

RESOLUTION GUIDE



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A Bite-Sized Guide to Writing Resolutions

Writing a comprehensive resolution as a solution to the problem presented in your topic area is the goal of your committee. By passing this document and ending all substantive debate, you and your colleagues are not only reaffirming your solidarity and commitment to honouring this mutual pact, but also are demonstrating that you have reached an equitable and viable solution.

The resolution reflects everything that has thus far been discussed: compromise, your national policy, and new developments occurring during the session. It is not meant to be something prepared beforehand, nor a word-for-word account of your position paper; rather, it is meant to be a result of debate and negotiation with your allies, fellow bloc nations, and other countries sharing your viewpoints.

This being said, for you to support a resolution, you must be sure that it falls within your national policy. You cannot simply sign on to every piece of paper that passes your way. Often, to ensure that one's interests are being met, delegates will often start their own resolutions. So long as you have the input of other countries (that will support the document during committee sessions), this is a fantastic idea. Be sure, however, that there aren't already ten resolutions already on the floor; joining a group already espousing ideas you agree with would be far more productive than simply starting from scratch and repeating many of their ideas.

Working Papers

Before the resolution stage, comes the Working paper stage. A working paper can be described as a "baby resolution", as it lacks great deals of complexity and detail that are often found in the latter paper.

Essentially, the working paper serves the function of codifying various major ideas buzzing around the room, and organizing them into a clear statement. While they do not have the importance of a resolution, working papers are still an integral part of the MUN experience. By identifying yourself with a particular viewpoint or stance, you can attract other delegations to your side. Other groups are able to have easy access to your bloc stance (working papers are usually digitally projected to the entire committee), and as a result of this, they will know exactly how much they can compromise, and can find their relative compatibility with your position. By having a

hard copy of your stance throughout the session, they can make reference to their concerns during moderated caucuses or speaking times. By compromising and receiving constructive feedback, you can add or change clauses so that your resolution (the next logical step) will be met with greater support and popularity.

Writing a working paper is fairly simple. The rules of format are not as strict or comprehensive as those regulating resolutions. While working papers can be written in resolution format (discussed later), there are no rules about format — they can be written in bullet-point form, paragraphs, etc. It's the content, not the organization, that's the biggest concern. Finally, you should know that working papers are informal documents: they are not introduced in the same fashion as a resolution.

The Resolution In Brief

Once some working papers have been put on the floor and several ideas have been debated and discussed both in unmoderated and moderated caucuses, it is a good idea to get together with other delegates with similar views and begin writing a draft resolution. As noted before, a resolution is a formal and comprehensive course of action to react to the problems presented by the topic area.

Once it has been written, a draft resolution must be submitted to the Director, who will read over the paper, possibly make edits to it (or ask you to revise specific parts), and authorizes the distribution of the paper to your committee. Before submission, you must collect the signatures of several delegates (this varies depending on the size of your committee) who wish for the resolution to be introduced to the committee as a whole. These delegates prove to the Director that there is enough support for the document to justify bringing it before all the delegates during the session.

Often, these signatories will form the backbone of the resolution's support group but this is not always the case. A delegate who signs a resolution may simply be voicing his or her interest in debating the resolution

Writing the Resolution

At the very top of any resolution should be the committee you are in, sponsor countries (delegates who have written considerable portions of the draft resolution), and signatories (delegates who want to hear the resolution discussed).

The first part of the resolution are the preambulatory clauses: adverbial and adjectival phrases used to describe the committee's intent, motivation, and frame of mind when writing the resolution. As shown by sentence A of the Sample Resolution, preambulatory are meant to be concise and effective. All preambulatory clauses begin with capital letters and have the first word (the adverbial or adjectival modifier) underlined (A1). When writing a resolution for the first time, you may find yourself at a loss for "first words"; to help you out, some of the more common modifiers have been listed below. Be sure to vary these throughout your write-up.

After the preambulatory clauses, come the operative clauses (B on Sample Resolution A): the main body of the resolution. The operative clauses contain the action of the resolution: literally, what is being proposed or suggested. As a general rule, the clauses are grouped by subject matter. In terms of format, each operative clause starts with a capitalized, present tense verb in the third-person singular, as with the preambulatory clauses, to demonstrate the intentions and goals of the committee. Remember this is where your content must go!

Be sure to put as much material as possible in your resolution: the more comprehensive and all encompassing it is, the less likely it will need to be amended or changed. Furthermore, by submitting a large resolution you are allowing for the more controversial factors to be discussed and edited out (by Division of the Question) without having a major impact on the resolution as a whole.

Be willing to compromise: the most successful resolutions are those that result from the combination of many different ones. Also, try to work in smaller rather than larger groups. We've all heard the saying too many cooks spoil the broth, and MUN is not different. If you are with a group of thirty people, nothing will be accomplished. Everyone will try to talk at the same time, and it will be impossible to control order. An hour after beginning, you'll find yourself with nothing accomplished and a massive headache. Work with a few people, then go individually to other countries and bounce ideas off them. This way, you can still work constructively and get input from other blocs.

Below are lists of preambulatory clauses, and operative openings that are commonly used. These are just a few samples that may come in handy during session:

Preambulatory Clause Opening Modifiers

Affirming
Aware of
Confident
Convinced
Deeply convinced
Expecting
Further deploring
Having considered
Noting further
Reaffirming

Alarmed by
Believing
Considering
Declaring
Desiring
Fulfilling
Further recalling
Having examined
Noting with regret
Recognizing

Approving
Bearing in mind
Contemplating
Deeply concerned
Emphasizing
Fully aware
Gravely concerned
Keeping in mind
Noting with zest
Welcoming

Operative Clause Opening Modifiers

Accepts
Approves
Calls upon
Congratulates
Declares accordingly
Designates
Further proclaims
Further recommends
Has resolved
Proclaims
Reminds
Solemnly declares

Affirms
Authorizes
Commends
Considers
Demands
Further endorses
Further reminds
Further resolves
Notes
Reaffirms
Renews
Strongly urges

Appeals
Calls
Condemns
Decides
Deplores
Further invites
Further reminds
Further requests
Offers
Recommends
Requests

Sample Resolution

n.b. The topic area of this resolution is free trade.

