

DRAFTING A KUNA RESOLUTION

I. TITLE

The title of your resolution states the topic/issue you are addressing. Please visit www.un.org/documents/resga and click "Resolutions" to see the different styles of UN Resolution titles.

Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The General Assembly,

II. PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

The preamble (introduction) of your resolution is made up of **preambulatory** (introductory) clauses – as many as you find necessary. In these preambulatory clauses, you provide the reasons why you are addressing your issue and highlight past international action on the issue. For real UN examples, visit www.un.org/documents/resga.

Each preambulatory clause begins with a *preambulatory phrase* (see list in box on right) and ends with a comma.

There are 5 types of preambulatory clauses. Your resolution should include all applicable types of clauses (as many of each type as you find necessary), organized in whatever order works best for your issue:

5 Types of Preambulatory Clauses

1. General Statements and Background Information on why your issue is important and its impact:

Convinced that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to the survival of mankind,

2. Citations (Mentions) of past UN Resolutions, Treaties, or Conventions related to your topic/issue:

Recalling that the use of nuclear weapons would constitute a crime against humanity, as declared in its resolutions 33/71*, 34/83, 35/152, and 36/92,

*Resolutions are cited as Session # / Resolution # – the citation 33/71 would mean Resolution 71 during the 33rd Session of the UN. An online library of all UN Resolutions is available at: www.un.org/documents/resga

3. References to sections of the UN Charter, Declaration of Human Rights, or other International Laws/Frameworks related to your topic/issue:

Reaffirming that any use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations,

4. Recognition of the efforts of nations and regional or non-governmental organizations in addressing your topic/issue:

Conscious that steps taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America towards reducing their nuclear weapons can contribute towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

5. Quotes and Statements made by the UN Secretary General or a UN body or agency relevant to your topic/issue:

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of July 8th, 1996 on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons,

Preambulatory Phrases

Affirming
Alarmed by
Approving
Bearing in mind
Believing
Confident
Conscious
Convinced
Declaring
Deeply concerned
Deeply conscious
Deeply convinced
Deeply disturbed
Deeply regretting
Desiring
Determined
Emphasizing
Expecting
Emphasizing
Expecting
Expressing its appreciation
Fulfilling
Fully aware
Further deploring
Further recalling
Guided by
Having adopted
Having considered
Having examined
Having received
Keeping in mind
Noting with deep concern
Nothing with satisfaction
Noting further
Observing
Reaffirming
Realizing
Recalling
Recognizing
Referring
Seeking
Taking into consideration
Taking note
Viewing with appreciation
Welcoming

III. OPERATIVE CLAUSES

The final section of your resolution is made up of **operative** (action-based) clauses – as many as you find necessary. Operative clauses provide your solutions to the issue your resolution addresses. Each clause should provide only one specific action/idea, and work together with the other operative clauses to build your full solution. For real UN examples, visit www.un.org/documents/resqa.

Each operative clause is numbered (1., 2., etc.), begins with an *operative phrase* (see list in box on right), and ends with a semi-colon. Only the FINAL operative clause should end with a period to signify the end of your resolution.

REMEMBER: Unlike bills passed by a legislature, the actions/ideas in your resolution are **non-binding** towards member nations. This means that no nation is “bound” (required) to follow them, even if your resolution is passed. The only actions that may be considered binding after passage are those impacting the internal operations of the United Nations (Examples: UN budget decisions, procedural decisions, organizational decisions etc.)

The strongest operative clauses are those that provide clear details and specifics on the action/idea you are recommending, including:

- Who should take action (Governments, the UN, UN Agencies, or NGOs)
- What actions they should take
- Where and/or when the actions should take place
- How to best take action

Example:

1. *Calls Upon* the UN Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances;
2. *Requests* the UN Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of those negotiations.

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
Further proclaims
Further reminds
Further recommends
Further requests
Further resolves
Has resolved
Notes
Proclaims
Reaffirms
Recommends
Regrets
Reminds
Requests
Resolves
Seeks
Solemnly affirms
Strongly condemns
Supports
Takes note of
Transmits
Trusts
Urges

Types of Operative Clauses

Operative Clauses are much more varied than preambulatory clauses because they depend on the idea/action you are recommending.

When creating operative clauses, the best guidelines to use are the powers given to the UN General Assembly by the UN Charter:

The General Assembly has the power to:

- Discuss and make recommendations
- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament
- Discuss and make recommendations relating to international peace and security as well as any dispute or situation except those before the Security Council
- Consider and approve the UN budget and establish financial assessments of member nations
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other UN Councils and bodies

For Security Council resolutions, the Security Council has the power to:

- Determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression
- Call upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement.
- In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.
- Under the UN Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Security Council decisions.