

## Drafting resolutions for the MOAS – The MOAS Declaration



A resolution is a written document that addresses an issue that needs to be resolved or acknowledged. The draft resolutions presented by the participants in the MOAS are the result of research, analysis, negotiation and compromise performed by the delegates regarding a topic, taking into consideration the interest and policies of the assigned countries.

Each draft resolution should deal specifically with a topic of the agenda of the respective committee. It must also indicate a source of funding (savings from a particular budgetary appropriation, voluntary contributions to be made by governments, other international organizations, foundations, etc.).

### All draft proposals should:

- a. Deal specifically with the chosen approach to the topic of the MOAS.
- b. Follow the stylistic standards of the Model OAS. (Please see sample below and the resolutions of the OAS General Assembly posted on the OAS website: <http://www.oas.org/consejo/GENERAL%20ASSEMBLY/DecResGA.asp>)
- c. Be written in the third person (no use of the pronouns 'we', 'you', 'I', 'our' or any of their derivatives).

### FORMAT OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION

A draft resolution consists of the **title**, the **preamble**, and the **operative** section. It is recommended that the draft resolutions presented at the MOAS include **four (4) paragraphs in the preamble**, and between **four (4) and six (6) operative paragraphs**. The attached sample resolution is provided as an example of the appropriate format to be used for the MOAS.

#### The Title

The title must be related to the topic of the agenda of the committee. The title could bear the same title as the topic; however, if applicable it could also refer to the specific area or perspective on the topic being addressed in the resolution.

On the top right corner, the numbers and letters identify the Committee, topic, and sub topic. In the example below, “IV” refers to the Fourth Special Committee, “1” to the Topic 1, and “a” to the subtopic “a”.

**ADVANCING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH  
ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE**

Resolution presented by the Delegations of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, United States, and Uruguay

**Example: Resolution's Title.**

**The Preamble**

The **preamble** provides the reasons (facts or opinions) for the action to be taken, and illustrate the background for the resolution: why it is important, what has been done in the past, and the extent of the problem. The information in this section may refer to prior OAS resolutions or documents; documents from international organizations and agencies; as well as documents or resolutions from specialized and Inter-American specialized organizations, regional conferences, councils, and legal instruments, among others.

- The preamble begins with the name of the deliberative body which issues the resolution, in this case the **"General Assembly,"** followed by a comma.
- Must have a maximum of five (5) paragraphs.
- Each paragraph starts with words such as: "CONSIDERING", "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT", "RECOGNIZING", "BEARING IN MIND"; "ACKNOWLEDGING"; "TAKING NOTE"; "EMPHASIZING" and similar, followed by the source or reason.
- These paragraphs are not numbered and **end with a semicolon**, except for the **last one which ends with a comma**.

**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,**

NOTING the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that sustainable development urges to attend the present economic, environmental, and social needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, has emerged as the guiding principle for long term global development;

RECALLING that the quality of the environment in the member states has declined in the past few decades;

BEARING IN MIND that each member state may have different individual sustainable development need(s), working together may help both the individual country and their neighboring countries; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the meeting of the Inter-American Congress to discuss the environmental rule of law in sustainable development, as well as the need to invest in designing and adopting necessary appropriate and effective policies, laws and regulation to protect the well-being of the people and their environment,

