



THESSISMUN

THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Guide for Resolution Writing



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Resolution Writing and Submission

Resolutions are official documents that have been passed by the UN aiming to address a particular problem or issue. The UN resolutions are equivalent of a law. Resolutions are actions of the United Nations submitted in draft form under the sponsorship of one or more delegations working in a committee. Primarily, resolutions may just address an opinion to a given situation and recommended action to be taken by an UN Committee or UN Council. Only in the Security Council are resolutions binding members under the Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. In other UN Committees and Councils, resolutions have a recommendatory nature and are non-binding, unless dealing with budgetary and internal-structure of the organisation.

Draft resolutions contain the proposals that the certain UN body has came up with in order to deal with the respective agenda item under discussion. Draft Resolutions are debated and voted upon within the committee. As soon as a draft is successfully passed within the committee they are officially numbered and submitted to the General Assembly. At this stage the draft resolutions are considered to be certain proposals of the subcommittees and the General Assembly in its plenary session will conclude on whether to give them their full legitimization by adopting them in this final vote. In the Plenary Session of the General Assembly adoption of a Draft Resolution raises its status to Resolution, the formal text which comprises the official action plan/policy of the organisation on the topic at hand.

It is important to acknowledge that in drafting a resolution wording will influence its acceptance among fellow delegates. The draft resolution should be clear and concise. Consequently, the better the substance of a draft resolution is researched the higher the possibility of passing it within the committee session. The main aim of resolution writing is to put down ideas in a clear and concise manner in accordance with the United Nations format.

Resolutions have many capacities:

- They can either characterize a situation-acknowledging its existence and committing the organisation to take action in the future;
- Regardless their non-binding character resolution tend to fertilize the ground on which international law formation can be fostered;
- Resolutions can be either general statements or directives to specific organizations, UN bodies, or States.



- Resolutions can condemn actions of states, call for collective actions, or as is the case of the Security Council, impose economic or military sanctions.

Status state on a resolution

Signatory: Being a signatory to a resolution only means that delegates want to see it put on the floor; it does not indicate sponsorship or support and the signatory has no further obligations. Signatories only wish to see the draft resolution debated upon within the Committee and so do not commit themselves to necessarily support it in the voting procedure. Signing a resolution can also be done under the scope of providing the committee with diverse perspectives on the matter incarnating the democratic nature of the UN decision making process.

Sponsor: Sponsors are generally the countries who have contributed in the drafting process of the document or find their countries policy mirrored in its content. Sponsoring states are the essence of the resolution. They are the protagonists of the drafting process and take on the responsibility to present, support and promote the draft's ideas by any means.

Basic points on Resolution writing

The following list includes important points to consider when writing a draft resolution. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but should provide a good starting point to make your draft resolutions as realistic as possible. Points to consider include:

- Preamble contains a general description of the topic serving as a justification for the engagement of the organisation with the issue.
- Reiterate past actions or decision taken under the same scope or at least in similar interconnected cases;
- Operative clauses include the basic concept of the envisioned solution, a specific, precise and well structured action plan in terms of feasibility and effectiveness;
- Do not be blatantly political in the content of the draft resolution – this may damage efforts to reach a consensus on the issue;



- Take into account that the outcome of the committee is a product of intense deliberations and compromise. A successful draft resolution is as inclusive as possible when it comes to policy making;
- When drafting a document bear in mind your state's position as a member state of the United Nations obliged to serve the core values of the organisation whilst trying throughout this multilateral platform to delegate its sovereign interests effectively;
- Consider whether the substance of your proposal is within the jurisdiction of your Committee, and refer relevant parts to other bodies where appropriate. It is of high importance to acknowledge the framework mandate a UN committee bears ;
- Refer issues which need further discussion to appropriate, existing bodies. The United nations system is built on a hierarchy of powers manufactured to serve each and every aspect that may arise in the international scene. In order to achieve that United Nations bodies are designed to interact thus achieving maximum effectiveness, covering every aspect of the issue ;
- Creating a new committee/body/working group requires special reports on the new organ containing details on budgetary and functional issues as well as jurisdiction setting of the new body. Such decision requires qualified majority in the General Assembly. In order to avoid inconvenience before deciding upon the creation of a new body revise the complex structure of the organisation for other similar already existent bodies;
- Always consider previous UN resolutions on the topic – do not duplicate what other resolutions have done without referencing the appropriate sources. You can always enforce the implementation of a previous UN act but do not duplicate its content. Other than that ThessISMUN retains a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism;

Draft Resolution Format

The following format must be used for all draft resolutions submitted to the ThessIS MUN Secretariat. Draft resolutions not submitted in this format will not be accepted. The Secretariat hold the right to reject a Draft Resolution lacking basic format. The standard format is as follows:

- Single spaced throughout, with double spacing between clauses;
- Clauses must begin with proper introductory words/phrases, in italics;



- Preambulatory clauses end with commas and operative clauses end with semi-colons;
- Sub-clauses end with a semi-colon;
- Each operative clause must be numbered and indented;
- The final operative clause ends with a period;
- Please do not number lines in the margin of the resolution.

