

HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The name "United Nations" was devised by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was first used in the "Declaration by United Nations" of 1 January 1942, during the Second World War, when representatives of 26 nations pledged their Governments to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers.

The representatives of 50 countries at the United Nations Conference drew up the United Nations Charter on International Organization, which met at San Francisco from 25 April to 26 June 1945. Those delegates deliberated on the basis of proposals worked out by the representatives of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States at Dumbarton Oaks in August-October 1944. The representatives of the 50 countries signed the Charter on 26 June 1945. Poland, which was not represented at the Conference, signed it later and became one of the original 51 Member States.

The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States, and by a majority of other signatories. United Nations Day is celebrated on 24 October each year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<http://www.un.org/ga/54/>

The General Assembly is the main deliberative organ of the United Nations. It is composed of representatives of all Member States, each of which has one vote.

Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new Members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority. A simple majority reaches decisions on other questions. These decisions may be adopted without a vote, or with a vote, which may be recorded, non-recorded or by roll call.

While the decisions of the Assembly have no legally binding force for Governments, they carry the weight of world opinion on major international issues, as well as the moral authority of the world community.

The work of the United Nations year-round derives largely from the decisions of the General Assembly – that is to say, the will of the majority of the Members as expressed in resolutions adopted by the Assembly. That work is carried out:

- by committees and other bodies established by the Assembly to study and report on specific issues, such as disarmament, outer space, peace-keeping, decolonization and human rights;
- In international conferences called for by the Assembly; and by the Secretariat of the United Nations – the Secretary-General and his staff of international civil servants.

Under the Charter, the functions and powers of the General Assembly include:

- to consider and make recommendations on cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including disarmament and arms regulation;
- to discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is being discussed by the Security Council, to make recommendations on it;
- to discuss and, with the same exception, make recommendations on any question within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- to initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international cooperation, the development and codification of international law; the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and international collaboration in economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields;
- to make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation, regardless of origin, which might impair friendly relations among nations;
- to receive and consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs;
- to consider and approve the UN budget and to apportion the contributions among Members;
- to elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council, the members of the Economic and Social Council and those members of the Trusteeship Council that are elected; to elect jointly with the Security Council the Judges of the International Court of Justice;
- And, on the recommendation of the Security Council, to appoint the Secretary-General.
- Under the "Uniting for peace" resolution adopted by the GA in 1950, the Assembly may take action if the Security Council, because of a lack of unanimity of its permanent members, fails to act in a case where there appears to be a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression. The Assembly is empowered to consider the matter immediately with a view to making recommendations to Members for collective measures, including the use of armed force when necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security.

- **HOW TO WRITE A UN RESOLUTION**

HOW TO BEGIN

The first and most significant element in a resolution is to have a coherent idea, stemming from your research and policy. Ideas should address what your county feels are the important aspects of the topic and how it plans to solve the problems.

A resolution is composed of two main parts: perambulatory clauses and operative clauses. The perambulatory clauses act as an introduction to the resolution, usually citing the history of the problem and past U.N. actions on the topic. The operative clauses provide specific solutions to the topic at hand. This is the meat of the resolution.

PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

The purpose of perambulatory clauses is to introduce the problem and provide background information on past precedents and actions. This part of the resolution allows delegates to show the chair that they have researched the topic and to quote specific sources. A good resolution usually includes two or more document citations in these clauses.

OPERATIVE CLAUSES

Operative clauses outline a specific solution for the problem at hand. The key concept for operative clauses is “action.” Operatives need to take some type of definite action in dealing with the topic. Try not to pass the problem to other committees or urge further debate. Your ideas should be legitimate and should be economically feasible and politically viable. Many MUN delegates take to idealism when solving the dilemmas of the world. Examine your solutions and ask if they would really work or if the real United Nations would take such steps. Most importantly, your resolution must accurately reflect the policies and interests of your country.

HELPFUL PHRASES FOR RESOLUTION WRITING

Powerful Perambulatory Clauses

Acknowledging	Decided	Recalling
Adopted	Declaring	Received
Affirming	Deploring	Recognized
Alarmed	Desiring	Recognizing
Anxious	Determined	Referring
Appreciating	Distressed	Regard for
Approved	Emphasized	Regretting
Approving	Encouraged	Reiterating
Aware	Endorsing	Resolved
Bearing in Mind	Examined	Seeking
Being Convinced	Examining	Shocking
Believing	Expecting	Stressing
Cognizant	Expressing	Supporting
Concerned	Fulfilling	Taking into account
Condemning	Having	Taking into consideration
Confident	Heard	Taking note
Conscious	Hearing	Underling
Considered	Keeping in mind	Urging
Considering	Mindful	Welcoming
Contemplating	Noting	
Convinced	Reaffirming	

