



WRITING DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

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1. INTRODUCTION

As in the real United Nations, the main method of delivering change is through writing a draft resolution: a formal document containing all the changes you and your fellow member states want to make to leave the world a better place. If you disagree with some of those changes, you are free to hand in an amendment: a small piece of paper that describes what part of the resolution you want to change.

2. DRAFT RESOLUTION

At some point during the committee session, you and your allies have a mutual agreement on how to tackle the issues at hand. This is generally the moment when you start writing your draft resolution: a formal document that contains all your plans.

Since all draft resolutions are written on a laptop, it is of the utmost important that you bring a laptop.

Format

Your draft resolution should always start with the heading. This essential part of the document contains general information regarding your resolution:

- The committee name: The name of the committee ("United Nations Human Rights Council").
- The topic: The topic of the committee session ("Improving the Situation and Possibilities of Indigenous People").
- Main submitter: The member state drafting the resolution ("Paraguay").
- Signatories: Signatories from member states that aren't the main submitter ("The Netherlands, United States of America, etc.").

A draft resolution should at least have 3/8 signatories (ask the chairs for the exact number) excluding the main submitter.

Preambulatory clauses

The preamble can be seen as the introduction of the resolution: It describes the issue, why that issue is significant and what the impact is of the issue. The preamble should start with the name of your committee, followed by preambulatory clauses. Each clause should start with an italicized preambulatory phrase and should end with a comma (","). Examples of preambulatory phrases are:

- Affirming
- Alarmed By
- Confident
- Seeking
- Welcoming
- Taking Note
- Etc.

Operative Clauses

The operative clauses describe the solutions to the problems stated in the preamble. An easy way to start writing the operative clauses is by addressing the "Questions a resolution must address" (QARMA). Since the operative clauses are the most important part of the resolution, you should always put the most focus on this. Each operative clause should start with an underlined operative phrase and should end with a semicolon (";"). Examples of operative phrases are:

- Accepts
- Affirms
- Approves
- Resolves
- Announces
- Condemns
- Urges
- Etc.

Handing in your draft resolution

After you have written your draft resolution and gathered enough signatories, save the resolution onto a flash drive and hand it to the chairs. The chairs will look at your resolution and will either:

- 1) Ask you to clarify/modify some elements of the resolutions;
- 2) Announce that your draft resolution was accepted, meaning that you can now discuss it in the committee session

It is of the utmost importance to start lobbying and motioning for a moderated caucus on your draft resolution when the resolution has been accepted by the chair.

Voting on a draft resolution

Voting on a draft resolution only happens at the end of the day. As soon as the motion for closure of debate is accepted, the committee moves into substantive voting (abstaining is allowed) procedure and votes on all the draft resolutions that are present at that time. A draft resolution is passed when it reaches a simple majority (50% + 1).

3. EXAMPLE DRAFT RESOLUTION

Committee: The United Nations Human Rights Council

Topic: Improving the Situation and Possibilities of Indigenous People

Submitted by: Paraguay

Signatories: Albania, Bangladesh, Belgium, Georgia, Japan, Mongolia, The Netherlands, Panama, Portugal, Slovenia

The United Nations Human Rights Council,

Deeply concerned by the disadvantages Indigenous Peoples face around the world, even in so called first world countries,

Mindful of the gravity and urgency of this issue,

Fully believing in the principle of equal opportunities for every human being worldwide,

Noting with regret that the sell-out of traditions and values of Indigenous Peoples is necessary to guarantee their survival in our modern world,

Having examined the degrading and inhumane working and living conditions for native population all around the world,

Reaffirming the statutes laid down in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

1. Strongly condemns the above noted conditions as unacceptable and definitely improvable;
2. Expresses its appreciation of the work of Organizations including but not limited to the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, Centre for World Indigenous Studies, Survival International and guaranteeing further support;
3. Announces its intention to restructure the United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues to:
 - a. Meet thrice a year;
 - b. Not only be an advisory body for the Economic and Social Council but also the Human Rights Council;
 - c. Observe the treatment of native peoples and investigate independently in any case of oppression of any of the indigenous groups;
 - d. Take actions without fear of repressive reactions;
 - e. Directly approach the local government with solutions;
 - f. Occupy a seat in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), The Human Rights Council (HRC) and the General Assembly (GA);
4. Supports any further ideas, measures and strategies which can be helpful for solving the issues on indigenous people.

4. AMENDMENTS

During the introduction of resolutions, it might happen that you would like to change/alter/remove something from someone else's, or even your own, resolution. The correct way to do this, is to hand in an amendment.

You can only hand in amendments on draft resolutions that have been approved by the chair.

Format

An amendment consists of three key elements:

- 1) Name of the resolution: Which resolution are you going to change ("Draft resolution 1.1").
- 2) Main submitter: The name of the member state that is the main submitter ("Paraguay").
- 3) Signatories: Signatories from member states that aren't the main submitter ("The Netherlands, United States of America, etc."). A draft resolution should at least have 3/5 signatories (ask the chairs for the exact number) excluding the main submitter.
- 4) The content of the amendment: What you would like to add/delete/change/etc. ("Remove operative clauses 3" or "Change "third world countries" to "member states with a lower living quality" in OC 3).

Handing in your amendment

An amendment is not required to be handed in digitally, but it is the preferred method of delivery. Either hand it in on a flash drive or send a written amendment. When the chair receives your amendment, one of two things can happen:

- 1) The chair disapproves your amendment for one reason or another. You will receive notice on why the amendment was not approved (if not, just send a note).
- 2) The amendment was approved, upon which the committee session will hold a debate on the amendment, with two speakers in favor and two speakers against. After this, the committee will move into substantive voting procedure (abstaining is allowed). To pass an amendment, it needs a simple majority (50% + 1).

Example amendment

Resolution: 1.1

Main submitter: Paraguay

Signatories: The Netherlands, United States of America, Japan

Changes: In OC 3, replace “healthy food” with “a lifelong amount of McDonalds”.