



WRITING A RESOLUTION

What is a resolution? A resolution is a formal expression of opinion or intent by a committee or assembly. It is often the solution to a problem. It is submitted to and voted on by delegates.

PREPARE YOUR RESOLUTION

1 - Show the reality of the problem and the need for action

Once you've defined the problem, do your research, list the actions already taken, existing laws and resolutions, and find out about the position of different countries and political parties on the issue.

2 - Propose your solution

It's important to develop an action plan in line with the interests of your country and the body you represent for the International Labour Organization (Government, Employer, Worker). It is preferable that your plan of action, your solution, be acceptable to the majority of UN delegates.

3 - Justify your action plan

Be ready to defend your action plan point by point with figures and arguments. You need to anticipate criticism and prepare your arguments to counter it.

Resolution format: pay particular attention to format and layout: underline verbs, take care with punctuation, number action clauses but not preamble clauses, etc. Resolutions must be concise and precise, and reflect the point of view of the country represented.

WRITE YOUR RESOLUTION

Most resolutions are formal recommendations of UN bodies and become the focus of debate in committees and plenary assemblies. Resolutions can express an opinion or recommend that action be taken by a UN body or affiliated agency. Resolutions can have several lines of action, so when drafting a resolution, consider the following points:

Once a body has adopted a resolution, it becomes its official guideline.



Although most resolutions are merely political declarations, it is possible for a resolution to incorporate a treaty, declaration or convention in its own right. Resolutions can be general statements or directives directed specifically at organizations, UN bodies or states.

Resolutions may condemn actions taken by individual states, may call for collective action or, as in the case of the Security Council, may require economic or military sanctions.

Being a signatory to a resolution means that a delegate simply wants to discuss it with the other members - this in no way indicates that the signatory supports or sponsors the resolution, nor does it have any other obligation towards the resolution. Sponsors are normally the countries that drafted the resolution. Not only do they agree that the draft resolution should be put to the vote, but they also undertake to support it during the vote. Signatories, on the other hand, simply want the draft to be debated, and so do not necessarily commit to supporting it at the vote. A signatory may be against the draft resolution, but would like it to be discussed in order to convince other countries to find other compromises.

When drafting a resolution, delegates should bear in mind that the wording of the resolution may influence the debate. The resolution must therefore be clear, precise and brief.

Vague resolutions that say or propose nothing specific will be severely criticized during the debate. The content of the resolution must therefore be thoroughly researched and representative of the sponsoring nation.

A resolution is a very long sentence, with commas and semicolons separating the ideas and a period at the end of the document. A resolution contains three parts:

1 - The header

The header contains various items of information, including the title of the resolution, the committee for which it is being submitted and the sponsoring nations.

2 - Preamble clauses

Within the resolution's preamble, the preamble clauses explain the reasons for the resolution and describe the main reasons for the proposals that follow. It is here that reference is made to previous UN resolutions and precedents in international law are cited. Preamble clauses should refer to factual situations or instances directly relevant to the subject. The preamble may contain altruistic appeals to members' common sense or humanitarian instincts, with references to the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, etc. Each clause



begins with an italicized participle, followed by a comma.

Preamble clauses must be able to briefly explain the history and reasons for the issue raised, so as to demonstrate that it does indeed fall within the purview of the commission concerned, and that the resolution is genuinely justified. In support of their arguments, the resolution's sponsors can also draw on past UN resolutions, legal precedents, various points of the UN Charter or other documents deemed relevant, while keeping the issue in its current context. Preamble clauses may also seek to appeal to the humanitarian wishes of other member countries, or to the common sense and judgment of individual delegates, in particular situations.

Preamble clauses, which cannot be amended, may sometimes seem incidental or unnecessary, depending on the issue under discussion. Indeed, in some cases, they remain a mere formality.

But it's up to the delegates to use them wisely, so as to properly situate the problem they want to discuss, and to express their opinion on the subject more generally. However, preamble clauses, unlike action clauses, are not debated directly by delegates.

3 - Action clauses

Action clauses list recommendations for action, or express a favorable or unfavorable opinion on a particular aspect of the current situation. These clauses may call for action by member states, the Secretariat or a UN agency or body. These actions can be as broad as a denunciation of a situation or a call for negotiation, or they can be as specific as a call for a ceasefire or a financial commitment to a specific project.

Remember that only Security Council resolutions are binding on member states; the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council can only make recommendations. Action clauses begin with an active verb in the present tense and are followed by a semicolon. The first word of each action clause should be underlined (see table below).

Don't try to present global solutions to all problems in your resolutions. Your previous research will have brought to your attention solutions that have failed, but with a little imagination and research, you and your fellow delegates can develop new solutions to problems that sometimes seem hopeless. Remember that the key to diplomatic relations is compromise; but don't lose sight of your country's position on the subject under discussion.



Action clauses are the heart of the resolution. They present the solutions proposed by the sponsors of the resolution to the problems raised in the preamble clauses. Each clause is numbered and can be divided into several sub-ideas (a, b, c, d, etc.).

The solution presented by each clause is an action, which may be more or less precise and call on UN member countries to take concrete action, or simply express an opinion or a will without incorporating practical solutions. However, it is important to emphasize that, even once adopted by the various committees, these clauses or actions only serve as recommendations, and may or may not be implemented by the various states concerned.

Before adhering to a resolution, each delegate must check whether he or she is acting in accordance with the political will of his or her country. Indeed, although a Cuban delegate could theoretically become the sponsor of a resolution aimed at reinforcing the Cuban embargo, he would thereby be acting against the interests of his country, and thus not fulfilling the role he has set himself in coming to represent his state at the United Nations.

