

CHAPTER VI.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS & STATEMENTS

Resolutions are the primary tools for action at the United Nations. Debate at the UN focuses on solving, at least in part, the many problems facing the world community. After months of debate and behind-the-scenes discussion on a topic, the Member States will come to an agreement on how their countries should proceed on the issue. This agreement is then codified in the form of a “draft resolution.” The text of a draft resolution is usually worked out well in advance of being brought to the floor, with many nations making suggestions and many changes occurring behind the scenes. When a draft resolution is brought to the floor, it may also be formally discussed, amended, rejected or adopted as circumstances dictate. Note that it is very rare for a UN resolution to be rejected: most Member States prefer to only bring a draft resolution to the floor if they are sure that it will be adopted, and it is not uncommon to wait until they are sure that all members present will agree to the resolution and adopt it by consensus.

Resolutions usually state a policy that the UN will undertake, but they also may be in the form of reports, treaties, conventions and declarations in some bodies. They range from very general to very specific in content. Depending on the body involved, they may call for or suggest a course of action, condemn an action, and require action or sanctions on the part of the member states. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council may only call for or suggest actions. It should be noted that no body other than the Security Council may require action or sanctions from member states. In some cases, final conventions and treaties may also require action, but this would only be on the part of the ratifying nations.

Amendments to draft resolutions are the means by which resolutions may be altered by the body involved. Amendments can create additions, deletions or changes to a draft resolution in order to increase its acceptability to all nations involved. Amendments are usually needed for a body to move toward a consensus on a draft resolution. When all sponsors of a draft resolution agree to an amendment, the change is automatically made (without a formal debate or vote); this type of change is called a “friendly amendment.”

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

In the AMUN General Assembly Committees and Economic & Social Council, all resolutions accepted from delegations prior to the Conference and included in the initial packet distributed to schools will be considered “draft resolutions.”

Draft resolutions are not eligible for formal consideration on the floor of GA Committees until they receive the support and sponsorship of at least twenty-five percent of the total delegations registered for the conference, as announced at the first session of each Committee; draft resolutions in ECOSOC require support and sponsorship of at least twenty-five percent of total delegations registered for the Council. Additional sponsors to a resolution can be added at any time -- before the Conference begins, in the initial caucusing session, or at a later point in the Conference. Once a resolution is under formal consideration by a body, additional sponsors may only be added with the consent of the resolution’s original sponsors.

To facilitate the process of discussing, combining and changing resolutions to determine which one should be brought to the floor for discussion, a motion for a 30 minute (or more) suspension of the meeting will be entertained at the beginning of the first General Assembly and ECOSOC sessions. It is recommended that Representatives use this time to caucus on the resolutions before the body in an attempt to reach consensus on which resolution(s) should be addressed. This session will be Representatives’ first opportunity to formally enter the UN political process of working with others in an attempt to build consensus.

The process of utilizing “draft resolutions” and requiring more than one sponsoring delegation is intended to replicate the United Nations practice of gaining support for resolutions before they are discussed in Committee or Council. Further, it should push delegations away from looking at a proposal as “*my resolution*” and toward working with others to find a solution and to gain a consensus opinion on the topic being discussed.

To this end, **Representatives will need to work together and most likely combine clauses from a number of draft resolutions or subsequent proposals** made by other Member States at the conference. Representatives are strongly encouraged to undertake this process before a resolution comes to the floor. As in the real UN, building support for one resolution that encompasses the entire topic will be a much better use of the Representatives’ time than trying to work on multiple resolutions, many of which will overlap. **Thus AMUN suggests that Representatives not contend over which resolution will come to the floor, but rather caucus and compromise to determine how best to combine resolutions into a coherent, whole product that all nations can accept, either through friendly amendments or through the drafting of a new “omnibus” resolution.**



After a draft resolution receives the requisite twenty-five percent sponsorship, it must be brought to the dais for approval. Once an approved resolution is made available in sufficient quantity for all delegations, the Chair will then announce the resolution as available for discussion on the floor.

Draft resolutions which are created at or brought to the Conference by delegations must have the requisite twenty-five percent sponsors before they will be considered by the dais or processed in Delegate Services. Security Council draft resolutions never require more than one sponsor to be brought to the floor. Resolutions submitted in advance and provided in the opening packet will be considered “draft resolutions” until they are moved to the floor.

