

HOW TO WRITE A RESOLUTION:



What is a resolution?:

A resolution is a document that aims to resolve the issues or problems addressed by a committee. It is referred to as a draft resolution until it is successfully passed during the voting procedure. Draft resolutions are typically written during an unmoderated caucus, where delegates are able to freely collaborate with other members of the committee.

The author of the resolution is referred to as a sponsor. It is not uncommon for a resolution to have multiple sponsors, as this reflects the cooperation and collaboration of several delegates within a bloc. A number of signatories must also be gathered; these delegates may not necessarily agree with the content of the resolution, but would like the document to be introduced to the committee and debated further. Differing draft resolutions may be introduced by opposing blocs with alternate solutions to the issues being discussed.

Formatting and Wording:

A draft resolution must include:

- 1) The committee's name (e.g. United Nations Security Council)
- 2) The names of the sponsors
- 3) The names of the signatories
- 4) The agenda topic (e.g. "The right to privacy in a digital age")
- 5) Preambulatory clauses
- 6) Operative clauses

Preambulatory Clauses:

Preambulatory clauses start off the resolution but do not formulate any solution. They may either recognize the most important aspects of the issue, or highlight previous actions taken by a UN body on the issue. Preambulatory clauses are not numbered, end with a comma, and must begin with one of the following phrases:

Affirming	Further recalling
Alarmed by	Guided by
Approving	Having adopted
Bearing in mind	Having considered
Believing	Having examined
Confident	Having received
Contemplating	Keeping in mind
Convinced	Noting further
Declaring	Noting with deep concern
Deeply concerned	Noting with satisfaction
Deeply conscious	Observing
Deeply convinced	Reaffirming
Deeply disturbed	Realizing
Deeply regretting	Recalling
Desiring	Recognizing
Emphasizing	Referring
Expecting	Seeking
Expressing it's appreciation	Taking into consideration
Fulfilling	Taking note
Fully aware	Viewing with appreciation
Further deploring	Welcoming

Preambulatory clauses may include references to:

- 1) The UN Charter
- 2) Citations of past UN resolutions or treaties on the topic at hand
- 3) Statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body
- 4) Recognition of the effort of regional or nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) in dealing with the issue
- 5) General statements on the issue, its significance and its impact

Operative Clauses:

Unlike preambulatory clauses, operative clauses set out actual solutions and initiatives for the committee to implement. Each clause should address a certain aspect of the issue and not call for a variety of measures.

Several rules must be followed while drafting operative clauses:

- 1) Clauses are to be numbered (1, 2, 3) and may include subclauses (1a, 2a, 3a) and even sub-subclauses (1a i, 2a ii, 3a iii)
- 2) Clauses should support one another
- 3) Clauses should be detailed in order to have a complete solution
- 4) Clauses should end with a semicolon, with the exception of the last operative clause, which should end with a full stop.

Operative clauses must start with one of the following phrases:

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

Be sure to look up what the official powers of your committee are, in order to ensure that solutions are able to be fully implemented. For example, The Security Council is the only body allowed to pass resolutions that impose sanctions on other countries.

Amendments:

Amendments are used in order to modify draft resolutions, and aim to change the wording or number of operative clauses. Amendments may be submitted by both sponsors and non-sponsors alike although it is more commonly the latter. After a delegate has submitted an amendment they must await approval from the chair before they are allowed to introduce their amendment and commence with debate. At the end of the debate time, the council votes on the amendment before it is passed.

Examples of amendments would be the following:

- Deletes sub-clause 1.b Adds an operative clause that reads “9. Urges member states to...”
- Amends operative clause 6 to read “6. Calls upon developed countries to reduce their emissions by 5%...”