

# Resolution Format Guide

Resolutions are fundamental declarations of the United Nations different organisms. These and the amendments constitute the base of every debate or consult among countries. Resolutions or amendments may be introduced to the committee by one or more Delegate. Once approved, they reflect the politics of the committee or any other organism of the United Nations. In general, resolutions represent the policies and thoughts of several countries in the committee. They may include declarations, treaties or conventions. They can be expressed in general form or be directed to another organism or specific country. They can condemn one country's actions toward another or, as in the case of the Security Council, demand military or economic sanctions.

An amendment may be considered an addition, change or suppression on resolutions. The final copy of the resolution should be discussed and written by blocs or groups. Presenting resolutions or amendments that acquire several opinions or postures helps Delegates give better direction on the committee's affairs and facilitates its approval. A broad consensus helps secure the approval on amendments or resolutions with no further conflict. We encourage you to write resolutions as realistic as possible. A well-written resolution must follow this format:

1. A heading, written in capital letters, centered at the top of the page, including the topic and the number of resolution. Example:

RESOLUTION A-1  
Elimination of the Embargo against Cuba

2. On the left margin and four lines below the heading you must write:

- a) **Topic:** deal by the resolution,
- b) **Committee:** which will consider it, and
- c) **Signatories,** which refer to the countries that made the resolution.

3. Preambulary and operative phases should be underlined.

The preamble explains the purpose of the resolution, and offers support to the operative clauses that follow. The preamble is begun with the organ (General Assembly) at the left margin and contains phrases describing the basis of the resolution. Preambulary clauses must be in italics. On the other hand, operative clauses state the action to be taken by the body. These clauses all begin with a verb, and are generally stronger words than those used in the preamble.

This section is the most important part of the resolution and it should outline the process leading to the solution of the problem stated. Operative clauses should be numbered and in italics.

Finally, a well-written resolution demonstrates:

- 1. **Familiarity with the problem:** relevant background information and previous United Nations actions.
- 2. **Recognition of issues:** arguments on the topic are specified early on.
- 3. **Conciseness:** every clause and phrase should have a purpose.
- 4. **Good form:** a bad resolution suffers from clumsy grammar and sloppy format.
- 5. **Good analysis:** after reading a resolution paper, the reader must notice a high-quality analysis of the problem, with the proper recognition of the issues and the actors implied in them, as well as accurate and realistic solutions. In a resolution, the author must notice relevant cause-effect relationships in the problem and the impact the International Community may have on the issue.