GUIDE TO RESOLUTION WRITING

INTRODUCTION

Resolutions are formal texts that are adopted by the United Nations. In general, each entity within the UN is eligible to write Resolutions, in practice however, only some bodies actually follow the strict format of UN resolutions. Most importantly, the Security Council frequently issues resolutions, whose operative decisions are binding to all UN member states (Article 25 of UN Charter). Within MUN, resolutions are the ultimate goal of all conference committees and should usually gather the most important points that were discussed.

A good resolution is made up of several things:

- The required format is implemented correctly.

- It has good and precise English language style.

- It is logical in its arguments, but also defines a comprehensive position along the lines of the prior debates. Good resolutions are flexible and can adapt, but are still enough precise to allow proper implementation.

RESOLUTION FORMAT

Heading

On the left margin should be indicated:

- The Resolution Number (filled in by the Chair)

- The Committee Name

- The topic addressed by the resolution

- The list of the Signatories

Body

The resolution is written in the format of **one long sentence**. Just as grammatical rules make a language more uniform in its usage, so is the resolution in its format.

1. The resolution begins with "The General Assembly" for all GA committees and with "The Economic and Social Council" for all ECOSOC committees. The Specialized Agencies (like the Security Council) use their own names as the introductory line.

2. The next section, consisting of Preambulatory Clauses, describes the problem being addressed, recalls past actions taken, explains the purpose of the resolution, and offers support for the operative clauses that follow. Each clause in the preamble ends with a comma.

3. Operative Clauses are numbered and state the action to be taken by the body. Operative Clauses all begin with present tense active verbs, which are generally stronger words than those used in the preamble. Each operative clause is followed by a semi-colon except the last, which ends with a full stop.

Introductory words for Draft Resolutions

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

Operative Clauses		3 / 9
Accepts	Draws the attention	Proclaims
Affirms	Emphasizes	Reaffirms
Approves	Encourages	Recommends
Authorizes	Endorses	Regrets
Calls for	Expresses its appreciation	Reminds
Calls upon	Expresses its hope	Requests
Condemns	Further invites	Solemnly affirms
Confirms	Further proclaims	Strongly condemns
Congratulates	Further reminds	Supports
Considers	Further recommends	Takes note of
Declares accordingly	Further requests	Transmits
Deplores	Further resolves	Trusts
Demands*	Has resolved	Urges
Designates	Notes	

* The operative verb "Demands" may only be used by the Security Council.

Template

A template for resolutions (.dotx format) can be downloaded from the ZuMUN website. It allows easy formatting of preambulatory and operative clauses. Delegates are advised to make use of it during committee.

RESOLUTION CONTENT

Adapted from "Advice on Resolution Writing: Content" by MUN EPFL and ETH MUN

This section contains general points and advice on what a good resolution should contain. In the following, we attempt to provide you with as many points of view as possible with which you can analyze resolutions (and working papers) and subsequently improve them. While we try to give you as much advice as possible, with as large a range of application as possible, this list remains non-exhaustive, and different perspectives might be more relevant to the topic than others.

Points to consider

1. Does the resolution contain **new ideas** or is this already being done?

    The resolution should contain new ideas for dealing with the issue at hand. If all that it does is to restate a previous resolution, you may consider it redundant. If you seek to apply solutions from similar resolutions to yours (e.g. a resolution on peacekeeping in one region to another region), do not forget to mention your sources!

2. Is the resolution **detailed** or vague?

Your resolution should provide enough detail as to what the problem is and its historic background, including previous UN involvement (preambulatory clauses) as well as decision on how to solve the problem at hand (operative clauses).

3. Are there any **contradictory clauses** in the resolution?

Contradiction is a great obstacle to decisive action. Also, be aware of resolutions that are unclear, as different states might interpret them in different ways. So be careful to read and re-read your resolution as often as necessary. Sometimes, clarity can be lost in translation (if your resolution is being translated).

4. Does the resolution imply the **creation** of new working groups, committees, agencies, commissions, organizations, or institutions or the appointment of a rapporteur?

Remember that it is not always necessary to create new bodies if existing ones are up to the task. It is often easier to convince other countries to strengthen already existing institutions. Also, the creation of new bodies requires funding, which member states may be reluctant to provide. Although the aspect of funding is normally not a concern at MUN conferences (except certain special committees), addressing this question might bring some additional support for your resolution.

