

# RESOLUTION WRITING TIPS

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## PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

The preamble clause should outline the history of the problem, show that the topic falls under the authority of the committee, and demonstrate that there is a need for a resolution. It is also useful to point out appropriate sections of the Charter of the United Nations, cite previous UN resolutions or precedents of international law. The preamble clause should specifically refer to actual situations. The preamble clause may include altruistic appeals to the common sense or humanitarian instincts of the members with reference to the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or other such documents. The importance of the preamble clause depends on the question under consideration. In some cases, the preamble clause is a mere formality; it is only the operative clauses that are debated. However, the preamble clause is still critical because it provides a framework through which the problem is viewed. Remember that *preamble clauses cannot be amended*.

### COMMON FIRST WORDS OF PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

Affirming	Deeply disturbed	Guided by	Noting further
Alarmed by	Deeply regretting	Having adopted	Noting with approval
Approving	Desiring	Having considered	Observing
Aware of	Emphasising	Having considered further	Reaffirming
Believing	Expecting	Having devoted attention	Realising
Bearing in mind	Expressing its	Having examined	Recalling
Cognisant of	appreciation	Having received	Recognising
Confident	Expressing its satisfaction	Having studied	Seeking
Contemplating	Fulfilling	Keeping in mind	Taking into account
Convinced	Fully aware	Noting further	Taking note
Declaring	Fully alarmed	Noting with regret	Viewing with
Deeply concerned	Fully believing	Noting with satisfaction	appreciation
Deeply conscious	Further deploring	Noting with deep concern	Welcoming

## OPERATIVE CLAUSES

Proposed solutions are listed in a series of numbered operative clauses. Each operative clause calls for a specific action. The action may be vague, such as denouncing a given situation, or concrete, such as calling for a cease-fire or monetary commitment. Remember that only Security Council resolutions are binding upon Member States; the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Councils only make recommendations. Resolutions are not complete solutions. Prior research should establish failed alternatives; imagination and study produce new courses of action. Delegates must act within their nation's foreign policy when sponsoring draft resolutions. Operative clauses begin with active present tense verbs and end with semicolons. The final clause ends with a period.

### COMMON FIRST WORDS OF OPERATIVE CLAUSES

Accepts	Declares accordingly	Further invites	Recommends
Affirms	Deplores	Further proclaims	Reminds
Approves	Draws attention	Further recommends	Regrets
Authorises	Designates	Further reminds	Resolves
Calls for	Emphasises	Further requests	Requests
Calls upon	Encourages	Further resolves	Strongly condemns
Condemns	Endorses	Has resolved	Supports
Congratulates	Expresses its	Notes	Takes note of
Confirms	appreciation	Proclaims	Trusts
Considers	Expresses its hope	Reaffirms	Urges

## AMENDMENTS

An amendment is a clarification or a change to a draft resolution that incorporates additional interests or concerns into a formally submitted resolution. There are two types of amendments, friendly and unfriendly. An amendment accepted by all of the original sponsors is deemed friendly and then added to the draft resolution without a vote. If an amendment does not receive the approval of all the sponsors of the draft resolution, it is considered unfriendly. Unfriendly amendments must be submitted to the Chair with the appropriate number of signatories. The unfriendly amendment will be voted on separately upon closure of debate.

Acceptable amendments include:

- addition of a word or a phrase
- deletion of a word or phrase
- a combination of addition and deletion

Unacceptable amendments include:

- amendment of preambulatory clauses
- amendments which change the entire intent of the resolution

## SAMPLE RESOLUTION

United Nations Security Council  
Sponsors: Belize, Argentina, Brazil

GA/SPECPOL/1.1  
(*Organ, Committee, Topic #, draft resolution #*)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE  
(*Topic title*)

The General Assembly,

Recalling (*underline or italicise first word*) the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace contained in resolution 2832 of 16 December 1971, (*use of commas in preambulatory clauses*)

Reaffirming its conviction that action to further objectives of the Declaration would be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security,

Calling attention to the provisions of resolution 3259A, particularly paragraph 4, in which the General Assembly requested the littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean enter into consultation with a view to convening a conference on the Indian Ocean,

1. Notes the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, in particular section II thereof containing the consultations entered into by the littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean in pursuance of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 3259A; (*use of semicolon in operative clauses*)
2. Notes further that as a result of these consultations, an agreement in principle to the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean has emerged among the littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean;
3. Requests that the littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean continue their consultations to this end, with particular attention to the following points:
  - (a) Purpose of a conference on the Indian Ocean (*sub-clauses begin with a letter*)
  - (b) Date and Duration
  - (c) Venue
  - (d) Provisional Agenda;

Invites states, in particular the great powers and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, to co-operate in a practical manner with the Ad Hoc Committee in the discharge of its functioning. (*end resolution with a period*)