



What Is a Resolution Paper?

A **resolution** is the **final product** of all discussion, negotiation, and collaboration in a Model United Nations committee. It contains **the proposals that the committee agrees to debate and vote on** as possible solutions to the issue.

Once approved by vote, a resolution becomes the **official recommendation** of the committee. Only the **Security Council can pass binding resolutions**; all other committees issue recommendations for future action.

WHO WRITES AND SUBMITS A RESOLUTION PAPER?

A resolution paper must have:

→ **Sponsors:**

Delegates or countries who **draft and support** the resolution. They agree with its content and will **defend and present it** before the committee.

→ **Signatories:**

Delegates who **want the resolution to be discussed**, even if they do not fully agree with its ideas. Their signature only shows interest in debating it.



STRUCTURE OF A RESOLUTION PAPER

A resolution paper has three main parts:

Section	Content	Example
Heading	Identifies the committee, sponsors, signatories, and topic.	Committee: UNEP Topic: Combating Plastic Pollution in Oceans Sponsors: France, Mexico, Japan Signatories: Brazil, Kenya, Canada,
Preambulatory Clauses	Explain the context, reasons, and past international actions. Each clause starts with a preambulatory phrase (present participle) and ends with a comma (,) .	<u>Recalling</u> the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 14 on Life Below Water, <u>Alarmed</u> by the accumulation of plastic debris in marine ecosystems, <u>Recognizing</u> the efforts of UNEP and regional organizations in addressing ocean pollution,
Operative Clauses	Present the specific actions the committee proposes. Each clause starts with an underlined verb and ends with a semicolon (;) , except the last, which ends with a period (.) .	1. <u>Calls</u> upon Member States to ban single-use plastics by 2030; 2. <u>Encourages</u> the creation of a Global Ocean Cleanup Fund; 3. <u>Requests</u> UNEP to monitor and report progress annually.

FORMATTING RULES

- Use formal UN language throughout.
- Write the entire resolution as one long sentence (each clause separated by commas or semicolons).
- Capitalize and underline key verbs in operative clauses.
- Do not use periods between clauses—only the last clause ends with a period.
- Maintain logical flow: preamble (context) → operative section (solutions).

WRITING THE PREAMBLE

The preamble of a draft resolution explains why the committee is addressing the topic and provides essential **background information** on the issue. It sets the context for the proposed actions by **referring to previous international efforts, legal frameworks, and relevant declarations**.

Each preambulatory clause **begins with a present participle (known as a preambulatory phrase)** and **ends with a comma (,)**. Together, these clauses express the motivation and justification behind the resolution.

Preambulatory clauses may include:

- **References to the UN Charter** and its principles.
- Citations of **past UN resolutions, conventions, or treaties** related to the topic under discussion.
- Mentions of **statements or reports** made by the Secretary-General, specialized agencies, or other relevant UN bodies.
- Recognition of the **efforts made** by regional organizations, NGOs, or civil society in addressing the issue.
- General **observations** on the significance, causes, and global impact of the problem.

The preamble provides the foundation for your resolution—it explains the “why” before you present the “how.”



LIST OF COMMON PREAMBULATORY PHRASES

Preambulatory clauses begin with a present participle and are used to introduce background information, recognize previous efforts, or justify why the committee is addressing a particular issue. Each clause ends with a comma (,).

Below is an organized list of commonly used preambulatory phrases:

General Expressions of Acknowledgment or Reference		
Affirming	Fully aware	Realizing
Approving	Guided by	Recalling
Bearing in mind	Having adopted	Recognizing
Believing	Having considered	Referring
Confident	Having examined	Seeking
Contemplating	Having received	Taking into consideration
Convinced	Keeping in mind	Taking note
Declaring	Noting further	Viewing with
Fulfilling	Observing	appreciation
		Welcoming

Concern or Regret	Hope or Expectation	Reaffirmation or Commitment
Alarmed by	Desiring	Further recalling
Deeply concerned	Emphasizing	Reaffirming
Deeply conscious	Expecting	
Deeply convinced	Expressing its	
Deeply disturbed	appreciation	
Deeply regretting		
Further deploring		
Noting with deep		
concern		



WRITING THE OPERATIVE SECTION

The operative section of a resolution **presents the actions or solutions** that the committee proposes to address the issues outlined in the preamble. Each operative clause **is action-oriented and begins with an underlined verb, followed by a clear and specific proposal.**

Operative clauses should be organized logically and demonstrate a coherent plan of action. Each one should build upon the previous clause to create a comprehensive and realistic solution.

