

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 in 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	Expressing its satisfaction	Noting with regret
Alarmed by	Fulfilling	Noting with satisfaction
Approving	Fully aware	Noting with deep concern
Aware of	Fully alarmed	Noting further
Believing	Fully believing	Noting with approval
Bearing in mind	Further deploring	Observing
Cognizant of	Further recalling	Realizing
Confident	Guided by	Reaffirming
Contemplating	Having adopted	Recalling
Convinced	Having considered	Recognizing
Declaring	Having considered further	Referring
Deeply concerned	Having devoted attention	Seeking
Deeply conscious	Having examined	Taking into account
Deeply convinced	Having heard	Taking note
Deeply disturbed	Having received	Viewing with appreciation
Deeply regretting	Having studied	Welcoming
Desiring	Keeping in mind	
Emphasizing	Noting further	
Expecting		
Expressing its appreciation		

Operative Clauses

Accepts	Endorses	Reaffirms
Affirms	Expresses its appreciation	Recommends
Approves	Expresses its hope	Reminds
Authorizes	Further invites	Regrets
Calls for	Further proclaims	Requests
Calls upon	Further reminds	Resolves
Confirms	Further recommends	Solemnly affirms
Considers	Further requests	Strongly condemns
Declares accordingly	Further resolves	Supports
Deplores	Has resolved	Takes note of
Draws attention	Notes	Trusts
Designates	Proclaims	Urges
Emphasizes		
Encourages		

