



POINTS AND MOTIONS – WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Participating in a Model United Nations conference requires being properly acquainted with a specific vocabulary and a meticulous parliamentary procedure. Being aware of this, we have attached the following chart in order for you to be able to comprehend in a simplified manner the points and motions that shape the debate.

<i>Motions</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Vote to Pass</i>
<i>Suspend the Meeting</i>	Suspending the meeting means calling for a moderated or unmoderated caucus. When moving to suspend the meeting, delegates should specify the purpose for and length of the suspension. This motion requires an immediate vote.	<i>Simple majority</i>
<i>Adjourn Meeting</i>	Adjourning the meeting ends the committee session until the next session, which may be held the following year. The motion is most commonly made to end a committee session for the purpose of lunch or dinner. It requires an immediate vote.	<i>Simple majority</i>
<i>Table Debate</i>	This motion must not be confused with the motion to adjourn the meeting. Tabling debate ends debate on the topic. Delegates can table debate, move onto another topic and return to the first topic at a later time. Before going to a vote, two delegates must speak in favor of tabling debate and two speak against it.	<i>Two-thirds majority</i>
<i>Close Debate</i>	Closing debate allows the committee to move into voting procedure. Once a delegate feels that his or her country's position has been made clear, that there are enough draft resolutions on the floor and that all other delegates are ready, he or she can move for the closure of debate. Two delegates usually speak against the closure of debate. None speak for it.	<i>Two-thirds majority</i>
<i>Appeal the Chair's Decision</i>	This motion is made when a delegate feels that the chairperson has made an incorrect decision. The appeal must first be made in writing.	<i>No vote</i>
<i>Point of Order</i>	Points of order are used when delegates believe the chair has made an error in the running of the committee. Delegates rising to points of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. They should only specify the errors they believe were made in the formal committee procedure.	<i>No vote</i>
<i>Point of Inquiry (or Point of Parliamentary Procedure)</i>	When the floor is open (<i>i.e.</i> , no other delegate is speaking), a delegate may rise to a point of inquiry in order to ask the chairperson a question regarding the rules of procedure.	<i>No vote</i>
<i>Point of Personal Privilege</i>	Points of personal privilege are used to inform the chairperson of a physical discomfort a delegate is experiencing, such as the inability to hear another delegate's speech.	<i>No vote</i>
<i>Point of Information</i>	After a delegate has given a speech in formal debate, he or she may yield time to points of information, or questions from other delegates.	<i>No vote</i>

Position Paper

How to write

it?



1

Outline the Topic in General

The first section (labeled ‘A’) serves the purpose of outlining the topic in general and providing insight into the root of the conflict.

Lets sat the subject of the paper is Free Trade, the write-up begins by first stating the areas of concern, discussing some of the positive and negative aspects of globalization, as well as emphasizing the controversial nature of the topic at hand. Your opening paragraph should, as this paper attests to, be a brief summary of the current perception held towards the status quo. It should state the problem and express why it is significant.

2

Identify and Describe Your Country – How Has Your State Been Affected?

The second section (labeled ‘B’) is where your background research on your country pays off.

Firstly, you should identify and describe your country. Be sure to state how your nation relates to the topic for discussion, specifically citing how your state has been affected (B1). It is imperative to emphasize the extent to which change has taken place. Hold off any normative judgments in this section, the purpose of this paragraph is not to evaluate the institution or development in reference to your country, but rather, to merely discuss how it has altered domestic dynamics.

3

Your Country's Policies and Proposed Solutions

The third section (labelled 'C') is where you outline your country's policies and what factors contributed to those policies being established in the first place.

At this point, you are to address the relative benefits (if any) and detriments of the development, specifically relating to your nation and the actions you have taken to maximize or minimize these effects. You are to explain why your country has acted in a certain fashion historically (C1), and why it will continue to follow this course of action.

Outline your state's particular interest in the issue being discussed, and begin to discuss what needs to be changed about the current interpretation of the situation. Cite the areas needing reform (C2) and provide suggestions as to how this revision process should be accomplished. Following this, you may want to focus on one area of particular concern for your country (C3). Depending on your topic area, this could be anything from the affect of a war on a nation's health care infrastructure to how creating new national boundaries may affect resource deposits running along the potential borders.

In this particular paper, attention is brought to Regional Trade Alliances (C4) and their associated problems, something that, as been noted, holds special significance to Oman.

By approaching a problematic scenario in greater detail, you are demonstrating to the chair and to fellow delegates that you have the capacity to think critically and can identify the issues with which your country has the greatest concern. This being said, choose this area carefully: given the issue's prominence in your position paper (and correspondingly the problem's significance to your country as a whole), you will have to stress its importance during committee session. Be sure to select an area of concern that could potentially form the basis of a resolution, or at least one that can stimulate prolonged debate.

4

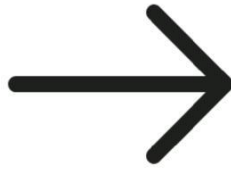
Tie Together Loose Ends

Finally, a conclusion should be written to restate your country's position and sum up what you hope to achieve throughout the duration of the conference (D).

The position paper leaves the committee chair with a **first impression** of your delegation. Naturally, it's important to make that impression as strong as possible. The staff looks for original and critical thinking, a true understanding of the nature of your nation and both a function and applied knowledge of your topic.

