



# HOW TO WRITE A RESOLUTION

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In Model United Nations, resolutions are formal documents that outline solutions to the problem you are debating. A good resolution should be informative and propose innovative and practical solutions. Delegates are required to bring draft resolutions to the conference, create even better resolutions during lobbying time, and then debate them (see *Delegate Preparation Guide*). However, as you will find out below, resolutions need to have a certain format; committee Chairs be helping by checking resolutions for plagiarism, proper formatting and language. A sample resolution can be found on the last page of this document. Please use this document as a guide to writing resolutions.

Here are some things that all resolutions should contain:

- Three sections: the heading, the perambulatory clauses, and the operative clauses;
- Formal and diplomatic language throughout the resolution;
- Font size 12, Times New Roman throughout;
- Original and detailed solutions – plagiarism is *not* tolerated;
- Proper formatting, as shown in this guide.

## The Heading

At the top left hand side of the page, you need to give the following information:

FORUM: (Write the full name of your committee here)

QUESTION OF: (Write the topic here, it should be the full correct wording found on our website)

MAIN SUBMITTER: (If you are going to be the one to introduce this resolution in the debate, write the country you are representing here)

## The First Line

A resolution is written as one very long sentence, meaning there should only be a full stop at the end of the document. The first line is the subject of that sentence. It should simply be the delegates' full committee name, followed by a comma. If you are a country on the General Assembly committee, the first line should read:

“The General Assembly,”

Or if you are in the ECOSOC committee:

“The Economic and Social Council,”

## Preambulatory Clauses

The preamble of a draft resolution explains the problem the resolution is designed to solve and highlights past international action on the issue; they should *inform* the committee of key facts about the issue, but not contain any action. Each preambulatory clause begins with a present participle (called a preambulatory phrase – a list of examples can be found on the next page) and ends with a comma. The preambulatory phrase should be italicized or underlined. Preambulatory clauses can include:

- References to the UN Charter;
- Citations of past UN resolutions or treaties 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 nongovernmental organizations in dealing with the issue; and
- General statements on the topic, its significance, and its impact.

### Sample Preambulatory Phrases (*Note: common phrases are in bold*)

Affirming	Expressing its appreciation	<b>Noting with regret</b>
Alarmed by	Expressing its satisfaction	<b>Noting with deep concern</b>
Approving	Fulfilling	<b>Noting with satisfaction</b>
<b>Aware of</b>	<b>Fully alarmed</b>	Noting further
<b>Bearing in mind</b>	<b>Fully aware</b>	Noting with approval
Believing	Fully believing	Observing
Confident	<b>Further deploring</b>	<b>Reaffirming</b>
Contemplating	<b>Further recalling</b>	Realizing
Convinced	Guided by	Recalling
Declaring	Having adopted	<b>Recognizing</b>
<b>Deeply concerned</b>	<b>Having considered</b>	Referring
Deeply conscious	<b>Having considered further</b>	Seeking
Deeply convinced	Having devoted attention	Taking into account
<b>Deeply disturbed</b>	Having examined	<b>Taking into consideration</b>
<b>Deeply regretting</b>	Having heard	Taking note
Desiring	Having received	Viewing with appreciation
<b>Emphasizing</b>	Having studied	Welcoming
Expecting	<b>Keeping in mind</b>	

## Operative Clauses

Operative clauses tell the committee what the submitter thinks the UN should do about the problem described in the perambulatory clauses. They are the main section of any resolution. Each operative clause begins with a verb (called an operative phrase) and ends with a semicolon. The operative phrase should be underlined, not italicised. Operative clauses should be organised in a logical progression, with each containing a single idea or proposal, and are always numbered (“1.”, “2.”, “3.” ...). Operative clauses should be as detailed as possible and propose innovative solutions that are not only original, but also practical in real-life situations. For example, an operative clause could ask countries to donate more money to specific charities that are involved in solving the issue. If a clause requires further explanation, bulleted lists set off by letters (“a.”, “b.”, “c.”...) or can also be used, called “sub-clauses”. “Sub-sub-clauses”, set off by in Roman numerals (“i.”, “ii.”, “iii.”...), are also permitted. After the last operative clause, the resolution ends in a full stop. Below are some sample operative phrases.

### Sample Operative Phrases (*Note: Common phrases are in bold*)

Accepts	Deplores	Notes
Affirms	Designates	Proclaims
Approves	Draws the attention	Reaffirms
<b>Asks</b>	Emphasizes	<b>Recommends</b>
Authorizes	<b>Encourages</b>	Regrets
Calls	Endorses	Reminds
<b>Calls upon</b>	Expresses its appreciation	<b>Requests</b>
Condemns (for Security Council use only)	Expresses its hope	Solemnly affirms
Confirms	Further invites	Strongly condemns ( <i>for Security Council use only</i> )
Congratulates	Further proclaims	Supports
Considers	Further reminds	Takes note of
Declares accordingly	<b>Further recommends</b>	Transmits
Demands ( <i>for Security Council use only</i> )	<b>Further requests</b>	Trusts
	Further resolves	<b>Urges</b>
	Has resolved	

**The following page contains a sample draft resolution; please ensure that your draft resolutions are formatted in the same manner.**

FORUM: The Economic and Social Council

QUESTION OF: Preventing outbreaks and spread of H1N1

MAIN SUBMITTER: Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Economic and Social Council,

*Emphasizing* the benefits of the medical care already received by some victims of the H1N1 virus in countries such as Mexico and the United States of America,

*Fully aware* that H1N1 is still a global issue and has resulted in at least 18,000 deaths according to the World Health Organization (WHO) as of April 2009,

*Bearing in mind* that unlike most pandemics, H1N1 was mainly prevalent in more economically developed countries (MEDCs) despite the administration of over 65 million vaccines by 2009 by the WHO,

1. Recommends that member states work with relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and United Nations organizations (UNOs) to undertake further hygienic precautions such as measures including, but not limited to:
  - a. building more clean public restrooms, especially in densely populated areas,
  - b. supplying more public places such as shopping centres and schools with free hand sanitizer;
2. Asks member states to act in accordance with WHO standards and practices to supply H1N1 vaccines to all citizens at low prices or in some cases free of charge through ways including, but not limited to:
  - a. supplying hospitals and clinics,
  - b. increasing the number of trained medical practitioners available to give vaccines by relocating staff or recruiting volunteers, to be trained with the help of relevant NGOs including, but not limited to:
    - i. Doctors Without Borders (MSF),
    - ii. International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
3. Calls upon member states to ensure that all hospitals in or near affected regions begin immediately preparing all necessary care for possible victims of H1N1 with assistance from the WHO and MSF if needed;
4. Suggests that member states require medical personnel to immediately begin or continue learning all relevant procedures necessary to prevent the spread of H1N1, teachers to be provided by willing and able member states and NGOs such as MSF;
5. Encourages member states to begin or bolster advertising campaigns to raise public awareness of the problems presented by H1N1 and methods to prevent the spread of the virus through means including, but not limited to:
  - a. all forms of relevant media,
  - b. public school curricula.