

WRITING YOUR MUN RESOLUTION

What is a resolution? A resolution is a written proposal that deals with the issues being entertained by a UN committee. Please follow the format and guidelines below when writing your resolution.

I. TITLE

The title of your resolution states the issues you are addressing and establishes the resolution as the position of the General Assembly, if passed. It should begin "A Resolution to..."

II. PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

The preamble of your resolution is composed of preambulatory (introductory) clauses. These clauses introduce the problem at hand, provide necessary background information, and give a general indication of the attitude of the resolution.

There are 5 types of preambulatory clauses. Your resolution should include all applicable types in whatever order you deem best. See next page for examples and how to begin each clause.

5 TYPES OF PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

1. General statements and background information on why your topic is important and its impact.
2. Citations/mentions of past UN resolutions, Treaties, or Conventions related to your topic.
3. References to sections of the UN Charter, Declaration of Human Rights, or other International Laws/Frameworks related to your topic.
4. Recognition of the efforts of nations and/or regional or non-governmental organizations in addressing your topic.
5. Quotes and statements made by the UN Secretary General or a UN body/agency relevant to your topic.

III. OPERATIVE CLAUSES

The final section of your resolution is composed of operative clauses. These clauses are the meat and potatoes of your resolution. They should outline your ideas and specific proposed actions for problem your resolution addresses. Each clause should provide one specific action/idea and work with the other clauses to build your full solution. Each of your operative clauses should be numbered. See next page for examples and how to begin each clause.

Important things to remember about a UN resolution:

1. The General Assembly has the power to:
 - Discuss and make recommendations
 - Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament
 - Discuss and make recommendations relating to international peace and security as well as any dispute or situation except those before the Security Council
 - Consider and approve the UN budget and establish financial assessments of member nations
 - Elected the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of the other UN Councils and bodies
2. It is not a good idea to personalize an assistance effort (for instance, to improve literacy in your country only) unless a problem is totally unique to your nation or region, or a dire emergency exists. With most problems, such as those related to health, education, or economic development, a large number of countries face those problems in common. Outstanding resolutions think in terms of international/global programs and solutions.

CLAUSES AND SAMPLES

I. PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

1. General statements and background information on why your topic is important and its impact.

Noting with concern the rising number of refugees, particularly children, entering the European Union since 2015,

2. Citations/mentions of past UN resolutions, Treaties, or Conventions related to your topic.

Emphasizing that the UN has already taken steps to provide assistance and protection to unaccompanied refugee minors in resolution 51/73,

*Resolutions are cited as Session #/ Resolution # - the citation 51/73 would mean Resolution 73 during the 51st Session of the UN. An online library of all UN Resolutions is available at

<http://www.un.org/en/sections/documents/general-assembly-resolutions/>

3. References to sections of the UN Charter, Declaration of Human Rights, or other International Laws/Frameworks related to your topic.

Bearing in mind that the Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family,

4. Recognition of the efforts of nations and/or regional or non-governmental organizations in addressing your topic.

Conscious that the European Commission as set a 10 point plan to address the crisis,

5. Quotes and statements made by the UN Secretary General or a UN body/agency relevant to your topic.

Deeply concerned that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees recently stated that children are becoming the face of the refugee crisis,

Remember, these are just the different types of preambulatory clauses. Your resolution does not have to include every type of clause, but it should include any type of clause that is relevant to your topic.

Acknowledging
Affirming
Alarmed by
Approving
Aware of
Bearing in mind
Believing
Cognizant
Concerned
Confident
Contemplating
Considering
Convinced
Declaring
Deeply concerned
Deeply conscious
Deploring
Desiring
Determined
Emphasizing
Encouraged
Endorsing
Expecting
Fulfilling
Fully alarmed
Fully aware
Further recalling
Guided by
Having approved
Having considered
Having decided
Having examined
Keeping in mind
Mindful
Noting further
Noting with concern
Noting with satisfaction
Observing
Reaffirming
Realizing
Recalling
Recognizing
Referring
Regretting
Seeking
Taking into consideration
Taking note
Viewing with appreciation
Welcoming

Before your operative clauses, you should indicate the change in section with the following line:

“The General Assembly hereby:”

II. OPERATIVE CLAUSES:

As you seek a solution, make sure that your solution:

- a) Stays in character of your country.
- b) Doesn't infringe on a nation's sovereignty- especially not your own.
- c) Stays within the powers of the UN.

Ideas to keep in mind:

- a) Resolutions are merely suggestions, requests, or statements of “world opinion.” (The exception to this is the “peace and security” function of the Security Council).
- b) The General Assembly and its committees are the bodies in which all member nations discuss world problems and propose solutions. The purposes of GA resolutions are to define and describe *international* problems and propose solutions.
- c) A resolution may propose that specific nations alter their behavior in order to be in line with principles and guidelines stated in one of the dozens of agreements, treaties, declarations, reports, or protocols that most nations have previously signed. Specific punishments may be *suggested*, if desired, for nations who are in violation.
- d) A resolution may call on member nations to adopt by their vote a new position or viewpoint regarding a more specific international issue.
- e) A resolution may seek to develop and gain approval for a specific program or course of action to be carried out by one of the UN organs
- f) A resolution can create a new organization or committee, but be careful because an organ already exists for practically every matter of world concern.

A strong operative clause provides clear details and specifics on the action/idea you are recommending, such as:

- a) Who should take action (Govts, UN, UN Agencies, NGOs)
- b) What actions they should take
- c) Where and/or when the actions should take place
- d) How best to take action

1. *Calls upon* the UN Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiation in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of the use of nuclear weapons under and circumstances;

2. *Requests* the UN Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of those negotiations.

***Remember, these clauses should be numbered, each clause ending in a semi-colon except your last clause, which ends in a period.**

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