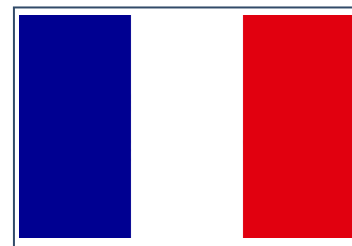




France/APQ

Position Paper

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I. Background Information on Country

Officially entitled as “French Republic”, France is the largest country in Western Europe which acts

like a gate, binding Europe's northern and southern regions. France has also played a vast role in the formation of international affairs due to the comprehensive colonies it had controlled. The French Republic is administrated through a semi-presidential republic, in which the Head of State and the Head of Government share executive powers.



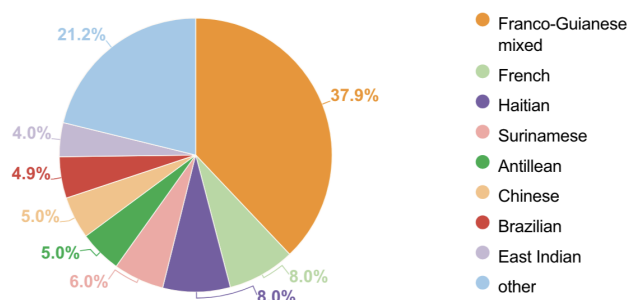
Largest Country in Western Europe (image: National Geographic)

Having the world's seventh largest economy with a GDP of 2.63 trillion dollars, it leads the tourism sector by being the most visited country in the world, as well as the agriculture sector through the production of specialty dairy products. The official language of the country is French according to the second article of the Constitution, which is the first language of 88% of the population. Nevertheless, the minorities are also required to speak French due to the minority languages such as German Dialect, Basque, and Breton, not being recognized by the government. As an indicator of its international military and diplomatic might, France is a major player in the European Union, NATO, and UN Security Council. It has one of the most advanced military units in the world and plays a big part in international diplomacy and peacekeeping, particularly in the Middle East and Africa.

Considering France's overseas territory “French Guinea” that shares borders with Brazil from in the south and east, Suriname in the west, France is highly related with the question of the South America and the focus region of TIMUN'24. The overseas territorial collectivity has a diverse ethnical composition



including French, Haitian, Franco-Guianese mixed, etc.



(image: Britannica Encyclopedia)

French aid and technical assistance support French Guiana's emerging market economy, which is modelled after metropolitan France's. The European Space Agency's rocket-launching base in Kourou, which contributes around one-fourth of the nation's yearly gross domestic product (GDP), is extremely significant to the economy. The economy's three biggest sectors are manufacturing, services, and construction. It has one of the highest gross national incomes (GNI) per capita in South America.

As a French territorial collectivity governed by the French constitution, French Guiana is an essential component of the French Republic. Two elected representatives are sent to the Senate and two to the National Assembly. A prefect and a 51-member Assembly, whose members are chosen by universal adult suffrage, lead the local administration.

II. Past Achievements and Attempts of Country/Organization on the Issues

In this section, experts will elaborate on their involvement in the issues in terms of their accomplishments, status, and actions to tackle them. If the delegation does not have an achievement or a direct connection on any matter, the expert may simply state that they do not have a direct connection, and therefore, they do not have achievement on the issue. If necessary, experts may use visual aids to address the issues.

A. Maintaining judicial independence and accountability in Bolivia:

- France condemns the attack carried out against the government and the constitutionally elected president Luis Arce on 25th June, and urges respect for the government.
- French Republic articulates its support for the Bolivian government and guarantees the Bolivians of its unity.
- French citizens have been urged to exercise caution and France Embassy and the Crisis and Support Center of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs have been mobilized.



- The AFD (Agence Française de Développement) funds projects related to governance and judicial reform in Latin America. Its publications and reports on particular projects might offer verifiable illustrations of support for judicial independence and rule-of-law measures.
- France frequently backs EU policy measures pertaining to judicial independence and human rights in Latin America as a member of the EU. France's engagement may be reflected in statements and publications released by the EU's External Action Service and Delegation in Latin America.
- France has supported judicial independence and democracy in Latin America by co-sponsoring resolutions and activities in the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Human Rights Council. You can look up French-backed projects pertaining to democracy or judicial reform in the UN's resolution archives.

