



RESOLUTION WRITING GUIDE

Resolutions are how the United Nations solves problems, condemns actions, and gives orders. Resolutions composed by the Security Council should be considered binding by all member states, whereas all other resolutions are non-binding but recommended.

Resolutions will be written in ALL Assembly and Regional Committees and the United Nations Security Council.

"Working Paper" should be used to refer to the document in the *writing process*. "Draft Resolution" refers to a Working Paper that has had final edits made and has been *accepted for voting upon* by the Committee Director. The word "Resolution" refers to the document which has been *passed* by the committee.

Draft Resolutions should be clear, concise and specific. The substance should be well researched and reflect the character and interests of each sponsoring Member State (For example: Israel should not be a sponsor on a Draft Resolution which condemns Israel's military strikes and blockade upon Gaza).

Each Resolution has three parts: the **heading**, the **preamble**, and the **operative clauses**. The entire resolution is one long sentence with commas and semicolons throughout, and a period at the very end.

HEADING

Draft Resolution 1.1 (or 1.3, 2.1, etc - your Director will tell you what number to use)

Committee Name

Sponsors: (list in alphabetical order)

Signatories: (list in alphabetical order)

Topic:

Sponsors refer to countries who played an actual part in composing the draft resolution or added a significant clause to it.

Signatories refer to countries who would like to see the issues discussed in the draft resolution debated further in the committee. *Countries may be signatories even if they are opposed to the fundamentals of the draft resolution.*

PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

The purpose of the preambulatory clauses is to **supply historical background** for the issues discussed and to **justify the actions proposed** in the operative clauses. Preambulatory clauses should be linked to, and justify, related operative clauses. The number of preambulatory clauses must be fewer than or equal to the number of operative clauses.

Preambulatory clauses should make references to: past actions taken by the committee on the topic (past UN resolutions, past UN special reports, etc.); the UN Charter; treaties; statements made by the Secretary General or a relevant UN body or agency; efforts made by regional, intergovernmental

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agencies, and nongovernmental agencies; and the current situation of the topic. (References to all things listed here are not necessary; use what is most relevant to your topic.)

Here are a few examples of Preambulatory Clauses:

Recalling Security Council Resolution 1887 clause 24 which “*Calls upon* Member States to share best practices with a view to improved safety standards and nuclear security practices and raise standards of nuclear security to reduce the risk of nuclear terrorism, with the aim of securing all vulnerable nuclear material from such risks within four years,” ...

Noting with deep concern the thousands of lives lost in the conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan, ...

Acknowledging that workshops held within regional blocks such as the Organization of American States (OAS) have been successful in addressing risks posed to the region, creating effective measures to secure ports, and providing a forum for discussion of security initiatives and that these measures in turn make ports more secure internationally, ...

Keeping in mind the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, ...

The beginnings of preambulatory clauses are always in *italics* and each clause is followed by a **comma**. Common beginnings for preambulatory clauses are:

<i>Acknowledging</i>	<i>Fulfilling</i>	<i>Noting with deep concern</i>
<i>Affirming</i>	<i>Fully alarmed</i>	<i>Noting with regret</i>
<i>Alarmed by</i>	<i>Fully aware</i>	<i>Noting with satisfaction</i>
<i>Aware of</i>	<i>Further deploring</i>	<i>Observing</i>
<i>Bearing in mind</i>	<i>Further recalling</i>	<i>Reaffirming</i>
<i>Confident</i>	<i>Grieved</i>	<i>Realizing</i>
<i>Contemplating</i>	<i>Guided by</i>	<i>Recalling</i>
<i>Convinced</i>	<i>Having considered</i>	<i>Recognizing</i>
<i>Declaring</i>	<i>Having devoted attention</i>	<i>Referring</i>
<i>Deeply convinced</i>	<i>Having examined</i>	<i>Regretting</i>
<i>Disturbed</i>	<i>Having received</i>	<i>Reiterating</i>
<i>Desiring</i>	<i>Keeping in mind</i>	<i>Seeking</i>
<i>Emphasizing</i>	<i>Mindful</i>	<i>Stressing</i>
<i>Encouraged</i>	<i>Noting with approval</i>	<i>Taking note</i>
<i>Endorsing</i>	<i>Noting further</i>	<i>Welcoming</i>
<i>Expressing appreciation</i>		

OPERATIVE CLAUSES

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Operative clauses propose the steps to be taken to work towards a solution. Each operative clause should call for a **specific action** (negotiations, research, monetary commitments, etc). Keep in mind that resolutions, except those from the Security Council, are non-binding and *only* the Security Council uses harsh language such as “Condemns”. The operative clauses should be logically presented in relation to the according preambulatory clauses and should be numbered. The beginning of the clause should be underlined.

