

How to write a UN Resolution

Introduction
Resolutions are formal texts that are adopted by the United Nations. In general, each entity within the UN is eligible to write Resolutions, in practice however, only some bodies actually follow the strict format of UN resolutions. Most importantly, the Security Council frequently issues resolutions, whose operative decisions are binding to all UN member states (Article 25 of UN Charter). Within Model UN, resolutions are the ultimate goal of all conference committees and should usually gather the most important points that were discussed. An important characteristic of resolutions that is often not paid enough attention to, is the basic fact that a resolution is adopted following a democratic voting procedure. In fact, in order to pass a resolution, a 2/3 majority is needed (+ no Veto from the Permanent Five Countries in the Security Council). Therefore, a good resolution is not only well written and logical in its arguments, but also defines a comprehensive position along the lines of the prior debates. Good resolutions are flexible and can adapt!

As with all things in life, good resolutions need practice. Therefore we very much encourage you to draft some during our informal sessions and have already one at hand before attending international conferences.

Resolution Format Guide

HEADING
1) The title should be centered, in capital letters, above the main body of the resolution. The title can be as simple as for example “DRAFT RESOLUTION 1.1”
2) On the left margin and two lines below the title should be:
   • The committee name
   • The topic addressed by the resolution

BODY
The resolution is written in the format of a long sentence. Just as grammatical rules make a language more uniform in its usage, so is the resolution in its format.
1) The resolution begins with The General Assembly for all GA committees, and with The Economic and Social Council for all ECOSOC committees. The Specialized Agencies use their own names as the introductory line. The rest of the resolution consists of clauses with the first word of each clause underlined.
2) The next section, consisting of Preambulatory Clauses, describes the problem being addressed, recalls past actions taken, explains the purpose of the resolution, and offers support for the operative clauses that follow. Each clause in the preamble begins with an underlined word and ends with a comma.
3) Operative Clauses are numbered and state the action to be taken by the body. Operative Clauses all begin with present tense active verbs, which are generally stronger words than those used in the Preamble. Each operative clause is followed by a semi-colon except the last, which ends with a period.

CONTENT
Of course, the most important characteristic of the final resolution is the content, which will be carefully scrutinized by the Director before approval. A well-written resolution demonstrates:
1) Familiarity with the problem. Relevant background information and previous United Nations actions are included.
2) Recognition of the issues. Arguments on the topic are specified early. At a minimum, the resolution should address some form the issues listed in the Questions a Resolution Must Answer section of the Study Guide of the conference you are attending.

3) Conciseness. Every clause and phrase should have a purpose.

4) Good form. An otherwise sound resolution suffers from clumsy grammar and should not suffer from sloppy format.
Preambulatory Phrases

Affirming
Alarmed by
Approving
Aware of
Believing
Bearing in mind
Cognizant of
Confident
Contemplating
Convinced
Declaring
Deeply concerned
Deeply conscious
Deeply convinced
Deeply disturbed
Deeply regretting
Desiring
Emphasizing
Expecting
Expressing its
appreciation

Expressing its
satisfaction
Fulfilling
Fully aware
Fully alarmed
Fully believing
Further deploring
Further recalling
Guided by
Having adopted
Having
considered
Having
considered further
Having devoted
attention
Having examined
Having heard
Having received
Having studied
Keeping in mind
Noting further

Noting with
regret
Noting with
satisfaction
Noting with deep
concern
Noting further
Noting with
approval
Observing
Realizing
Reaffirming
Recalling
Recognizing
Referring
Seeking
Taking into
account
Taking note
Viewing with
appreciation
Welcoming

Operative Clauses

Accepts
Affirms
Approves
Authorizes
Calls for
Calls upon
Confirms
Considers
Declares accordingly
Deplores
Draws attention
Designates
Emphasizes
Encourages

Endorses
Expresses its
appreciation
Expresses its
hope
Further invites
Further proclaims
Further reminds
Further recommends
Further recommends
Further requests
Further resolves
Has resolved
Notes
Proclaims

Reaffirms
Recommends
Reminds
Regrets
Requests
Resolves
Solemly affirms
Strongly condemns
Supports
Takes note of
Trusts
Urges