

## RESOLUTIONS – AT THE CONFERENCE

Resolutions are the basic, formal statements which the United Nations produces to express its collective opinion, suggest a course of action, or commit one or more of its various organs to a specific activity.

When a consensus is reached on a topic of debate within a committee of the General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Economic and Social Council, or within the Security Council, the body expresses its decision in the form of a Resolution.

While most resolutions state policy, some may include an entire treaty, declaration or convention. Resolutions may either be general statements or directions for specific organizations, bodies, or states. They may condemn actions of a state, call for collective action, or, as in the case of the Security Council, require economic or military sanctions.

There will be a **limit of one resolution per topic area**, which can pass through each committee. Thus, a great deal of negotiation needs to take place in committee to get a resolution that most countries (at least seventy percent) can agree to. In addition, there will be no individual authors to any resolution. The committee itself is considered the author.

The process of writing a resolution begins in the **Introductory Stage**. During this stage, each country that wants to see certain items in a passed resolution states their position. These stances can come directly from the position papers submitted by member nations.

At this point, the **Negotiation Stage** begins. Invariably, certain delegations will find fault with a number of the clauses in each working paper. These delegations need to negotiate with other countries in order to find a compromise position which at least a majority of countries can agree to. These negotiations will take place during caucus time.

After the negotiation stage has run its course, the **Resolution Stage** begins. At this point, if there are still delegations who disagree with the resolution, they can offer amendments to the draft resolution. Amendments to resolutions include additions, deletions, or changes in draft resolutions.

After all of the amendments have been handled, and there is no more debate (or debate has been closed), the **Voting Stage** begins. If there are still delegations which disagree with certain parts of the resolution, they can move to divide the question into a number of parts. Otherwise voting proceeds as usual. If a majority votes in favor, the resolution passes and goes to the General Assembly Plenary.

# RESOLUTION FORMAT GUIDE

## HEADING

When presented to an organ or committee, all draft, plenary and other resolutions must be written on the proper forms as provided by the Secretariat. Information on the form must include the organ, Committee and Topic Area.

## BODY

The resolution is written in the format of a long sentence. There are format rules for resolutions, just as there are grammatical rules for sentences.

1. The resolution begins with the General Assembly for all General Assembly committees and with the Economic and Social Council for all ECOSOC resolutions. The Specialized Agencies use their own names as the introductory line. The rest of the resolution consists of clauses with the initiating phrases of each clause underlined.
2. The next section, consisting of Perambulatory Clauses, describes the problem being addressed, recalls past actions taken, explains the purpose of the resolution and offers support for the operative clauses that follow. Each clause and the preamble begin with an underlined word and ends with a comma.
3. Operative Clauses are numbered and state the action to be taken by the body. These clauses all begin with present tense, action verbs, which are generally stronger words than those used in the Preamble. Each operative clause is followed by a semi-colon except the last, which ends with a period.

## CONTEXT

A well-written resolution demonstrates:

1. Familiarity with the problem. Relevant background information and previous United Nations actions are included.
2. Recognition of the issues. Arguments on the topic are specified early.
3. Conciseness. Every clause and phrase should have a purpose.
4. Good form. An otherwise sound resolution will suffer from clumsy grammar and sloppy form.



# INITIATING PHRASES FOR A RESOLUTION

## PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

Acknowledging	Endorsing	Mindful
Affirming	Expressing...	Noting...
Anxious	-appreciation	-further
Appreciating	-deep appreciation	-with approval
Aware	Expecting	-with deep concern
Bearing in mind	Fulfilling	-with regret
Being convinced	fully...	-with satisfaction
Cognizant	-aware	Observing
Concerned	-bearing in mind	Realizing
Confident	Grieved	Recalling
Conscious	Guided by	Recognizing
Considering	Having	Referring
Contemplating	-adopted	Regretting
Convinced	-approved	Reiterating
Declaring	-considered	Seeking
Deeply disturbed	-decided	Stressing
Desiring	-examined further	taking...
Deploring	-received	-into account
Determined	-regard for	-note
Emphasizing	-reviewed	Welcoming
Encouraged	Keeping in mind	viewing with...
		-apprehension

## OPERATIVE CLAUSES

Accepts	Directs	Instructs
Adopts	Emphasizes	Notes...
Affirms	Encourages	-with appreciation
Appeals	Endorses	-with approval
Appreciates	Expresses...	-with interest
Approves	-its appreciation	-with satisfaction
Authorizes	-its conviction	Reaffirms
Calls upon	-its regret	Recognizes
Commends	-its sympathy	Recommends
Concurs	-its thanks	Regrets
Condemns	-the belief	Reiterates
Confirms	-the hope	renews its appeal
Congratulates	Further...	Repeats
Considers	-invites	Suggests
Decides	-proclaims	Supports
Declares	-reminds	Takes note of
Deplores	-recommends	Transmits
Designates	-resolves	Urges