

## How to Write a Resolution

### I. What is a Resolution?

The aim of each council/ committee is to write a resolution. A resolution reflects the opinion of the delegations which participated in the conference and consists of a variety of general remarks and concrete suggestions.

### II. What does a **Resolution** consist of?

Essentially, a resolution is one single, long and complex sentence. One should differentiate between two parts: the **Preambulatory Clauses and the Operative Clauses**. In any case, the subject of the sentence is the body which is proposing the resolution.

#### A. The **Preamble**

The first section, the preamble section, contains the spirit of a topic or issue under discussion and under which perspective possible solutions should be considered. Former resolutions, statistics, important **documents** concerning the topic and **justifications** or aims of the action to be taken are also included here. They do not include actions that are to be taken or new proposals. The preambulatory clauses always begin with present participles and are separated from each other by commas. They must start with one of the following gerunds:

Affirming	Fulfilling	Noting with concern
Alarmed by	Fully aware	Noting further
Approving	Fully alarmed	Noting with approval
Aware of	Fully believing	Observing
Bearing in mind	Further deploring	Realizing
Believing	Further recalling	Reaffirming
Concerned	Guided by	Recalling
Confident	Having adopted	Recognizing
Conscious	Having considered	Referring
Contemplating	Having considered further	Regretting
Convinced	Having devoted attention	Seeking
Declaring	Having examined	Taking into account
Desiring	Having studied	Taking into consideration
Disturbed	Having heard	Taking note
Emphasizing	Having received	Viewing with appreciation
Expecting	Keeping in mind	Welcoming
Expressing its appreciation	Noting with regret	
Expressing its satisfaction	Noting with satisfaction	

## B. The Operative Clauses

**Specific ideas and plans for action** resulting from the debates in the councils will be addressed in the second section of the resolution, the operative section. Operative clauses always start with a conjugated verb (3rd person singular of the Present Tense). The following action verbs may be used at the beginning of an operative clause:

Accepts	Draws attention	Notes
Affirms	Emphasizes	Proclaims*
Approves	Encourages	Reaffirms
Authorizes	Endorses	Recommends
Calls	Expresses its hope	Regrets
Calls upon	Further invites	Reminds
Condemns*	Further proclaims	Requests*
Confirms	Further recommends	Resolves
Considers	Further reminds	Solemnly affirms
Decides*	Further requests	Supports
Declares accordingly	Furthers resolves	Takes note of
Deplores	Have resolved	Urges*
Designates		

The Action verbs marked with a \* may only be used if your respective committee has the competence to bind the respective (third) party (this is, e.g., true for the Security Council, but not for the SOCHUM committee).

Your clauses should be logically arranged and formulated in a clear, detailed way avoiding any repetitions. Each clause should deal with only one aspect of the topic and is not supposed to be a collection of unrelated thoughts or statements on a broad topic. You may use subclauses to structure your proposals and to make them as specific as possible. Make sure that you have used correct English grammar, vocabulary and punctuation. The operative clauses are separated by semicolons. The last clause ends with a full stop.

Please take into account that only **operative clauses**, no preambulatory clauses, are subject to committee debates. Your **focus** during your preparations should lay on the former.

## III. Procedure

Resolutions start as **Working Papers** written by the delegates. Such papers are prepared by the delegates prior to the conference. Delegates at elbMUN are **strongly encouraged to prepare** a Working Paper with at least three clauses prior to the conference. The action plan that you prepared in your Position Paper can serve as a good starting point to write your Working Paper. It should be your goal as a delegate to have your working paper discussed as the committee's draft resolution, or to bring the most important points of your Working Paper into the final resolution. Delegates are encouraged to merge their working papers with other delegates' working papers during an unmoderated caucus and to bring in their clauses as amendments.

For a working paper to become a **draft resolution**, it needs a specific number of sponsors and signatories. Sponsors are usually the delegations that have been instrumental in writing the paper and have advocated for the ideas presented. Signatories are normally delegates who have not significantly contributed to the content of the solution, but are willing to discuss proposals therein. A sponsor is automatically a signatory. In cases of doubt, the chairpersons decide and announce how many sponsors and signatories are needed.

The draft resolution that has the required amount of sponsors and signatories will be the main focus of the debate in your committee sessions. So-called unfriendly **amendments**, which aim to strike out, change, or add a clause to the resolution, are crucial to this debate. If the council approves the draft resolution during voting procedure, the draft finally becomes a resolution. This resolution will be voted upon or presented in the General Assembly at the last day of elbMUN.

For further information on the number of sponsors, signatories and the debate procedure in general, please refer to the [Rules of Procedure](#). Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to pose them at the How-to-MUN Workshop which will be conducted prior to the Conference or ask your chairs and fellow delegates for advice. Do not hesitate to take a look at official UN Resolutions in order to get an idea of what style resolutions should be written in. The Secretariat wishes you all the best for your preparations and is looking forward to seeing your clauses at the Conference.