Be sure to demonstrate this through presenting a concise yet effective paper. As expressed before, be sure to dedicate equivalent energy to position papers for both topic areas. They are equally important in the eyes of the committee and the directors (the people who will be evaluating your write-ups).

¿How to write a Resolution Paper?



Who: Who writes a resolution? Any delegate in the committee can write a resolution (although in rare instances an observer state is not allowed to directly write a resolution). The author of a resolution is called a **sponsor**. Most resolutions have multiple sponsors because it takes a group of countries to share good ideas and to come to a consensus.

What: What is a resolution? A resolution is a document that contains all the issues that the committee wants to solve and the proposed solutions to that issue.

When/Where: When and where are resolutions written? Most conferences require students to write resolutions during the conference. Specifically, resolutions are usually written during **unmoderated caucus** (sometimes called informal caucus) where delegates are free to roam around the committee to collaborate on ideas with each other.

A resolution is actually really simple to write. It has three main parts: the **heading**, the **pre-ambulatory clauses**, and the **operative clauses**.

1

Heading: The heading contains four pieces of information: the committee name, the sponsors, the signatories, and the topic. The committee name and topic should be self-explanatory. The sponsors are the authors of the resolution. The signatories are other delegates in the committee who do not necessarily agree with the resolution but would like to see it debated. Most conferences require a minimum number or percentage of sponsors and signatories (or a combination of both) before a resolution can be presented — this encourages consensus-building.

2

Pre-ambulatory clauses: The pre-ambulatory clauses states all the issues that the committee wants to resolve on this issue. It may state reasons why the committee is working on this issue and highlight previous international actions on the issue. Pre-ambulatory clauses can include:

- ✓ Past UN resolutions, treaties, or conventions related to the topic
 - ✓ Past regional, non-governmental, or national efforts in resolving this topic
 - ✓ References to the UN Charter or other international frameworks and laws
 - ✓ Statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency
- General background information or facts about the topic, its significance, and its impact.

Here are some example pre-ambulatory phrases from UNA-USA’s website that you can choose from:

Affirming	Emphasizing	Having received
Alarmed by	Expecting	Keeping in min
Approving	Expressing it’s	Noting with deep
Bearing in mind	appreciation	concern
Believing	Fulfilling	Nothing with
Confident	Fully aware	satisfaction
Contemplating	Emphasizing	Noting further
Convinced	Expecting	Observing
Declaring	Expressing it’s	Reaffirming
Deeply	appreciation	Realizing
concerned	Fulfilling	Recalling
Deeply	Fully aware	Recognizing
conscious	Further deploring	Referring
Deeply	Further recalling	Seeking
convinced	Guided by	Taking into
Deeply	Having adopted	consideration
Disturbed	Having considered	Taking note

For example, my country wants to address the issue of how HIV/AIDS has spread rapidly in sub-Saharan Africa. I pick a pre-ambulatory phrase from above — I’ll use “Alarmed by” — and then I combine it to say:

Alarmed by the 17% increase in HIV/AIDS contraction among sub-Saharan African countries in the past five years,



Operative clauses

Operative clauses state the solutions that the sponsors of the resolution propose to resolve the issues. The operative clauses should address the issues specifically mentioned in the pre-ambulatory clauses above it.

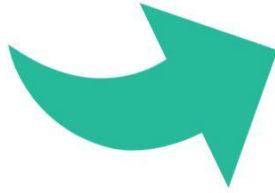
Accepts	Encourages	Further
Affirms	Endorses	recommends
Approves	Expresses its	Further requests
Authorizes	appreciation	Further resolves
Calls	Expresses its hope	Has resolved
Calls upon	Further invites	Notes
Condemns	Deplores	Proclaims
Confirms	Designates	Reaffirms
Congratulates	Draws the attention	Recommends
Considers	Emphasizes	Regrets
Declares	Encourages	Reminds
accordingly	Endorses	Requests
Deplores	Expresses its	Solemnly affirms
Designates	appreciation	Strongly condemn:
Draws the attention	Expresses its hope	Supports
Emphasizes	Further invites	Takes note of

For example, my first solution is to distribute low-cost medicines for HIV/AIDS to sub-Saharan African countries. I pick an operative phrase from above — I’ll use “Calls upon” — and then I combine it and number it to say:

1. Calls upon the developed countries and major pharmaceutical countries to provide low-cost, generic medicines for HIV/AIDS to sub-Saharan African countries;

Sample Resolution

Paper:



Your job is nearly finished! Now you will present your Resolution Papers to your Directors, and they will recommend a couple of amendments that will improve your work. Then, when the Resolution Papers have been presented and voted, the committee will vote on them.

Sample Resolution Paper:

Sponsors: United States, Austria and Italy

Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon

Topic: "Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies"

The General Assembly,

Reminding all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens, **[use commas to separate preambulatory clauses]**

Reaffirming its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and nongovernmental organizations,

Stressing the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. Encourages all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts; **[use semicolons to separate operative clauses]**
2. Urges member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;
3. Requests that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;
4. Calls for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;
5. Stresses the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;
6. Calls upon states to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance; and
7. Requests the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through reconstruction and development. **[end resolutions with a period]**

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