Each operative clause should contain and develop upon a single idea. If an operative clause requires further explanation, use indented lists with lowercase letters. Remember that operative clauses must call for specific actions, and refrain from composing operative clauses that fulfill the same duties that operative clauses from past resolutions do. The number of operative clauses must be equal to or greater than the number of preambulatory clauses.

Here are a few examples of Operative Clauses:

5. Encourages both India and Pakistan to abide by the security standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in accordance to their nuclear facilities;
6. Recommends that all states using international waterways such as straits and gulfs should help provide security to those waterways in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO);
5. Recognizes that the shipment of nuclear materials is a highly volatile and potentially dangerous activity with a high possibility of interception of materials by terrorist groups;
 - a. Emphasizes the importance of monitoring nuclear sites and the importance of increased
 - b. Asks that member states sign and ratify the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty prior to the NPT review conference in 2010;
 - c. Recognizes that a reduction in nuclear stockpiles decreases the chances that a group posing a threat to international security can obtain the aforementioned materials;
 - d. Further recognizes that increased security measures at sites that house nuclear materials can prevent the acquisition, illegal transfer, and shipment of nuclear materials;
1. Recommends that Belgium recall all beef-related products from a period of three months prior to the outbreak of the Belgian Ebola Virus to prevent the virus from spreading;
8. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter. (**This specific operative clause is sometimes used as the last operative clause of a resolution, but is not necessary. It is merely used to state that the committee is actively monitoring the situation and keeping it in mind.**)

Each operative clause is followed by a **semicolon**, with a **period** placed after the final operative clause. Common beginnings for operative clauses are:

<u>Accepts</u> <u>Adopts</u> <u>Affirms</u>	<u>Deplores</u> <u>Designate</u> <u>Directs</u>	<u>Have resolved</u> <u>Instructs</u> <u>Invites</u>
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<u>Appeals</u>	<u>Draws attention</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>Approves</u>	<u>Emphasizes</u>	<u>Notes with interest</u>
<u>Authorizes</u>	<u>Encourages</u>	<u>Reaffirms</u>
<u>Calls</u>	<u>Endorses</u>	<u>Recommends</u>
<u>Calls upon</u>	<u>Expresses its hope</u>	<u>Resolves</u>
<u>Concurs</u>	<u>Expresses its regret</u>	<u>Suggests</u>
<u>Condemns</u>	<u>Further invites</u>	<u>Supports</u>
<u>Confirms</u>	<u>Further proclaims</u>	<u>Strongly supports</u>
<u>Considers</u>	<u>Further recommends</u>	<u>Urges</u>
<u>Decides</u>	<u>Further requests</u>	<u>Welcomes</u>
<u>Declares</u>	<u>Further Resolves</u>	

AMENDMENTS

No amendments may be made to preambulatory clauses.

Friendly Amendments are any changes to a formally introduced Draft Resolution that *all Sponsors* agree to in writing. The Committee Director will have Friendly Amendment forms available to all delegates. The Committee Director must approve the Friendly Amendment and confirm each Sponsor's agreement both verbally and in writing.

Unfriendly Amendments are any substantive changes to a formally introduced Draft Resolution that are *not agreed to by all of the Sponsors* of the Draft Resolution. The Committee Director will have Unfriendly Amendment forms available to all delegates. In order to introduce an Unfriendly Amendment, the Unfriendly Amendment must have Ten (or the number equivalent to 1/3 of Quorum, whichever is less) confirmed signatories. The Committee Director has the authority to discern between substantive and nonsubstantive Unfriendly amendment proposals.