



THESSISMUN 2008

THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Guide for Resolution Writing



UNIVERSITY OF MACEDONIA
THESSALONIKI, GREECE

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



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.

Resolutions have many capacities, keep the following points in mind when drafting a resolution:

- Once a resolution is passed it is the official policy of the body that passed it.
- While most resolutions are a statement of policy, some may include an entire treaty, declaration or convention.
- Resolutions can be either general statements or directives to specific organizations, UN bodies, or States.
- Resolutions can condemn actions of states, call for collective actions, or as is the case of the Security Council, require economic or military sanctions.



Being a signatory to a resolution only means that delegates want to see it put on the floor; it does not indicate sponsorship or support and the signatory has no further obligations. Sponsors are generally the countries who have written the draft document. They are also those countries who not only agree to see the draft resolution be put to a vote but also commit themselves to supporting it. Signatories on the other hand only wish to see the draft resolution debated and so do not commit themselves to necessarily supporting it. For instance, you might be against a draft resolution but might want to see it debated to be able to convince other countries to find new avenues of compromise.

Points to Consider in Writing Draft Resolutions

The following list includes important points to consider when writing a draft resolution. 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 or recommendations 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;
- Consider whether the substance is within the purview of your Committee, and refer relevant parts to other bodies where appropriate;
- 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.

Draft Resolution Format

The following format *must* be used for all draft resolutions submitted to the ThessIS MUN 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;
- Sub-clauses end with a semi-colon;
- 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.



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 Preambulatory 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...	...concurs...
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...	
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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.



Sample Draft Resolution

Please note: the sample resolution presented below is shown for formatting purposes only. While roughly based on past UN resolutions, it is intentionally simplistic, and is not meant to represent the content of an actual draft resolution.

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly Plenary

SPONSORS: The Kingdom of Morocco, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Spain, and the Russian Federation (The name of your country and every other sponsors)

The General Assembly

Reaffirming its resolutions A.RES.61/171 (2006) of 19 December 2006 and A.RES.59/191 (2004) of 20 December 2004, as well as Security Council resolution S.RES.1757 (2007),

Additionally reaffirming the tenets of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Further reaffirming that acts of international terrorism constitute a threat to international peace and security as well as an impediment to stable growth in Least Developed Countries (LDCs),

Recognizing the need to combat, by all means in accordance with the United Nations Charter, threats to international peace and security caused by international terrorism,

Deeply concerned that the international increase in acts of terrorism, especially those motivated by intolerance or extremism, will result in an increase of retaliatory violence that will claim the lives of many who are innocent of any kind of terrorism,

Guided by the principle established by the General Assembly in its declaration of October 1970 (resolution 2625 (XXV)) and reiterated by the Security Council in its resolution 1189 (1998) of 13 August 1998, namely that every State has the duty to refrain from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist acts in another State or acquiescing to organized activities within its territory directed towards the commission of such acts,

1. *Urges* all States to enforce existing resolutions and agreements, to the best of their abilities, including those designed to:
 - (a) Prevent terrorist acts through:
 - (i) the suppression of monetary funds used for international terrorism;
 - (ii) the utilization of education to combat intolerance and extremism;
 - (iii) the prevention of the proliferation of small arms and explosives or components used for the creation of small arms and explosives;
 - (b) Criminalize the willful provision or collection, by any means, directly or indirectly, of funds by their nationals or in their territories with the intention that the funds should be used, or in the knowledge that they are to be used, in order to carry out terrorist acts;
2. *Further urges* all States to refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, to suppress recruitment of new members to terrorist groups, and to eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists;
3. *Requests* that States take the necessary steps to prevent the loss of innocent life while combating international terrorism;
4. *Additionally requests* that all States make an effort to help those who have been injured or displaced as a result of combating international terrorism or because of a terrorist attack;
5. *Additionally urges* all States to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice and ensure that, in addition to any other measures against them, such terrorist acts are established as serious criminal offences in domestic laws and regulations and that the punishment duly reflects the seriousness of such terrorist acts;
6. *Reminds* all states of their responsibility under the United Nations Charter to comply with all relevant United Nations resolutions on this matter.