

Preparing for UITØMUN

Resolution Writing

Resolutions are the formal recommendations of the Security Council and become the focal point of discussions in committee and plenary sessions. Resolutions can condemn actions of states, call for collective actions, or demand economic (Art. 41) or military (Art. 42) sanctions. Resolutions recommend a particular course of action that will adequately address a specific issue that represents a threat to or breach with international peace and security (Art. 39).

A proposed resolution, referred to as a draft resolution, forms the basis for debate. Due to the different concerns of the countries represented in the Council, the debate on resolution becomes a difficult process. In order to be able to adopt a resolution, a number of amendments may be necessary to establish the support of the majority of the members of the Security Council. To this end, certain steps should be taken on the part of the delegations sponsoring the introduction of a draft resolution. The views and ideas of a number of other delegations should be incorporated into the draft resolution. The aim is to secure the support from as many Council members as possible, in order to secure the adoption of the resolution.

Remember that compromise is the key to successful diplomatic relations. A delegate should however never lose sight of his/her country's position on the topic of discussion. In essence, a delegate must try to convince delegates from other countries to support his/her country's views and resolutions, i.e. to make it attractive to other countries to support this view.

When drafting a resolution, delegates should keep in mind that the wording of the resolution will inevitably influence its appeal. It should be clear, concise and specific. Vague resolutions do not really say or propose much. The language used may have to be carefully selected in order to gain the support of as many countries as possible. To introduce a draft resolution at the UITØMUN, it must be written in the original Security Council format.

The Rules of Procedures (RoP) of UITØMUN establish the requirements for introducing a draft resolution for discussion in the Council (Rule 22). A draft resolution must have four signatories in addition to the country/countries introducing the draft (sponsors). The President must sign the draft before it is presented to the Council. Being a signatory to a resolution means that delegates want to see it put on the floor, i.e. to be discussed by the Council. This does not include an obligation to support the draft resolution with a vote. The country or the countries that have written the draft document are sponsors of the resolution, and as such, have committed themselves to supporting it.

Format of Resolutions

A resolution is one long sentence, with commas and semi-colons used to separate ideas, and a period at the very end of the document. Resolutions consist of three main parts:

1. The Heading

The heading contains the reference to its authorizing body, i.e. “The Security Council,”. A resolution number will be given to the resolution when it is adopted, i.e. “Res. 660 (1990) of 2 August 1990”.

2. The Preambulatory Clauses

The preamble states the background of the problem, recalls past action taken, explains the purpose of the resolution and states the main reasons for the suggestions that follow. This is where previous UN resolutions are referred to and relevant precedents of international law are cited.

Each paragraph begins with an *italicised* clause and ends with a comma. See list of common preambulatory clauses below.

3. Operative Clauses

The operatives state the action to be taken. These clauses may request action by member states, by the Secretariat, or by any UN body or agency. These actions can be as vague as a denunciation of a certain situation or a call for negotiations, or as specific as a call for a cease-fire. Each paragraph is numbered, and begins with an *italicised*, present tense active verb and ends with a semicolon.

By custom, the last operative clause is mostly “*Decides* to remain seized of the matter.” which ends with a period. See list of common operative clauses below.

Amendments to a Resolution

An amendment is a change or a clarification made to a draft resolution after it has been formally submitted to the Council. An amendment can be friendly or unfriendly. A friendly amendment is proposed when the sponsors of the resolution agree on the change that is to be made. A vote on the inclusion of a friendly amendment is therefore not necessary. In the case of an unfriendly amendment, i.e. when not all of the sponsors agree on the change, a vote is required. Any member of the Council can propose amendments. The difference between friendly and unfriendly amendments lies in who supports the change. An unfriendly amendment must be submitted to the chair with the appropriate number of signatures (see RoP Art. 24(2)), and will be voted on before the vote on the resolution.

There are acceptable amendments and then there are unacceptable ones. Amendments are unacceptable when they change the intention of the resolution, i.e. going from condemning an action to supporting it. Those that are acceptable include: Amending by addition, adding a word or a phrase, amending by deletion, deleting a word or phrase.

Common Clauses used by the Security Council

Preambulatory Clauses

Affirming	Expressing its	Noting with regret
Alarmed by	satisfactions	Noting with
Approving	Fulfilling	satisfaction
Aware of	Fully aware	Noting with deep
Believing	Fully alarmed	concern
Bearing in mind	Guided by	Noting with approval
Cognizant	Having adopted	Observing
Concerned	Having assessed	Realizing
Confident	Having considered	Reaffirming
Conscious	Having considered	Recalling
Contemplating	further	Recognizing
Convinced	Having devoted	Referring
Declaring	attention	Regretting
Deploring	Having examined	Seeking
Desiring	Having heard	Stressing
Emphasizing	Having received	Taking into account
Expecting	Having studied	Taking note
Expressing its	Keeping in mind	Viewing with
Appreciation	Mindful	appreciation
	Noting	Welcoming

Operative clauses

Each paragraph is numbered.

Accepts	Draws attention	Regrets
Affirms	Designates	Reiterates
Approves	Emphasizes	Requests
Authorizes	Encourages	Resolves
Calls for	Endorses	Solemnly affirms
Calls upon	Expresses its	Stresses
Commends	appreciation	Supports
Condemns	Expresses its hope	Takes note of
Confirms	Invites	Trusts
Considers	Notes	Underlines
Declares	Proclaims	Urges
Declares accordingly	Reaffirms	Welcomes
Demands	Recommends	
Deplores	Reminds	

To strengthen a clause, add “Strongly” or “Deeply” before the clause.