



Resolutions and Amendments

Ultimately, the goal of any committee is to write and adopt feasible and comprehensive substantive proposals—that is, resolutions and amendments. It is the process of drafting these proposals that unites speaking, caucusing, and diplomacy all into a single expression of the ideas of a group of member-states. In what will follow we will be examining the structure of resolutions and amendments and briefly discuss important strategies that you should know as a delegate in writing these substantive proposals.

Sponsorship and Signatories

Each resolution or amendment has sponsors. Sponsors of resolutions are the member-states who devote time, energy and input to a resolution. They are the creators, writers, and advocates of the substantive ideas presented within the document. Sponsorship can be withdrawn from the resolution up until amendments have been passed altering the resolution. Each resolution or amendment also needs a certain number of signatories in order to be official. The number of signatories needed varies with the size and type of committee and your chair will inform you of this number at the beginning of the conference. Signatories indicate interest in the resolution, but do not indicate any support or opposition for its substantive ideas. Signing a resolution is simply a way of indicating that you consider it worth discussing. Sponsors may not sign their own resolutions, and signatories cannot be withdrawn after the resolution has been submitted.

Resolutions

A resolution is a written proposal that deals with the issues being entertained by the committee. The committee votes on resolutions and those that pass are implemented.

1. Resolution Structure

Resolutions are divided into three parts (1) Header, (2) Pre-ambulatory clauses, and (3) Operative clauses.

(1) Header

The Header provides the basic information mainly for administrative purposes. It lists the topic, the committee and the sponsors at the beginning of the resolution, usually placed in the upper left corner of the document.

(2) Preambulatory clauses (“Preambles”)

These clauses introduce the problem at hand, provide some background information, and in general indicate the attitude of the resolution. Citing important documents or events as background knowledge can be impressive, but don’t overload with perambulatory clauses, as they can crash a good resolution before it gets off the ground. These cannot be changed by amendments. Begin perambulatory clauses with an underlined participle, such as Reminding, Reiterating or Emphasizing, and end each clause with a comma. If pressed for



time, Operatives in a resolution should take priority because the Preambles provide background but do not actually call for any action.

(3) Operative clauses (“Operatives”)

The operative clauses are the meat of the resolution. They outline the ideas and proposed actions of the resolution. They should lay out a specific solution or set of solutions to the problem at hand. Good operative clauses are original, innovative, on policy, and both economically and politically feasible. Cost considerations are also dealt with in the operative clauses. Each operative clause should be numbered. Begin each operative clause with an underlined action word, such as Recommends, Encourages, or Establishes, and end each clause with a semi-colon. The last operative should end with a period.

2. Tips for Writing Resolutions

With the content of your resolution you want to exhibit the following characteristics:

- **Feasibility:** The most fundamental aspect of a resolution is its ability to be implemented and accomplish some goal or serve some function. In order to do this, a resolution must be realistic and in accordance with the policies and the perspectives of the international community. Avoid absurd, outlandish, or overly idealistic proposals that are not likely to ever happen.
- **Originality:** Several resolutions which say the same exact thing or very similar things do not add anything to the quality of debate in committee. Indeed, resolutions ought to contain unique ideas and solutions so that there can be something to debate about. Any resolutions that say the same or similar things should be combined.

3. How to Submit a Resolution

Once the resolution is complete, rise under powers of Delegations to submit a substantive proposal. This can be done at any time except during voting bloc. The chair will then ask the key sponsors to approach for the submission, at which point the resolution will be numbered if it is deemed acceptable by the chair.



Sample Resolution

Header

Use full country name

Title in UPPERCASE and Bold

Organ (not committee) and underline

Preambulatory Clauses (Background)

Use a comma to separate perambulatory clause

Single space between clauses

Indent five spaces on the first line

Operative Clauses (Solutions)

1. Number the operative clauses

Use a semicolon to separate operative clauses

Underline first action word(s)

Use a period to end a resolution.

