How to Write a Model United Nations Resolution

Introduction to a Model United Nations Resolution

❖ What is a resolution?

- ▪ **Resolution** – a document that offers a solution to a problem in the purview of the United Nations. [Resolutions are also referred to as "bills"]

❖ What are the three components of resolution?

- I. **Heading** – defines which U.N. organ the resolution is addressed to, the subject/title of the resolution, and the country submitting it.
- II. **Preambulatory Clauses** – define and give the historical context for the problem the resolution seeks to resolve [*Preambulatory* – literally means "walking before"].
- III. **Operative Clauses** – are the recommended policies of changes/solutions for the problem outlined in the Preambulatory Clauses.

❖ How is a Model United Nations resolution formatted?

- ✓ Model United Nations formatting seeks to follow the actual format used by the United Nations organizations. Pay careful attention to the attached sample resolution and the suggestions made here for how to construct the information.

Part I: Resolution Heading

✓ Formatting: Name the (1) Forum which is the U.N. organ/body, (2) the topic, and (3) the submitter/s.

Sample Heading

FORUM: The Economic and Social Council
QUESTION OF: The Enlarged Emergency Disaster Relief Fund
SUBMITTED BY: Germany

➢ Suggestion: Consider other countries that will sponsor or co-sponsor your resolution.

Part II: Preambulatory Clauses

❖ **Central Question: Do the Preambulatory Clauses fully address the problem the resolution aims to solve?**

It is the information of the Preambulatory Clauses that will be used throughout the conference sessions to justify the Operative Clauses proposed solutions. When writing or evaluating a resolution, students should consider some, if not all, of the following issues. [Students should keep track of their sources in case of a challenge to the credibility of the information presented]

Critical Elements of a Preambulatory Clauses

1. Includes Submitter's Perspective on the problem

2. Multiple perspectives, interests, and facets of problem
   - International/national/regional/local political
   - Economic
   - Social Cultural – religious, gender, race, ethnic, etc.
   - Environmental
   - Non-governmental agencies [if relevant]

3. *Causes* and *effects* of the problem

4. History of United Nations and its various organizations treatment of problem [Consider following:]
   - UN Charter
   - Past UN resolutions or treaties on the topic under discussion
   - Statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency
   - Research Tip: "How to Find UN Documents in Five Steps or Less" use website:
     http://www.unausa.org/munpreparation/research/howtofindUNdocs

5. Responsibility of United Nations in dealing with problem
   - *Be careful to not create objectives for a resolution that cannot be met. Make sure the U.N. organ you are part of has the power to take the action suggested. For example, the General Assembly cannot sanction/punish another country. The Security Council can do so.*

6. Organization of the Pre-Ambulatory Clauses
   - Thematically
   - Chronologically

✓ Formatting: All Preambulatory Clauses begin with one of the following present participles or clauses:

Sample Preambulatory Phrases

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

Part III: Operative Clauses

❖ **Central Question: Do Operative Clauses solve the problem articulated in Preambulatory Clauses?**

1. Have they considered the multi-faceted nature and solution problem? Environmental, Political, Traditions, Economic, Political, Religious, Gender, Race, Ethnic, etc.?

   ▪ Do they consider governmental and non-governmental organizations that have been and will be contributing to solve the problem?

   ▪ What arguments and parties will be opposed to the solution and how can those be addressed?

2. What is the timeframe for implementing the steps towards the solution/s?

3. Do organizations need to be created to solve the problem?

   ▪ Why is it necessary with so many other many existing organizations?

   ▪ Who will fund it? [Not in General Assembly, but how much will it cost? Have you researched other programs and their funding elsewhere for cost comparisons?]

   ▪ How will be it administrated? Structures, powers?

   ▪ Who will be its members?

4. Does each Operative Clause have one main idea or does it contain a mixture of several ideas that should be disentangled?

5. Is there a logical flow to your operative clauses? Why did you order them in the way you did?

   ▪ Thematic organization – by interest groups, by various topics within the groups

   ▪ Chronological organization

✓ Each operative clause begins with a verb (called an operative phrase) and ends with a <u>semicolon</u>. If a clause requires further explanation, bulleted lists set off by letters or roman numerals can also be used. After the last operative clause, the resolution <u>ends in a period</u>.

Operative Phrases:

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

Bibliography
▪ Information retrieved 10.9.2011 from http://www.unausa.org/munpreparation
▪ Information retried 20.9.2012 from http://bermun.de/index.php?option=com_joomdoc&task=cat_view&gid=45&Itemid=92
▪ Information from the fount of wisdom of your ever so humble JFKS 2012 MUN Advisors.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

FORUM: The General Assembly
QUESTION OF: Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies
SUBMITTED BY: Greece

The General Assembly,

Reminding all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens, **[use commas to separate preambulatory clauses]**

Reaffirming its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and nongovernmental organizations,

Stressing the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. Encourages_____[List relevant agencies of the United Nations] to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts; **[use semicolons to separate operative clauses]**

2. Urges member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;

3. Requests that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;

4. Calls for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;

5. Stresses the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

6. Calls upon states to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance; and

7. Requests the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through reconstruction and development. **[End resolutions with a period]**