



# RESOLUTION WRITING

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## Resolution Writing Overview

Actions of the United Nations are most frequently expressed in resolutions submitted in draft form under the sponsorship of one or more delegations. Resolutions may simply register an opinion, or may recommend action to be taken by a UN organ or related agency. Only the Security Council may make decisions which bind member states to a certain course of action.

While it may be helpful for delegates to come to the Model UN conference knowing what their draft resolution should look like and contain, pre-written resolutions are not recommended. Any papers need to be circulated among other delegates to incorporate different perspectives and to build a base of support. Most draft resolutions are sponsored by several states or by an entire regional or common interest group.

The conference Secretariat will provide for duplication and distribution of resolutions and amendments at the conference.

When drafting and sponsoring a resolution, keep in mind that the wording will greatly influence its appeal (or lack thereof). The resolution should be clear, concise, and specific. The substance should be well-researched, and reflect the character and interests of the sponsoring nations.

## Drafting Resolutions

United Nations resolutions follow a common format. Each resolution has three parts: the heading, the preamble, and the operative clauses. It is one long sentence with commas and semicolons throughout the resolution, and with a period only at the very end. Draft resolutions should be single-spaced with each line following the heading numbered in the left-hand margin. The first word in each clause should be underlined, and each clause in the preamble should end with a comma. All operative clauses end with a semicolon except the final clause, which ends with a period.

What follows is a more detailed examination of each section of a draft resolution.

### Draft Resolution Elements

#### Heading:

Format: ODUMUNC/Year/Committee / Topic.draft letter

Committee: the committee or organ in which the working paper is introduced

Topic: the topic of debate

Draft Resolution letter: the letter is in alphabetical order based on the order in which the draft resolution is introduced to the committee. It will become a number based after being passed.

Sponsored by: list of sponsoring countries

Signatories: Signatories and sponsors combined must equal 1/5 of the body present.

### **Body of the Resolution:**

Each attitude, opinion, command, or recommendation made by the United Nations is formally expressed using key introductory words and phrases. Each of these introductions has a specific use and meaning.

### **Preamble:**

The purpose of a preamble is to show that there is a problem that needs to be solved by the world community. This also may mean demonstrating that the problem is within the jurisdiction of the UN. These two purposes are fulfilled by reference to appropriate sections of the UN Charter, by citing the precedent of UN action, or by citing previous resolutions or declarations. It is customary to include the numbers of previous resolutions passed on the same topic. The preamble should also point out the key elements of the current problem by specifically referring to situations or incidents. Finally, the preamble may include altruistic appeals to the common sense or humanitarian instincts of members with references to the Charter, etc.

The importance of the preamble depends on the question under consideration. In some cases, the problem is generally accepted and the preamble is merely a formality. In such situations, it is usually the mechanism of solution that presents the stumbling block. A good example of this is the question of disarmament. Virtually everyone agrees that nuclear weapons are basically bad, but few agree on how to get rid of them. In another case, however, such as the problem of supporting a national liberation movement, the solution might be quite simple, but not everyone would agree that is the correct perception of the problem. In this case, a strong, comprehensive preamble would be necessary.

The preamble begins with the name of the committee in the upper left margin followed by a comma. Each phrase starts with a particular word or phrase and ends with a comma. The opening word or phrase of each phrase should be underlined. The list of our perambulatory words and phrases can be found on the next page. There are additional words available in the UNA-USA delegate Preparation Guide, however, our list highlights the ones that are most commonly used.

### Introductory Perambulatory Clauses:

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

### Operative Clauses:

The proposed solution in a draft resolution is presented in sequentially numbered operative clauses. These clauses may recommend, urge, condemn, encourage, or request certain actions, or state a favorable or unfavorable opinion regarding the existing situation. Each operative clause calls for a specific action. The action may be as vague as denunciation of a certain situation or a call for negotiations, or as specific as a cease-fire or a monetary commitment for a particular project.

Remember that the General Assembly can only recommend actions, only the Security Council may make binding decisions. Draft Resolutions may request action by the member states, by a particular state, by the UN Secretariat, or by any of the other UN bodies or agencies.