Topic: Middle East Resolution A2
Committee: SPD
Sponsored By: The United States of America

CRISIS IN KUWAIT

The General Assembly,

Reminding all nations of the obligations they share to maintain and promote international peace and security as detailed in Article 2 of the UN Charter,

Reiterating the fact that visitors within a nation are entitled to fundamental rights, including the right to freely choose when to leave the country, as outlined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (G.A. Resolution 217A (III)),

Emphasizing the right of all nations to act in defense of a violation of territorial integrity granted in Article 51 of the UN Charter,

1. Calls for the immediate, complete, and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait;

2. Strongly reaffirms the belief that increased military presence in the region is the most effective means by which to defuse the situation;

3. Recommends a buffer zone extending 10 miles on each side of the effective Iraqi-Saudi border;

4. Expresses the hope that this volatile and potentially explosive situation be speedily and peacefully resolved so as to restore cosmic harmony and eventually lead to Nirvana and the utopia that has been so long sought after.



Amendments

Amendments modify resolutions in the hopes of improving or making acceptable certain substantive points. Amendments can alter any operative clause, add an operative clause, or delete an already existing operative clause. Any combination of those can be used in an amendment, but the amendment must leave at least one operative clause untouched and the general intent of the resolution intact. Amending sub- operatives is not allowed.

1. Structure

Amendments are divided into two parts (1) Header and (2) Operative clauses.

(1) Header:

The header contains basic information about the amendment, namely, the committee name, which resolution the proposals is amending, and the sponsors' names.

(2) Operative clauses:

This is the real meat of amendment because it explicitly lays out what changes are being proposed. There are three ways operative clauses in amendments can start:

1. Amends operative clause xx to read:
2. Deletes operative clause xx.
3. Includes a new operative clause to read:

2. Tips for Writing Amendments

Amendments should not be written for the sake of having another piece of paper with your delegation's name on it. Only write amendments when you feel that it will add something substantive and constructive to the resolution. Also, amendments should not attempt to change the resolution so much that the original intent of the resolution is compromised. For example, if you write an amendment that deletes half of a resolution and changes the content of the remaining operatives, it is better to simply vote against the resolution than to write an amendment. After all, amendments are only supposed to be minor adjustments in the content of a resolution, not radical revisions.

3. How to Submit an Amendment

Before submitting an amendment make sure to ask your Chair if there will be a limit on the amount of amendments accepted per resolution and also if there are any other regulations in effect. Then, simply rise under the powers of Delegations to submit a substantive proposal.



Sample Amendment

Header

Title in UPPERCASE and Bold

Number with capital letters

Uses semi-colons to end

Double space between amendment clauses

End with a period.

Topic: Middle East
Committee: SPD
Amendment to Resolution A2
Amendment Sponsored By: China

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION A2

A. Amends operative clause #3 to read:
3. Establishes a buffer zone extending five miles on each side of the Iraqi-Saudi border;

B. Deletes operative clause #7;

C. Renumbers accordingly.



Resolution Phrases

Preambulatory Phrases

Acknowledging
Affirming
Alarmed by
Anxious
Appreciating
Approving
Aware of
Bearing in mind
Believing
Cognizant
Concerned
Conscious
Confident
Considering
Contemplating
Convinced
Declaring
Deeply concerned
 disturbed
 regretting
Deploring
Desiring
Determined
Emphasizing
Encouraged
Endorsing
Expecting
Expressing its
 appreciation
 satisfaction
Fulfilling
Fully alarmed
 aware
 bearing in mind
 believing
Further deploring
Guided by
Having adopted
 approved
considered further
 decided



Having devoted
attention
Having examined
further
Having heard
received
reviewed
studied
Keeping in mind
Mindful
Noting with
approval
grave concern
satisfaction
Observing
Reaffirming
Realizing
Recalling
Recognizing
Referring
Reiterating
Seeking
Stressing
Taking into account
consideration
Taking note
Viewing with
appreciation
apprehension
Welcoming



Operative Phrases

Accepts
Adopts
Affirms
Appeals
Approves
Authorizes
Calls
Calls upon
Commends
Condemns
Confirms
Congratulates
Considers
Decides (accordingly)
Declares (accordingly)
Deplores
Designates
Directs
Draws attention to
Emphasizes
Encourages
Endorses
Expresses its
 appreciation
 belief
 conviction
 hope
 regret
 sympathy
 thanks
Further
 invites
 proclaims
 recommends
 reminds
 requests
 resolves
Instructs
Invites
Notes with
 appreciation
 approval
 interest
 satisfaction



Reaffirms (its belief)
Recognizes
Regrets
Reiterates
Reminds
Renews its appeal
Repeats
Requests
Solemnly affirms
Strongly condemns
Suggests
Supports
Takes note of
Transmits
Trusts
Urges
Welcomes