HOW TO WRITE A RESOLUTION

What is a UN resolution?

A UN resolution is an official document adopted by a United Nations body to tackle a given issue and provide realistic solutions.

Are UN resolutions legally binding for the Member States?

No, they generally include recommendations that the Member States are invited but not legally compelled to follow. However, there is one single UN body, the UN Security Council, whose decisions are binding to all Member States, which means that countries that fail to abide by the Council's provisions will have to face legal and economic consequences such as sanctions.

What is lobbying?

Depending on the Chairs and the committee, at the very beginning of the conference Delegates are granted a few hours of 'lobbying' to come up with complete resolutions to be discussed for the rest of the conference. During this time, Delegates make alliances with the other Member States with similar views on the topic, working together to build a

well-written, realistic and coherent resolution. Once the lobbying sessions are over, these resolutions are discussed, they can be amended and each of them is put to a vote.

What is a main submitter?
The main submitter of a resolution is traditionally the delegate who put the most amount of work into the resolution. It's the main submitter's job to present the resolution and answer any questions that the other delegates might have during the debate.

What is the minimum number of co-submitters?

In order to submit a resolution, you have to collaborate with others. Each resolution requires a number of co-submitters, Member States that wish to discuss your resolution. Co-submitters are not necessarily in favour of the resolution they sign. Without the minimum number of co-submitters, the resolution can not be presented.
The minimum number of co-submitters required for the specific committees will be shared with the delegates by the chairs of the said committees before the lobbying session.

Formatting

At the beginning of each resolution, you are going to find the following headings:

● COMMITTEE - the committee, council or commission where the resolution is going to be discussed;

● ISSUE - one of the topics provided by the Chairs;

● MAIN SUBMITTER - the Delegate who is going to give the opening speech, and

who has usually done a great deal of work;

● CO-SUBMITTERS - other Delegates who have signed the resolution because they are interested in discussing it. Co-submitters do not necessarily have to be in favour of the resolution or have participated in its realization.

PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

Preambulatory clauses state the reasons why the committee is tackling a given question and highlight past relevant international action (including UN resolutions) and the existing legal framework.

Each preambulatory clause begins with a preambulatory phrase, which consists of a present or past participle (e.g., *Recalling, Considering, Noting*) written in italics, and ends with a comma.

If several preambular clauses begin with the same word, generally it is used 'further' for the second and 'also' for the third (for example, *"Noting"*, "*Further noting*", "*Also noting*").

The main aim of the preambulatory clauses is to give a general picture of the issue that needs to be addressed.

References to past resolutions

When including references to past resolutions or decisions, depending on the organ that approved the resolution there is a slightly different conformation to cite it.

If the resolution is adopted in the Security Council, the correct wording would be " *Recalling* its resolution S/RES/2561 of 29 January 2021" or it is equally acceptable to cite it as "*Recalling* Security Council resolution 2561 (2021) of 29 January 2021".

If the Resolution is adopted in the General Assembly, the resolution reference follows the same format (e.g: "*Recalling* its resolution A/RES/75/166 of 23 December 2020" or " *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 75/166 (2020) of 23 December 2020).

If the Resolution is adopted in the Economic and Social Council, the resolution reference follows the same format(e.g:"*Recalling* its resolution E/RES/2020/7 of 23 June 2020"or " *Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2020/7 (2020) of 23 June 2020).

If the Resolution is adopted in the Human Rights Council, the resolution reference follows the same format(e.g:"*Recalling* its resolution A/HRC/RES/30/1 of 14 October 2015"or "*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 (2015) of 14 October 2015).

REMEMBER THAT PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES ARE NOT DISCUSSED DURING THE DEBATE.

Other Useful Preambulatory Clause Starters

Affirming

Acknowledging

Alarmed by

Appreciating

Approving

Aware of

Bearing in mind

Believing

Commending

Concerned by

Confident

Contemplating

Conscious of

Convinced

Declaring

Disturbed by

Deeply regretting Deploring

Desiring

Emphasizing

Expecting

Guided by

Having adopted

Having heard

Having received

Having studied

Keeping in mind

Noting with regret

Reaffirming

Realizing

Recalling

Recognizing

Referring

Seeking

Underlining

OPERATIVE CLAUSES

Operative clauses come right after the preambulatory clauses and they state actionable solutions to the issues identified in the preambulatory clauses.

Every resolution should include at least six operative clauses in order to be discussed.

Each operative clause is numbered and begins with an operative phrase, which consists of a simple present verb in the third person singular written in italics (e.g: *Suggests*), and ends with a semicolon (except for the last one, ending with a period).

If an operative clause requires further explanation, further points, known as sub-clauses and sub-sub-clauses, can be added using the notation a), b), c) for sub-clauses and i), ii), iii) for sub-sub-clauses. This notation is preferred to a long and massive one-sentence clause.

Operative clauses express what a Committee has decided to do concerning a specific matter. The language must be precise, clear and neat as it facilitates the implementation of the described measures.

