



MUN Model United Nations
Team University of Zurich

Resolution Writing Workshop

17.11.2010

What is a resolution?

„an official decision made by the UN, which its members have voted for and are expected to obey“



Resolution of the SC

- Binding decisions
- Adopted if nine or more in favor and no veto
- If no consens found → presidential statement
→ non binding decision
- „Decides to remain seized of the matter“



Example

United Nations

S/RES/1946 (2010)



Security Council

Distr.: General
15 October 2010

Resolution 1946 (2010)

**Adopted by the Security Council at its 6402nd meeting, on
15 October 2010**

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements of its President relating to the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, in particular resolutions 1880 (2009), 1893 (2009), 1911 (2010) and 1933 (2010),



Resolution of the GA

- Non binding decisions to member states (but politically important) → recommendations
- Able to refer an issue to SC to make it binding
- Binding decisions for internal UN matters (i.e. budget, instructions to UN Organs,...)
- Simple majority is required
- If „important question“ (decided by simple majority), then 2/3



Example

United Nations

A/RES/64/297



General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 October 2010

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 115

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/64/L.69)]

64/297. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, contained in General Assembly resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006, and recalling Assembly resolution 62/272 of 5 September 2008, which called for, inter alia, an examination in two years of progress made in the implementation of the Strategy and for consideration to be given to updating it to respond to changes, as provided for in those resolutions,



Example

United Nations

A/C.1/65/L.21



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
14 October 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session

First Committee

Agenda item 98 (c)

**Review and implementation of the Concluding Document
of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly:
United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament
and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Peru:* draft resolution

**United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and
Development in Latin America and the Caribbean**

The General Assembly,

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Structure of a resolution

- One long sentence
- Name of the UN organ either before or after the preambulatory clauses
- *Preambulatory clauses*
- *Operative clauses*

Preambulatory clauses

- start with a present participle
- end with a comma
- First verbal expression in *italic*



Preambulatory clauses = Reasons

- References to the UN Charter;
- Citations of past UN resolutions or treaties on the topic under discussion;
- Mentions of statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency;
- Recognition of the efforts of regional or nongovernmental organizations in dealing with the issue; and
- General statements on the topic, its significance and its impact.



Preambulatory clauses: Example

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind its functions and powers under the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 63/3 of 8 October 2008, in which it requested the International Court of Justice to render an advisory opinion on the following question:

“Is the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo in accordance with international law?”,

Having received with respect the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 22 July 2010 on the Accordance with International Law of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence in respect of Kosovo,¹ and having studied with great care the advisory opinion, including the issues on which it was rendered,

Operative clauses

- start with a verb
- end with a semicolon
- last clause ends with a full-stop
- all clauses are numbered
- sub-clauses are alphabetically numbered



Operative clauses = Actions

- Logical progression of action
- Tackle one side of the issue
- Always end with a period



Operative clauses: Example

8. *Invites* intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to participate in the Conference;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the preparatory process and the Conference;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to proceed with the organizational arrangements for the Conference in cooperation with the Government of Kenya, and further requests the Secretary-General to provide a note on the organizational aspects of the Conference;

11. *Encourages* all Member States and other relevant stakeholders that are in a position to do so to consider supporting the participation of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, including by making voluntary contributions through the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, in order to ensure the broadest possible participation;

12. *Decides* to postpone the sixteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, which was to be held from 2 to 5 June 2009, to one convenient day in January 2010.

*15th plenary meeting
6 October 2009*



Practice!

Read the draft resolution (A) and find as many mistakes as you can!



Sum-up

- Refer to „money“ as „fund“
- Check correct spelling and grammar!
- No abbreviations
- Use strong address! (urges vs. suggest)
- All numbers in letters (except for dates and percent)
- Be aware of the capacities of your committee
- End with a duration