POINTS TO CONSIDER IN WRITING DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

The following list includes important points to consider when writing a draft resolution, either in advance or for submission at the Conference. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but should provide a good starting point to make your draft resolutions as realistic as possible. Points to consider include:

- In the preambular clauses, describe the recent history of the situation and the issue as it currently exists;
- Reference past United Nations actions and previous resolutions passed on the topic, when available;
- In the operative clauses, include actions which will solve the problem, not just make a statement;
- Do not be blatantly political in the content of the draft resolution -- this may damage efforts to reach a consensus on the issue;
- Take into account the points of view of other nations whenever possible;
- Write the draft resolution from your country’s side of the “international” or “United Nations” perspective, not just from your country’s individual point of view;
- Refer issues which need further discussion to appropriate, existing bodies;
- Do not create new committees/commissions/working groups/etc. without considering funding for these groups, or if other, similar bodies already exist;
- Always consider previous UN resolutions on the topic -- do not duplicate what other resolutions have done without referencing the appropriate sources.

SUBMISSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

AMUN will accept draft resolutions from delegations both before and at the Conference. **AMUN will post all appropriate pre-conference submissions of draft resolutions on our web site (www.amun.org) at least one week before the Conference.** Resolution packets will also be distributed at Conference registration.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to the significance of a delegation’s providing public policy information to fellow delegations, AMUN will only accept pre-conference draft resolutions from delegations which have previously or concurrently provided position papers for all committee/council simulations on which they are seated (*see Chapter V - Position Papers*). Pre-conference draft resolutions will not be accepted for any delegation which does not submit these position papers. Note that this in no way affects a delegation’s ability to bring draft resolutions with them to the Conference, or to draft resolutions while in session.

Also, AMUN reserves the right to reject any draft resolutions which are not in proper format, or which do not relate to one of the topics as stated in the *Issues at AMUN Handbook*. However, AMUN will endeavor to accept and pre-publish *all other draft resolutions* which are received before the deadline from delegations whose position papers have been received.

This means that Representatives should be especially careful in preparing their draft resolutions. A poorly written draft resolution will *not* be automatically rejected, and may be available for the study and critique of all delegations BEFORE the Conference begins. Thus, the quality of draft resolutions submitted in advance can directly impact the respect your delegation receives when it participates in the Conference. **A well written draft resolution, accurately asserting your country’s viewpoint and allowing for the viewpoints of others, can be a very positive advance statement about your delegation.**

Note that AMUN will only accept a strict limit of one pre-conference draft resolution, per country, per topic of discussion in each Committee/Council.



Representatives wishing to submit draft resolutions in advance of the Conference must e-mail resolutions in appropriate format to **resolution@amun.org** no later than **25 October 2003**. A “draft resolution template” is provided for download from AMUN’s web site; all pre-conference draft resolutions should be submitted using this template to allow for efficiency of posting draft resolutions on the AMUN web site.

Draft resolutions received after this deadline will not be accepted. AMUN will endeavor to post all accepted draft resolutions in a timely fashion. Late-submitted draft resolutions may also be brought to the Conference for submission from the floor per the appropriate Committee/Council rules.

Please e-mail us at mail@amun.org or call (773) 777-AMUN if you have any questions on the submission of draft resolutions. If your school cannot submit resolutions by e-mail, please call to make other arrangements.

Any resolutions not accepted will be held in Delegate Services for review by the submitting delegation.

DRAFT RESOLUTION GUIDELINES

Each draft resolution should be written as a single sentence, with commas and semicolons separating the various parts (see “Sample Resolution” for specifics). In drafting the “heading” of resolutions, Representatives should state their country name, the name of the Committee/Council to which it will be presented, and the topic of the draft resolution at the top of the document. **Please note that draft resolutions must use the names of the Committee/Council and topic exactly as stated in the Issues at AMUN Handbook. Draft resolutions which do not utilize these names will not be processed.**

Following the “heading” section, draft resolutions are split into *preambular* and *operative* (sometimes called “activating”) clauses. Preambular clauses are listed first, and they are used to justify action, denote past authorizations and precedents for action, and/or denote the purpose for an action. Operative clauses are the statement of policy in a resolution. They are numbered, begin with a verb to denote an action (or suggested action), and each clause usually addresses no more than one specific aspect of the action to be taken.

RULES FOR SUBMISSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Draft resolutions must be submitted using the following format. Any draft resolutions received in any other format will not be accepted. **Draft resolutions included in the opening packet must be submitted electronically and must follow the sample format given.** All Committee/Council titles and topics must follow the exact wordings given in the *Issues at AMUN Handbook*. Draft resolutions must follow the margin, numbering and other procedural guidelines given below.

When processing draft resolutions, please **DO NOT** use italics, bold or underlined print to highlight words. Italic text should only be used as shown in the “Sample Draft Resolution” on page 26.

Draft resolutions must be submitted by e-mail. These may be in any PC compatible format, but AMUN prefers resolutions submitted in either WordPerfect (any version) or DOS/ASCII text format. If you use a Macintosh to produce your draft resolutions, please convert files to Rich Text Format (*.rtf) for ease of conversion. When sending by e-mail, please include only one draft resolution per attached file. Alternately, you may included one zipped file of all draft resolutions (keeping each resolution in a separate file). If for some reason your delegation is incapable of submitting draft resolutions via Internet, please contact the AMUN Executive Office to work out other arrangements.

