

Writing a resolution

„A resolution is an official decision that is made after a group or organization has voted“ – Cambridge Dictionary“.

More specifically, United Nations resolutions are formal expressions of the opinion or will of United Nations organs. A resolution is a document signed or supported by a group of nations that outlines the issue at hand and conveys the nations' ideas on how to change the situation. Resolutions strictly adhere to one topic and follow a defined structure consisting of heading, preambulatory clauses and operative clauses.

To be voted upon, resolutions generally have to go through the correct process in a committee: First a **working paper** is created by a group of countries that have agreed to work together on a resolution. This working paper at first exists unofficially, it is only discussed in unmoderated caucuses and not during official speaking time. The working paper does not have any formal rules, but it often makes sense to start formulating it similarly to a proper resolution early on to ease the transition. Working papers can then be introduced to the committee, for this a motion has to be passed. Afterwards, all delegates may read the working paper and it can be discussed in debate. During this time, changes to the working paper are informal and easy, they can be made by the original authors and introduced to the committee.

If the working paper has been discussed and changed sufficiently, in another motion it can be introduced as a **draft resolution**. Before introduction as a draft resolution is allowed by the chairs, they will check the formal rules of the draft resolution to ensure it is correct, so the draft has to be sent to them before introduction of the motion. After the Resolution has been submitted, it can only be changed through motions with agreement from the official sponsors. These amendments are introduced and can be debated before voting similar to the resolution. During this entire process, there can be multiple working papers and draft resolutions on the floor at the same time. Often, so called **blocks** form, groups of countries with similar interest working together to create and push their resolution.

After all resolutions have been sufficiently debated, a motion to close the debate can be made, at MUN conferences this normally happens when time runs out. Then the committee automatically moves into voting procedure, and the introduced resolutions are voted upon. Only one resolution can go into effect. If multiple resolutions pass, the last resolution voted upon passes.

Heading

The heading must contain the following things:

- The forum where the resolution is to be debated (e.g. ECOSOC, Security Council, etc.)
- The question the resolution is dealing with
- The Sponsors and Signatories of the resolution
- Finally, the resolution starts by addressing the forum, this is the beginning of a single sentence which goes on until the end of the resolution

Sponsors and Signatories

Sponsors are the authors of the draft resolution. They must have contributed to the resolution and also decide on later changes to the draft resolution. Signatories wish to see the draft resolution debated, but do not have to be in favor of all of its contents. It is also possible to be a signatory to multiple draft resolutions. A specific combined amount of sponsors and signatories is needed to introduce a draft resolution, i.e. one third of the committee.

Preambulatory Clauses

Pre-ambulatory clauses are the clauses that start off the resolution and take no action. They will, for example, define the issue, recognize it as important, or take note of previous actions or decisions taken concerning the issue. Basically, they describe what the submitters consider to be the problem and mention thoughts or assumptions concerning the problem.

Pre-ambulatory clauses are not numbered, and must start with present or perfect participles (e.g. approving, concerned) or with adjectives (e.g. aware, alarmed). They end with a comma and are separated by a blank line (see sample resolution). Usually they are not really paid attention to during formal debate as they only provide information and do not ask for action to be taken. The words listed below can be used to start the Pre-ambulatory clauses. You can also add words like „deeply“, „firmly“, „fully“, „further“ etc. to these words.

Examples of Preambulatory Clauses

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledging • Affirming • Alarmed • Approving • Aware • Bearing in mind • Believing • Concerned • Confident • Conscious • Contemplating • Convinced • Declaring • Deploring • Desiring • Disturbed • Emphasizing • Expecting • Expressing its appreciation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressing its concern • Expressing its hope • Expressing its satisfaction • Fulfilling • Fully alarmed • Fully aware • Fully believing • Guided by • Having adopted • Having considered • Having considered further • Having examined • Keeping in mind • Noting • Noting with alarm • Noting with regret • Noting with satisfaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observing • Observing with approval • Pointing out • Praising • Reaffirming • Realizing • Recalling • Recognizing • Referring • Regretting • Seeking • Stressing • Taking into account • Taking into consideration • Taking note • Viewing with concern • Welcoming
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Operative Clauses

Operative clauses are the third part of the resolution on which the debate is focused. The operative clauses deal with the action needed to solve the issue. Each clause addresses a certain aspect of the issue, therefore one clause should not call for a variety of measures but stay focused on one particular aspect. When writing operative clauses, you should make sure to stay concrete and rational. If you call for a certain action, also explain briefly how you think it should be carried out. The final clause is usually a sort of conclusion, reserved for expressing hope that countries will cooperate on the issue, although this is not mandatory.

Operative clauses are numbered, must start with a verb in the third person present tense (e.g. declares, stresses) and end with semi-colon (;). The last operative clause ends with a full stop, ending the resolution (.) The clauses are also separated by a blank line and are placed a bit further from the margin than the Preambulatory clauses. The following words can be used to start an operative clause. Words with an asterisk (*) are only permitted in the Security Council.

Examples of Operative Clauses

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepts • Affirms • Appreciates • Approves • Asks • Authorizes • Calls for • Calls upon • Condemns* • Confirms • Congratulates • Considers • Declares • Demands* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deplores* • Designates • Draws the attention to • Emphasizes • Encourages • Endorses • Expresses its concern • Expresses its hopes • Insists* • Invites • Notes • Proclaims • Proposes • Reaffirms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes • Recommends • Regrets • Reminds • Requests • Resolves • Solemnly affirms • Solemnly condemns* • Stresses • Supports • Takes note of • Transmits • Trusts • Urges
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