If several operative clauses begin with the same word, generally it is used "further" for the second and also for the third(for example,"*Suggesting*","Further Suggesting","*Also suggesting*").

When writing your operative clauses:

1.

    Think about your objectives - before writing a resolution the goals you want to achieve should be clear in your mind in order to not contradict yourself and to draft a coherent final product;

2.

    Be realistic - while writing your resolution, do not waste precious time on objectives that cannot be met. Make sure your body can take the action suggested (for example, the General Assembly cannot sanction another country but the

Security Council can);

3.

Be familiar with the formal rules - this is particularly helpful as you will know precisely how you are expected to express the concept you have in mind from the very beginning. For instance, you should bear in mind that operative phrases such as *Promotes* or *Encourages* are associated with a mostly constructive approach aimed at building a common working ground,whereas phrases such as *Strongly condemns* or *Further requests* represent proper operative and ideological stances taken by the UN;

4.

Have a deep understanding of the topic - this may seem quite obvious, but having a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the topic is fundamental in order to write clauses that are realistic, well-centred and relevant to the topic at hand;

5.

Check for previous UN action - you should always check whether someone at the real UN has already had the same ideas you just had, as the most attentive and competitive delegates are ready to take advantage of each of your blunders;

6.

Aim for functionality - nobody wants to discuss a resolution that might be well-written but is not functional, which is why you should always aim at making the clauses as pragmatic and realistic as possible and avoid redundancy;

7.

Cooperate with other Delegates - this is extremely important as you can learn how to improve your work by listening to what other Delegates have to say on the matter, as well as build strong alliances that will certainly come in handy in the

future;

8. Do not copy from past UN resolutions - You can rest assured that your Chairs and fellow Delegates will know if you do. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.

Generically, operative clauses should answer the following questions:

- Who will do this specific task?

- Who will be the beneficiary?

- Who will supervise this project both during its effective execution and in future?

- By which measures will this issue be addressed?

- How will this project be financed? (only for predominantly economic Committees, in the other committees of the UN funds are not an issue)

In a few words, your operative clauses should answer the questions: "Who, Where, When, What, How?".

The more clear and technical operative clauses are, the most the resolution is likely to be approved.

In writing a resolution, generically, the most important operative clauses come first.

Operative Clause Example:

Using the form "such as, but not limited to:" allows the resolution and the Committee to also implement strategies that are not written in the operative clause. This formula is useful as it gives both the operatives clause and resolution flexibility and adaptability.

1. *Suggests* the implementation of clean water-related projects in Asia and the Pacific such as, but not limited to:

a. building new wastewater, stormwater and water conservation treatment plants or renovating the current ones,

b. projects that implement green and technological agriculture in order to reduce the amount of fertilizer needed by;

    i.

        improving guidance systems, such as GPS and GIP driven machinery, and systems for automatic management, or precision agriculture, that ensure an increase of crop yields of 35%,

    ii.

        implementing limitations of the usage of harmful agricultural pesticides,

    iii.

using shelter-belts in order to increase soil fertility,

iv.

improving the use of riparian buffers near rivers and streams,

c. building new landfills away from water or renovating the current ones, d. considering to reforest those areas strongly affected by both dust and sand storms and by heavy landslides,

Other Useful Operative Clause Starters

Calls for

Calls upon

Condemns

Confirms

Congratulates

Considers

Decides

Declares

Demands

Designates

Encourages

Endorses

Expresses its appreciation

Invites

Notes

Reminds

Urges

SAMPLE RESOLUTION:

(Please note that this is just a brief example and is not complete. Your resolution should be a lot more detailed.)

Main Submitter: Chile

Co-Submitters: Canada, Sweden, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Bolivia

Committee: GA-3

Issue: "Reworking the legal framework of online protection and its implementation into fundamental human rights."

The General Assembly,

Acknowledges the fact that social media accounts are hacked by cyber criminals, such as the United States Central Command's Twitter account being hacked by ISIS sympathizers in early 2015,

Noting with regret that the number of social media accounts being hacked has risen by 12% in the past year,

Taking into account that 2 billion of the world's internet users live in LEDC's,

Keeping in mind that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is still in effect, and that includes rights such as article 3, which states "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person," and article 17 which states "(1) Everyone has the right to own

property alone as well as in association with others and (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property,"

1) Endorses the appointment of internet moderators on social media who have the power to report the IP addresses and names of people who restrict the human rights of other users which include such as but not limited to:

    a) The right to life, liberty and security of person,

    b) The right of being able to own property,

    c) The right of freedom of speech,

    d) The right to be safe online;

2) Recommends the creation of an online platform to help report online scammers, hackers and malware,

    a) This platform would be able to record the evidence provided by victims and can send the information to their local police stations, which includes:

        i) Screenshots,

        ii) Emails from scammers,

        iii) Money transactions,

    b) The platform should also include information on how to avoid scammers and how

    to protect people from malware;

Please contact the chairs of your committee for any further questions.