



AMUN Digital Conference Experience Preparation Newsletter

08 October 2020

Resolution Drafting and Processing

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' principal mechanism for action and many are the product of months of work between governments and the United Nations 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; however, 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. Even at the earliest stages, we suggest that 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 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 via their AMUN-provided email (more information to come on these emails). 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 American 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 disruptive resolution
- Maintains the highest standards of professionalism and diplomatic courtesy

Rapporteurs will then 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 publish a final version of the draft resolution to the body. Once the published version of the document is available, you can bring the 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 the [United Nations Documents](#) chapter in the [AMUN 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 specific past United Nations actions and previous resolutions are all topics that should be addressed in the preambular clauses.
- Build on existing United Nations resolutions and reports. When possible reference specific past United Nations action on the issue, or related issues. Make sure you reference the United Nations 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 about your country and what you want. It’s about 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 your resolutions.

- Ask questions! The committee Rapporteurs and AMUN's Home Government department 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 to facilitate the process 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 help our Conference Rapporteurs 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](#).

AMUN Virtual Conference Important Dates

We have put together important dates and times for the 2020 Conference to assist you in your preparations. We will continue to update this calendar as we solidify dates and times.

Ongoing

- [Flipgrid](#) open to record Opening Speeches

1 October

- ICJ Memorials Due
- Last day to request a Model UN in a Box Simulation Guide

7 October

- Position Paper Submissions close

8 October

- All Payments due
- Credentials due

13 October

- AMA #3, 1 p.m. Central (intended for all AMUN participants) via Zoom

19 October

- Gatherly Platform opens for representative familiarization sessions with times TBD. During these sessions, representatives will have access to:
 - Practice simulations
 - Tech help
 - Finance/registration help
 - General questions

- Team huddles

22 October

- Opening Plenary and Keynote, 7:00 p.m. Central

23 October

- Graduate School and Career Expo, 2-5 p.m. Central
- FA/PR Feedback Meeting, 2:30 p.m. Central

24 October

- FA/PR Feedback Meeting, 3:15 p.m. Central

25 October

- FA/PR Feedback Meeting, 9:30 a.m. Central
- 2021 Country Lottery 10:30 a.m. Central

Questions, Comments or Concerns?

If you have any questions about this email, please contact us directly at 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 with updated contact information or fill out our [Change of Address/Contact](#) form online.

Good Luck on Your Preparations,

Joshua Adams
2020 Secretary-General

Shannon L. Dunn
AMUN Executive Director

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