How to Write a Resolution

Introduction

Before HABSMUN, you have the option to write a draft resolution on one of the topics. The issues of the resolutions can be found in the agenda of the conference at habsmun.com. The resolution is a document produced by delegates as a solution to an issue that is being debated; it is a formal statement of a proposal to a UN Council or Committee.

A resolution is made up of preambulatory and operative clauses.

The preambulatory clauses provide a background to the problem and are the introduction of the resolution. These are not debated. However, there are a variety of acknowledgements you need to make. You will need to write references to former UN resolutions, ratified conventions, and declarations. You may want to provide official figures and possibly congratulate countries and organisations which have worked on the issue. You might wish to explain any difficulties that have been encountered thus far on the issue.

The operative clauses are the basis for the debate. They set out what further action and measures need to be. These need to be researched and formed on the basis of viable solutions and the policy of the nation a delegate is representing. You must ensure that your proposals fully reflect the existing policies of the country that you represent. You may, for example, wish to encourage or invite countries to sign/ratify a convention. You may propose a new method of approaching an issue. You may support existing work or wish to supplement it. You may wish to implement new bodies or sub-bodies to specifically address the issue at hand.

Structure

As stated above, the resolution is split between preamble and operative clauses. At the beginning of each resolution the following must be stated:

COMMITTEE: You write down the name of your committee

QUESTION OF: You write the issue of the resolution

SUBMITTED BY: You write down the name of your country

The resolution is addressed to the General Assembly and each new clause begins with a verb, whilst each perambulatory clause begins with a present participle (see below). The following rules apply when writing a resolution:

* The opening verb of each clause is underlined.
* There is a line-space between each clause.
* Each operative clause is numbered.
* The sub-clauses begin with a), b), c), etc.; Acronyms are written out in full the first time they are used (bracketed).
* Each preambulatory clause is followed by a comma.
* Each operative clause is followed by a semicolon.
* There is only one full stop, that is, at the end of the resolution.
* Each line is numbered for easy reference

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### ***Preambulatory Clause Words***

| Acknowledging | Deeply disturbed | …considered | Observing | Reaffirming |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Affirming | Determined | …examined further | Realizing | Recalling |
| Alarmed | Emphasizing | …received | Recognizing | Regretting |
| Anxious | Encouraged | …reviewed | Reiterating | Seeking |
| Approving | Endorsing | Keeping in mind | Stressing | Welcoming |
| Aware | Expressing | Mindful | Noting | …further |
| Bearing in mind | Fully | …with approval | …with concern | …with deep concern |
| Being convinced | …aware | …with grave concern | …with regret | …with satisfaction |
| Believing | …believing | …adopted | Guided by | Having |
| Concerned | …bearing in mind | …approved | Considering | Convinced |

### ***Operative Clause Words***

| Accepts | Confirms | Expresses | Requests | Suggests |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Adopts | Congratulates | Instructs | Supports | Takes note of |
| Affirms | Considers | Invites | Transmits | Urges |
| Appeals | Declares | Proclaims | Welcomes | Appreciates |
| Approves | Deplores | Reaffirms | …its belief | Recognizes |
| Authorises | Designates | Directs | Recommends | Regrets |
| Calls upon | Emphasizes | Encourages | Endorses | Repeats |
| Calls for | Concurs |  |  |  |