# Resolution Guide

Every committee's goal is to pass a resolution that addresses the topic at hand. As a delegate representing your country, it is your duty to insure that the passed resolution benefits your country. If you are involved in writing a resolution, it is necessary that you negotiate and compromise with other delegates to produce a resolution that benefits their countries as well, as resolutions require a majority vote (50%) to pass.

## General Tips

1. **Keep your country in mind**: Your resolution must fit the values and policies of your nation. You are representing your country's beliefs, not your own.
2. **Keep your allies in mind**: In addition to helping your country, your resolution should not hurt or place excessive burden on any of your allies. For example, if you are representing Canada, it would be unwise to suggest that the US singlehandedly fund a humanitarian effort, as this puts excessive financial burden on your ally.
3. **Beware of committee jurisdictions**: Each committee has different jurisdictions determining what actions they have the authority to make. For example, most UN bodies cannot enforce, they can only suggest, while the UN Security Council has the ability to make demands or deploy soldiers. Check your committee's background guide for your committee's jurisdictions and make sure that your resolution only calls for actions within this jurisdiction.
4. **Be specific**: Whenever possible, be as specific and comprehensive as possible in your resolution. This could include setting a clear plan of action, explaining sources of funding, setting dates, and describing which countries are affected.
5. **Be concise**: With multiple sponsors working on the same resolution, it is likely that your resolution may develop redundancies or discontinuities. Be sure to avoid repetitions and state your solutions in the simplest and clearest ways possible.

## Preambulatory Clauses

Preambulatory clauses provide key background information about your resolution. They explain the reasoning behind your resolution, both why it is necessary and why it is being implemented as it is. These clauses directly apply research by citing facts or previous international action.

Preambulatory clauses always begin with a preambulatory phrase, a participial phrase with your committee as the implied subject. One simple example would be "recognizing the need for water wells in Africa to provide clean water in remote areas." This preambulatory clause means that your committee (for example, UNESCO), believes that water wells are a necessary solution to the current water crisis in Africa. This gives more information about your resolution, providing the reasoning behind why you would presumably call for the building of water wells in your operative clauses.

Preambulatory clauses are supposed to start broad and become increasingly more specific. This helps direct the flow of your resolution.

Preambulatory clauses do not exist simply to fill space! In general, they should serve one of the following functions:

1. **Divide the topic**: In general, resolutions break a large issue into many small sub-issues and address each of these sub-issues with specific solutions. Preambulatory clauses identify the different sub-issues at play. You should have one or more operative clauses specifically addressing this identified sub-issue.

2. **Provide statistics**: In order to justify or explain the reasoning behind your resolution, you can provide key statistics in preambulatory clauses. However, make sure that these are specifically applicable to your particular resolution. Be sure to say where these facts came from, and ensure that you are using a credible source, preferably a UN agency or partner.

3. **Cite past international action**: It is important that you are aware of past international action so that your resolution does not simply repeat something that has already been done. Cite past actions such regional efforts, government programs, or UN resolutions either to emphasize why those past actions did not work, or to explain why those solutions did work and thus why you will be implementing them on a larger/different scale.

4. **Explain reasoning**: Preambulatory clauses can explain the reasoning behind the solutions that you take in your operative clauses. This could include citing instances where these solutions worked elsewhere, pointing out flaws in other alternatives, or simply explaining the reasoning behind a solution.

## Common Preambulatory phrases

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| affirming | deeply concerned | further deploring | noting |
| alarmed by | deeply disturbed | further recalling | observing |
| approving | deeply regretting | guided by | reaffirming |
| aware of | desiring | having adopted | realizing |
| bearing in mind | emphasizing | having considered | recalling |
| believing | expecting | having examined | recognizing |
| confident | fulfilling | having heard | referring |
| contemplating | fully alarmed | having received | seeking |
| convinced | fully aware | having studied | taking note |
| declaring | fully believing | keeping in mind | welcoming |

## Operative Clauses

Operative clauses provide the substantive meat of your resolution and explain what your committee will do to address the issue at hand. These clauses appear in a numbered list, and usually are ordered from most important/most specific/most unique to most general. It is also smart to cluster operative clauses around certain sub issues that you are addressing. For example, if you have 4 clauses addressing the economic aspect of an issue, it may be logical to put these clauses one after another.

In many cases, you may want to create sub-clauses to give more information about an operative clause. Syntactically, be sure that your clause can be read smoothly no matter which sub-clause is read after the main clause. See the example resolution below for an example of this.

It is very important that the solutions proposed in your operative clauses fall under the jurisdiction of your committee. Each committee has particular guidelines explaining what powers they have, and these vary vastly per committee. Check your committee's background guide for more details on your committee's exact jurisdictions.

Every solution that you present in your operative clauses should address ALL of the following:
1. **Who**: Who will be implementing the solution? Don't just say "rich countries", provide specific criteria such as "all countries with a GDP over…" You can also include NGOs or even specific countries, but don't simply pin everything on the United States.
2. **What**: What exactly does the plan hope to accomplish? Be as specific as possible. Generally, a plan will attempt to solve a sub-issue of the broader topic, not the entire issue itself.
3. **When**: When will the plan be put into place, and for how long will it run? Under what circumstances will it be terminated?
4. **Where**: Where will your plan be implemented? Do not simply say "poor countries", provide a specific criteria to determine exactly who/where your plan will be applied. This could include listing out specific regions or countries.
5. **Why**: Why is your solution the best solution? A lot of this should be done in your preambulatory clauses, but be sure to provide specific reasoning for each operative clause.
6. **How**: How specifically will your solution solve the issue? Be as specific as possible.
7. **How Funded**: Where will you gain the funding to pay for your solution? Please note, NGOs are NOT a source of funding. NGOs may be the actors implementing your solution, but NGOs are the ones who need money to do the job, not the ones gathering money. Funding could come from the IMF, the budget for your committee, or requiring all members of your committee to donate a percentage of their GDP.

