Resolutions

VMUNC VIII

What are resolutions?

- The document your bloc composes to propose solutions to the committee,
- Outlines what your actions and what they are projected to do
- Resolutions are all written in committee, with other delegates during unmoderated caucuses (pre-writing policy on our website)
- At the end of committee, each bloc presents its resolution, responds to questions or amendments, and then the committee votes on whether to pass it
- Passing a resolution does not guarantee an award
- Drafted during unmods in small groups (blocs) with other delegates whos character/country has aligned views in order to draft your resolution
- A resolution is not composed of bullet points
- Being in the largest bloc is not necessarily the best strategy, a smaller bloc with stronger ideas, better teamwork and leadership can certainly be more effective

Resolution Presentation

- When blocs are finished writing their resolutions or by chair decision, each will present theirs (usually 5-10 minutes long)
- Parts of a presentation: all sponsors can come to the front and read through the resolution, then another 2 delegates can do Q and A with the remaining time
- For and against speeches: delegates can express their support or criticism for a certain resolution

Sponsors:

- Main organizers and writers of the paper, generally the people/leaders of your bloc
- There are multiple sponsors, but the exact number may depend on the size of the committee and the chairs discretion
- Sponsors should understand the entire paper, not just one section
    - If they do not understand the whole paper, they shouldn't be a sponsor

Signatories:

- Signatories are delegates who want the resolution to be discussed or voted on
- Being a signatory does not always mean full support
- The number of signatories required is generally chairs discretion, however it is highly advised to have at least 20-30% of delegates in the committees be signatories to your resolution

Realistic UN Action

- No member state is obligated to carry out (or ratify) any resolution passed by the UN
- The UN is meant to be a legislative body that only recommends actions. Hence, the UN lacks an executive (or enforcing) branch because each member state is sovereign
- The UN only very rarely intervenes in conflicts
    - Interventions are always led by member states themselves
- A common criticism of the UN is that it doesn't actually accomplish anything
    - This is partially true, but to actually carry out these actions is not the founding purpose of the UN
    - The UN is an advising body that reflects the majority of the world's policy.
- You should take this into account when drafting your resolution...

Your solution should...

- Your solution should make sense for the country or character you represent
- Explain who is acting, what they are doing, where it applies, and how it will work
- Not assume the UN can directly control countries or override national sovereignty
- Not not just repeat something already mentioned in the background guide unless you are expanding, fixing, or updating it
- Consider where money, staffing, enforcement, or resources would come from

Building a Strong Resolution

- Preambulatory clauses explain the issue, past actions, and reasons the committee should care
- Your resolution should stay consistent with your country's policy and the authority of the committee
- Quality >>> quantity

- Operative clauses are the most important part because they explain the actual solutions
- Operative clauses should be detailed enough such that another delegate can understand how the plan would work
- Avoid writing many short, vague clauses. A few well-developed clauses are usually stronger than a long list of weak ideas

Resolution Breakdown

Committee: Disarmament and International Security
Sponsors: Commonwealth of Australia, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Kenya B, South Korea
Signatories: Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of India, Republic of Philippines, Italian Republic, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, State of Israel, Republic of Indonesia, Kingdom of Norway, Republic of Chile A, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of South Africa, Pakistan, Argentine Republic

Preambulatory Clauses

Desiring to uphold UN Sustainable Development Goal 16
Recognizing the sovereignty of UN member states
Affirming the Arms Trade Treaty
Affirming the Firearms Protocol
Bearing in mind with regret the lack of attention the United Nations has paid in the past to transborder regulations
Considering the relation between the legal and illegal weapons trade
Condemning the terrorist attack on the Moroccan embassy in Damascus, Syria
Noting with deep concern there is a lack of evidence concerning the suppliance of weapons to the Pit Vipers

Fines Initiatives Regulating Elicit Peddling Illegal Trade (FIREPIT)

Operative Clauses

I. *Requests* member states to report regularly on their arm sales and purchases, transfer approvals, and license details
    A. Invest in further development of pre-existing international database created for the Programme of Actions, allowing for more detailed collection of information and more security in intelligence legitimacy
    B. Regularly report on weapon inventories of member states
II. *Deplores* large corporations and banks found complicit in weapons trafficking
    A. Forcing them to pay reparations for violence and instability caused by illegal arms trade
III. *Calls upon* transferring countries to be held responsible if their decision to transfer weapons violates international law
IV. *Further recommends* the organization of information and education campaigns

Sponsors:

- Main contributors to resolution writing
- At least 3 for this committee
- Other committees MAY have a maximum limit on sponsors but there is no limit for this committee

Signatories:

- Delegates who contributed to the resolution OR would like to see it represented
- Doesn't necessarily mean they agree with the solutions presented

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Signatories: Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of India, Republic of Philippines, Italian Republic, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, State of Israel, Republic of Indonesia, Kingdom of Norway, Republic of Chile A, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of South Africa, Pakistan, Argentine Republic

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Preambulatory Clauses:

- Starts with preambulatory phrase (italicized) ending in -ing
- State issues that the resolution wants to resolve
- May highlight previous intl. actions

Resolution Acronym:

- Easy-to-remember abbreviation that reflects topics it covers
- Can be silly but not too silly

Operative Clauses:

- Statements that specify the solutions the resolution proposes to solve the issue
- Each clause starts with an italicized verb and has Sub-clauses to specify details further
- Should be the longest section

Preambulatory Clause Starting Words

Affirming

Alarmed by

Approving

Bearing in mind

Confident

Deeply concerned

Deeply conscious

Deeply regretting

Deploring

Expressing its satisfaction

Fully believing

Guided by

Having adopted

Having considered

Having studied

Noting with

Observing

Recalling

Recognizing

Taking into consideration

Welcoming

Operative Clause Starting Words

Approves

Authorizes

Calls upon

Condemns

Confirms

Designates

Emphasizes

Encourages

Endorses

Invites

Proclaims

Reaffirms

Recommends

Reminds

Requests

Supports

Transmits

Trusts

Urges

Resources

SFMUN Resolutions

Best Delegate: How to Write a Resolution

Best Delegate: Common Resolution-Writing Mistakes

United Nations: Drafting Resolutions (good tips)

Portions of VMUNC's delegate-training materials were adapted from educational resources published by San Francisco Model United Nations and Best Delegate. All materials have been modified to reflect VMUNC VIII procedures and policies.