



WRITING A RESOLUTION

What is a “resolution”? A resolution is a formal expression of an opinion or intention, expressed by a committee or assembly. This resolution is often the solution to a posed question. It is submitted and voted by the delegates.

PREPARING YOUR RESOLUTION

1 – Show the reality of the issue and the need to act

After having first defined the issue, do your research. Make a list of actions already taken and existing laws and resolutions; inform yourselves on the position of different countries and political parties, and particularly on your position, concerning the issue.

2 – Propose your solution

It is important to develop an action plan, consistent with the policies of the party you represent and the interests of your country. Ideally, it must be acceptable by the majority of UN delegations. While preparing it, consider it from different perspectives: economic, political, military, social or environmental.

3 – Justify your action plan

Be prepared to defend your action plan point by point through figures and arguments. To do this well, you must anticipate criticism and prepare your counter-arguments.

Format of the resolution: pay special attention to the format and layout: underline verbs, check punctuation, giving numbers to the operative but not preambulatory clauses, etc. The resolution must be concise and specific and reflect the represented country’s point of view.

WRITING YOUR RESOLUTION

Most resolutions are formal recommendations of UN bodies and are the focal point of committee and General Assembly debates. The resolutions may state an opinion or recommend that actions be taken by a UN body or an affiliated organisation. The resolutions may have several areas of focus. In preparing resolutions you must think of the following points.

Once a UN body passes a resolution, that resolution determines its policy.

Although most resolutions are not political declarations, it is possible that a resolution includes a treaty, declaration or convention in its entirety. Resolutions can be general declarations or specific directives towards a UN or country's body or organism.

Resolutions may condemn actions taken by states, may call for collective action or, in when adopted by the Security Council, can impose economic or military sanctions.



Signing a resolution implies that the delegate wants to discuss it with other members. This does not indicate that the co-signer supports the resolution or its sponsor(s). In fact the co-signer carries no obligations towards this resolution. Sponsors are normally the country or countries that wrote the resolution. Not only do they agree to submit the resolution to voting, but they commit to support it during voting. Co-signers, however, are looking for discussion around the resolution and do not necessarily commit to support it during voting. A co-signer may actually be against the elements of the resolution as proposed but want the resolution to be debated in order to convince other countries to find another compromise.

When writing a resolution, delegates must keep in mind that the wording of a resolution will influence the assembly's understanding of it. For this reason, the resolution must be clear, precise, and brief.

Vague resolutions that do not propose any specific plans of action will be severely criticized during the debate. The content of a resolution must therefore reflect thorough research beforehand, as well as the foreign policy of the delegation(s) submitting it.

A resolution is a very long sentence, punctuated by commas and semicolons to separate ideas, and a full stop at the end of the document. A resolution comprises three parts:

1 – Heading

The heading provides precise information on the resolution, including its title, the committee it is presented to, and the delegations sponsoring it.

2 – Preambulatory clauses

The preamble of the resolution briefly presents the resolution's reasons, that it properly falls within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned, and the main justification for the propositions that follow. The focus and expression of the preambulatory clauses should center upon the problem at hand in its current context.

The preambulatory clauses should refer to relevant UN resolutions, precedents in international law, and points of the UN Charter or other pertinent documents. The preamble may also include altruistic appeals to common sense or to humanitarian motivations of the parties, referring to the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or even specific situations.

Every preambulatory clause starts with a participle in italics, and ends with a comma.

Unlike the operative clauses of a resolution (see below), preambulatory clauses are not debated directly by delegates or subject to amendment. Depending on the particular issue, preambulatory clauses may even seem unnecessary—and at times indeed, little more than a



formality. But it is up to the delegates to use them wisely, in order to situate the problem they want to discuss and to express their perspective on the issue in a more general way.

3 – Operative clauses

Unlike preambulatory clauses, operative clauses list recommendations for action, or express a favorable or unfavorable perspective on particular aspects of the issue. These clauses may call for Member States, the Secretariat or a UN agency or body to take action, which may be either of a broad nature, like denouncing a situation or a calling for negotiation, or more precise, like calling for a ceasefire or a financial commitment to a specific project.

Remember that only resolutions of the Security Council are binding on Member States. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council can only make recommendations.

