HOW TO RESOLUTION

1. WHAT IS A RESOLUTION AND HOW TO GET THERE

Together with the debating, resolutions are the core component of MUN. While debates are unrecorded, resolutions are what really remains from committee sessions. Most of the debates ends up in a resolution, which is therefore the outcome (and goal) of the debate, stating what the parties have discussed and agreed upon.

Resolution-writing is a shared work that takes quite some time, given it needs to fulfill some formal requirements and most of all, create some level of agreement in the committee. The starting point of this process is called ***working paper***, which can be introduced on the floor of the debate at any point with a simple motion (motion to introduce a working paper). There are no formal requirements to be accepted, but it is highly suggested to have the author (and other sponsors), the topic and some points that want to be further elaborated.

Once the working paper fulfills every formal requirement of a resolution (see below) and the parties are satisfied with the content, one can motion to introduce it as a ***draft resolution***. In order to be accepted, the chairs have to review the working paper to check the fulfillment of the formal requirement (this is usually already done while delegates are still working on the working paper, but it might take some time for such a motion to be accepted). Ideally, the draft resolution should already be ready to be voted on, but there is still room for changes through the amendment procedure (which is however quite long and intricated, thus the better the draft resolution already is, the better).

The term ***resolution*** is used only once the draft resolution has been successfully adopted by the committee.

2. HOW TO WRITE A RESOLUTION

In order to ensure comparability, there are some standards to be fulfilled.

Resolutions are divided in **perambulatory clauses** and **operative clauses.**

2.1.   PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

The preamble of a draft resolution serves to frame the matters, which usually includes stating the reasons for which the committee is addressing the topic and highlighting past international action on the issue.

Preambulatory clauses can include (and usually follows this order):

● References to the UN Charter,

● Citations of past UN resolutions, treaties or conventions on the topic under discussion,

● Mentions of statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency,

● Recognition of the efforts of regional or NGOs in dealing with the issue, and

● General statements on the topic, its significance, and its impact

Format:
- Start with a present participle (-ing)
- End with a comma
- First verbal expression in italics
- Repetition of opening verb in the following paragraph(s), the word *also* is used; if the verb is repeated a second time in succession, the word *further* is used (*Acknowledging … , Acknowledging also … , Acknowledging further …*)

2.1.1. Examples of preambulatory participles:

Acknowledges
Acknowledges with deep gratitude
Acknowledging
Affirming
Again requests
Alarmed
Alarmed and concerned
Also bearing in mind
Appealing
Appreciating
Appreciating highly
Approving
Aware
Basing itself
Bearing in mind
Believing
Calling attention
Cognizant
Concerned
Confident
Conscious
Considering
Contemplating
Continuing to take the view
Convinced
Declaring
Deeply alarmed
Deeply appreciative
Deeply conscious
Deeply convinced
Deeply disturbed
Deeply regretting
Deploring
Desiring
Desirous
Determined
Dismayed
Distressed
Emphasizing
Encouraged

Expecting
Expressing (its) appreciation
Expressing (its) concern
Expressing (its) deep concern
Expressing (its) grave concern
Expressing (its) regret
Expressing (its) satisfaction
Expressing (its) utmost concern
Finding
Firmly convinced
Fulfilling
Fully alarmed
Fully aware
Further believing
Further deploring
Further recalling
Gravely concerned
Guided
Having
Having adopted
Having considered
Having considered further
Having constituted
Having devoted attention
Having examined
Having heard
Having met
Having received
Having received and examined
Having regarded
Having studied
Inter alia (among other things)
Keeping in mind
Looking forward
Mindful
Noting interest (with)
Noting alarm (with)
Noting also
Noting appreciation (with)

Noting approval (with)
Noting concern (with)
Noting deep concern (with)
Noting further (with)
Noting gratitude (with)
Noting regret (with) satisfaction
Observing
Paying tribute
Profoundly concerned
Reaffirming
Realizing
Recalling further
Recognizing
Reconfirming
Re-emphasizing
Referring
Regretting
Reiterating (its) dismay
Reiterating (its) appreciation
Reiterating (its) conviction
Resolving
Seeking
Seriously concerned
Solemnly declares/ proclaims
Stresses its desire
Stressing once again
Strongly emphasizes supporting
Supporting fully
Taking into account
Taking into consideration
Taking note
Taking note also
Taking note with satisfaction
Underlining
Underscoring
Urging
Viewing with appreciation
Welcoming also

2.2. OPERATIVE CLAUSES

The operative clauses offer solutions to the issues addressed in the preambulatory section. These clauses are action-oriented and usually contain (again usually following this order):

- Opinion of the committee/reference to past actions
- Action of the committee
- Cooperation of actors

Be specific on the *who, what, when, where, why,* and *how*!

Format:
- Start with a verb in simple present
- End with a semicolon
- Last clause ends with a full stop
- First verbal expression in italic
1. All clauses are numbered
    a. Sub-clauses are lettered
        i. Sub-sub clauses are in Roman numerals
- Repetition of opening verb in the following paragraph(s), the word also is used; if the verb is repeated a second time in succession, the word further is used – but: when «requests» or «appeals» is used, «also» and «further» only to be italicized if request/appeal is directed to the same entity (*Requests* the Secretary-General to …; *Also requests* the Secretary-General to …; *Requests* the Secretariat to …;)
- All the clauses begin with capital letters (also sub-clauses)
- There must be <u>at least two sub-clauses</u> if employed; there cannot be only one sub-clause (operative clauses can have sub-clauses to provide further detail for complex ideas. A sub-clause is part of a whole and cannot stand alone as a complete clause; instead, sub-clauses augment an operative clause to explain a whole idea/proposal and form a complete clause. Therefore, each sub-clause must logically continue the parent operative clause and exhibit a parallel structure)

