

HMDC Presents... TERRORISM: Opening Speech Outline

HMDC Presents... Opening Speech Outline: Special Session on Terrorism: State Sovereignty and Intervention

THIS IS A MODEL TO LEARN FROM, NOT TO COPY. We use this sample speech for the Republic of Mozambique to hear how a one-minute opening speech sounds. Then we build our own speech for our own country with the fill-in-the-blank outline below. Opening speeches are short, so we practise fitting ours into about one minute and then check the speaking time our chair sets on the first day. 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.
 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 our point 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 Republic of Mozambique. About 140 words, about one minute at a calm speaking pace.

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates.

In 2021, Mozambique asked its neighbours for help. And help came.

Mozambique believes that sovereignty and safety are not enemies. When a host state invites partners on its own terms, terrorism can shrink.

According to the International Crisis Group, invited troops from southern Africa and Rwanda cut insurgent numbers in our north from about three thousand to as few as three hundred, and more than half a million people went home.

But that mission ran out of money and ended. Mozambique asks this committee for two things. First, use resolution 2719 so that African-led missions have steady UN funding. Second, written agreements between every host state and its partners, with human rights rules and a planned exit.

We invite the African Group and every delegation that respects consent to join us in caucus.

Thank you.

Where the facts come from: the Palma intervention and the drop from 3,000 to 300 insurgents are from the HMDC report, Section 1D (International Crisis Group, May 8, 2024); the end of the mission is from the funding entry in Section 1D; resolution 2719 comes from Section 1E (United Nations Press, December 21, 2023); the written agreements come from the IPI entry in Section 2E (IPI Global Observatory, September 16, 2026); the allies come from Section 2H.

OUR FILL-IN-THE-BLANK OUTLINE

We copy this outline onto a card and fill every blank from our own Country Report and our HMDC research report. Then we read it aloud with a timer until it fits inside one minute.

1. **Hook:** "Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates. ____ (one surprising fact about terrorism or intervention, in one short sentence)."
2. **Our country's stake:** "The delegation of ____ (country) believes that ____ (sovereignty, consent, self-defence or regional action) matters to our people because ____ (an attack we suffered, troops we sent or invited, a border we share, a mission we pay for)."
3. **One key fact with source:** "According to ____ (publication), ____ (one number that proves our point)."
4. **Our two solutions:** "____ (country) asks this committee for two things. First, ____ (solution one, such as clear Council mandates, limits on self-defence, rules for invited forces, regional funding or prevention). Second, ____ (solution two)."
5. **Call to allies:** "We invite ____ (the countries or bloc that usually agree with us) to join us in caucus. Thank you."

DELIVERY TIPS

1. **Saying the source out loud:** We say "according to" and the publication name slowly and clearly, because the chair cannot see our citations, only hear them. We say big numbers as words, such as "three thousand," so we do not stumble over digits.
2. **Pausing after the hook:** We stop for one full second after "And help came," so the room has time to wonder what happened next. A pause feels long to us, but to the listener it sounds confident.
3. **Looking at the camera, not the paper:** On Zoom, the camera is the chair's eyes. We practise until we can look up for the hook and the call to allies. We keep the card just below the camera so our eyes only move a little.

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