The Economic and Financial Committee:

Authors:

Signatories:

Reaffirming the importance of such organizations as the World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to ensure Global growth and prosperity to both developed and de- veloping nations (A),

Recognizing (A1) that certain Developing Nations are faced with the adverse effects of free trade, *Understanding* that feasible measures ensuring the benefits of trade liberalization will enable the economies of developing nations to prosper,

Fully believing that a Regional Trading Agreements (RTAs) provide stable networks of nations with common economic goals which serve as safety nets to any potential economic crisis,

Fully aware that a nation's sovereignty must not be infringed upon through any measure taken to increase global prosperity in the International community,

Bearing in mind that a definite goal of the ECOFIN Committee is to successfully integrate developing nations into a more equitable global economy,

Noting with zest that strong infrastructures are crucial to sustainable development.

1. *Strongly suggests* (B) reform in the IMF's policies pertaining to:
 - a. Strengthening the security with the IMF to prevent corruption,
 - b. Development of nations' economic profiles before the IMF enters the nation,
 - c. Increasing funding to underdeveloped nations,
 - d. Using tranches more than giving extensive loans or credits to nations;
2. *Urges* UNCTAD and the CSD to take more direct action in helping to construct infrastructures that will aid underdeveloped nations in getting on the road to economic stability and entrance into the international economy in such areas as:
 - a. Banking,
 - b. Exchange rates
 - c. Tariffs (protective or general),
 - d. Internal and external fiscal and monetary policy;

3. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme to continue to support development pro- grams with the primary objective of building basic societal infrastructure:
 - a. This shall be accomplished by expanding current programs based on political and legal recon- struction in a larger global scale,
 - b. Such aid by the United Nations Development Program will be dispensed at the discretion of concerned nations;
4. *Calls for* the transfer of relevant science and technology information between existing regional agree- ments and between individual nations in the effort to build infrastructure;
 - a. Regional trade agreements such as the Asian Free Trade Agreement (AFTA), which havelowered their tariffs by 85% on exchanges of technologies and other information, are representative of the goals of the WTO/TRIPS rules and guidelines;
5. *Further implores* that developing nations follow a multi-step plan to assist their transition into the global economy:
 - a. Increase the asset allocation to those economic sectors which they are most disposed to pro- moting i.e. those sectors which hold the greatest potential for specialization in order to gain a comparative advantage on the world stage through the concentration of foreign direct invest- ment (FDI), funding from the UNDP, WB, and IMF upon request from that nation and review by the aforementioned organizations,
 - b. Expand imports of goods into those nations only to the extent that it initiates enough com- petition for that native, domestic economic sector to see the need to continue the pursuit of improvement in its respective sector,
 - c. Satisfy domestic markets i.e. they can successfully compete through domestic competition, and a review will take place to decide whether or not the industries have grown while similar products compete on the regional and international scale with review conducted by UNC- TAD, ensuring this will be done,
 - d. Begin a large scale expansion of exports to raise GDP (through net exports), as well as the stabilization of the value of the domestic currency;
6. *Recognizes* that there are alternatives to protective tariffs and pushes for the creation of many perma- nent joint-committees by the respective national governments and United Nations agencies for the purposes of:
 - a. Encouraging foreign investment into nations emerging economically,
 - b. Preparing industries for competitive imports by granting general and targeted subsidies upon review of that specific domestic economic sector, to be administered and evaluated by the na- tional governments in tandem with advisors from UNCTAD,

- c. Reviewing whether a firm will experience competitive, profitable advantage under free trade so that firms will not depend upon government protection of imports,
 - d. Stimulating market innovations by assisting market research and locating strategic partners for competition;
- 7. *Realizes* the necessity of regional trade agreements as interlocutory arrangements (i.e. between the status quo and the free open market) for developing nations to reduce or drop tariffs while expanding their exports;
- 8. *Acknowledges* many of the benefits and associated detriments of amalgamating and expanding RTAs, hence, calls for a committee to be struck with the purpose of evaluating the viability and equity of growing RTAs:
 - a. This board would also be responsible for advising member nations as to the relative sustainability of new RTAs,
 - b. This committee would also be responsible for giving guidance (structure, format etc.) to prospective or new RTAs, and aiding in various other matters at the discretion of the RTAs member states;
- 9. *Strongly deplores* the use of dumping in developing nations and encourages anti-dumping agreements to be implemented between developed and developing nations;
- 10. *Encourages* the World Trade Organization to expand its mandate and support a commission for the purposes of arbitrating various grievances and disputes between nations regarding dumping legislation and issues deriving there from.
- 11. *Requests* that the World Trade Organization annually evaluate the continuing liberalization of the world markets, recognize the subsequent consequences, and set pragmatic goals based on continual observation to avoid a quixotic globalization agenda;
- 12. *Affirms* the need for a degree of transparency within countries seeking economic restructuring by organizations of the international community while recognizing the desire to protect sovereignty, hence proposes that:
 - a. Those countries wishing for assistance from the WTO, UNCTAD, UNDP etc. accept a commission with the purposes of charting economic progress and identifying notable problems so that the concerns of LDCs can be better articulated,
 - b. This commission will consist of independent observers, as well as WTO and domestic authorities to allow the most objective assessment to be formulated.