

FMUN Guide to Resolutions

The final results of discussion, writing and negotiation are resolutions—written suggestions for addressing a specific problem or issue. Resolutions, which are drafted by delegates and voted on by the committee, normally require a simple majority to pass (except in the Security Council). Only Security Council resolutions can compel nations to take action. All other UN bodies use resolutions to make recommendations or suggestions for future action. FMUN does not allow delegates to bring previously prepared resolutions. Delegates are to work together during the conference to combine their ideas and mold them with other member states to form resolutions that can be used for debate.

Working Paper

There are basic criteria required for each resolution. Each resolution is called a working paper until it is introduced to the committee as a resolution. Working paper must have a certain number of sponsors and signatories, to be determined by the Director. A sponsor of a resolution is a country that has been one of the principle authors of the document and agrees with its substance. A signatory is a country that may or may not agree with the substance of the resolution, but would like to see it debated on the floor.

Draft Resolutions

Draft resolutions are all resolutions that have not yet been voted on but accepted by the dais. Delegates write draft resolutions alone or with other countries. There are three main parts to a draft resolution: the heading, the preamble and the operative section. The heading shows the committee and topic along with the resolution number. It also lists the draft resolution's sponsors and signatories (see below). Each draft resolution is one long sentence with sections separated by commas and semicolons. The subject of the sentence is the body making the statement (e.g., the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, or Security Council). The preamble and operative sections then describe the current situation and actions that the committee will take.

Bringing a Resolution to the Floor for Debate

A draft resolution must always gain the support of a certain number of member states in the committee before the sponsors (the delegates who created the resolution) may submit it to the committee staff. Only when a staff member formally accepts the document and assigns it a number can it be referred to in formal debate.

Preambulatory Clauses

The preamble of a draft resolution states the reasons for which the committee is addressing the topic and highlights past international action on the issue. Each clause begins with a present participle (called a preambulatory phrase) and ends with a comma. 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.

Operative Clauses

Operative clauses identify the actions or recommendations made in a resolution. Each operative clause begins with a verb (called an operative phrase) and ends with a semicolon. Operative clauses should be organized in a logical progression, with each containing a single idea or proposal, and are always numbered. If a clause requires further explanation, bulleted lists set off by letters or roman numerals can also be used. After the last operative clause, the resolution ends in a period.

Some Preambulatory Phrases

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

Some Operative Phrases

Accepts	Declares accordingly	Further proclaims	Regrets
Affirms	Deplores	Further reminds	Reminds
Approves	Designates	Further recommends	Requests
Authorizes	Draws the attention	Further requests	Solemnly affirms
Calls	Emphasizes	Further resolves	Strongly condemns
Calls upon	Encourages	Has resolved	Supports

Condemns	Endorses	Notes	Takes note of
Confirms	Expresses its appreciation	Proclaims	Transmits
Congratulates	Expresses its hope	Reaffirms	Trusts
Considers	Further invites	Recommends	

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

Resolution GA/3/1.1

General Assembly Third Committee

Sponsors: United States, Austria and Italy

Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon

Topic: “Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies”

The General Assembly,

Reminding all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens, **[use commas to separate preambulatory clauses]**

Reaffirming its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and nongovernmental organizations,

Stressing the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. Encourages all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts; **[use semicolons to separate operative clauses]**
2. Urges member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;
3. Requests that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the

coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;

4. Calls for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;

5. Stresses the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

6. Calls upon states to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance; and

7. Requests the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through reconstruction and development. **[end resolutions with a period]**