS IS A MODEL TO LEARN FROM, NOT TO COPY. We use this sample speech for the Kingdom of the Netherlands to hear how a short opening speech sounds. Then we build our own speech for our own country with the fill-in-the-blank outline below. An opening speech is short, so every word has to earn its place.

THE FIVE PARTS OF THE SPEECH

1. **Hook:** One short sentence that makes the room look up, usually a surprising fact or picture.
 2. **Our country's stake:** One or two sentences on why this topic matters to our people.
 3. **One key fact with source:** A single number, spoken with its source, that proves the problem is real.
 4. **Our two solutions:** Two ideas we want the committee to adopt, each in one sentence.
 5. **Call to allies:** One sentence inviting the countries that agree with us to work with us in caucus.
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THE SAMPLE SPEECH

Delegation: The Kingdom of the Netherlands. About 150 words, about one minute at a calm speaking pace.

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates.

Imagine a reporter's phone that becomes a spy, and she never clicked a thing. In 2025, that happened to journalists in Italy, inside Europe.

The Netherlands believes that human rights must be protected online just as they are offline. Our people's data must never be for sale to anyone who pays.

According to the United Nations Human Rights Office, at least sixty-five governments have acquired commercial spyware, and more than five hundred companies reportedly sell surveillance tools to governments.

The Netherlands asks this committee for two things. First, a human rights test inside every export licence for surveillance technology. Second, a UN programme that helps countries without data protection laws write them and enforce them.

We invite the members of the Freedom Online Coalition, the states of the Pall Mall Process, and every delegation that wants accountability to join us in caucus.

Thank you.

Where the facts come from: We took each part from the HMDC report.

- Hook: Section 1A, entry 8 (Citizen Lab, June 12, 2025)
- Key fact: entry 2 (United Nations Human Rights Office, August 4, 2022)
- Export test: Solution 2, entry 23 (United Nations Human Rights Office, September 16, 2022)
- Data protection programme: Solution 4, entry 27 (UN Trade and Development, Last Accessed: October 2026)
- Allies: Part 3, entries 52, 53 and 56

OUR FILL-IN-THE-BLANK OUTLINE

We copy this outline onto a card and fill each blank from our own Country Report and the HMDC report. Then we read it aloud with a timer until it fits inside sixty seconds.

1. **Hook:** "Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates. _____ [one surprising fact or picture from Part 1, Section 1A that touches our own region]."
2. **Our country's stake:** "The delegation of _____ believes that _____ [our national interest in one sentence]. For our people, this matters because _____."
3. **One key fact with source:** "According to _____ [publication], _____ [month, day, year], _____ [one number that proves the harm]."
4. **Our two solutions:** "_____ asks this committee for two things. First, _____. Second, _____. [We choose two of the five major solutions in Part 1, Section 1B that our government can accept.]"
5. **Call to allies:** "We invite _____ [two or three countries or groups from our Country Report and Part 2, Section 2D] and every delegation that _____ to join us in caucus. Thank you."

THREE DELIVERY TIPS

1. **Saying numbers as words:** We write large numbers out the way we say them, such as "sixty-five governments," so we do not stumble on a long figure. We give only one key fact in the whole speech, because the room remembers one fact and forgets three.
2. **Pausing after the hook:** We stop for one full breath after the hook, before we name our country. That small silence makes the chair and the other delegates look up, and it gives our next sentence more weight.
3. **Practising with a timer and a camera:** We record ourselves on the same computer we will use for Zoom, with the timer set to sixty seconds. If the timer ends before "Thank you," we cut words from the stake sentence first. The fact and the two solutions carry our position, so they stay.

