



THESSISMUN 2007

THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Guide for Research and Resolution Writing



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WWW.UOM.GR/MUN - WWW.THESSISMUN.ORG



General Research and advisory delegate information

As soon as you receive your country and committee assignment, you should begin your research. You may divide your research into four categories:

- 1. Research on the History of the UN, on the structure and functioning of its Committees and Councils, on the role the UN plays in International Politics**
- 2. Research on your assigned Committee's history and functional purpose**
- 3. Research on your assigned country's background, its political and economic system, political structure and current political affairs, its culture and values**
- 4. Research on your assigned country's policies with regard to the certain topic, on country's viewpoints in all relevant issues**

Bear in mind that many of your sources may be biased. If possible, try to find independent confirmation of the information you have obtained, from more than one source. Moreover, when gathering information it is important to distinguish between opinions and facts. Facts are used to support opinions. Whenever possible use facts to support your arguments. Eventually, you will be presenting an opinion and must defend it against other opinions, thus it is crucial for you to be familiar with different viewpoints and opinions on your topic. Become familiar with arguments that are different from the one your country is likely to take on your topic. Remember, it is up to you to decide which particular points you want to focus on in your own arguments and this decision needs to be guided by your country's position. Bear in mind that you should speak in the name of the country that you are representing. Study already adopted UN resolutions on your topic to find out what issues tend to be discussed when your topic is debated. Resolutions passed by the General Assembly, Security Council, and ECOSOC can be found at the **UN Documentation Centre**.

Here are some common internet resources to help you get started:

- United Nations Website, www.un.org
- United States Embassies and Consulates web site, usembassy.state.gov
- United States Institute for Peace, www.usip.org



- The Central Intelligence Agency website, contains reports on economic, political and social conditions of most of the countries in the world, www.cia.gov
- The European Union website europa.eu.int
- The International Crisis Group website www.icg.org
- The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs website www.france.diplomatie.fr
- The World Trade Organization website www.wto.org

Finally, if you have tried these different resources and still face difficulties finding information, send an email to the **ThessISMUN Board**.

Furthermore it is of critical importance to:

- **Review the ThessISMUN rules and procedures.** These rules are intended to create a level playing field allowing each delegate/country to accomplish their individual goals in speaking about their policies while maximizing opportunities for the group to reach agreement or even consensus on the issue
- **Remember it is not your opinion you are illustrating and defending, but the country's you are representing.** The Vice Chair of each respective Committee of the GA, the ECOSOC and the WTO, the Vice President of the Security Council and the Secretary General of the European Council, will be responsible under the Deputy Secretary General, for the adoption and the implementation of the Official Policy Guidelines, by the Country representatives in each Committee or Council. Delegates that diverge from their assigned country's official policy guidelines, will be advised towards the correction of their policy and provided with the appropriate material on this extend by the Deputy Secretary General.
- **Be aware of different political perspectives.**
- **Attain a good knowledge of your allies and your opposition.** In order to adequately represent your country during the model, you will need to interact with delegates from other countries. Knowing their positions on your topic will help you predict their arguments



during debate. This will be very useful in helping you decide in advance where it might be useful to seek cooperation or compromise.

- Congratulate the members of your delegation (and fellow delegates representing different countries and viewpoints) on their contributions to the committee sessions.

Resolution Writing and Submission

Resolutions are official documents that have been passed by the UN aiming to address a particular problem or issue. The UN resolutions are equivalent of a law. Resolutions are actions of the United Nations submitted in draft form under the sponsorship of one or more delegations working in a committee. Primarily, resolutions may just address an opinion to a given situation and recommended action to be taken by an UN Committee or UN Council. Only in the Security Council are resolutions binding members to a certain extent. In other UN Committees and Councils, resolutions are merely recommendations.

Draft resolutions are resolutions as they are drafted and passed in Committee Sessions that are taking place during the ThessISMUN Conference. As soon as a draft resolution is successfully passed in a committee it will move on to the General Assembly where successful passing will turn this Draft Resolution into a Resolution.

It is important to acknowledge that in drafting a resolution wording will influence its acceptance among fellow delegates. The draft resolution should be clear and concise. Consequently, the better the substance of a draft resolution is researched the higher the success of passing it within the committee session. Depending on the Committee, its topic discussed and the goal of the delegates drafting and sponsoring a resolution the content will be more specific or more general. The main aim of resolution writing is to put down ideas in a clear and concise manner in accordance with the United Nations format.



