HMDC Presents...

Resolution Writing Guide: World Health Organization

Social Effects of Addiction

This guide gives you the opening words that start every clause of a resolution, and it shows one example from this committee's sample resolution. A resolution is the final product of the committee, so clear clauses help your ideas get votes. Read the example first, then practise writing your own clauses in the boxes at the end.

THE TWO KINDS OF CLAUSES

Preambulatory clauses come first. They say *why* the committee is acting. Each one starts with an *italic* opening phrase and ends with a comma.

Operative clauses come second. They say *what* the committee will do. Each one is numbered, starts with a **verb**, and ends with a semicolon. The last operative clause ends with a period.

CLAUSE STARTERS

Preambulatory starters (why)	Operative starters (what)
Recalling ★	**Encourages ★**
Reaffirming ★	**Recommends ★**
Recognizing	**Requests ★**
Welcoming ★	**Invites ★**
Bearing in mind ★	**Calls upon ★**
Noting with concern ★	**Urges ★**
Deeply concerned	Supports
Alarmed by ★	Affirms
Guided by	Establishes
Aware of	Decides
Emphasizing	Demands
Noting with regret ★	Expresses its hope

★ = used in this committee's sample resolution.

WHAT THIS COMMITTEE CAN DO

The WHO gives advice to countries. It cannot force a country to change its laws, so your operative clauses should advise, invite, encourage and request.

ONE WORKED EXAMPLE

This is the opening line of the resolution: **The World Health Organization,** Every clause after it continues that sentence.

> *Reaffirming* Sustainable Development Goal Target 3.5 on the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, adopted in General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015),

The starter *Reaffirming* tells the room *why* the committee cares. The rest of the clause names the fact, rule or earlier decision, and the comma at the end shows that more clauses follow.

> 1. **Urges** member states and donors to protect community-led and women-specific services from sudden funding cuts, and to plan national budgets so that these services keep running when a donor withdraws;

The verb **Urges** tells the room *what* the committee will do. The words after it say who acts and what they should do, and the semicolon shows that another operative clause comes next.

YOUR TURN

Write one clause of each kind for your own country. Use a starter from the table, and make sure your operative clause asks for something this committee is allowed to do.

Preambulatory clause (starter, then the reason, then a comma):

_____ _____

_____,

Operative clause (number, verb, then the action, then a semicolon):

1. _____ _____

_____;

The example clauses come from the HMDC sample draft resolution for this committee, which lists its sources in full. Resolutions are written live in committee with your bloc, so use this guide to practise, not to copy.