

## **Things to Bring to the Conference:**

- Pen or Pencil/ Notebook or Paper
- Identification Badge (Your name, country and flag)
- Country Information (Country/Culture Worksheet)
- Research
- Draft Resolution Amendments (developed prior to the Conference)

## **Useful Websites:**

<http://www.un.org/documents/> : This website has the resolutions passed in the General Assembly, Security Council, and Economic and Social Council from all of the sessions of the UN.

<http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/modelun/index.asp>: This website offers information on how to prepare for a model UN conference and also has country information and links to other UN information.

**Protocols of Delegates:** In the United Nations, resolutions are written by the representatives of different countries who are called “*delegates*”. The official title of a country’s delegate is “*ambassador*”. Student delegates should address one another using the term “ambassador”.

## **What is a Resolution?**

Resolutions are the written suggestions of a group that deal with a certain problem.

- 1) Resolutions can be submitted to either the General Assembly or to the Security Council by either a single country or by a group of countries that have the same idea on how to solve the problem.
- 2) In the General Assembly, resolutions that are passed are only suggestions to the member countries of the United Nations on the way that they should deal with a problem.
- 3) The resolutions passed in the Security Council, in theory, are laws that must be followed by the member countries of the United Nations.
- 4) Problems that the General Assembly will pass resolutions to solve, deal usually with humanitarian issues, while the Security Council deals with issues of peace and security.

## **Passing a Resolution**

Resolutions are the product of a lot of debate and discussion by member countries of the United Nations.

- 1) When resolutions are first being written by delegates they are called *draft resolutions*.
- 2) A resolution can be changed by other countries in the meeting by adding amendments to it.
- 3) A draft resolution is then voted on by the countries in the committee to either pass or fail it.

In the General Assembly, a **simple majority** in favor of is needed.

In the Security Council, a 2/3's majority of the countries in the Security Council is required with **no vetoes from the permanent five members**.

*When a draft resolution passes in either the General Assembly or Security Council it then becomes known as a resolution.*

## **The Parts of a Draft Resolution**

When writing a draft resolution, the writer of it should follow a format that consists of three parts.

These parts; *the header*, *the preambulatory clauses*, and *the operative clauses* allow the resolution to be read and understood very easily by the members of the committee.

### **The Header:**

The header has three parts which detail:  
the committee that the resolution is being presented in,  
the topic of the resolution,  
and the sponsor of the resolution.

Each of these items is written on a separate line on the top left hand side of the resolution.

### **Example**

**Committee:** International Trade

**Topic:** Improving Economies in the Third World

**Sponsor:** United States of America

### **The Preambulatory Clauses:**

The *preambulatory clauses* state what the problem is and how other resolutions have tried to solve it.

- ✓ Each sentence begins with a certain phrase that is underlined and ends with a comma. Refer to list of these phrases given out at the "Resolution Writing" workshop.

- ✓ Preambulatory clauses can state many things when discussing the problem. References can be made to the information found in the *United Nations Charter*, other resolutions passed in the United Nations, statements made by members of other bodies of the United Nations such as the International Court of Justice, and other groups that are working on this problem.
- ✓ When writing these clauses, it is important to have done research into your countries position on the topic, so that the wrong information is not presented.

### **Example**

Taking into account that the countries of the third world have poor economies,  
Noting with approval the steps taken by the Economic and Social Council in dealing with this problem,  
Alarmed by the standard of living in many third world countries,  
Seeking to increase the standard of living in the third world,

### **The Operative Clauses:**

The operative clauses are used to state the proposed solutions to the problem.

- ✓ These clauses also begin with certain phrases (see handout), and these clauses all end with a semi-colon except for the last operative clause which ends in a period.
- ✓ Operative clauses are numbered and underlined. If an operative clause is to be explained in further detail, bullet points or Roman Numerals are used.
- ✓ Operative clauses are reasonable solutions that the committee can enforce.
  - 1) For example a committee in the General Assembly would not be able to enforce an operative clause that encourages military action, but the Security Council can use operative clauses that encourage military action.
  - 2) If you use an operative clause to state that an organization under U.N. control should be used to solve the matter, you need to include information on how you are going to fund that program.
  - 3) Another example the Security Council can demand a course of action, while the committees of the General Assembly can only suggest a course of action.

### **Example 1:**

1. Calls upon member states to increase economic aid to the third world;
2. Trusts that the Economic and Social Council will address this issue accordingly;
3. Further invites the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to work on this problem;
4. Takes note of the work done by non-governmental organizations in trying to improve the standard of living in these nations;
5. Encourages the use of non-governmental organizations in solving this problem.

## **What a Resolution Should Look Like**

When put together the resolution should look like this;

**Committee:** International Trade

**Topic:** Improving Economies in the Third World

**Sponsor:** United States of America

Taking into account that the countries of the third world have poor economies,

Noting with approval the steps taken by the Economic and Social Council in dealing with this problem,

Alarmed by the standard of living in many third world countries,

Seeking to increase the standard of living in the third world,

1. Calls upon member states to increase economic aid to the third world;
2. Trusts that the Economic and Social Council will address this issue accordingly;
3. Further invites the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to work on this problem;
4. Takes note of the work done by non-governmental organizations in trying to improve the standard of living in these nations;
5. Encourages the use of non-governmental organizations in solving this problem.