If Representatives plan to submit draft resolutions from the floor, they may expedite the process by bringing enough copies for all delegations present. At this time, Representatives should plan to bring 130 copies for the GA Plenary and Committees, 60 copies for ECOSOC, and 20 copies for the Security Council and Historical Security Council. Any draft resolutions submitted from the floor must follow the appropriate Committee/Council rules for submission, and must be in Conference approved format.

DRAFT RESOLUTION FORMAT

The following format *must* be used for all draft resolutions submitted to the AMUN Conference. Draft resolutions not submitted in this format will not be accepted. The standard format is as follows:

- Single spaced throughout, with double spacing between clauses,
- Clauses must begin with proper introductory words/phrases, in italics,
- Preambular clauses end with commas and operative clauses end with semi-colons,
- Each operative clause must be numbered and indented,
- The final operative clause ends with a period,
- Please do not number lines in the margin of the resolution.



RESOLUTION INTRODUCTORY PHRASES

The following phrases/words are a partial list of the appropriate introductions in resolutions:

PREAMBULAR PHRASES (*single verb in present participle or other introductory phrase*)

Affirming	Deeply concerned	Fully alarmed	Having received	Recalling
Alarmed by	Deeply convinced	Fully believing	Keeping in mind	Recognizing
Approving	Deeply disturbed	Further deploring	Noting with regret	Seeking
Aware of	Deeply regretting	Guided by	Noting with satisfaction	Taking into consideration
Believing	Desiring	Having adopted	Noting with deep concern	Viewing with appreciation
Bearing in mind	Emphasizing	Having considered	Noting with approval	Welcoming
Confident	Expecting	Having examined	Observing	
Convinced	Fulfilling	Having studied	Realizing	
Declaring	Fully aware	Having heard	Reaffirming	

OPERATIVE PHRASES (*verb in third person present indicative tense*)

Accepts	Confirms	Endorses	Further requests	Requests
Affirms	Considers	Expresses its appreciation	Has resolved	Solemnly affirms
Approves	Declares accordingly	Expresses its hope	Notes	Strongly condemns
Authorizes	Deplores	Further invites	Proclaims	Supports
Calls	Draws the attention	Further proclaims	Reaffirms	Takes note of
Calls upon	Designates	Further reminds	Recommends	Transmits
Condemns	Emphasizes	Further recommends	Reminds	Urges
Congratulates	Encourages	Further resolves	Regrets	Welcomes

LENDING EMPHASIS TO RESOLUTION PHRASING

Diplomatic communication relies heavily on connotation and nuance, and UN resolutions and decisions are no exception to this rule. When resolutions are constructed, they often contain language which, although apparently innocuous, conveys the precise attitudes and intentions of their authors. At AMUN, Representatives are urged to select words carefully when drafting resolutions. The introductory phrases listed above also carry significant emotional and diplomatic meaning. Accurate use of these introductory terms is of paramount importance at the UN, and should also be emphasized in the AMUN simulations.

A more useful method for listing introductory phrases, rather than the alphabetical listing above, might be in order of the phrases' emotional weight, described by UN practitioners as "crescendos." Each crescendo below begins with a neutral phrase at the top (conveying little emotion), and concludes with a strongly worded phrase (conveying strongly positive or negative emotion). Some of these opening phrases also have common uses in the language of UN resolutions; when applicable, this information has been included parenthetically with each phrase. Some phrases, which express strong insistence or negative emotion, are typically only used in Security Council resolutions, and even then are selected with great care - these are noted where appropriate.

SAMPLE PREAMBULAR PHRASE CRESCENDOS (*lists start with neutral/weakest and end with strongest phrases*)

Noting (by being neutral, this term actually can connote negativity; for example, a resolution "noting the report of the Secretary-General" actually insults the S-G's work by not being more approving)

Noting with appreciation (this is a typical way to recognize a report or other document)

Noting with satisfaction

Noting with deep satisfaction

Noting

Noting with regret

Noting with deep regret

SAMPLE OPERATIVE PHRASE CRESCENDOS

Notes (see comments on "noting" above)

Notes with appreciation

Notes with satisfaction

Welcomes

Recommends (used when organs suggest that other organs take an action)

Invites (suggest that Member States take an action)

Requests (suggest that the Secretary-General take an action)

Appeals (suggest that Member States take an action - more emotional)

Calls upon (suggest that Member States take an action - more emotional)

Urges (strongest suggestion by the General Assembly)

Demands (rarely used by the General Assembly)

Notes with concern

Expresses its concern

Expresses its deep concern

Deplores

Strongly deplores

Condemns (rarely used by the General Assembly)

(*These terms are often misunderstood*)

Declares (used to make a statement)

Decides (used to indicate an action to be taken)