A regular UN resolution has the following pattern:

1. The Heading, identifying the committee or council in which the resolution is introduced

Numbering: the sequel number of each draft resolution, presented by the Chair along with the submission of the resolution by the Sponsor, i.e. ECOSOC Draft Res. A/ 25.10.2005/ 1, which indicates the first Draft Resolution submitted in ECOSOC, on topic Area A, on the 25th of October 2005.

Subject: the "Subject of resolution" line should exactly match the topics as outlined by the ThessISMUN Board. Any draft resolutions, which are submitted off-topic, will not be accepted.

Sponsor: sponsor of a resolution is the country that has been the initial instigator of the document and is being in agreement with its content. There is only ONE Sponsor for each Draft Resolution.

Signatories: signatories are countries that may or may not agree with the content of the resolution, but would like to have the resolution discussed on the floor.

2. The Preambulatory Clauses, identify the problem and make references to several sources including references to, the UN Charter, statements by the Secretary General or a relevant UN Committee or Council, background information explaining the need for further action, recognition of the work or efforts of regional organizations in dealing with the issue, general statements on the topic, its significance and its effects, citations of past UN Resolutions or treaties relevant to the topic. The preamble contains everything except from the proposing actions to be taken to solve the problem. The preamble begins with the name of the simulated committee. Preambulatory phrases are underlined and separated by commas.

Some preambulatory phrases are:

Affirming...	Fully...
Alarmed...	...aware...
Anxious...	...believing...



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

	Seeking... Stressing... Welcoming...
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3. The Operative Clauses, dictate the necessary actions to be taken to provide for a solution of the problem. It is the way for the supporter to express their country's main policy goals on the issue. 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 reasonable succession, and each clause should contain a single idea or policy suggestion and application. **All resolutions except in the Security Council are non-binding.** Therefore, it is important to choose the operative phrases and the wording of the operative clauses accordingly.

Some operative phrases are:

Accepts...	Further...
Adopts...	...concurs...
Affirms...	...invites...
Appeals...	...proclaims...
Appreciates...	...reminds...
Approves...	...recommends...
Authorizes...	...requests...
Calls upon...	...resolves...
Commends...	Instructs...
Concurs...	Invites...
Condemns...	Notes...
Confirms...	...with appreciation...
Congratulates...	...with approval...
Considers...	...with interest...
Decides...	...with satisfaction...
...accordingly...	Reaffirms...
Declares...	...its belief...



Deplores..	Recognizes...
Designates...	Recommends...
Directs...	Regrets...
Emphasizes...	Reiterates...
Encourages...	Renews its appeal...
Endorses...	Repeats...
Expressing...	Suggests...
...its appreciation...	Strongly...
...its conviction...	Supports...
...its regret...	Takes note of...
...its sympathy...	Transmits...
...its thanks...	Urges...
...the belief...	Welcomes...
...the hope...	

Sample of a Draft Resolution

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: This must be a topic from the ThessISMUNAgenda

SUBMITTED TO: Name of Committee/Council

SUBMITTED BY: Name of country

Name of Committee/Council: The Committee on

Noting,

Declaring,

Deeply convinced,

1. *Accepts* ;
2. *Affirms* ;
3. *Declares* .



Submission of a Draft Resolution

A document is necessarily submitted to the board of each committee in order to be approved as a draft resolution. Members of the board check whether basic format and prerequisites (aforementioned) are in place. Afterwards draft resolution is submitted to the Secretariat of ThesSISMUN (Deputy Secretary General) which examines the text for compliance with international law, compatibility with the competence of each body, policy of the sponsoring and signing states as well as grammar and syntax errors. The Secretariat has the right to either approve or disapprove the draft as a whole. Additionally it can as well freely modify its content and format without previous note. The Document is resubmitted to the Board of the Committee and can be officially introduced as a Draft Resolution.

Amendments

After draft resolutions have been submitted to the committee, approved and revised by the Secretariat, it can be modified through changes known as amendments, suggested by the delegates of the committee, representing adjusted perspectives or proposals on the topic under discussion.

Phrasing and purpose of the amendment should complement the draft resolution.

There are two types of amendments as outlined in the **Rules of Procedure** as well:

1. **Friendly Amendments**, which do not fundamentally change the meaning, the effects or the overall concept of the resolution and are supported by the Sponsor and all Signatories of the resolution. They are incorporated automatically in the main body of the text.
2. **Unfriendly Amendments**, which are due to change the substantial meaning of the resolution and are not supported by the sponsor of the resolution. The committee votes upon unfriendly amendments which if passed are included in the resolution.