

HMDC Presents... TERRORISM: Sample Draft Resolution

HMDC Presents... Sample Draft Resolution: Special Session on Terrorism: State Sovereignty and Intervention

THIS IS A MODEL TO LEARN FROM, NOT TO COPY. Resolutions are written during committee sessions, together with our bloc, so we never bring one already written. 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 **Urges** or **Requests**, and ends with a semicolon, except the final clause, which ends with a period. Only the Security Council can make binding decisions (decisions every state must obey) under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Unless our background guide gives this committee those powers, our operative verbs *recommend*, *urge*, *request* and *encourage* instead of commanding.

THE SAMPLE DRAFT RESOLUTION

Committee: Special Session on Terrorism **Topic:** State Sovereignty and Intervention **Sponsors:** The Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of South Africa, the Togolese Republic **Signatories:** [signatories]

The Special Session on Terrorism,

Reaffirming Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations, which bans the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of any state, and Article 51, which keeps the right of self-defence only until the Security Council acts and requires states to report such action to the Council at once,

Recalling the Declaration on Friendly Relations (A/RES/2625(XXV), 1970), which confirms the rule of non-intervention and the duty of every state not to organise or allow terrorist acts against other states from its territory,

Bearing in mind the judgment of the International Court of Justice in Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (2005), which found that a military presence without the host state's consent was a "grave violation" of the Charter's ban on force,

Reaffirming also the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288, 2006), most recently reviewed in A/RES/80/286 (2026), including respect for human rights and the rule of law,

Welcoming Security Council resolution 2719 (2023), which allows United Nations assessed contributions to pay up to 75 percent of African Union-led peace support operations under the UN human rights due diligence policy,

Deeply concerned that the Liptako-Gourma borderlands, where Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger meet, account for over half of global terrorism-related deaths (Council on Foreign Relations, July 29, 2026), and that more than 76 percent of terrorist attacks in 2025 took place within 100 kilometres of an international border (Vision of Humanity, March 19, 2026),

Noting with regret that invited regional missions have ended for lack of money, leaving a "security vacuum" (International Crisis Group, May 8, 2024), and that the United Nations mission in Mali left in 2023 under resolution 2690 while violence in the region continued to grow,

1. **Affirms** that foreign forces may act against terrorist groups on the territory of another state only with the consent of that state, with the authorisation of the Security Council under Chapter VII, or in self-defence under Article 51, and calls upon all states to respect these limits;
2. **Calls upon** every state that uses force in self-defence against a non-state group (a group that is not a government) inside another state to send a detailed letter to the Security Council under Article 51, and to report again when the operation ends;
3. **Recommends** that every host state and the partners it invites sign a written compact, a political agreement in which each side states what it promises to do (IPI Global Observatory, September 16, 2026), which should include:
 - a. Clear goals, a clear area of operation and a date for review;
 - b. Rules for protecting civilians and for following the UN human rights due diligence policy;
 - c. Tracking of civilian harm, honest public reporting and help for victims;
 - d. A planned handover to national forces before any partner leaves;
4. **Urges** the Security Council to apply resolution 2719 to African Union-led counter-terrorism operations, including the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), so that these missions receive adequate, sustainable and predictable financing;
5. **Invites** the African Union, its member states and international partners to agree on a fair way to raise the 25 percent of each operation's budget that resolution 2719 leaves open, and supports the full launch of the African Standby Force;
6. **Calls upon** all states to prevent ransom payments to terrorist groups, in line with Security Council resolution 2133 (2014), noting that a ransom of about 50 million US dollars helped pay for an offensive across Mali in April 2026 (United Nations Security Council, August 10, 2026);
7. **Encourages** member states, with the host state's agreement, to fund local prevention projects and programmes that help fighters leave armed groups, including through the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), and to use police rather than soldiers at borders wherever possible;
8. **Requests** that a larger share of the budget of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism come from the regular budget, since less than 20 percent does today (United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, Last Accessed: October 2026), so that its capacity-building work does not depend on a few donors;
9. **Supports** regional diplomacy between neighbouring states, such as the Togolese initiative that brought West African and central Sahel states back to talks, and encourages written guarantees and neutral verification as alternatives to cross-border strikes.

HOW WE MERGE AND AMEND IN COMMITTEE

1. **Merging with a strict-sovereignty bloc:** The Non-Aligned Movement rejects force against any member "under the pretext of combating terrorism," and the Alliance of Sahel States prefers its own unified force (UN General Assembly Sixth Committee, October 6, 2025). If their bloc writes a paper on non-intervention (staying out of other states' affairs), we can merge. We accept a clause naming regionally owned forces such as the Alliance's, and they accept our clauses 2 and 3. That way every force, foreign or regional, reports and protects civilians.
2. **Choosing words that can pass:** The United States strongly opposes funding the Somalia mission through resolution 2719 (Security Council Report, June 14, 2026). It also asks partners for "proper burden-sharing" (UN General Assembly Sixth Committee, October 7, 2025). We therefore keep clause 5, which shows that African states and partners pay their own share. We can also soften clause 4 from **Urges** to **Encourages** if that wins United States votes without losing the African Group.
3. **Amending through the right steps:** An amendment is a change to a draft. If every sponsor agrees, it is "friendly" and added at once. If any sponsor disagrees, it is "unfriendly" and the committee votes on it, using the rules our chair explains. AUSSOM's mandate runs only until December 31, 2026 (Security Council Report, Last Accessed: October 2026), so we check the news before December 5 and amend clause 4 to match what the Security Council really decided.

HMDC Forensics, Harvard MUN Online, December 2026

HMDC Forensics, Harvard MUN Online, December 2026