5. Does the resolution explicitly specify **WHO does WHAT**?

If organizations are requested to work together it should be clear under whose authority they will operate. If not specified, is it realistic that these organizations will work together efficiently? Remember that it can be very difficult for too many organizations to work together productively, as a lot of time goes into debating which agency has the competence to do what. A good resolution addresses these issues.

6. How will the resolution secure **funding**?

Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) will probably contribute less than More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs). For a resolution to be successful, it needs not only to be passed, but also to secure funding! Does it require a new budget or can the cost be covered by funds from relevant agencies? Note that funding is usually not in the scope of MUN conferences, but it may become an important topic in committees discussing economic issues.

7. Does it look at the issue on the agenda from **all points of view**?

Some points of view include, but are not limited to, human rights, gender equality, education, health care, employment, scientific research, ecology and environment, the economy, sustainable development, international co-operation, international security, peacekeeping operations, and disarmament.

8. Is the resolution **feasible**?

Does it take into consideration fundamental aspects such as funding, monitoring, and the specific geographic, political, cultural and economic situation of the countries dis-

cussed? E.g. certain resolutions call for a mass media campaign to raise awareness. Is it realistic that it will have the same impact in LEDCs as in MEDCs? For a resolution to be effective, it needs to consider these differences. Also, does the resolution have at least some support from concerned parties? If not, implementation may be impossible.

9. Do the measures and policies mentioned in the resolution act in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and your country's major policies?

The most **fundamental principles** of **equal rights** and **self-determination** of peoples as well as the **sovereignty of the states** involved must always be respected, as they are the foundation of the international system. Also, the principle *"pacta sunt servanda"* requires states to comply with agreements they have contracted in the past. Do not forget about the prerogatives and objectives of the body you are a delegate to, e.g. the UN General Assembly cannot impose sanctions on countries and ECOSOC does not debate about international security issues.

10. Does the resolution provide **long-term solutions**? Does the resolution say the UN will remain seized on the matter and debate further policies in the future?

Your resolution should look beyond the immediate situation and anticipate the rise of new challenges. It is important to focus on the future, since many resolutions take a few years before the implementation starts to become effective. It is also a good idea to include a clause on the **need for reviewing** the issue and the advance made after a certain period of time (to see how effective the resolution has been, to propose solutions to problems that might have risen meanwhile). It might also be a good idea to set deadlines and check if requirements of the resolution have been met.

RESOLUTION EXAMPLE

The following Resolution was written at JunesMUN 2012 in the Economic and Social Council debating on the topic of Microfinance.

Committee: The Economic and Social Council

Topic: The Role of Microfinance and Microcredit in the Eradication of Poverty

Signatories: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, France, Ghana, India, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Russia, Senegal, Slovakia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling on resolutions A/RES/52/194, A/RES/53/197, A/RES/61/214 and A/RES/59/246 which lay down the essence of the problem,

Recognizing the need for access to financial services for the poor, including access to microfinance and microcredit,

Further recognizing the positive impact of microfinance programs, especially the balance of microcredits and micro-savings,

Recalling the beneficial effects of microcredit programmes to women's empowerment, and *noting* with regret that women are still more affected by absolute poverty than men,

Noting that microfinance can help mitigate vulnerability to crisis by providing micro-savings and micro-insurance schemes,

Affirming that self-employment and the creation of microenterprises are one of the key elements to alleviate poverty, set the foundations for the future development of the economy, and foster economic growth,

Realizing that, despite progress, there is still lack of relevant statistical data on inclusive financial sectors, in particular at the national and regional levels,

Taking into account the fact that cultural and regional differences require solutions adapted to the local context,

Bearing in mind the importance of sustainability of microcredit funding,

Drawing the attention to the right of all individuals to microfinance,

Alarmed by the consequences of the financial crisis on MFIs,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to development and poverty eradication taken with the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, as stated in A/RES/55/2,

1. *Urges* the microfinance institutions MFIs and member states to facilitate access to microfinance and microcredit, by taking the following steps:
   a. increasing the number of micro-loans provided as to meet the yet unmet demand,
   b. increasing access in remote and rural areas, especially by facilitating the work of NGOs, in order to foster agricultural productivity and rural development,
   c. increasing the value of microloans granted to micro borrowers, based on their credit history with the MFI and their revenues achieved through previous microcredits;

2. *Supports* the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in ensuring women take microloans on a voluntary basis;

