



DUKE UNIVERSITY MODEL UN CONFERENCE XXVII

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GUIDE TO RESOLUTIONS

Although we at Duke Model UN recognize that DUMUNC is an experience broader than your committee output, at the core of the spirit of MUN is the energetic pursuit of fresh yet reasonable resolutions. Each and every one of you has been given the exciting opportunity to shape the future of the world, one important issue at a time. Needless to say, the key agent of change is the committee resolution. And so, it is important to craft your resolution carefully and thoughtfully. Please use the following information as a guide to correctly formatting your resolutions. Using the traditional form will help you to better organize your resolutions so that you may spend less time communicating your points and more time discussing the details of the solutions you are advocating.

HEADING

Part 1 of your resolution, the heading, is short and sweet but must not be overlooked! It conveys all the essential information at just one glance (and without it, you will surely drive our xerox room mad with confusion). So be sure to include these five pieces of information at the top of the page: the resolution number, the name or acronym for your committee, the resolution's sponsors, the resolution's signatories, and of course your topic as it is printed on the background guide. Please find an example of the proper formatting on Page 4 in the Sample Resolution.

PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

Part 2 of your resolution, your preambulatory clauses, sets the stage for the operative statements in your resolution. The purpose of these clauses is to make clear the importance of the topic at hand and offer background information supporting your policy recommendations. For example, you may bring in relevant quotations by U.N. officials, you can mention specific actions which have been taken in the past to alleviate the situation, and you are encouraged to recognize any previous or current U.N. resolutions worthy of mentioning. Each one of these points takes the form of a clause, which uniformly begin with your choice of a preambulatory phrase (an underlined verb in gerund form) and ultimately conclude with a comma. Below, please find a helpful list of common perambulatory phrases. You may refer to the sample resolution for actual examples of these clauses in use.

Common Preambulatory Phrases:

Acknowledging	Congratulating	Deeply regretting	Fully believing
Affirming	Contemplating	Deploring	Guided by
Alarmed by	Convinced	Desiring	Having adopted
Approving	Declaring	Emphasizing	Having considered
Aware of	Deeply concerned	Expecting	Having examined
Bearing in mind	Deeply conscious	Fulfilling	Having heard
Believing	Deeply convinced	Fully alarmed	Having studied
Confident	Deeply disturbed	Fully aware	Keeping in mind

OPERATIVE CLAUSES

This is your third, last, and arguably most substantive segment of your resolution. This is where you get to present the meat and bones of your recommendations for action and detail exactly what you propose the United Nations should do about your topic. These numbered statements all start with an underlined verb (conjugated in the third person singular form) and they all end with a semicolon, the last of which ends with a period thus concluding your resolution. These operative clauses may contain lettered sub-operatives for more detail, and even greater detail can be expressed using sub-clauses. Sub-clauses begin with lower case roman numerals. Sub-operatives and sub-clauses both end with commas. Of course, you may look to the sample resolution starting on Page 4 for actual examples.

Common Operative Phrases:

Accepts	Declares	Further invites	Proposes
Affirms	Deplores	Further proclaims	Reaffirms
Approves	Designates	Further recommends	Regrets
Asks	Draws the attention	Further requests	Reminds
Authorizes	Emphasizes	Further resolve	Requests
Calls for	Encourages	Has resolved	Resolves
Calls upon	Endorses	Notes	Seeks
Condemns	Expresses its hope	Proclaims	Suggests

ADDITIONAL TIPS

It is important to note that only the Security Council possesses the unique power to actually “condemn” or command action. Other committees such as the General Assemblies are looked to, in comparison, for their recommendations only. Be realistic and choose your words wisely.

Secondly, as with any piece of academic or professional writing, it is important that you solidly bolster your claims with evidentiary support whenever possible. Chairs are looking not only for feasibility of action, but also specificity. Be detailed.

In addition to the sample resolution below, don’t forget to consult with our very helpful guide to DUMUNC Parliamentary Procedure (posted under Delegate Preparation on our website). For any other questions you might have, please feel free to contact your Chair.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

World Health Organization Fifty-Sixth World Health Assembly

Sponsors: [List here the contributing author(s) of the document]

Signatories: [List here countries that support debate on this resolution; they may or may not agree with its content]

Topic: "Tobacco Control"¹

The Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions WHA49.17 and WHA52.18 calling for the development of a WHO framework convention on tobacco control in accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution of WHO,

Determined to protect present and future generations from tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke,

Noting with profound concern the escalation in smoking and other forms of tobacco use worldwide,

Acknowledging with appreciation the report of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on the outcome of the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body,

Convinced that this convention is a groundbreaking step in advancing national, regional and international action and global cooperation to protect human health against the devastating impact of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke, and mindful that special consideration should be given to the particular situation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Emphasizing the need for expeditious entry into force and effective implementation of the convention,

1. Adopts the Convention attached to this resolution;
2. Notes, in accordance with Article 34 of the Convention, that the Convention shall be open for signature at WHO headquarters in Geneva, from 16 June 2003 to 22 June 2003, and thereafter at United Nations headquarters in New York, from 30 June 2003 to 29 June 2004;

¹ Here we provide the actual text from a WHO World Health Assembly resolution from May 2003 (http://www.who.int/tobacco/framework/final_text/en/index1.html) adopted into standard MUN resolution format in order to 1) provide a proper sample resolution worthy of your emulation, and 2) to show you that each and every one of you is quite capable of producing a quality resolution of similar standards.

3. Calls upon all States and regional economic integration organizations entitled to do so, to consider signing, ratifying, accepting, approving, formally confirming or acceding to the Convention at the earliest opportunity, with a view to bringing the Convention into force as soon as possible;

4. Urges all States and regional economic integration organizations, pending entry into force of the Convention, to take all appropriate measures to curb tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke;

5. Urges all Member States, regional economic integration organizations, observers and other interested parties to support the preparatory activities referred to in this resolution and effectively encourage prompt entry into force and implementation of the Convention;

6. Calls upon the United Nations and invites other relevant international organizations to continue to provide support for strengthening national and international tobacco control programmes;

7. Decides to establish, in accordance with Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, an open-ended intergovernmental working group that shall be open to all States and regional economic integration organizations referred to in Article 34 of the Convention, to consider and prepare proposals on those issues identified in the Convention for consideration and adoption, as appropriate, by the first session of the Conference of the Parties; such issues should include:

- a. rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties (Article 23.3), including criteria for participation of observers at sessions of the Conference of the Parties (Article 23.6),
- b. options for the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning (Article 24.1),
- c. financial rules for the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, and financial provisions governing the functioning of the secretariat (Article 23.4),
- d. a draft budget for the first financial period (Article 23.4),
- e. a review of existing and potential sources and mechanisms of assistance to Parties in meeting their obligations under the Convention (Article 26.5);

8. Further decides that the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group shall also oversee preparations for the first session of the Conference of the Parties and report directly to it;

9. Resolves that decisions that had been taken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on the WHO framework convention on tobacco control concerning the participation of nongovernmental organizations shall apply to the activities of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group; and

10. Requests the Director-General:

- a. to provide secretariat functions under the Convention until such time as a permanent secretariat is designated and established,
- b. to take appropriate steps to provide support to Member States, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in preparation for entry into force of the Convention,
- c. to convene, as frequently as necessary, between 16 June 2003 and the first session of the Conference of the Parties, meetings of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group,
- d. to continue to ensure that WHO plays a key role in providing technical advice, direction and support for global tobacco control,
- e. to keep the Health Assembly informed of progress made toward entry into force of the Convention and of preparations under way for the first session of the Conference of the Parties.