B. Eliminating the possibility of armed conflict between Venezuela and Guyana:

- Through the EU, France has continuously campaigned for communication between the two countries and argued for a peaceful settlement of the Venezuela-Guyana conflict. In order to promote a diplomatic resolution, France has backed neutral parties mediating disputes and urged adherence to international legal frameworks.
- In support of the notion that international arbitration can provide a peaceful resolution to the boundary issue, France supports the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) efforts to resolve it.
- France has supported regional efforts to stabilize Venezuela and its neighbors by providing humanitarian help and preventing war. In order to prevent future escalation between Venezuela and Guyana, France aims to address the underlying causes of instability, such as economic suffering and governance problems.

Tackling the ELN insurgency in Colombia:

- Particularly with the FARC and later with the ELN, France has been a steadfast ally of Colombia's peace initiatives. France has pushed for such initiatives with the ELN and helped to broker the 2016 Colombian Peace Accord with the FARC.
- French diplomats have met with members of the Colombian government, supporting international mediation efforts and urging a negotiated settlement with the ELN.
- France has been a strong supporter of Colombia's peace efforts, especially with the FARC and later with the ELN. France facilitated the 2016 Colombian Peace Accord with the FARC and has advocated for similar actions with the ELN.
- During their meetings with Colombian government officials, French diplomats urged a negotiated settlement with the ELN and supported international mediation efforts.



III. Objectives, Aims and Possible Solutions Proposed by Country/Organization on the Issues

In this section, panelists will emphasize how they hope to find solutions on the agenda. They will also outline their national or organizational interests on the issues. If the assigned country/organization has proposed formal UN documents on the issues in the past, the expert will also mention them under this section. If necessary, experts may use visual aids to address the issues.

A. Maintaining judicial independence and accountability in Bolivia:

France highlights the value of diplomatic channels and respect for international law in order to settle the border dispute between Venezuela and Guyana. Preventing violent conflict and maintaining peace in Latin America are France's goals. Moreover, France supports Bolivia in generating frameworks that will enhance judicial accountability and battle with corruption, which aligns with France's interest in supporting good governance in Latin America. France insists on the stability in the region not only for the comprehensive peace in Bolivia, but also for the stability of its overseas territory "French Guiana". The government of France shares all these objectives on the government's website. (de, Ministère. "Bolivia – Political Situation (26 Jun. 2024)." *France Diplomacy - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs*, France Diplomacy, 2024,) Although there hasn't been an official announcement for a possible solution to solve the issue, the French Republic always seeks for diplomacy instead of violence in these types of conflicts.

B. Eliminating the possibility of armed conflict between Venezuela and Guyana:

The recent developments in the territorial dispute between Guyana and Venezuela were discussed with Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the President of Guyana, by the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs. The Minister of France reaffirmed how crucial it is to uphold Guyana's territorial integrity and sovereignty in accordance with the UN Charter's tenets. France urges Venezuela to abstain from taking any unilateral measures. The Minister also underlined France's dedication to the idea of resolving conflicts amicably, including by using the International Court of Justice. She underlined that France urges the parties to fully abide by the rulings of the International Court of Justice, especially its order dated December 1, 2023.

C. Tackling the ELN insurgency in Colombia:



In addition to fully implementing the 2016 Peace Agreement, France commends the Colombian government's efforts to engage in negotiations with armed groups in order to establish a sustainable peace in the nation. We applaud the establishment of a truce through January 15 and the beginning of talks between the government and the self-declared FARC-EMC organization. In order to prolong the truce that was agreed upon on August 3, we are in favor of the government and the ELN organization engaging in talks. The impacted communities should be able to live in peace at last thanks to these developments. France also commends the UN Mission's contribution to the Agreement's implementation. France will also continue to pay close attention to the findings of the International Human Rights Expert, whose mandate was established by the Human Rights Council at Colombia's initiative and whose job it is to identify barriers to the implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement.

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