

Northwest Region

Colorado Model United Nations

PREPARING, PRESENTING AND DEBATING RESOLUTIONS

What is a Resolution?

A resolution is a written proposal whereby the Colorado Model United Nations RESOLVES to take action. Resolutions are prepared by delegates of a nation, presented by a team from the nation and debated in Council Sessions and in the Colorado Model UN General Assembly.

What can a Resolution do?

A resolution is a proposal prepared by OMUN delegates from a member nation that can do one or more of the following:

MAKE A RECOMMENDATION - A resolution can make a recommendation that the United Nations take a particular action on the proposal presented by the member nation. It can be written as a recommendation only and not ask for immediate action. *Example: Recommending the establishment of a permanent site for the Olympic Games or recommending the total withdraw of troops from an occupied region.*

FORM A COMMITTEE - A resolution can ask for the United Nations to form a committee to take a certain action, to study a particular problem, to perform a function or any combination of these actions. *Example: Forming a committee to study terrorism worldwide or to study human rights violations in a particular nation or to form a committee to distribute supplies and food to a nation in need.*

ESTABLISH A NEW PROGRAM - A resolution could ask the United Nations to establish a new program. *Example: Establishing a new program to fight terrorism, to establish a health program to protect children in an underdeveloped nation, to establish an international child adoption agency or to establish a new network to locate criminals throughout the world.*

ASK FOR ACTION - A resolution could ask the United Nations to take a particular action. *Example: Asking the United Nations to send troops to protect a nation's border or its citizens, asking the United Nations to withdraw troops from a region, asking the United Nations to condemn human rights violations in a particular nation or to place sanctions on a member nation.*

A resolution can focus on one of the above areas or it may be written to focus on a combination of these areas.

How is a Resolution organized?

Resolutions contain TWO BASIC SECTIONS. Study the sample resolutions provided and identify the sections of the resolution.

The first section is the WHEREAS section. It states all of the basic reasons why the resolution is needed. These reasons should be general and should NOT contain too much specific information. Specific information, including statistics, should be included in the Author's Speech. However, some specific information will be needed to generate reasons for the resolution. Resolutions can have as many WHEREAS sections as needed.

The second section is the THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED section. This section actually states the intent of the resolution. It states what the resolution will actually do if accepted by the United Nations. In this section a resolution is specific as to the intent, such as make a recommendation, form a committee, establish a new program, ask for action or any combination of these efforts.

The form of the resolution should match the form of the SAMPLE resolutions. The form should be as follows and MUST contain this information:

<p style="text-align: center;">Colorado Model United Nations RESOLUTION # 00</p> <p>Nation: School:</p> <p>SUBJECT: [use a short subject that will draw attention to your resolution topic]</p> <p>WHEREAS, [state reasons here in one long sentence that can be linked with ands but no periods], and</p> <p>WHEREAS, [additional reasons here], and</p> <p>WHEREAS, [additional reasons here ... can have as many whereas clauses as needed], and</p> <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, [put your final outcome here ... what you want the United Nations to actually do].</p>
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NOTE: Use as many WHEREAS sections as needed, but too many could ruin the flow of your resolution. Notice that after each WHEREAS the basic information is followed

by a comma and the word "and". This pattern is continued until you get to the THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED section that ends with a period. **The entire resolution should read as one complex sentence that is linked together by the WHEREAS clauses. There should be no short sentences in the resolution.**

THE RESOLUTION SHOULD READ AS ONE LONG SENTENCE ENDING WITH “THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED”. PLEASE SEE THE SAMPLE RESOLUTIONS.

What is a good topic for a resolution?

Good topics will vary from nation to nation. Topics should be generated during the **RESEARCH** phase of preparing for Colorado Model UN. While conducting research try to locate **UNIQUE** topics for resolutions.

A resolution should be written on a topic that would be considered by the United Nations. Keep in mind that the United Nations focuses on problems that are international in scope and related to keeping peace or providing humanitarian assistance. Problems that are internal to a nation are not good topics for resolutions. The United Nations will only become involved in a nation's internal affairs if these problems are monumental or are at risk of endangering citizens or causing international dangers.