### Introductory Operative Clauses:

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

## Process for Submitting a Resolution

Pre-written resolutions will not be accepted by the Secretariat before the conference. At the conference, all resolutions are expected to be in good form according to the attached guidelines. Resolutions must be typed and ready to reproduce. Computers will be provided for the delegates' convenience. Extensive editing will not be done by members of the Secretariat, and resolutions which contain a substantial number of errors will be returned to the authors. Please refer to the sample resolution for proper format.

The process for submitting resolutions will be as follows: 1) Each resolution must be written/typed as a working paper, in the proper format. 2) The sponsor(s) of the resolution must submit the working paper to the Director of the committee to be stamped. 3) The Director may then authorize the reproduction of a limited number of unofficial working copies of the working paper made by the office to be circulated through the committee. 4) In order to submit a resolution officially, the sponsor must obtain the signatures of 1/5 of the committee. The Dias will announce the number needed based on the roll call. 5) The draft resolution with the required signatures must then be submitted to the Director of the committee for final approval. Upon receiving approval, the Director will stamp the paper and make copies. When it is introduced the Chair will assign it an official number. The Director is responsible for the distribution of the official resolution when it is formally proposed on the floor. 6) For a working paper to be formally introduced to the floor as a draft resolution, the sponsor must be on the speakers' list or yielded time to introduce.

Delegates should not feel that the purpose of a MUN conference is to pass as many resolutions as possible. The success of a committee does not rest on the number of resolutions passed. Rather, delegates should strive toward a valid simulation of the diplomatic interactions of the UN, which may mean that no resolutions are passed.

## Resolution Changes

### Original Resolution Text Excerpt

“1. Realizing that technology has created new forms of weapons that pose serious and long-term threats to all forms of life on this planet...”

## Amendments

Regardless of how brilliant or perfectly crafted the sponsors of an amendment may feel their draft resolution is there should always be at least one country that wants to change it. Sometimes this is done to help the draft resolution, sometimes it is done to hurt the draft resolution. There are two types of amendments:

**Friendly Amendments:** Amendments that are agreed to by all the sponsors of the draft resolution. Once friendly status is verified, the proposed changes get automatically incorporated into the resolution. Unfriendly amendments are those that are not agreed to by the sponsors of the resolution and are voted upon before the resolution during voting procedures..

**Unfriendly Amendments:** Amendments that are presented by a delegation that is not a sponsor or that all the sponsors do not agree on is considered unfriendly. Before the proposed changes can be added to the draft resolution they must be voted on during voting procedures. The amendment furthest removed in content from the original resolution will be voted upon first. Unfriendly Amendments must have the same number of signatories/sponsors as a draft resolution.

All amendments work in one of three ways; Adding words, Striking Out words, and Word Substitution. Amendments must refer to specific lines of draft resolutions. ODUMUNC uses Amendment forms to change draft resolutions. Examples are below.

*Amendment by Addition*

“amend the resolution by adding the word ‘military’ before the word ‘technology’.”

If passed the resolution would read:

“Realizing that military technology has created new forms of weapons that pose serious and long-term threats to all forms of life on this planet...”

*Amendment by Striking Out*

“amend the resolution by striking out the words ‘and long-term’ before the word ‘threats’.”

If passed the resolution would read:

“Realizing that military technology has created new forms of weapons that pose serious threats to all forms of life on this planet...”

*Amendment by Striking Out and Substitution*

“amend the resolution by striking out the word ‘military’ which appears before the word ‘technology’ and substituting in its place the word ‘nuclear’.”

If passed the resolution would read:

“Realizing that nuclear technology has created new forms of weapons that pose serious threats to all forms of life on this planet...”

**Examples of Unacceptable Amendments:**

1. Any amendment which would make the resolution the direct negative of the sponsor’s intent: “amend the resolution by adding the word ‘not’.”
2. Any amendment which has no relationship to the resolution: “amend the resolution by adding the words ‘affect world food production and’ before the word ‘pose’.”