Note: **Typing Format:** the heading should be single-spaced with a double space between the heading and the preambulatory clauses. There should be a double-space between each of the preambulatory and operative clauses.

### **Amendments: (may be written prior to the Conference or during the caucuses at the Conference)**

Amendments are used by delegates to try and change the resolution to fit the goals of their country.

- ✓ They can only be used to change any of the operative clauses in a resolution.
- ✓ They can be used to add or delete a word in an operative clause, and to add or delete an operative clause as a whole.
- ✓ Preambulatory clauses can not be changed by using amendments.
- ✓ There are two different types of amendments, *friendly* and *unfriendly* amendments.

1. Friendly amendments are a change made by either the sponsor(s) of the resolution, or other delegates that is approved by all of the sponsors of the resolution.
  2. Amendments are submitted to the chair on a separate piece of paper, and may be hand written.
  3. After an amendment is found to be a friendly amendment it is added to the resolution without a vote taken place.
  4. Unfriendly amendments are amendments that are proposed but are not accepted by the sponsor(s) of the resolution.
- ✓ The chair of the committee decides whether the amendments are relevant to the resolution and should be discussed by the committee.
  - ✓ The format of amendments is very similar to that of the resolution. It has a heading that has the committee name, sponsor countries, and the resolution that is being amended. **Before the operative clause state whether the clause is being changed, or added to the resolution.**

### **Example 1:**

**Committee:** International Trade

**Resolution:** Resolution 1: Improving Economies in the Third World

**Sponsors:** Chad, Gabon, Niger

***Add operative clause number 6.***

6. Suggests that the first world countries cancel the debts of the third world.

This example shows how an amendment can add a new idea to the resolution.

### **Example 2:**

**Committee:** International Trade

**Resolution:** Resolution 1: Improving Economies in the Third World

**Sponsors:** Sierra Leone, Ghana

***Change operative clause number 2 to read***

Trusts that the Economic and Social Council will address the issue of low economic growth in the third world accordingly at their next session;

This example shows how amendments can be used to change an operative clause that is already in the resolution.

Approved amendments are added to the resolution.

## **Other Things to Consider When Writing a Resolution**

- ✓ Write the correct names of the country and committee that you are in.

1) Do not abbreviate names of the committees. For example,  
Great Britain is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;  
North Korea is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

- ✓ Do not use "I" when referring to yourself; say "we" or "the delegate from ....."
- ✓ When writing the preambulatory and operative clauses, use many different sources to support the point you want to make.
- ✓ While you want to make your resolution fit the goals your country has, you should also think about what the rest of the committee wants to see as solutions to the problem, and write the resolution so that it can be accepted by a majority of the committee.
- ✓ Look at the problem from many different points of view. While HIV/AIDS is a serious health problem, a good resolution will deal with solving the medical, social, and economic problems that exist in countries dealing with widespread HIV/AIDS infection rates.
- ✓ A resolution does not have to be very long, but it needs to be specific when giving solutions.
- ✓ Resolutions can also be used to create new committees within the United Nations, but it is only a good idea to create a new committee when your research has shown that there are no countries in existence, that deal with your problem.
- ✓ The solutions that you present in your resolution should be realistic.
- ✓ Some problems while the solutions to them seem simple are not really as simple as they appear to be.

For example, to solve the problem of infectious diseases in the third world, it seems that giving vaccines would solve this problem. But in reality, questions have to be asked about where the money for the vaccines would come from, how they would be delivered, and if they would be able to prevent the disease from spreading due to the living conditions in the third world.

- ✓ When working with other countries to write a resolution, work only with countries that your country has diplomatic relations with, and stay within the foreign policy of your country.

While it may seem like a good idea to work with friends on a resolution, it is not realistic if the United States and North Korea sponsor a resolution together. The easiest way to work with people that share the same idea as your country does is to work with people from either your regional or economical bloc.

Countries usually have the same goals as others in their region regardless of their economic status since they do not want to see the region destabilize, and third world countries usually have the same goals when discussing economic matters.

- ✓ The size and type of font used is very important when writing resolutions. The size of the font should be 12 size and be typed in a “Times New Roman” font.
- ✓ Use correct grammar. Avoid using contractions (see example below).

**Example 1:**

Emphasizing the fact that poverty affects the third world and **it’s** necessary to solve that problem,

While the contraction in this preambulatory clause is used correctly, the clause would look better written like this;

Emphasizing the fact that poverty affects the third world and **it is** necessary to solve that problem,

- ✓ Spelling is also very important. when writing your resolution. Check how your country’s official name is spelled, including any accents that are a part of your country’s name such as in the case of Côte d’Ivoire.

While spell-check is a useful device, when typing anything on a computer, it does not catch the most common mistakes made when writing. These mistakes include writing “their” when you mean “there”, and using “four” instead of “for”.

- ✓ Watch what type of tone you are using in the resolution. The resolution should not have anything in it that makes it sound threatening to others.

The easiest way to prevent your resolution from sounding threatening to other delegates is to avoid naming any specific countries in the resolution. If you wish to use a country’s policies to back up a point that you make, it should be done with factual evidence, i.e. use a past U.N. resolution or a policy from that country.

- ✓ ***Finally, when deciding on how to write the resolution, you should be as specific and brief as you possible be, without leaving out any of you goals. The resolution should be easily understood by all of the delegates in the committee.***