Operative clauses form the core of the resolution. They present the solutions proposed by the sponsors of the resolution to the problems raised in the preambulatory clauses. Operative clauses begin with an active verb in the present and are ended by a semicolon. The first word of each operative clause should be underlined (see table below). Each clause is numbered and can be divided into several sub-ideas (a, b, c, d, etc.).

Each operative clause presents an action, which may be more or less precise, may call the UN Member States to concrete actions, or simply express an opinion or a will without incorporating practical solutions. However, it is important to stress that, even when adopted by the various committees, these clauses or actions serve only as recommendations and may or may not be applied by the different States concerned.

It is important to not try to present comprehensive solutions to all problems in your resolutions. It is likely that you will have discovered in your research solutions that have failed, but with a little imagination and research, your fellow delegates and you will be able to develop new solutions to problems that sometimes seem hopeless. The key to diplomatic relations is compromise, but do not lose sight of your country's position on the subject.

Before adhering to a resolution, each delegate should ensure that he is acting in accordance with his country's political will. Indeed, although a Cuban delegate could theoretically become the sponsor of a resolution aimed at strengthening the Cuban embargo, doing so would be acting against the interests of his or her country. So such an act would be contrary to the role that he or she had taken on through representing Cuba in the United Nations.



Formatting rules for resolutions

Page number and number of pages at the top right, eg: Page 1 of 2

Committee name top left

The issue at the top left

The name of the sponsor(s) of the resolution at the top left

The co-signers at the top left

The UN organism (in italics and indented) e.g: *The General Assembly*

Then the **preambulatory clauses**, which present the issue or recalls past efforts, each starting with the words cited below, in italics. These clauses are indented and separated by commas.

Then the **operative clauses**, which propose solutions, each starting with words like those cited below and underlined. These clauses must specify who does what, within what timeframe, and indicate who will fund the project. These clauses are offset, numbered and separated by semicolons. The last one ends with a full stop.

Inspired by « Vers une modélisation de conférence des Nations Unies en milieu lycéen. » Lycée Français de Madrid, 2013

Verbs for Writing Clauses

PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES		OPERATIVE CLAUSES	
Affirming	Further deploring	Accepts	Invites
Alarmed by	Further recalling	Affirms	Presses
Approving	Guided by	Appreciates	Proposes
Aware of	Having adopted	Approves	Reaffirms
Believing	Keeping in mind	Authorises*	Recommends
Confident	Noting with regret	Calls for/upon	Regrets
Contemplating	Observing	Condemns*	Reminds
Convinced	Reaffirming	Confirms	Requests
Declaring	Realizing	Decides*	Seeks
Deeply concerned	Recalling	Declares	Solemnly Supports
Desiring	Referring	Demands*	Suggests
Emphasizing	Seeking	Deplores	Transmits
Expecting	Taking into	Encourages	Urges
Expressing its	consideration	Endorses	Welcomes
appreciation	Taking note	Hopes	
Fulfilling	Viewing with	Imposes*	
Fully alarmed/aware	appreciation		

* terms only to be used by the Security Council



FORUM: Humanitarian Forum

ISSUE: Coordinating humanitarian action for greater efficiency on the ground

MAIN SUBMITTER: USA

CO-SUBMITTERS: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, ICRC, OCHA, Philippines, Vatican, Syria, Togo, World Food Program

The Humanitarian Forum,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and recalling other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/1 and the spirit of cooperation expressed within,

Reaffirming the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Emphasizing the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect the above principles,

Alarmed by the increasing challenges caused by the unprecedented number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including protracted displacement, which are increasing in number, scale and severity and are stretching humanitarian response capacities,

Deeply concerned by the impact of climate change, the ongoing consequences of the financial and economic crisis, regional food crises, continuing food and energy insecurity, water scarcity, unplanned and rapid urbanization of populations, epidemics, natural hazards and environmental degradation, which are adding to underdevelopment, poverty and inequality and are increasing the vulnerability of people while reducing their ability to cope with humanitarian crises,

Recognizing that building and strengthening national and local preparedness and response capacity is critical to a more predictable and effective response,

Realizing the need, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, to better align, wherever appropriate, humanitarian and development assistance with national development priorities and strategies,