Resolution layout rules:

Committee name top left

Issue at top left

Resolution spokesperson's name top left

Co-signatories at top left

The organization (in italics and offset),

e.g.: *The General Assembly*, (here we put the name of the committee)

A number of **preamble clauses** presenting the problem or recalling past efforts, beginning with the usual words listed below in italics. These clauses are offset and separated by commas.

A number of **action clauses** propose solutions and begin with the usual words quoted below and underlined. These clauses should specify who does what, within what timeframe, and may indicate who will fund the project. These clauses are staggered, numbered and separated by semicolons. The last clause ends with a period.

The layout and punctuation of the clauses is therefore as follows:

1. Action verb - main clause body :
 - a. first sub-clause,
 - b. second sub-clause :



- i. first sub-sub-clause,
- ii. second sub-sub-clause,
- iii. third sub-clause;

Verbs for Writing Clauses

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

*terms only to be used by the Security Council



EXAMPLE OF A RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE: Environment (ILO3)

ISSUE: How can we limit the environmental impact of fast fashion?

MAIN SUBMITTER: Sweden Employers

CO-SUBMITTERS: Bangladesh (workers), Barbados (employers, government, workers), Cameroon (government), Chile (employers, government, workers), China (workers), Eswatini (government, workers), France (employers, workers), Germany (government), Indonesia (workers), Italy (workers), Japan (workers), Morocco (government, workers), Nigeria (employers, government, workers), Pakistan (workers), Romania (workers), Russian Federation (workers), Rwanda (workers), Saudi Arabia (workers), Sweden (workers), United Kingdom (workers)

The committee on environment of the International Labour Organization,

Recalling past international efforts, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, emphasizing the role of sustainable practices in achieving environmental goals,

Recognizing the pressing need for decisive action to mitigate the environmental and social impacts of the fashion industry,

Acknowledging the alarming number of global textile waste, standing at 92 million tons of clothing ending up in landfills per year, according to The Roundup, an ecological governmental organization,

Alarmed by the extensive use of non-renewable resources in the fast fashion industry, such as water-intensive cotton cultivation, petroleum-based synthetic fabrics, and the overall strain on ecosystems, as these put pressure on ecosystems and deplete finite resources,

Deeply concerned by the widespread exploitation of cheap labor and unethical working conditions in the fast fashion supply chain,

Noting with regret that manual workers are employed at very low wages for long hours and under poor, unhealthy and oppressive conditions,

Fully aware of the outrageous number of employees losing their lives in many countries from those terrible working conditions,



Acknowledging that fast fashion leads to deforestation by the demand for cellulose-based fibers, essential in crafting fabrics like denim, corduroy, or organza,

Recognizing the imperative for a paradigm shift in the fashion industry,

1. Proposes the establishment of a United Nations Fund for the Sustainable Development Transition of the Fashion Industry (UNFSDTFI) aiming at mobilizing financial and technical resources to support initiatives and projects promoting sustainability, social responsibility, and circularity within the fashion industry;
2. Encourages all nations to adopt sustainable practices in the fashion industry by implementing eco-friendly manufacturing processes that would consist of:
 - a. using sustainable materials and energy-efficient technologies such as organic cotton and hemp fabric,
 - b. recognizing fashion brands and manufacturers adopting environmentally responsible practices by national certification programs or eco-labels that are funded by the government;
3. Promotes the reduction of carbon emissions throughout the supply chain by:
 - a. requiring companies to measure, report, and reduce their carbon footprint,
 - b. giving access to comprehensive information to consumers regarding the environmental impact of the products they purchase;
4. Calls for the creation of a monitoring and reporting mechanism, where member states annually report progress in implementing sustainable practices within their fashion industries to ensure accountability and transparency;
5. Encourages member States to voluntarily contribute to the UNFSDTFI, recognizing that the transition to more sustainable practices in the fashion industry requires collective action and international cooperation;
6. Charges member States and partner organizations to closely cooperate with the UNFSDTFI to ensure effective implementation of supported projects and periodically assess the impact of initiatives funded by the fund;
7. Encourages every nation to reassign former workers from the fast fashion industry to more sustainable industries through comprehensive measures, including:
 - a. supporting the adoption and execution of training initiatives aimed at facilitating the transition of workers formerly employed in the fast fashion sector, enabling them to acquire skills conducive to environmentally sustainable industries, thus minimizing ecological repercussions,
 - b. promoting partnerships with educational institutions and industry experts;
8. Urges the fast fashion industries to reduce their water pollution by:



- a. finding alternatives to chemical dyes, such as natural colorants, in order to minimize damage to the ecosystem and water pollution,
 - b. reducing their water consumption during production by reusing water or using alternative sustainable technologies such as laser technologies;
9. Call out all the organizations with monetary funds like OMC or IMF to provide help to;
- a. all the countries that have a HDI inferior to 0.4,
 - b. all the countries touched by the consequences of fast fashion like Cameroon;
10. Endorses a 3% tax on every new collection launched by fashion brands
- a. this tax will be collected by governments which are compelled to reinvest this money into sustainable industries and more environmental friendly products;
11. Calls for the implementation of a UN unit to make sure the governments reinvest this tax for the own wellbeing of their country;
12. Invites every country to spread awareness among its population about the impact of fast fashion on the environment to:
- a. encourage the population to sell clothes that they do not use anymore to help other people facing economic difficulties to buy cheaper and reused clothes,
 - b. put forward other less commonly known brands that are more sustainable for the environment and encourage employers to change their fast fashion brands to make them sustainable too,
 - c. remind the population that thrift stores can also benefit the environment and families looking for cheap alternatives,
 - d. encourage the development and implementation of consumer education programs to raise awareness about the environmental impact of fast fashion and to promote responsible and mindful consumption habits such as buying less, choosing higher-quality items, and embracing second-hand.