Good resolutions can deal with ideas that benefit the member nation, another nation, a group of nations, a region of the world or the entire world. Ask these questions when forming a topic for a resolution:

- What is the **IMPACT** of this resolution on my nation?
- What is the **IMPACT** of this resolution on our region of the world?
- What is the **IMPACT** of this resolution on other nations?
- What is the **IMPORTANCE** of this resolution to members of the United Nations?
- What is the **IMPORTANCE** of this resolution to world affairs?
- What is the **IMPORTANCE** of this resolution to the goals of the United Nations?

Who prepares the resolution?

All members of the nation should conduct research and have input into the development of the resolution. The resolution should be a team effort and should reflect the work of each member of the nation's delegation. All delegates should be familiar enough with the resolution to defend it in debate or to answer questions about its intent or meaning.

The resolution should be submitted to the teacher/advisor by established deadlines and should be written in the correct form. All resolutions submitted **MUST** be in the correct form and **MUST** be typed.

Who presents the resolution?

Each resolution **MUST** have two (2) or three (3) main authors. These authors will present the resolution at the Colorado Model UN Simulation in May 2012. The authors of a resolution must prepare an Author's Speech in order to persuade delegates to accept the resolution. Each author must present part of the Author's Speech. The time limit for the Author's Speech is three (3) minutes. Authors share the time with each author giving a portion of the Author's Speech. The authors may be asked questions about the resolution by delegates during the debate process. The authors will also be asked to make Closing Comments on the resolution. The Closing Comments may be given by one, two or all three authors. The time limit for Closing Comments is one (1) minute. Authors may want to use this time to clarify remarks made during the debate or to rebut any opposing comments made by other delegates.

What is the debate procedure?

ALL resolutions are presented in Council Sessions. Each nation and the nation's resolution will be assigned to a council. The OMUN councils are as follows:

- Security Council
- Economic & Social Council
- Trusteeship Council
- International Court

Resolutions are assigned to councils on a random basis. Council sessions at the Colorado Model UN session are used as the first hearing of a resolution. (This process is similar to the committee system that is used in the legislative process). In the Council Session each resolution is debated. The debate procedure alternates from opposition to favor and delegates are asked to speak using a specific debate procedure that is outlined in the training manual.

What happens to resolutions in the council session?

In the Council Sessions resolutions go through the debate procedure and are found either **FAVORABLE** or **UNFAVORABLE** by the council. Favorable means that the council agrees that the resolution is good and should be given consideration by the General Assembly. Unfavorable means that the council finds the resolution to be unfavorable and should not be given top priority in the General Assembly. **The rating in the Council Sessions is NOT an opinion of the significance or importance of the resolution to the entire world in some cases, but how the delegates in that particular council view it in regard to the impact on their nations.**

In the Council Session each delegate votes as an individual delegate. Votes are tabulated by the presiding officer and announced to the council.

Which resolutions are debated in the General Assembly?

The vote in the Council Session is part of the factor that determines whether or not the resolution will be heard in the Colorado Model UN General Assembly HOWEVER it is NOT the ONLY factor. Resolutions are rated in regard to their significance, organization, content, style, research, author's presentations, debate in the council and the vote in the council. All resolutions receive a rating before Colorado Model UN begins and then a second rating after the resolution is presented in the council session. These ratings are compiled and the top resolutions are heard in the Colorado Model UN General Assembly. [Guidelines for Writing and Judging Resolutions are contained in the Training Manual].

What happens to the resolution in the Colorado Model UN General Assembly?

The resolution is placed on the floor of the General Assembly. The authors of the resolution present the Author's Speeches then the floor is open to debate. Debate alternates between speeches in favor and speeches in opposition. The authors deliver the Closing Comments and the resolution receives a vote. Voting in the General Assembly is by nation. Each nation must decide how they wish to vote. A caucus is held before the vote so that the members of the nation can decide how they wish to vote.