Operative Clauses

Accepts	Demands	Recognizes
Adopts	Deplores	Recommends
Affirms	Designates	Regrets
Appeals	Determines	Rejects
Appreciates	Directs	Reminds
Approves	Draws the attention	Renews
Authorizes	Emphasizes	Repeats
Calls	Encourages	Requests
Calls upon	Endorses	Resolves
Commends	Expresses its hope	Solemnly affirms
Condemns	Further requests	Stresses
Confirms	Further resolves	Strongly condemns
Congratulates	Have resolved	Suggests
Considers	Instructs	Supports
Considers it desirable	Invites	Trusts
Declares	Notes	Urges
Declares accordingly	Proclaims	

BLOCS BY GEOGRAPHY

NOT SURE WHO TO WORK WITH?

ASIAN STATES

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Brunei-Darussalem
Cambodia
India
Indonesia

Iran
Japan
Laos
Malaysia
Maldives
Myanmar
Nepal

Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Vietnam

AFRICAN STATES

Algeria
Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
Cote d'Ivoire
Djibouti
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia

Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mauritania
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger

Nigeria
Rwanda
Sao Tome Y Principe
Senegal
Seychelles
Somalia
Sudan
Swaziland
Togo
Uganda
United Rep. of Cameroon
United Rep. of Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS

Armenia
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Estonia
Georgia
Kazakhstan

Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lithuania
Moldova
Russia
Tajikistan

Turkmenistan
Ukraine

Uzbekistan

ARAB STATES

Algeria
Bahrain
Egypt
Iran
Jordan
Kuwait

Lebanon
Libya
Morocco
Oman
Qatar
Saudi Arabia

Sudan
Syria
Tunisia
United Arab Emirates
Yemen

GROUPS BY PACT OR TREATY

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

Made up of all the League of Arab States members PLUS all of the following countries with large Islamic populations.

Afghanistan	Eritrea	Mauritania
Bangladesh	Gambia	Mauritius
Benin	Ghana	Nigeria
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Pakistan
Central African Republic	Indonesia	Senegal
Chad	Iran	Seychelles
Comoros	Madagascar	Somalia
Cote d'Ivoire	Malaysia	Turkey
Djibouti	Maldives	
	Mali	

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Belgium	Greece	Spain
Canada	Iceland	Turkey
Denmark	Luxembourg	United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	United States
Germany	Norway	
	Portugal	

In addition, in recent years countries in Eastern Europe (Czech Rep., Hungary, Slovak Rep., Poland) are meeting with NATO in hopes of being admitted to NATO in the future.

THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union or EU is an international organization of 25 European states, established by the *Treaty on European Union*. The European Union has many activities, the most important being a common single market, consisting of a customs union, a single currency (adopted by 12 out of 25 member states), a common agricultural policy and a common fisheries policy. The European Union also has various initiatives to co-ordinate activities of the member states.

Austria	Greece	Poland
Belgium	Hungary	Portugal
Cyprus	Ireland	Slovakia
Czech Republic	Italy	Slovenia
Denmark	Latvia	Spain
Estonia	Lithuania	Sweden
Finland	Luxembourg	United Kingdom
France	Malta	
Germany	Netherlands	

NGOs

Representatives of independent citizen organizations are increasingly active in policy making at the United Nations. These organizations which are known at the UN as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are often the most effective voices for the concerns of ordinary people in the international arena. NGOs include the most outspoken advocates of human rights, the environment, social programs, women's rights and more. There are over 50,000 NGOs formed for different purposes throughout the world. Those NGOs with multiple home offices are considered "transnational." This is a list of select transnational NGOs and the subject that they deal with.

Transnational NGOs

Amnesty International (Human Rights)
CARE International (Development)
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (Environment)
Derechos Human Rights
Development Alternative with Women for a New Era (Women)
Directory of Development Organizations (Reference)
Family Health International (Women)
FoodFirst Information & Action Network (Human Rights)
Forest, Trees and People Program (Development)
Freedom House (Human Rights)
Friends of the Earth (Environment)
Global Vision (Development)
Greenpeace (Environment)
Human Rights Watch (Human Rights)
International Center for Research in Agroforestry (Environment)
International Commission of Jurists (Human Rights)
International Planned Parenthood Federation (Women)
MAP International (Development)
Nature Conservancy (Environment)
Oxfam (Human Rights)
PROUT (Development)
Sustainable Development Agency (Development)
Taiga Rescue Network (Environment)
Third World Network (Development)
Women Action (Women)
Women's Learning Partnership (Women)
World Conservation Union (Environment)
World Wide Fund for Nature (Environment)