



## American Model United Nations Conference Preparation Newsletter

26 October 2018

### Talkin' Bout Those Resolutions

#### *Understanding the AMUN Resolution Process and Tips for Success*

Greetings from the AMUN Secretariat. This newsletter is all about AMUN's resolution process. From drafting tips to the style guide, the information your students need to help make meaningful and effective resolutions is covered here.

### AMUN's Resolution Process

The resolution is the United Nations' principle mechanism for action and many are the product of months of work between governments and the UN bureaucracy. At the United Nations, most resolutions are adopted by consensus, something that is a testament to the long hours of difficult diplomacy that it takes to draft even one resolution. At AMUN, however, you only have days to accomplish what it takes seasoned ambassadors months or years to accomplish.

On paper, the process for drafting a resolution is simple, in practice, it can be more challenging. How resolutions fit into the work of the body depends on the type of simulation. For more information about how diplomacy and resolution writing works in the Security Council, check out this AMUN Accords [post on the topic](#).

In bodies that use GA/ECOSOC rules, after the body has an idea about how to address the issue, they will often work to produce a draft resolution. Working together, a group of representatives will draft the framework for their resolution. We suggest that, even at the earliest stages, this be a deeply collaborative effort. Once a basic framework is proposed, it's time to gather support. 35 percent of the body must sponsor the draft document before it can be submitted to the Rapporteurs. If this seems like a challenge, it's meant to be, requiring 35 percent support of the body mimics the consensus building nature of the United Nations and this process should lead to few, if any, resolutions being brought to the floor that stand little chance of passing.

Once support of 35 percent of the body has been achieved, Representatives may then turn in the draft resolution to the simulation's Rapporteurs. Rapporteurs edit the document to ensure the draft resolution meets the following standards:

- Conforms to AMUN's Style Guide and resolution checklist
- Is clear and easy to understand
- Uses correct grammar in Standard Written English and does not contain slang
- Falls within the purview of the simulation
- Follows AMUN guidelines about the realism of simulations and is not a joke resolution
- Maintains the highest standards of professionalism and diplomatic courtesy

Rapporteurs will return the resolution to its authors for revision. Our goal is to accomplish this back-and-forth editing process in no more than two rounds. Once it is approved by the rapporteurs, they give it a number in the Document Processing System and request that it be copied and distributed to the body. Once printed copies of the document are available, you are able to bring your draft resolution to the floor for debate. Once it is on the floor, the body can discuss, amend and vote on the resolution.

Authors and sponsors will need to work collaboratively to achieve success. They'll need to build a broad and diverse group to support the draft resolution, and they'll need to work with the authors of other resolutions to combine their efforts, and possibly their documents, to find success. For more information about the draft resolution process, please read [Introduction to United Nations Documents](#) chapter in the [Rules and Procedures](#) Handbook.

## Tips for Drafting a Successful Resolution

The following are a few tips on drafting a successful Resolution:

- Use Preambular clauses to set the scene. How did we get to where we are now? The history of the topic under debate, the countries involved, and the United Nations are all topics that should be addressed in the preambular clauses.
- Build on existing UN resolutions and reports. When possible reference specific past UN action on the issue, or related issues. Make sure you reference the UN document number or report title.
- Avoid vitriolic or political words and phrases. In topics involving general or broad regions or concepts, avoid pointing out the bad actions of specific Member States. Building consensus is impossible if an individual or a group feels singled out or attacked.
- Think about the big picture! It's not your country and what you want. It's what's best for a region or for all countries.
- Don't Be Afraid to Combine! The collaborative nature of resolution-writing means that sometimes your best chance of success will be finding other, similar proposals and combining your efforts and you resolutions.
- Ask Questions! The Rapporteurs and AMUN's Home Government are here to answer process and content questions to help you on your way to passing your resolution.

To read more about how to work with other Member States to combine resolutions, read [How to Combine Resolutions](#). in the *AMUN Accords*. Also on the *AMUN Accords*, be sure to read [Previewing Purview: Stay in Your Lane](#) for more information about the role of purview in your simulations.

## AMUN's Style Guide

The editing process is an extremely important part of the process. One thing you and your students can do is to be familiar with AMUN's Style Guide with respect to drafting resolutions. Following this simple and short list of style and grammatical rules will allow our Conference Rapporteurs to assist delegates to produce resolutions that look and read as close to the professional standards of the United Nations as possible. [You can find our style guide online.](#)

## Questions, Comments or Concerns?

If you have any questions about this email, please contact us directly at [mail@amun.org](mailto:mail@amun.org), and we will be happy to help. As always, if you are no longer the primary contact for your school's Model UN club or class, please contact us at [mail@amun.org](mailto:mail@amun.org) with updated contact information or fill out our [Change of Address/Contact](#) form online.

Good luck on your preparations,

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2018 Secretary-General

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