Friendly amendments are those that are agreed to by the sponsors of the resolution, and are automatically incorporated into the resolution. Unfriendly amendments are those that are not agreed to by the sponsors of the resolution and are voted upon before the resolution during voting procedures. The amendment furthest removed in content from the original resolution will be voted upon first.

**ODUMUNC Amendment Form**

Amendment Form



Sponsor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution#: \_\_\_\_\_

Change (Circle One)            ADD                      REMOVE                      EDIT/MOVE

Operative Clause Change:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signatories: \_\_\_\_\_



## Example General Assembly Draft Resolution

Resolution: ODUMUNC/37/GA4/3.a

Body and committee: General Assembly, Third Committee

Topic: Strengthening UN Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance in Complex Emergencies

Sponsors: Lesotho, Malawi, Tuvalu

Signatories: Angola, Bangladesh, Yemen, Zambia

1    **The General Assembly,**

2

3    *Reminding* all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the *Universal*  
4    *Declaration of Human Rights*, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and  
5    inalienable rights of all Global citizens,

6

7    *Reaffirming* its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages governments to  
8    work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of  
9    humanitarian assistance,

10

11   *Noting* with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and organizations,

12

13   *Stressing* the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in  
14   need of reform,

15

16           1. Encourages all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more  
17           closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief  
18           efforts;

19

20           2. Urges member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of  
21           Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;

22

23           3. Requests that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the  
24           coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies,  
25           such as:

26

27                   a. Appointing an official to be the head of international coordination  
28           efforts,

29

30                   b. Provide funding and planning for short-notice emergency missions for  
31           quick deployment;

31

32           6. Requests the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict  
33           assistance through reconstruction and development.

34

## Example Security Council Resolution

Resolution ODUMUNC/37/SC/1.a

Committee: Security Council

Strengthening UN Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance in Complex Emergencies

Sponsors: Canada, India, United Kingdom, United States of America

Signatories: France, China, Russian Federation,

1    **The Security Council,**

2

3    *Reaffirming* the United Nations role to set the standard in the area of human rights,

4

5    *Guided by* Chapter 7 of United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human  
6    Rights which calls for the basic rights of people regardless of origin, nationality and  
7    gender, and General Assembly Resolution 46/37 B,

8

9    *Deeply concerned by* the number and consistency of human rights violations in Sierra  
10   Leone,

11

12   *Reaffirming* the United Nations commitment to exploring and exhausting peaceful means  
13   of dispute settlement,

14

15   *Recognizing* that conflict resolution through regional organizations such as ECOWAS  
16   and the OAU has been successful in the past,

17

18   *Bearing in mind* that the UN currently has 37, 400 UN military and personnel provided  
19   by 89 countries engaged in 15 operations around the world,

20

21   *Taking into consideration* that the UN was unable to meet its initial deployment goal of  
22   13, 000 for the UNAMSIL mission,

23

24       1. Condemns human rights violations;

25

26       2. Reaffirms the necessity for peacekeeping forces to remain neutral and objective  
27       in the involvement of interstate and intrastate conflicts;

28

29       3. Emphasizes the need for the United Nations to sustain its efforts as a  
30       peacekeeper and humanitarian observer in the UNAMSIL mission;

31

32       4. Calls upon member nations to enforce an arms embargo against the country of  
33       Sierra Leone;

34

35       5. Authorizes UNAMSIL to execute its mission of peacekeeping once the cease-  
36       fire is under observance;

37

- 38           6. Requests increased assistance to organizations such as ECOWAS and the OAU  
39           which are committed to providing meaningful solutions to regional problems in  
40           order to promote durable peace;  
41
- 42           7. Further recommends that the United Nations employ the objectives of  
43           preventive diplomacy as defined by former Secretary General Boutros Boutros  
44           Ghali in his *Agenda for Peace* pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 46/37 B;  
45
- 46           8. Further resolves to stay committed to the peaceful resolution of conflict in the  
47           country of Sierra Leone.

