

WESMUN 2025

wesmun@westminster.org.uk

#WESMUN25

RESOLUTION WRITING: A GUIDE

Introduction

A resolution is a document that attempts to solve one of the agenda topics in a Committee. Resolutions are somewhat like bills in domestic parliaments and enable the UN to call on its executive functions or express opinions. In Model United Nations, resolutions form the backbone of the Conference because the Committees are structured around debating and then voting on the delegate's resolutions.

We would strongly encourage each delegate to draft a resolution before the conference. Although not all resolutions will be debated in a Committee, the more resolutions we have that reach the approval panel, the stronger the pool of resolutions is for the chairs to draw on. Moreover, even if a delegate's resolution is not selected for debate, it may be a useful springboard for constructive amendments.

At WESMUN, we want our resolutions to mirror the form of those used in the real United Nations, and thus there are some formalities of formatting peculiar to resolutions that delegates must follow when preparing their resolutions.

The three components of a resolution

1. The heading

The heading has 4 components, which should be laid out as follows:

- FORUM: the name of your Committee or Commission
- QUESTION OF: the name of the agenda item
- MAIN SUBMITTER: your country
- CO-SUBMITTERS: up to 5 other countries that have been actively involved in drafting or merging this resolution

2. Preambulatory clauses ('preams')

Preambulatory clauses give an overview of the problem at hand, past attempts to solve it, and give some evidence that explains the approach that will be taken in the operatives. These clauses are not debated (except in the Security Council), but they will be called on in debate about a resolution. They should reference previous UN resolutions or debates on the topic, as well as relevant aspects of UN charters or major documents. Evidence from official sources can be used to support existing efforts and point to areas that still need work.

Each preambulatory clause starts with an italicised present participle and ends with a comma and a line space. We would recommend half to $\frac{2}{3}$ of a page of preams. Appropriate participles to use include:

Affirming	Expecting	Having examined
Alarmed by	Emphasizing	Having received
Approving	Expecting	Keeping in mind
Bearing in mind	Expressing its appreciation	Noting with deep concern
Believing	Fulfilling	Nothing with satisfaction
Confident	Fully aware	Noting further
Contemplating	Emphasizing	Observing
Convinced	Expecting	Reaffirming
Declaring	Expressing its appreciation	Realizing
Deeply concerned	Fulfilling	Recalling
Deeply conscious	Fully aware	Recognizing
Deeply convinced	Further deploring	Referring
Deeply disturbed	Further recalling	Seeking
Deeply regretting	Guided by	Taking into consideration
Desiring	Having adopted	Taking note
Emphasizing	Having considered	Viewing with appreciation
		Welcoming

3. Operative clauses

The clauses are the delegate's attempt to address the topic. Delegates will need to be aware of the multifaceted nature of the topics, considering implications of any solution in various fields: the environment, international affairs, trade, development, gender, etc.

In order to enact their policies, delegates may wish to strengthen or improve existing programs or work through established UN bodies, such as the UNHCR. In some instances, a problem may need a totally new approach and degree of expertise, and thus the operatives may establish a new UN agency with a remit to carry out certain policies. It is also important to work with established NGOs, as they may already be working on the ground.

Delegates should use sub-clauses to make their resolution specific and detailed, looking at issues of timing, accountability, and ways to involve potentially opposed parties.

Each operative clause starts with an underlined indicative verb and ends with a semi-colon. At WesMUN, we will allow a maximum of 20 clauses, including sub-clauses. The last clause should end with a full stop. Appropriate verbs for operatives include:¹

Accepts	Encourages	Further recommends
Affirms	Endorses	Further requests
Approves	Expresses its appreciation	Further resolves
Authorizes	Expresses its hope	Has resolved
Calls	Further invites	Notes
Calls upon	Deplores	Proclaims
Condemns	Designates	Reaffirms
Confirms	Draws the attention	Recommends
Congratulates	Emphasizes	Regrets
Considers	Encourages	Reminds
Declares accordingly	Endorses	Requests
Deplores	Expresses its appreciation	Solemnly affirms
Designates	Expresses its hope	Strongly condemns
Draws the attention	Further invites	Supports
Emphasizes	Further proclaims	Takes note of
	Further reminds	Transmits
		Trusts

¹ Security Council delegates should look at the document about procedure for guidance about the commands that are unique to them.

Preparing your resolution

The suggestions for the content of your clauses will guide you in drafting it. However, before you begin writing, it is important to research the topic area thoroughly. This can be done by looking at major news sources (such as the BBC, CNN, and the Economist) and the webpages of major UN and Government agencies (such as the WHO's page or the CIA world factbook). It is particularly important to consider past UN actions.

A briefing document on each topic will be available for viewing before the start of 2019, and these will provide basic information and further sources. In addition, your chairs will be happy to answer questions via email closer to the time.

This document was prepared by Stephen Horvath, and the lists of appropriate phrases were drawn from the popular website <http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation/resolutions/preambulatory-and-operative-clauses>.