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ACADEMIC FORUM FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS - AUSTRIA

**UNITED NATIONS YOUTH AND STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIA**

GRAZ - INNSBRUCK - KLAGENFURT - LINZ - SALZBURG - VIENNA

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL  
HISTORIC MODEL UNITED NATIONS  
(HISTOMUN)

# Resolution Writing

## Introduction:

Resolutions are actions of the United Nations submitted in draft form under the sponsorship of one or more delegations in a committee. Essentially, resolutions may just address an opinion to a given situation or may recommend action to be taken by an UN Agency or UN Organ. Only in the Security Council are resolutions binding members to a certain extent. In other UN Agencies and Organs resolutions are merely recommendations.

Draft resolutions are resolutions as they are drafted and passed in Committee Sessions that are taking place during the HISTOMUN Conference. As soon as a draft resolution is successfully passed in a committee it will move on to the General Assembly where successful passing will turn this Draft Resolution into a Resolution.

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 success of passing it within the committee session. Depending on the Committee, its topic discussed and the goal of the delegates drafting and sponsoring a resolution the content will be more specific or more general.

Resolutions within the UN follow certain rules and are written in a certain format. Each resolution has three parts:

1. The Heading
2. The Preamble
3. The Operative Clauses

It is one long sentence with commas and semicolons throughout the resolution and with one period at the very end. The first word in each clause should be underlined, and each clause in the preamble should end with a comma. All operative clauses will end with a semicolon except the final clause, which ends with a period.

Sponsors: Sponsors of a resolution are those countries that have been the principle authors of the document and agree with its content

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.

## Draft Resolution

### Heading:

Committee: the committee or organ in which the resolution is introduced

Sponsors: List of countries sponsoring the resolution

Signatories: List of countries signing the resolution

### Preamble:

The preamble of a resolution is the introductory part explaining the problem as it needs to be solved. Essentially, the preamble contains everything but proposing action to be taken to solve the problem. The preamble begins with the name of the simulated committee. Preambulatory phrases are underlined and preambulatory clauses are separated by commas.

Issues that might be included in the preamble are:

- References to the UN Charter
- Citations of past UN Resolutions or treaties relevant to the topic
- Historical background information explaining the need for further action
- Recognition of the efforts made by regional organization to tackle the problem and dealing with the issue at hand
- General statements on the topic, its significance and its effects satisfying the need for the resolution to be passed

### Preambulatory Phrases:

Keep in mind that the selection of the preambulatory phrases will be a first step to determine whether the resolution will be more general or more specific, more radical or softer in its approach.

Some of the preambulatory phrases are:

Acknowledging...  
Affirming...  
Alarmed...  
Anxious...

Approving...  
Aware of...  
Bearing in mind...  
Being convinced...

Believing...  
Cognizant...  
Concerned...  
Confident...

Conscious...	...aware...	...with concern...
Considering...	...believing...	...with deep concern...
Contemplating...	...bearing in mind...	...with grave concern...
Convinced...	Grieved...	...with regret...
Declaring...	Guided by...	...with satisfaction...
Deeply disturbed...	Having...	Observing...
Desiring...	...adopted...	Reaffirming...
Determined...	...approved...	Realizing...
Emphasizing...	...considered...	Recalling...
Encouraged...	...examined further...	Recognizing...
Endorsing...	...received...	Referring...
Expressing...	...reviewed...	Regretting...
...appreciation...	Keeping in mind...	Reiterating...
...deep appreciation...	Mindful...	Seeking...
Expecting...	Noting...	Stressing...
Fulfilling...	...further	Welcoming...
Fully...	...with approval...	

### Operative Clauses:

Operative clauses are describing the actions that need to be taken in order to solve the problem, to tackle the issue. 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 logical progression, and each clause should contain a single idea or policy proposal. Keep in mind that 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.

Operative Phrases are, like the preambulatory phrases, underlined.

Some operative phrases are:

Accepts...	Encourages...	...with appreciation...
Adopts...	Endorses...	...with approval...
Affirms...	Expressing...	...with interest...
Appeals...	...its appreciation...	...with satisfaction...
Appreciates...	...its conviction...	Reaffirms...
Approves...	...its regret...	...its belief...
Authorizes...	...its sympathy...	Recognizes...
Calls upon...	...its thanks...	Recommends...
Commends...	...the belief...	Regrets...
Concurs...	...the hope...	Reiterates...
Condemns...	Further...	Renews its appeal...
Confirms...	...concurs...	Repeats...
Congratulates...	...invites...	Suggests...
Considers...	...proclaims...	Strongly...
Decides...	...reminds...	Supports...
...accordingly...	...recommends...	Takes note of...
Declares...	...requests...	Transmits...
Deplores...	...resolves...	Urges...
Designates...	Instructs...	Welcomes...
Directs...	Invites...	
Emphasizes...	Notes...	

### **Amendments:**

After draft resolutions have been submitted to the committee for discussion changes known as amendments might be made and suggested by fellow delegates. Although the guidelines for these amendments might be less strict the style, wording and intent of the amendment should complement the draft resolution. Essentially, amendments represent new viewpoints or suggestions on the topic under discussion.

There are several types of amendments as outline in the Rules of Procedure as well:

- Editorial amendments: do not alter the meaning intent, effect, or overall substance of a resolution and are solely introduced for purpose of clarification.
- Friendly amendments: do not fundamentally change the intent of the resolution.
- Unfriendly amendments: are not supported by the sponsors of the resolution.