Other suggestions:

- Most common and neutral operative clause: *Requests*
- Requests to the UNSC must be polite, e.g.: *Recommends* or *Invites*
- Highest level of emotion, but rarely used: *Demands*
- *Requests < Calls Upon < Urges < Demands*
- If recommendations are made: *Notes/Takes note < Welcomes < Endorses*
- Similarly: *Takes note with interest < Takes note with appreciation > Takes note with satisfaction*
- Similarly: *Takes note with preoccupation < Takes note with concern < Takes note with regret*
- Please note the operative clause *Decides to remain seized of the matter* is applicable only in the Security Council

2.2.1. Examples of preambulatory participles

Adopts	*Expresses (its) grave concern*	*Opposes*
Affirms	*Expresses (its) hope*	*Pays special tribute*
Agrees	*Expresses (its) readiness*	*Praises*
Appeals	*Expresses (its) regret*	*Proclaims*
Approves	*Expresses (its) satisfaction*	*Reaffirms its belief*
Asks	*Expresses (its) serious concern*	*Recalls*
Authorizes	*Expresses (its) support*	*Recognizes*
Calls upon	*Expresses (its) sympathy*	*Recommends*
Commends	*Expresses (its) thanks*	*Regrets*
Concurs	*Fully supports*	*Reiterates its call upon*
Condemns	*Further invites*	*Reiterates its calls*
Confirms	*Further proclaims*	*Reiterates its demand*
Congratulates	*Further recommends*	*Reiterates its request*
Considers	*Further reminds*	*Remains deeply concerned*
Decides	*Further requests*	*Reminds*
Decides accordingly	*Have resolved*	*Repeats*
Declares accordingly once more	*Insists*	*Requests*
Demands	*Instructs*	*Requires*
Denounces	*Intends*	*Reserves*
Deplores	*Invites*	*Resolves*
Designates	*Is fully conscious*	*Solemnly affirms*
Directs attention	*Notes (with) appreciation*	*Stresses its readiness*
Draws attention	*Notes (with) approval*	*Strongly condemns*
Emphasizes	*Notes (with) concern*	*Suggests*
Encourages	*Notes (with) deep regret*	*Supports*
Endorses the call	*Notes (with) gratification*	*Takes note with appreciation*
Establishes	*Notes (with) gratitude and*	*Transmits*
Expresses (its) appreciation	*satisfaction*	*Trusts*
Expresses (its) belief	*Notes (with) interest*	*Underlines with concern*
Expresses (its) concern	*Notes (with) profound concern*	*Urges*
Expresses (its) conviction	*Notes (with) satisfaction*	*Welcomes*

2.3. GENERAL RULES AND SUGGESTIONS

- No limit or requirements on the number of preambular or operative paragraphs
- Language in operative sections stronger in significance than preambular language – if you want to send a strong message on an issue, focus on the operative section!
- If you want to water down an issue, move proposed text from the operative section to the preambular section.
- Use "constructive ambiguity" to reach an agreement.
- Titles of bodies, meetings, conventions, etc.: at the first mention, use full title; thereafter, a shortened version may be used.
- Use the short form of country names (e.g. Afghanistan instead of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan)
- Avoid personification (General Assembly resolution 65/14 requested the Secretary-General to... → Instead: The General Assembly, in its resolution65/14, requested the Secretary-General to...)
- A body should not take note of or welcome its own past decisions – use «recalls» or «reaffirms» instead.
- Do not mention seasons of the year («the second quarter of 2019» instead of «spring of 2019»)

3. SUBMITTING A DRAFT RESOLUTION

As stated above, to submit a draft resolution one has to motion for it. In order to be valid, the resolution needs at least 4 (or 20% of the committee in case of more than 20 members) sponsors and 10% of the committee as signatories. A **sponsor** is usually someone writing the resolution and that fully supports it. **Signatories** are members that support the resolution (no need to full support) but are not actively drafting it.

Panel of Authors: Immediately after a successful introduction of a draft resolution, a delegate can motion for a panel of authors. The main sponsors then briefly present the draft resolution and then answer delegates´ questions about the draft resolution.

4. MODIFYING A RESOLUTION

Once the draft resolution is introduced, one can always modify it (i.e., add, delete or change clauses): this process is called *amendment.* As before, one needs to motion to "introduce an amendment", which is a formal piece of text with the desired changes. It has to fulfill the same requirements as for the draft resolution, and in order to be recognized it needs 1 sponsor and 10% of committee members as signatories.

There are two types of amendments:

1. **Friendly amendment:** accepted by all sponsors → incorporated automatically (e.g., when correcting a grammar mistake, the wording, but also bigger changes)
2. **Unfriendly amendment:** not accepted by all sponsors → requires debate and voting

MOTION	PURPOSE	DEBATE	REQUIREMENTS	VOTE
Introducing a Working Paper	Delegate wants to introduce a working paper	None	Floor open for points and motions	Passes automatically
Introducing a Draft Resolution	Delegate wants to introduce (i.e. reading it to the committee and making it an official document) a draft resolution	None	Floor open for points and motions 4/20% of committee sponsors 10% of committee signatories	Passes automatically

Introducing an Amendment	Delegate wants to table an amendment for the general voting procedure on the draft resolution (i.e. it will be presented, debated and voted upon in the general voting procedure)	2 pro/con	Floor open for points and motions Draft resolution introduced 1 sponsor 10% of committee signatories	Passes automatically
Panel of Authors	Presentation and of the draft resolution by the main submitters and replying to questions	None	Draft resolution introduced (immediately after)	Passes automatically