



How to Write a Resolution

Before HABSMUN, you have the option to write a draft resolution on one of the topics. The issues of the resolutions can be found in the agenda of the conference at habsmun.com. The resolution is a document produced by delegates as a solution to an issue that is being debated; it is a formal statement of a proposal to a UN Council or Committee.

A resolution is made up of preambulatory and operative clauses.

The preambulatory clauses provide a background to the problem and are the introduction of the resolution. These are not debated. However, there are a variety of acknowledgements you need to make. You will need to write references to former UN resolutions, ratified conventions, and declarations. You may want to provide official figures and possibly congratulate countries and organisations which have worked on the issue. You might wish to explain any difficulties that have been encountered thus far on the issue.

The operative clauses are the basis for the debate. They set out what further action and measures need to be. These need to be researched and formed on the basis of viable solutions and the policy of the nation a delegate is representing. You must ensure that your proposals fully reflect the existing policies of the country that you represent. You may, for example, wish to encourage or invite countries to sign/ratify a convention. You may propose a new method of approaching an issue. You may support existing work or wish to supplement it. You may wish to implement new bodies or sub-bodies to specifically address the issue at hand.

Structure

As stated above, the resolution is split between preamble and operative clauses. At the beginning of each resolution the following must be stated:

COMMITTEE:	<i>You write down the name of your committee</i>
QUESTION OF:	<i>You write the issue of the resolution</i>
SUBMITTED BY:	<i>You write down the name of your country</i>

The resolution is addressed to the General Assembly and each new clause begins with a verb, whilst each perambulatory clause begins with a present participle (see below). The following rules apply when writing a resolution:

- The opening verb of each clause is underlined.
- There is a line-space between each clause.
- Each operative clause is numbered.
- The sub-clauses begin with a), b), c), etc.; Acronyms are written out in full the first time they are used (bracketed).
- Each preambulatory clause is followed by a comma.
- Each operative clause is followed by a semicolon.
- There is only one full stop, that is, at the end of the resolution.
- Each line is numbered for easy reference.

Pre-ambulatory clause words:

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

Operative clause words:

Accepts	Confirms	Expresses	Requests
Adopts	Congratulates	Instructs	Suggests
Affirms	Considers	Invites	Supports
Appeals	Declares	Proclaims	Takes note of
Appreciates	Deplores	Reaffirms	Transmits
Approves	Designates	...its belief	Urges
Authorises	Directs	Recognizes	Welcomes
Calls upon	Emphasizes	Recommends	
Calls for	Encourages	Regrets	
Concurs	Endorses	Repeats	

Delegates may wish to use 'Further' if an introductory word is repeated and/or 'strongly' to strengthen the force of the clause. Security Council delegates may use more forceful phrases such as 'Demands', 'Decides' and 'Condemns' in their operative clauses.

How to write clauses

Please refer to the sample resolution provided online at habsmun.com.

Here is another example of ways in which one could propose a few ideas on an issue.

On the issue of 'Waterborne diseases' you might think that the UN should fund research into cheap water sanitation devices. To this end, you might submit the following as part of your resolution:

2. Proposes that a UNBWS (United Nations Body for Water Sanitation), a sub-body of the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) with additional funding from the UN, be created in order to:
 - a. Determine the most efficient method of medical prevention of waterborne diseases, whether by water-treatment or the provision of new water sources,
 - b. Research into cheaper technology for desalination, sand filtration, well recharging, and other water purification strategies as a short term goal;

Note that the body here performs multiple functions; this is good, so long as these functions are clearly defined.

You might think that the problem lies in companies polluting and so a clause which promotes states to avoid excessive pollution might read:

5. Encourages governments to ratify water pollution controls and hold private companies responsible for the quality and cleanliness of the water they provide;

You might think that education and awareness is important and may like to discuss the necessity of an education plan. Here, one could write:

6. Calls upon the UN to help launch campaigns to increase awareness on proper hygiene when dealing with water targeted at all members of the public in those nations deemed necessary by the WHO (World Health Organization);

Note the incorporation of an existing body, the WHO, in this clause; it is not always necessary to set up your own!

These are, of course, only a guide as to how you might use ideas you already have to form a response in the style of a UN draft resolution. In this example, there are many subsidiary problems involved in the overall problem of waterborne diseases, yet the best resolutions will often recognise multiple problems and either seek to deal with many, or make a conscious effort to be specific and tackle just one.

Useful websites for research

Committee briefing documents should list some websites for reference regarding specific topics for debate. For more general information, you might find the following websites useful:

United Nations	http://www.un.org/
UN Cyber School Bus	http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/
CIA World Fact Book	https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/
Embassies Worldwide	http://www.embassyworld.com/
The Economist	http://www.economist.com/
CNN	http://www.cnn.com/
BBC World	http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/
Reuters	http://www.reuters.com/