Fully believing that coordination should remain at the heart of humanitarian aid response,

1. Encourages Member States and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to continue to improve dialogue and collaboration on humanitarian issues, at a global and local level to create a more inclusive approach to humanitarian assistance;



2. Hopes that Member States and NGOs can collaborate to come up with innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by humanitarian emergencies to develop locally sustainable solutions, such as the collaboration between IFRC and Guatemala and various other countries;
3. Urges Member States, as well as United Nations Agencies to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships with local organizations as well as on a global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations;
4. Suggests improving the rapidity of humanitarian responses by:
 - a) inviting Member States to further participate or contribute to inter-agency responses and pooled funding mechanisms (i.e.: collective deposit of money to which Member States donate a certain amount of funds),
 - b) increasing the number and the speed of strategic response plans to emergency situations, by further channeling funds to emergency response organizations;
5. Invites more countries to adopt development frameworks, policies and national programs to implement disaster risk reduction strategies, through:
 - a) improvements in innovations and technologies through promotion of research and development in developed countries and finally stable organizations in order to improve aid-delivery systems in medicine, food supply and safe shelter and ensure that supplies retain their usefulness until the time of use,
 - b) allocation of funds for the utilization of satellite mapping of remote areas and satellite imagery sources to quickly create accurate maps stricken locations for accuracy in data transmission to aid-workers;
6. Proposes the increased installation of Early-Warning mechanisms in regions that have been observing large-scale environmental issues or any social political tensions and unrest in recent times and have the possibility of undergoing major disaster or conflict, through measures including but not limited to:
 - a) appointment of professional experts specializing in humanitarian intelligence in identified regions of potential conflict, called the Regional Humanitarian Advisors (RHA), who would operate under the OCHA Regional Ambassadorship,
 - b) binding necessity for all regional offices of the UNOCHA to submit a quarterly situational analysis report that includes situational mapping and reporting of the country's affairs and political developments that are linked to a strong possibility of disaster conflict and which can be communicated to nations across the world through a well-knit network of contact and coordination,
 - c) increased practice of 'fake catastrophes' in which multilateral military training can be carried out in a mock situation to test the effectiveness of the emergency



response preparations and mechanisms that are in place for real disaster or conflict;

7. Reminds countries to report regularly on the progress of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
8. Recommends that countries develop with OCHA and NGOs a clear post-disaster reconstruction plan that deals with problems at all levels as well as incorporating disaster reduction risk activities by:
 - a) identifying areas under significant threat,
 - b) implementing and linking of disaster warning systems to the OCHA,
 - c) determining the role of local government in the directing of aid,
 - d) development of plans with data from stimulating and analyzing the damages of possible disaster;
9. Emphasizes the need for further creation of platforms such as a START Network through which:
 - a) humanitarian actors can collaborate,
 - b) all members can improve overall coordination and communication;
10. Suggests the creation of short term projects aimed at lessening the impact of disasters on civilian lives through a comprehensive interaction between United Nations organizations by focusing first and foremost on providing the basic resources necessary to sustain basic human needs;
11. Invites the humanitarian relief organization to, in cooperation with local and national governments in the area afflicted, establish one-stop shop teams and centers as proposed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as a main manner of redistributing aid;
12. Calls for the establishment of OCHA observatory offices in all current member states as means to assess domestic logistical preparedness, coordination and efficiency pertaining to disaster relief and management in all sectors of the accountable administration;
13. Emphasizes the need for national and local governments to take lead in organizing and redistributing aid, whilst cooperating with existing aid donors, international organizations and NGOs so as to achieve the highest possible efficiency of humanitarian aid;
14. Recommends that OCHA's future action plan to reduce the effects of conflict or disaster with the help of international coordination include:



- a) deployment of more individuals and personnel specializing in telecom, transport or health and hygiene services as well as resource mobilization and financing through coordination with developed economies,
 - b) achieving a long term target of more than 100 developed and developing countries in UN OCHA to coordinate in humanitarian affairs, information-management, civil-military coordination, reporting and public information to decrease the potential of unprecedented crises as much as possible;
15. Emphasizes the importance of finding and implementing solutions that work from the grassroots level in order to ensure that solutions presented best fit the specific needs of impacted, whilst cooperating with national authorities, communities.