

HMDC Presents... SOCHUM: Sample Draft Resolution

HMDC Presents... Sample Draft Resolution: SOCHUM: Role of NGOs

THIS IS A MODEL TO LEARN FROM, NOT TO COPY. We never bring pre-written clauses to committee. We study this sample at home to learn the shape of a resolution and the kind of ideas that belong in it. Then we write every clause live, in our own words, with our bloc.

HOW A RESOLUTION IS BUILT

A resolution has two kinds of clauses. **Preambulatory clauses** come first: they explain why the committee is acting by recalling past resolutions, treaties and facts. Each one begins with an *italic* opening word or phrase, such as *Recalling* or *Deeply concerned*, and ends with a comma.

Operative clauses come second: they say what the committee will actually do. Each one is numbered, begins with a **bold** (or underlined) verb, such as **Encourages** or **Requests**, and ends with a semicolon, except the final clause, which ends with a period. SOCHUM is a committee of the General Assembly, so it can recommend and request but cannot force any country to act. That is why our operative verbs usually *call upon*, *encourage*, *recommend* and *invite* instead of commanding.

THE SAMPLE DRAFT RESOLUTION

Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) **Topic:** Role of Non-Governmental Organizations, Foreign Aid and Local Institutions **Sponsors:** The Kingdom of Sweden, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg **Signatories:** [signatories]

The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015), which calls for partnerships with civil society to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, and General Assembly resolutions 69/313 (2015) and 79/323 (2025) on financing for development,

Guided by the five principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, which ask developing countries to set their own strategies and donors to support those strategies and use local systems (OECD, March 2, 2005), and by the 2021 donor standard on enabling civil society (ICNL, July 12, 2021),

Noting with concern that organizations based in developing countries received only about 0.5 percent of the 27.6 billion dollars that donors sent to and through civil society in 2023 (OECD, June 10, 2025), and that only 4.3 percent of humanitarian funding went directly to local and national actors in 2025 (ALNAP State of the Humanitarian System 2026, September 10, 2026), far below the Grand Bargain promise of at least 25 percent "as directly as possible" (Inter-Agency Standing Committee, May 7, 2024),

Deeply concerned that aid which depends on too few donors cannot last, as shown in 2025 when local partners could no longer run the accounting systems they had built to meet a single donor's rules (Brookings Institution, February 25, 2025),

Aware that outside groups working around local systems can build "parallel structures" that weaken governments (Brookings Institution, January 21, 2025), while neutral aid remains essential where authorities are a party to conflict (ICRC Humanitarian Law and Policy Blog, July 11, 2024),

Welcoming country-based pooled funds, which sent a record 55 percent of their money to local and national NGOs in 2025 (OCHA, December 26, 2025), locally governed funds such as the NEAR Change Fund (NEAR Network, Last Accessed: October 2026), and the African Union's plan for an African Humanitarian Agency funded mainly from Africa's own resources (African Union, April 15, 2019),

Mindful that local partners who take on more work also take on more risk, since most aid workers killed in 2024 were national staff serving their own communities (UN News, August 19, 2025),

1. **Endorses** a Framework for Locally Led Development with three goals: efficiency, so that more of each dollar reaches people; sustainability, so that local institutions grow stronger every year; and a steady reduction in the need for outside help;
2. **Calls upon** all signatories of the Grand Bargain to renew it after 2026 with a clear deadline for sending at least 25 percent of humanitarian funding as directly as possible to local and national actors, and to publish a yearly public report on direct local funding;
3. **Recommends** that donors and international NGOs treat local partners as equal partners, and further recommends that they:
 - a. Give local partners a fair share of overhead, the money needed for rent, accounting and staff training;
 - b. Offer multi-year funding, and give local partners clear warning and time to adjust before funding ends;
 - c. Accept one common report form, so that small NGOs are not overwhelmed with paperwork;
4. **Encourages** member states to increase their contributions to country-based and regional pooled funds, to fund pooled funds that local organizations govern themselves, and to support cash assistance delivered by local organizations wherever markets still work;
5. **Requests** that every aid program funded through United Nations pooled funds include a written handover plan with three stages:
 - a. Stage one, in which international partners lead while training local partners and paying them fairly;
 - b. Stage two, in which local partners lead and international partners give support;
 - c. Stage three, in which local institutions and locally governed funds lead on their own, and outside funding falls step by step;
6. **Calls upon** donors to support national development plans and to use national systems, such as public hospitals and schools, wherever governments answer to their citizens and are not a party to conflict, and to fund both public institutions and local NGOs so that neither replaces the other;
7. **Invites** United Nations pooled funds and donors to work with the African Humanitarian Agency and other regional bodies, so that more of the response is led and paid for within each region;

8. **Encourages** donors to spread funding across more countries, private foundations and businesses, so that no single donor's decision can close local programs;
9. **Requests** that progress under this framework be measured each year, following the Paris Declaration principles of managing for results and mutual accountability, through a public report on direct local funding, the handover stage of each program and the share of decisions made by local partners.

HOW THIS SAMPLE IS BUILT

1. **Answering what our chairs will ask:** Harvard asks how NGOs and other humanitarian groups can help communities while making local institutions stronger, and it wants a development framework that "promotes efficiency and sustainability." Clause 1 names that framework, and clauses 2 to 9 fill it in, so the whole draft answers one question.
2. **Placing each idea in the framework:** Clauses 2 and 4 serve efficiency, using localization from Part 1B, pooled funds from Parts 1C and 2C, and cash from Part 1D. Clauses 3 and 6 serve sustainability, using fair overhead from Part 1B, multi-year funding from Part 3E and the Paris Declaration from Part 3B. Clauses 5 and 7 build the plan for needing less outside help, using the locally governed funds in Part 3D and the African Humanitarian Agency in Part 3E. Clause 8 spreads funding across more donors, a lesser solution in Part 1G, and clause 9 measures results, as the Paris Declaration in Part 3B asks.
3. **Keeping emergencies in the background:** Our HMDC report treats aid-worker safety and counterterrorism rules as background, so this draft mentions the danger to local staff only once, in the last preambulatory clause. It gives no operative clause to sanctions, because those rules do not answer Harvard's question about lasting development.
4. **Counting the clauses:** The draft has 7 preambulatory clauses and 9 operative clauses, inside the HMDC range of 5 to 7 and 6 to 9.

HOW WE MERGE AND AMEND IN COMMITTEE

1. **Merging with a sovereignty bloc:** Some countries want aid to strengthen their own governments, not only NGOs. The African Union row in the bloc table in Part 2G of our HMDC report shows this view. Our clauses 6 and 7 already respect the Paris Declaration's principle of "ownership," which means receiving countries set their own strategies (OECD, March 2, 2005), so when their paper shares our main ideas, we offer to merge. We can give them stronger wording on national systems, and in return we keep our clauses on fair funding for local NGOs and on the handover plan.
2. **Separating what everyone accepts from what divides us:** Experts already disagree about whether aid should flow through governments or through local NGOs (Brookings Institution, January 21, 2025). If one clause, such as clause 6 on national systems, blocks a deal, we can move to divide the question. Then the widely shared clauses, such as fair overhead and the handover plan, can still pass.

3. **Amending through the right steps:** An amendment is a change to the draft. If every sponsor agrees with it, it is friendly and is added at once. If any sponsor disagrees, it is unfriendly and the committee votes on it. The number of signatures and votes it needs depends on our dais, so we raise a point of parliamentary inquiry to ask before we write an amendment.

HMDC Forensics, Harvard MUN Online, December 2026

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