

Preambular Clauses

The purpose of the preambular clause is to supply **historical background** for the issue as well as justify the action. Preambular clauses usually begin with a participle and **cite** appropriate sections of the *UN Charter*, past UN resolutions, and precedents of international law relevant to the topic. The preamble should also specifically refer to **factual situations or incidents**. Finally, the preamble may include altruistic **appeals** to the common sense or humanitarian instincts of Members with references to the *Charter*, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, etc. The preamble is still critical because it provides the framework through which the problem is viewed. Remember that preambular clauses begin with participles, are in italics, and are always followed by a comma. Some common preambular clauses begin with:

- *Affirming*
- *Alarmed by*
- *Aware of*
- *Bearing in mind*
- *Believing*
- *Confident*
- *Contemplating*
- *Convinced*
- *Declaring*
- *Deeply concerned*
- *Deeply conscious*
- *Deeply convinced*
- *Deeply disturbed*
- *Deeply regretting*
- *Desiring*
- *Emphasizing*
- *Expecting*
- *Fulfilling*
- *Fully alarmed*
- *Fully aware*
- *Fully believing*
- *Further deploring*
- *Further recalling*
- *Guided by*
- *Having adopted*
- *Having considered*
- *Having considered further*
- *Having devoted attention*
- *Having examined*
- *Having heard*
- *Having received*
- *Having studied*
- *Keeping in mind*
- *Noting further*
- *Noting with deep concern*
- *Noting with regret*
- *Noting with satisfaction*
- *Observing*
- *Realizing*
- *Recalling*
- *Recognizing*
- *Referring*
- *Seeking*
- *Taking note*
- *Welcoming*

Operative Clauses

The solution in a resolution is presented through a logical progression of sequentially numbered operative clauses. These clauses may recommend, urge, condemn, encourage, request certain actions, or state an opinion regarding an existing situation. Each operative clause **calls for a specific action**. The action may be as vague as denunciation of a certain situation or a call for negotiations, or as specific as a call for a cease-fire or a monetary commitment for a particular project. It is important to bear in mind that only Security Council resolutions are binding upon the international community; the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council can only make recommendations. *The scope, power, and authority of a committee determine what may be included in the operative clause.*

Resolutions *are* rarely complete **solutions to a problem**; they are usually only one step in the process of developing a solution. Prior research should have revealed alternatives that failed. Operative clauses begin with an active, present tense verb and are followed by a semi-colon, with a period placed after the final

clause.

Some common operative clause beginnings include the following:

- Accepts
- Affirms
- Approves
- Authorizes
- Calls
- Condemns
- Confirms
- Considers
- Declares accordingly
- Deplores
- Designates
- Draws attention
- Emphasizes
- Encourages
- Endorses
- Expresses its hope
- Further invites
- Further proclaims
- Further recommends
- Further reminds
- Further requests
- Further resolves
- Have resolved

Introducing International Instruments

UN resolutions are not adopted in a vacuum, but in the context established by prior international instruments, such as the *UN Charter*, the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, and various international treaties or other agreements. These instruments establish the political and legal foundations upon which deliberations can begin. As such, delegates are fully expected to **integrate the relevant documents** in position papers and in draft resolutions and reports. The committee history and topic sections of each background guide indicate instruments of particular relevance to each committee. Below is a sample resolution.

Reports Overview

Some committees at the conference will draft reports during the course of negotiations, instead of resolutions. These reports represent the full work of the committee in question. (For NMUN-NY delegates, these reports should not be confused with the summary reports of a committee's work, which are presented at the Saturday Plenary Sessions of either the General Assembly or ECOSOC.) Directors of report writing committees will elaborate on the process used in reporting writing committees on opening night.

Reports are similar in nature to resolutions, with only a few key differences. Reports represent the formal recommendation and/or decision of the committee on the agenda topics at hand, in the same manner as resolutions, but in the form of one document. Committees that write resolutions typically produce a number of draft resolutions for each topic, and each one is subject to a substantive vote by the body. In a similar manner, committees that write reports produce several draft report segments and then vote on each one. The final report of these committees will combine the adopted draft reports into one comprehensive report at the end of the simulation. Clauses in a report are usually longer than those in a resolution.

Another key difference is the format of reports. While resolutions consist of one long sentence, reports are a series of complete sentences. Thus, where the clauses of a resolution each contain one whole concept, a report is composed of paragraphs, each constituted by a sentence or a few sentences which contain one whole concept.