



HOW TO WRITE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

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How to write Draft Resolutions

Resolutions are the primary tools of discussion in the United Nations. They form the basis for all UN Debate, bringing one or more issues to the floor in a form that Delegates can discuss, amend, and reject or ratify as circumstances dictate.

As a delegate, it is an extremely educational experience to purview a UN resolution; a past document of international consensus on a specific issue and a specific context, and outline both perambulatory conditions which necessitate the attention of the UN, and also how a UN agency or committee or body has resolved (or attempted to resolve) the Agenda issue. In most cases, delegates are armed with previous UN resolutions to elucidate as well as consolidate their position on the Agenda Item.

They usually state a policy that the United Nations will undertake, but they also may be in the form of treaties, conventions and declarations in some bodies. They range from very general to very specific in content. Depending on the body involved, they may call for or suggest a course of action, condemn an action, or require action or sanctions in the part of the member states.

The General Assembly and Economic and Social Council may only call for or suggest actions. It should be noted that no body other than the Security Council may require action or sanctions from member states. In some cases, final conventions or treaties may also require action, but this would only be on the part of the signatory nations.

A regular UN resolution has three components:

- Heading
- Preamble
- Operative Clauses



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The Heading

The heading should have the following information:

- I. The name of the committee (e.g. The United Nations Security Council)
- II. The topic of the resolution (e.g. UNSC Reform)
- III. A list of the Nations signing the resolution into debate (the signatories - e.g. China, Russia)



The Preamble

The preamble states the problem and makes references to it from several sources including the UN Charter, past UN resolutions and statements by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency, recognition of the work or efforts of regional organizations in dealing with the issue, and general statements on the topic, its significance and its effects. Preambulatory clauses are historic justifications for action. Use them to cite past resolutions, precedents and statements about the purpose of action. Each clause ends with a comma (,).

The pre-ambulatory clauses always start with verbs like:

Affirming...	Grieved...
Alarmed...	Guided by...
Anxious...	Having...
Approving...	...adopted...
Bearing in mind...	...considered...
Being convinced...	...examined further...
Believing...	...received...
Cognizant...	...reviewed...
Confident...	Keeping in mind...
Conscious...	Mindful...
Considering...	Noting...
Contemplating...	...further...
Convinced...	...with approval...
Declaring...	...with concern...
Deeply disturbed...	...with deep concern...
Desiring...	...with grave concern...
Determined...	...with regret...
Emphasizing...	...with satisfaction...
Endorsing...	Observing...
Expressing...	Reaffirming...
...appreciation...	Realizing...
...deep appreciation...	Recalling...
Expecting...	Recognizing...
Fully...	Referring...



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...aware...
...believing...
...bearing in mind...

Regretting...
Reiterating...
Seeking...
Stressing...
Welcoming...



Operative Clauses

Operative Clauses state the solution the committee is offering to solve the problem at hand. Operative clauses are policies that the resolution is designed to create. Use them to explain what the committee will do to address the issue. All the operative clauses are numbered and should be listed in a logical order that proposes a singular, unique, comprehensive and practical idea in every numbered clause. Each clause ends with a semi-colon with the exception of the very last one, which finishes with a period.

The operative clauses start with verbs such as:

Accepts...
Adopts...
Affirms...
Appeals...
Appreciates...
Approves...
Authorizes...
Believes...
Calls upon...
Commends...
Confirms...
Condemns...
Condones...
Concurs...
Considers...
Congratulates...
Decides...
...accordingly...
Declares...
Deplores...
Designates...
Directs...
Emphasizes...

Further...
...invites...
...proclaims...
...concurs...
...reminds...
...recommends...
...requests...
...resolves...
Instructs...
Invites...
Notes...
...with appreciation...
...with approval...
...with interest...
...with satisfaction...
Reaffirms...
...its belief...
Recognizes...
Recommends...
Reiterates...
Renews its appeal...
Repeats...
Suggests...



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Encourages...
Endorses...
Expressing...
...its appreciation...
...its conviction...
...its regret...
...its sympathies...
... the belief...
... the hope...

Strongly...
Supports...
Takes note of...
Transmits...
Urges...
Welcomes...



Amendments

During the course of negotiation and cooperation, draft resolutions will alter through changes known as amendments. The guidelines for these amendments are less strict since many arise during the course of the activity itself: however, the style, wording and intent of the amendment should complement the original draft resolution. Amendments follow the pattern already stated in the document and simply present new viewpoints or suggestions for action on the same topic. Most conferences have two forms of amendments:

- **Friendly amendment:** Amendments approved by the Maker(s) and all the Signatories of a Draft Resolution will automatically be integrated to the Draft Resolution without vote from the committee. Amendments to Friendly Amendments are out of order.
- **Unfriendly amendment:** Substantive Amendments to a Draft Resolution not approved by the Maker(s) of a Draft Resolution are considered unfriendly and require approval from the Director to be introduced. Unfriendly Amendments will be put to a vote prior to the vote on the Draft Resolution as a whole. Amendments to Unfriendly Amendments are not in order. The Director reserves the right to assign one (1) speaker for and one (1) speaker against the Unfriendly Amendment.



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SAMPLE DRAFT MUN RESOLUTION

**General Assembly Third Committee – Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs
Committee (SOCHUM)**

**Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and
United States of America**

**Topic: “Strengthening UN Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance in Complex
Emergencies”**

The General Assembly, **(all resolutions are addressed to their respective
committees)**

Reminding all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens **(use commas to separate pre-ambulatory clauses),**

Reaffirming its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and NGOs,

Stressing the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. Encourages all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts; **[use semicolons to separate operative clauses]**
2. Urges member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;
3. Requests that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;
4. Calls for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;



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5. Stresses the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries; and
6. Calls upon states to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance.