**Preambulatory Clauses and Operative Clauses  
Resolutions Overview | Model UN Preparation Guide**

**Preambulatory Clauses**

The preamble of a draft resolution states the reasons for which the committee is addressing the topic and highlights past international action on the issue. Each clause begins with a present participle (called a preambulatory phrase) and ends with a comma. Preambulatory clauses can include:

* References to the UN Charter;
* Citations of past UN resolutions or treaties on the topic under discussion;
* Mentions of statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency;
* Recognition of the efforts of regional or nongovernmental organizations in dealing with the issue; and
* General statements on the topic, its significance and its impact.

**Sample Preambulatory Phrases**

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

**Operative Clauses**

Operative clauses identify the actions or recommendations made in a resolution. Each operative clause begins with a verb (called an operative phrase) and ends with a semicolon. Operative clauses should be organized in a logical progression, with each containing a single idea or proposal, and are always numbered. 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 ends in a period.

**Sample Operative Phrases**

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

Developing and Writing RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions represent the formal decisions of the UN bodies; they may simply register an opinion, or any recommend action to be taken by a UN organ or related agency.

Resolutions usually state a policy that the UN will undertake, but they also may be in the form of treaties, conventions and declarations in some bodies. They range from very general to very specific in content. Depending on the body involved, they may call for or suggest a course of action, condemn an action, and require action or sanctions on the part of the member states. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council may only call for or suggest actions. It should be noted that no body other than the Security Council may require action or sanctions from member states. In some cases, final conventions and treaties may also require action, but this would only be on the part of the signatory nations.

**SUBJECTS OF RESOLUTIONS**

POINTS TO CONSIDER IN WRITING RESOLUTIONS

The following list includes important points to consider when writing a resolution, either in advance or for submission at the Conference. This is by no means an exclusive list, but should provide a good starting point to make your resolutions as realistic as possible. Points to consider include:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | * In the preambulatory clauses, describe the recent history of the situation and the issue as it currently exists; * Reference past United Nations actions, when available; * Reference previous United Nations resolutions passed on the topic, when available; * In the operative clauses, include actions which will solve the problem, not just make a statement; * Don’t be blatantly political in the content of the 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 resolution from your country’s side of the “international” or “United Nations” perspective, not just from your country’s individual point of view; * Refer issues which need further discussion to appropriate, existing bodies; * Don’t 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 — don’t duplicate what other resolutions have done without referencing the appropriate sources. |

RESOLUTION GUIDELINES

Each draft resolution should be written as a single sentence, with commas and semicolons separating the various parts (see “Sample Resolution” for specifics). In drafting the “heading” of resolutions, Representatives should state their country name, the name of the Committee/Council to which it will be presented, and the topic of the resolution at the top of the document. Please note that resolutions must use the names of the Committee/Council and topic *exactly as stated above*. Resolutions which do not utilize these names will not be processed.

Following the “heading” section, resolutions are split into *preambulatory* and *operative* (sometimes called “activating”) clauses. Preambulatory clauses are listed first, and they are used to justify action, denote past authorizations and precedents for action, and/or denote the purpose for an action. Operative clauses are the statement of policy in a resolution. They are numbered, begin with a verb to denote an action (or suggested action), and each clause usually addresses no more than one specific aspect of the action to be taken.

Sponsors and Signatories | Resolutions Overview

Model UN Preparation Guide

Sponsors of a draft resolution are the principal authors of the document and agree with its substance. Although it is possible to have only one sponsor, this rarely occurs at the UN, since countries must work together to create widely agreeable language in order for the draft resolution to pass. Sponsors control a draft resolution and only the sponsors can approve immediate changes.

Signatories are countries that may or may not agree with the substance of the draft resolution but still wish to see it debated so that they can propose amendments.

A certain percentage of the committee must be either sponsors or signatories to a draft resolution in order for it to be accepted.

**General Assembly Third Committee**  
Sponsors: United States, Austria and Italy  
Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon  
Topic: “Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies”

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 all 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]**

**Sample Resolution...**

Submitted To:    The Political Committee

Submitted By:    The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Subject: Situation in the Middle East

The Political Committee,

REMINDING 1993 Oslo Accords in which promoted peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis and called for the transfer of power and responsibilities of the Gaza Strip and West Bank to the Palestinians,

EMPHASIZING Resolution 242 calls upon the withdrawal of all Israelis from all territories gained through war conflicts.

RECALLING UN Resolution 446 calls upon Israel not to transfer members of its own civilian population into occupied Arab territories and that “the policy and practices of Israel in establishing settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 have no legal validity and constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East”,

NOTING the failures to follow through the UN Partition Plans and the Oslo Accords, the Six-Day War, the isolation of PLO post the Gulf-War, and the ongoing violence are the evidences of the failures regarding Palestine and Israel,

STRESSING peaceful in the Middle East,

1. ENCOURAGES maintaining peace and bring progress and prosperity to the entire region; the need to promote harmony among the Muslim countries, addressing the challenges of extremism and terrorism, and a peaceful solution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict;

2. CALLS for the Israelis to continue the process started with the withdrawal from Gazawould be continued in the West Bank and cease fires from both regions in order to expedite the process;

3. URGES a transfer of power and responsibilities to the Palestinians in the West Bank andGaza, so they may have control over their own affairs;

4. CALLS for the Israelis to continue the process started with the withdrawal from Gazawould be continued in the West Bank and cease fires from both regions in order to expedite the process;

5. AFFIRMS NECESSITY to create a special UN envoy with Islamic cultural and historical expertise to evaluate and elevate the current living conditions of Palestinian refugees;

6. EMPHASIZE for the establishment and recognition of Palestine as an independent state in order to ensure stability in the region.

Sample Resolution

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION:           Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and the Strengthening of the role of the United Nations Related to Economic Sanctions

SUBMITTED TO:                               The Sixth Committee

SUBMITTED BY:                               The Kingdom of Belgium

 The Sixth Committee (Legal)

*Affirming* that the use of sanctions is an effective tool when used in an appropriate manner,

*Realizing* the negative affect that sanctions impose on innocent citizens and third States,

*Deeply disturbed* that other nation-states do not show concern for the damage being done to human rights,

*Expecting*the committee put in place to review the impacts of sanctions to provide accurate, non- biased reports in a timely manner,

*Confident*that the use of smart sanctions will be effective in maximizing pressure to the targeted State’s leader(s), while preserving international humanitarian law,

1.         *Encourages* the United Nations Security Council to examine the current definition and implementation of sanctions;

2.         *Draws attention* to the detrimental and deadly impact sanctions are having on states, such as Iraq;

3.         *Affirms*the need for disciplinary measures, however also seeing the need for preservation of our universal human rights laws;

4.         *Calls upon* member states to explore the idea of smart sanctions;

5.         *Reminds*the global community that our purpose as a United Nations is to promote peace and justice;

6.         *Expresses hope* that no more innocent lives are lost due to the decisions of distant member-states.