

## Resolution Writing

### Resolution Guidelines

When drafting and sponsoring a draft resolution, delegates should keep in mind the wording will influence its appeal (or lack thereof). The draft resolution should be clear, concise and specific. The substance should be well researched, and reflect the character and interests of the sponsoring nations.

United Nations resolutions follow a common format. Each resolution has three parts: the heading, the preamble, and the operative clauses. It is one long sentence with commas and semicolons throughout the resolution and with a period at the very end. The first word in each clause should be underlined, and each clause in the preamble should end with a comma. All operative clauses end with a semicolon except the final clause, which ends with a period.

### Sponsors and Signatories

**Sponsors** of a resolution are those countries that have been the principal authors of the document and agree with its substance.

**Signatories** are countries that may or may not agree with the substance of the resolution, but would like to see it debated on the floor.

### Heading

FHSMUN XXXI

Committee (x)

Topic (y)

Version (1.1, 1.2... (if on first topic. If on second, 2.1, 2.2...))

Sponsors (list)

Signatories (list)

### Preamble

The purpose of the preamble is to show that there is a problem that needs to be solved. The preamble of a resolution does not propose action or make any substantive statement in the topic at hand. The preamble begins with the name of one of the three major organs. The perambulatory clauses can include:

- References to the U.N. Charter;
- Citations of past U.N. resolutions or treaties that been ratified under the topic of discussion;
- Statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant U.N. body or agency;
- Recognition of the work or efforts of regional organizations in dealing with the issue; and
- General statements on the topic, its significance, and its effects.

## Preambulatory Phrases

Acknowledging, Affirming, Alarmed, Anxious, Approving, Aware, Bearing in mind, Being convinced, Believing, Cognizant, Concerned, Confident, Conscious, Considering, Contemplating, Convinced, Declaring, Deeply disturbed, Desiring, Determined, Emphasizing, Encouraged, Endorsing, Expressing, Expressing appreciation, Expressing deep appreciation, Expecting, Fulfilling, Fully aware, Fully believing, Fully bearing in mind, Grieved, Guided by, Having adopted, Having approved, Having considered, Having examined further, Having received, Having reviewed, Keeping in mind, Mindful, Noting further, Noting with approval, Noting with concern, Noting with deep concern, Noting with grave concern, Noting with regret, Noting with satisfaction, Observing, Reaffirming, Realizing, Recalling, Recognizing, Referring, Regretting, Reiterating, Seeking, Stressing, Welcoming.

## Operative Clauses

Operative clauses are set out to achieve the country's main policy goals on the topic. Each operative clause begins with a number, ends with a semicolon and the final clause ends with a period. Operative clauses should be organized in a logical progression, and each clause should contain a single idea or policy proposal. Keep in mind that all resolutions except those from the Security Council are nonbinding and only the Security Council should ever "Condemn" anything.

Accepts, Adopts, Affirms, Appeals, Appreciates, Approves, Authorizes, Calls upon, Commends, Concurr, Condemns, Confirms, Congratulates, Considers, Decides, Decides accordingly, Declares, Deplores, Designates, Directs, Emphasizes, Encourages, Endorses, Expressing, Instructs, Invites, Notes with appreciation, Notes with approval, Notes with satisfaction, Reaffirms, Reaffirms its belief, Recognizes, Recommends, Regrets, Reiterates, Repeats, Suggests, Strongly, Supports, Takes note of, Transmits, Urges, Welcomes.

## Amendments

During the course of negotiation and cooperation, draft resolutions will alter through changes known as amendments. The guidelines for these amendments are less strict since many arise during the course of the activity itself: however, the style, wording and intent of the amendment should complement the original draft resolution. Amendments follow the pattern already stated in the document and simply present new viewpoints or suggestions for action on the same topic.

There are two forms of amendments:

**Friendly amendment:** A friendly amendment is a change to the resolution that all the *sponsors* feel is appropriate. Signatories of the draft resolution do not need to be involved. Changes are immediately incorporated into the document.

**Unfriendly amendment:** An unfriendly amendment is an amendment that one or more of the sponsors of the resolution do not support, though a sponsor of the original draft resolution can participate as a sponsor of an unfriendly amendment. This requires the same number of sponsors and signatories as a normal draft resolution. The amendment will be voted upon during voting procedure, and is incorporated into the document with a majority vote. The main document still requires a majority vote to pass after the amendment is applied.

## Sample Resolution

FHSMUN XXXII  
Security Council  
North Korea and Nuclear Non-Proliferation  
1.3  
Sponsors: Brazil, Philippines, PRC  
Signatories: Algeria, Benin

The Security Council,

*Desiring* to put an end to the abuse of humanitarian rights in the DPRK,  
*Noting* the urgency inherent in the non-proliferation situation,  
*Condemning* the horrific amount of drug trafficking taking place in the DPRK,

1. Appeals to all states to cooperate with the People's Republic of China in Giving the DPRK another opportunity to cooperate with the IAEA through means of military intimidation;
2. Urges the PRC to give the ruling regime in the DPRK more restrictions on the distribution and procurement of supplies and aid;
3. Requests that the restrictions include the overseeing of Chinese nationals in in order to guarantee that aid is being distributed properly to the citizens of the DPRK;
4. Decides that the flow of international aid to the DPRK will continue if and only if the current regime cooperates with the IAEA;
5. Calls upon the PRC to encourage the DPRK to open its borders, but further notes that military action may take place if the DPRK continues its policy of detrimental isolationism;
6. Recommends that states give humanitarian aid to the DPRK vis-à-vis the PRC.