When drafting operative clauses, delegates should keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Number each clause consecutively for clarity.
- Ensure that each clause contributes to the overall resolution and complements the others.
- Include sufficient detail in every clause to make the proposed action complete and actionable.
- Punctuate properly: each clause ends with a semicolon (;), except for the final clause, which ends with a period (.).

Think of operative clauses as the “action plan” of your resolution—they turn discussion into concrete measures that the international community can implement.



LIST OF COMMON OPERATIVE PHRASES

Operative clauses **express actions and recommendations proposed** by the committee to address the issue discussed in the preamble. Each clause **begins with an underlined verb and ends with a semicolon (;), except the final one, which ends with a period (.)**.

Below is an organized list of commonly used operative phrases, grouped by their general purpose:

Approval or acceptance	Action or Implementation
- Accepts - Affirms - Approves - Confirms - Considers - Endorses - Notes - Takes note of	- Authorizes - Calls - Calls upon - Designates - Draws the attention - Emphasizes - Encourages - Further invites - Further proclaims - Further recommends - Further requests - Further resolves - Has resolved - Requests - Supports - Transmits

Recommendation or Guidance	Condemnation	Recognition or Appreciation
- Reaffirms - Recommends - Reminds - Trusts	- Condemns - Deplores - Regrets - Strongly condemns	- Congratulates - Expresses its appreciation - Expresses its hope - Proclaims - Solemnly affirms - Declares accordingly

SAMPLE RESOLUTION PAPER

Resolution: UNEP/1/1.1

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Topic: Combating Plastic Pollution in Oceans

Sponsors: France, Mexico, Japan

Signatories: Brazil, Kenya, Canada, Indonesia

The United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 14 on *Life Below Water*, which calls for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and marine resources,

Alarmed by the continuous increase in plastic pollution, which severely harms marine biodiversity, disrupts ecosystems, and threatens food security for coastal communities,

Recognizing the efforts made by international organizations such as UNEP and the Global Partnership on Marine Litter to coordinate actions against marine pollution,

Deeply concerned that many developing nations lack sufficient waste management infrastructure to effectively address plastic waste,

Acknowledging the importance of public awareness and education in promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns,

Emphasizing that global cooperation, innovation, and technology sharing are essential to solving the plastic pollution crisis,



1. Calls upon all Member States to implement national strategies aimed at phasing out single-use plastics by 2030;
2. Encourages the establishment of a **Global Ocean Cleanup Fund** under UNEP supervision, financed through voluntary contributions from developed countries and private sector partners;
3. Requests regional cooperation to improve **recycling and waste management systems**, especially in coastal and developing regions;
4. Recommends that Member States promote **research and development** of biodegradable and sustainable material alternatives;
5. Urges governments to integrate **environmental education programs** into school curricula to raise awareness about the impact of plastic pollution;
6. Invites the private sector to adopt **corporate responsibility initiatives**, including reducing plastic packaging and investing in circular economy models;
7. Calls for increased **technology transfer and capacity building** to support developing countries in waste management and recycling innovation;
8. Reaffirms the role of UNEP in coordinating international efforts and **monitoring progress** through an annual global report on ocean pollution;
9. Encourages collaboration with NGOs and civil society to organize **coastal cleanup campaigns** and community-based sustainability projects;
10. Requests that this resolution be circulated to all Member States, relevant UN bodies, and international partners for implementation and follow-up.