## Common Operative phrases

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| accepts | considers | further proclaims | recommends |
| affirms | declares accordingly | further reminds | regrets |
| appreciates | designates | further recommends | reminds |
| approves | emphasizes | further requests | requests |
| authorizes | encourages | further resolves | supports |
| calls upon | endorses | has resolved | take note of |
| confirms | expresses its hope | proclaims | transmits |
| congratulates | further invites | reaffirms | trusts |

## Formatting rules
Header should contain:
- Resolution title (assigned by dais)
- Committee name
- Topic
- Sponsors alphabetized
- Signatories alphabetized

Punctuation:
- Begin with committee name followed by comma,
- Begin each preambulatory clause with an italicized preambulatory phrase
- End each preambulatory clause with a comma
- Number operative clauses and letter (a-z) sub-clauses
- Begin each operative clause with an underlined operative phrase
- End operative clauses without sub-clauses with a semicolon
- End operative clauses with sub-clauses with a colon
- End sub-clauses with a comma
- End the last sub-clause with a semicolon
- End the last operative clause with a period

Other rules:
- 12 point Times New Roman font
- Single spaced
- 1 inch margins

## Example Formatting
The following is a short excerpt from a resolution demonstrating proper formatting. Please note that the content of this resolution has been greatly reduced simply to demonstrate proper formatting rules. For a more complete example of a resolution, see the draft resolution posted on our website under delegate resources.

[0] Draft Resolution 1-B
Committee: DISEC
Topic: Prevention of Civilian Casualties
[1] Sponsors: France, United Kingdom, United States
[2] Signatories: Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Luxemburg, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland

[3] The Disarmament and Security Committee,

[4] *Affirming* [5] that the primary goal of the United Nations is the protection of human life,

*Fully aware* that armed rebel or militia groups often target civilians and cause innumerable civilian causalities,

*Recognizing* that ethnic and religious tensions can often result in frenzied violence towards a group of individuals,

*Greatly appreciating* previous bans by the UN on chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, as well as anti-personnel landmines,

1. [6] <u>Encourages</u> [7] all nations or parties in staunch disagreement to attempt to use peace negotiations to address any conflicts before they escalate to military violence;

2. <u>Further proposes</u> a ban on cluster bombs due to their high ratios of civilian casualties in both the short and long term;

3. <u>Urges</u> nations to monitor the transportation of dangerous materials, including:
   a. [8] Firearms;
   b. Chemicals capable of creating high-explosives, such as highly concentrated hydrogen peroxide or potassium nitrate,
   c. Poisonous or toxic materials capable of creating chemical weapons,
   d. Radioactive materials capable of creating fission explosives, such as enriched uranium or plutonium;

4. <u>Endorses</u> for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to take measures against nations and sub-national organizations whose civilian to militant death ratio exceeds the international average by more than 100% [9], including:
   a. Attempting to use diplomacy first to convince the parties to change their military methods such that they inflict fewer civilian casualties,
   b. If the party refuses to agree to diplomatic approaches, the UNSC should impose economic sanctions or trade embargos upon the country until it chooses to negotiate [10],
   c. Under absolutely no situation would military force be authorized against a non-cooperative parties in this matter.

[0] The title is assigned by the dais when the resolution is approved. The number refers to which topic is being addressed, and the letter refers to the order in which the dais received the resolution. For this example, "1-B" means that this resolution is for the 1$^{st}$ topic, and that it was the second resolution approved by the dais.

[1] Sponsors are the main writers of the resolution. In general, a resolution should have between 2 and 4 sponsors.

[2] Signatories are any countries who are interested in and/or support the resolution. Sponsors should try to gain as many signatories as possible, as this will increase the chance of the dais to approve the resolution.

[3] You must put the name of the committee at the very beginning, followed by a comma

[4] The main body of the resolution begins with perambulatory clauses. The purpose of these clauses are to provide background information on the topic and set up the operative clauses in the latter half of the resolution. In other words, the information in the perambulatory clauses justifies the actions specified in the operative clauses.

[5] All perambulatory clauses must start with a perambulatory word or phrase. Common perambulatory phrases are listed above. All perambulatory phrases must be italicized.

[6] The latter half of the resolution contains the operative clauses, which provide instructions and suggestions to member nations on how to solve the issue at hand. This is the most important part of the resolution. It is important to be as specific as possible and provide detailed actions for member nations to take.

[7] All operative clauses must start with an operative word or phrase. Except in the Security Council, the United Nations acts only as a guiding body, and does not have the jurisdiction to make demands of member nations. For that reason, all perambulatory words or phrases must be phrased as suggestions or guidelines, and not as demands. Common operative phrases are listed above. All operative phrases must be underlined.

[8] Operative clauses can be broken into multiple sub-clauses to provide further detail. Each sub-clause must be worded in such a way that the sub-clause can directly follow the main clause and still make grammatical sense. For example, in this clause, it can be read "…dangerous materials, including firearms" as well as "…dangerous materials, including chemicals capable of…" and so on for each sub-clause.

[9] Whenever possible, provide concrete numbers for nations to follow.

[10] Whenever possible, provide detailed courses of actions to be taken, including fail-safes in case the initial plans fail.