A regular UN resolution has the following pattern:

1. The Heading, identifying the committee or council in which the resolution is introduced

Numbering: the sequel number of each draft resolution, presented by the Chair along with the submission of the resolution by the Sponsor, i.e. ECOSOC Draft Res. A/ 25.10.2005/ 1, which indicates the first Draft Resolution submitted in ECOSOC, on topic Area A, on the 25th of October 2005.

Subject: the "Subject of resolution" line should exactly match the topics as outlined by the ThessIS MUN Board. Any draft resolutions, which are submitted off-topic, will not be accepted.

Sponsor: Sponsor of a resolution is the country that has been the initial instigator of the document and is being in agreement with its content. There is only one Sponsor for each Draft Resolution.

Signatories: Signatories are countries that may or may not agree with the content of the resolution, but would like to have the resolution discussed on the floor.

2. The Preamblulatory Clauses, identify the problem and make references to several sources including references to, the UN Charter, statements by the Secretary General or a relevant UN Committee or Council, background information explaining the need for further action, recognition of the work or efforts of regional organizations in dealing with the issue, general statements on the topic, its significance and its effects, citations of past UN Resolutions or treaties relevant to the topic. The preamble contains everything except from the proposing actions to be taken to solve the problem. The preamble begins with the name of the simulated committee. Preambulatory phrases are underlined and separated by commas.

Some preambulatory phrases are:

Affirming...	Fully...
Alarmed...	...aware...
Anxious...	...believing...



Approving...	...bearing in mind...
Aware of...	Grieved...
Bearing in mind...	Guided by...
Being convinced...	Having...
Believing...	...adopted...
Cognizant...	...approved...
Concerned...	...considered...
Confident...	...examined further...
Conscious...	...received...
Considering...	...reviewed...
Contemplating...	Keeping in mind...
Convinced...	Mindful...
Declaring...	Noting...
Deeply disturbed...	...further
Desiring...	...with approval...
Determined...	...with concern...
Emphasizing...	...with deep concern...
Encouraged...	...with grave
Endorsing...	concern...
Expressing...	...with regret...
...appreciation...	...with satisfaction...
...deep appreciation...	Observing...



Expecting...	Reaffirming...
Fulfilling...	Realizing...
	Recalling...
	Recognizing...
	Referring...
	Regretting...
	Reiterating...
	Seeking...
	Stressing...
	Welcoming...

3. The Operative Clauses, dictate the necessary actions to be taken to provide for a solution of the problem. It is the way for the supporter to express their country's main policy goals on the issue. Each operative clause begins with a number, ends with a semicolon and the final clause ends with a period. Operative clauses should be organized in a reasonable succession, and each clause should contain a single idea or policy suggestion and application. **All resolutions except in the Security Council are non-binding.** Therefore, it is important to choose the operative phrases and the wording of the operative clauses accordingly.

Some operative phrases are:

Accepts...	Further...
Adopts...	...concur...
Affirms...	...invites...
Appeals...	...proclaims...



Appreciates...	...reminds...
Approves...	...recommends...
Authorizes...	...requests...
Calls upon...	...resolves...
Commends...	Instructs...
Concurs...	Invites...
Condemns...	Notes...
Confirms...	...with appreciation...
Congratulates...	...with approval...
Considers...	...with interest...
Decides...	...with satisfaction...
...accordingly...	Reaffirms...
Declares...	...its belief...
Deplores..	Recognizes...
Designates...	Recommends...
Directs...	Regrets...
Emphasizes...	Reiterates...
Encourages...	Renews its appeal...
Endorses...	Repeats...
Expressing...	Suggests...
...its appreciation...	Strongly...
...its conviction...	Supports...



...its regret...	Takes not of...
...its sympathy...	Transmits...
...its thanks...	Urges...
...the belief...	Welcomes...
...the hope...	

Sample of a Draft Resolution

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: This must be a topic from the ThessIS MUN *Agenda*

SUBMITTED TO: Name of Committee/Council

SUBMITTED BY: Name of country

Name of Committee/Council: The Committee on

Noting ,

Declaring ,

Deeply convinced ,

1. *Accepts* ;
2. *Affirms* ;
3. *Declares* .



Amendments

After draft resolutions have been submitted to the committee for discussion, draft resolutions may be modified through changes known as amendments, suggested by the delegates of the committee, representing adjusted perspectives or proposals on the topic under discussion.

Phrasing and purpose of the amendment should complement the draft resolution.

There are two types of amendments as outlined in the **Rules of Procedure** as well:

1. **Friendly Amendments**, which do not fundamentally change the meaning, the effects or the overall concept of the resolution and are supported by the Sponsor and all Signatories of the resolution.
2. **Unfriendly Amendments**, which are due to change the substantial meaning of the resolution and are not supported by the sponsor of the resolution.