3. *Strongly recommends* the implementation of the following provisions:
   a. implement and improve private micro-saving services as source of secure and sustainable capital,
   b. enforce economic activity and self-employment by the creation of private investment groups,
   c. encourage the collaboration of entrepreneurs and private investors in order to increase efficiency, additionally to donators,
   d. convey the foundation of local join liabilities to enable risk sharing and reduce loan defaults as, well as to reduce the vulnerability to possible crises as risk managing tool,
   e. diversification and additional services as insurances and student loans;

4. *Suggests* to MFIs and member nations to jointly, under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), propose opportunities to train and educate persons involved in microfinance, including:
   a. Microborrowers on their rights and obligations, as well as on other available microfinancial products such as micro-savings accounts and micro-insurance, so as to promote a more inclusive approach to microfinance,
   b. Managers of MFIs, especially of informal MFIs such as, but not limited to, self-help groups (SHGs) and village funds, so as to prevent corruption, exploitation and financial fraud,
   c. Microentrepreneurs and persons wanting to create new businesses in production-oriented and management training and marketing support in order to successfully run a company;

5. *Recommends* the implementation of a community-based education institution, in particular economical education, e.g. the functioning of micro finance, the functioning of financial institutions and structure of small business;

6. *Designates* the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) in collaboration with the ECOSOC Statistical Commission, member nations, and MFIs, to

support developing countries in collecting, preserving and analysing necessary statistical data and information on the progress of microfinance, in order to improve current programmes, by:

    a. measuring access to financial services and products for every nation,

    b. measuring the type, quality and usage of such microfinance services and products over time,

    c. writing a biannual report to be named "Progress in Microfinance to alleviate Poverty" on the effect of current programmes on eradication of poverty;

7. *Calls for* the creation of a biannual summit of member nations and all relevant MFIs and UN bodies, including the UNDP, UNRISD and representatives of successful microenterprises with the of "Summit on Microcredit and Microfinance in the Eradication of Poverty", whose purpose shall be to:

    a. monitor progress in eradication of poverty, basing its conclusions on the biannual "Progress in Microfinance to alleviate Poverty" issued by UNRISD,

    b. share experience and determine best practices in the field of microfinance,

    c. elaborate and establish internationally recognized standards concerning microfinance;

8. *Calls upon* the UNDP to take the following steps in accordance to the "Summit on Microcredit and Microfinance in the Eradication of Poverty":

    a. provide customized micro finance strategies to countries, governments, companies, foundations and individuals,

    b. increase public awareness towards potential microcredit recipients and lenders;

9. *Invites* the CGAP (Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest) to establish certificates on the performance of MFIs based on internationally recognized standards in this branch under the policy of full transparency towards lenders and creditors of MFIs, and *encourages* MFIs to share their microfinance strategies and programme-related information so that the CGAP can issue the aforementioned certificates in conjunction with Bank of International Settlement (BIS);

10. *Notes* that the microcredit institutions should increase their self-sufficiency ratio, i.e. reduce their dependence on external funds, and further recommends that they adopt a more inclusive microfinancial view, by providing micro-savings accounts and micro-insurance schemes for poor people;

11. *Affirms* that technological processes such as mobile banking services have brought great opportunities to improve the microfinance service and therefore *encourages* the development of mobile money banking services pointing out the following advantages:

    a. improvement of transparency of the services,

    b. promotion of efficient and accurate control,

    c. easier access to new end customers such as people living in poverty especially women and children in deserted areas,

    d. lower operating cost,

    e. combining different branches within sector in order to enable faster decision making;

12. *Commends* the work done by privately owned MFIs, and encourages them to create innovative new programmes in microfinance to adapt both to the needs of large numbers of poor people as well as of more specific domains of activity;

13. *Requests* member nations to identify ways they can reduce obstacles that prevent MFIs from succeeding, such as, but not limited to, unnecessary administrative hurdles to MFIs' operations and lack of knowledge, and include their findings in the report "Progress in Microfinance to alleviate Poverty";

14. *Further reminds* that the financial hardship can dry up flows of capital to MFIs as well as the services that they provide to the poor, and *emphasizes* that such crucial instruments in the fight against poverty should be protected against potential credit deficiency.

Bibliography:

- ETH Model United Nations (2011), How to write a UN Resolution

- Junes Model United Nations (2012), Economic and Social Council Final Resolution

- Model United Nations EPFL and ETH Model United Nations (2012), Advice on Resolution Writing: Content