

6. Resolution Writing

The objective of a Model UN session is for most committees and most countries to write and pass a resolution of their liking. Until the product of your work in your committee becomes a resolution, however, it has to pass several stages.

What you first put down to paper is a so-called “working paper”. While at the beginning you should concentrate on simply getting your thoughts organized and in written form, it cannot hurt to bear in mind the formal requirements.

A resolution is divided into two parts, the preambulatory clauses and the operative clauses. The preambulatory clauses are used to reference other UN resolutions, important treaties or documents or to give a general “atmosphere” to the resolution. The operative clauses contain what you want the International Community - or whoever the resolution is addressed to - to do. To put it metaphorically, the perambulatory clauses are your resolution’s “past”, its background, while the operative clauses are the “future”, your recommendations and ideas. You may start a perambulatory or an operative clause only with phrases from the chart below.

(Note: Several of these clauses such as “authorizes” may only be used in a resolution by the Security Council, since only resolutions passed by the SC are truly binding.)

If you want your working paper to become a draft resolution that the committee can vote upon, you will have to meet several requirements:

- **Sponsors and signatories:** Sponsors are usually those delegations who work on a working paper instead of only supporting it (signatories). For tactical reasons, however, a delegation may decide not to be listed as a sponsor even if they factually are. On the other hand, a delegation that is factually only a signatory may be listed as a sponsor to increase the paper’s chances and legitimacy. Depending on the size of the committee, a working paper needs a certain minimum amount of sponsors and signatories to be accepted by the chair. At least one of them must be a sponsor.
- **Formal requirements:** All working papers should be written in Times New Roman, 12 points. Your working paper should look like the example below once you hand it in – formally at least. Usually, working papers are quite a bit longer than this one, though.
- **The chair’s approval:** If the chair accepts your working paper – and he/she will only do that once you meet the required number of sponsors/signatories and your paper has a certain length and an appropriate formal look – he/she will then proceed to check your paper for formal mistakes and errors in content. Remember that the chair can only check a paper during informal caucus! Don’t expect the chair to accept the first version you bring to the dais – once you get back the corrected version, start improving what the chair criticized. It is up to the chair alone if or when a working paper is accepted as a draft resolution, so try to accommodate the chair’s wishes.

Once you have the chair’s approval, he/she will then proceed to hand out your draft resolution labelled as such. Congratulations! The labelling of draft resolutions follows a system where first, the committee’s name is stated, second, the topic number and third the number of the draft resolution. The first draft resolution in the Second Committee of the GA would thus be labelled: GA2/2/2.

There are several things you should keep in mind though: As soon as your working paper becomes a draft resolution, the only way to change it will be during voting procedure by way of a friendly/unfriendly amendment. It is way easier to adapt a working paper than a draft resolution, so make sure you really want to hand your paper in just yet.

Preambulatory Clauses

Acknowledging...	Emphasizing ...	Having...
Affirming...	Encouraged...	...reviewed...
Alarmed by...	Endorsing...	...studied
Anxious...	Expressing...	Keeping in mind...
Approving...	...its appreciation...	Mindful of...
Aware ofits deep appreciation...	Noting...
Bearing in mind...	... its satisfaction...	...further...
Being convinced...	Expecting...	...with approval...
Believing...	Fulfilling...	...with concern...
Cognizant...	Fully...	...with deep concern...
Concerned...	...aware...	...with grave concern...
Confident...	...believing...	...with regret...
Conscious...	...bearing in mind...	...with satisfaction...
Considering...	Further deploring...	Observing...
Contemplating...	Further recalling...	Reaffirming...
Convinced...	Grieved by ...	Realizing...
Declaring...	Guided by...	Recalling...
Deeply	Having...	Recognizing...
...concerned...	...adopted...	Referring...
... conscious	...approved...	Regretting...
...convinced...	...considered...	Reiterating...
...disturbed...	...considered further...	Seeking...
...regretting...	...devoted attention...	Stressing...
Deploring...	...examined...	Taking into account...
Desiring...	...heard...	Taking into consideration...
Determining...	...received...	Taking note...
		Viewing with appreciation...
		Welcoming...

Operative Clauses

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

Formal Notes on Resolutions:

State the name of your committee in italics, separate with a comma	Committee: General Assembly Second Committee Topic: Economic and Trade Policies to Address Food Price Volatility Sponsors: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar, Colombia, Guinea, Burundi Signatories: Australia, New Zealand, France
Always start new clauses with a capital letter	1 <i>The General Assembly Second Committee,</i> 2 3
Use italics for the initiating phrases	4 <i>Acknowledging</i> the necessity to tackle food price volatility in order 5 to combat hunger in the world and improve the life conditions of 6 millions of people affected,
Use commas to separate preambulatory clauses	7 <i>Deeply conscious</i> of the role of the United Nations agencies and 8 programmes to achieve viable solutions for the matter at hand, 9
Number the lines	10 <i>Recalling</i> General Assembly Resolutions Second United Nations 11 Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (A/RES/63/230) and Role of 12 Microcredit and Microfinance in the Eradication of Poverty 13 (A/RES/63/229), 14
Indent and number operative clauses, put in italics	15 1. <i>Strongly urges</i> all Member States to increase their 16 contributions to the World Food Programme (WFP) 17 according to the size of their economy in order to 18 compensate for rising food prices and provide short-term 19 response to the food crisis; 20
Use semicolons to separate operative clauses	21 2. <i>Endorses</i> the creation and improvement of regional trade 22 agreements based on comparative advantages, such as the 23 Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) by: 24 25 a. Providing educational services to empower sustainable 26 farming techniques and training concerning the effective use 27 of green technology through the collaboration of specialized 28 agencies, programmes, and funds in order to share expertise 29 and knowledge with the receiving countries in each region; 30 31 3. <i>Urges</i> all Member States to reconsider the use of biofuels 32 made from staple food crops including wheat, cereal, corn, 33 soy and substitute them with alternative mechanisms, such 34 as fuels made from agricultural wastes and those made from 35 non-staple plants, including but not limited to cellulose, as 36 well as the use of jatropha plants that can be grown in sub- 37 Saharan Africa and algae plants with the purpose of 38 avoiding competition between food supply and energy 39 production; 40
Use a period to end the resolution	41 4. <i>Requests</i> the Secretary-General to submit to the General 42 Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the progress 43 of the implementation of the present resolution.