

# 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 51<sup>st</sup> 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