**Example: Resolution's Preamble**

### Sample of Preambulatory Phrases

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Affirming         | Noting with deep |
| Alarmed by        | concern          |
| Approving         | Noting with      |
| Aware of          | satisfaction     |
| Bearing in mind   | Noting further   |
| Believing         | Noting with      |
| Confident         | approval         |
| Contemplating     | Observing        |
| Convinced         | Reaffirming      |
| Declaring         | Realizing        |
| Deeply concerned  | Recalling        |
| Deeply conscious  | Recognizing      |
| Deeply convinced  | Referring        |
| Deeply disturbed  | Seeking          |
| Deeply regretting | Taking into      |
| Desiring          | account          |
| Emphasizing       | Taking into      |
| Expecting         | consideration    |
| Expressing its    | Taking note      |
| appreciation      | Viewing with     |
| Expressing its    | appreciation     |
| satisfaction      | Welcoming        |
| Fulfilling        |                  |
| Fully alarmed     |                  |
| Fully aware       |                  |
| Fully believing   |                  |
| Further deploring |                  |
| Further recalling |                  |
| Guided by         |                  |
| Having adopted    |                  |
| Having            |                  |
| considered        |                  |
| Having            |                  |
| considered        |                  |
| further           |                  |
| Having devoted    |                  |
| attention         |                  |
| Having examined   |                  |
| Having heard      |                  |
| Having received   |                  |
| Having studied    |                  |
| Keeping in mind   |                  |
| Noting with       |                  |
| regret            |                  |

## The Operative Section

The operative section contains the decision reached to address the issue being discussed. These are the actions proposed for accomplishing, solving, changing, implementing or calling attention to the issue, and are the basis for the debate. The clauses in this section become the political mandates which reflect the consensus by the Member States on decisions related to the main issues of the Inter-American agenda. These are commitments assumed by the states.

The political bodies that issue these resolutions are instructing their subsidiary institutions, secretariats or departments (for example: “instruct the Department of Public Security ...,” “charge the Secretariat for Administration and Finance to ...,” “request the Secretary General to travel to...,” etc.) However, under no circumstance may the resolutions impose actions on the Member States.

The operative section:

- Begins with the word “RESOLVES:” followed by numbered paragraphs beginning with an infinitive verb (Example: “To request...”; “To suggest...”)
- Provides a solution to an issue through an action to follow. When drafting the operative clauses the following questions must be answered: **What** is required for executing the proposed solution? **Why** is it necessary to identify a solution? **How** to reach the solution? **When** must the solution be implemented? **Where** the action or solution should be applied?
- May refer to a recurrent or new issue. If it refers to a new issue, it must describe how this issue is going to be addressed, without going into too much detail. A resolution is the basis that originates programs and projects; thus, in a resolution, it is not necessary to provide a detailed description on the implementation of a project.
- Must indicate a source of funding or suggest ideas for financing the proposals (voluntary contributions to be made by governments, special contributions, in-kind or cash contributions from Permanent Observer countries, international investing organizations, etc.)
- Should specifically establish what areas of the OAS will be in charge of developing or implementing the mandates.

**RESOLVES:**

1. To ensure clean water for all and prevent future contamination of rivers and lakes throughout the member states by;

- a) Selling permits for water use from public water sources by companies who want to set up close to the rivers and lakes and create zones that are vulnerable to water pollution where companies cannot operate.
  - i. Setting restrictions, such as no pollution by big corporations, small businesses and the general population; and
  - ii. Setting fines if restrictions are broken.
- b) Creating jobs (security) that keep rivers and lakes from further pollution by:
  - i. Using cameras and security guards as a form of management.

Creating task forces in each country that clean up the rivers.

- 2. To decrease the poverty and starvation rate by;
  - a) Creating environmentally-friendly job opportunities such as planting trees and crops.
    - i. Providing hydroponic farms to farmers who will plant and sell the crops, which will create food for the farmers and the nation.
  - b) Developing campaigns such as the one in Brazil Fome Zero (Zero Hunger) to allow for the public to donate and take their own step towards ending hunger within their nation.

**Example: Extract of Resolution's Operative Section**

## Guidelines for drafting the MOAS Declaration

(only for Models where there is no “Special Working Group”)

1. The MOAS Declaration has been included as one of the agenda items for the General Committee, thus all General Committee delegates must have a thorough knowledge of the main theme of the declaration.
2. The Vice Chair of the General Committee is in charge of informing about the process for drafting the declaration and for coordinating the meetings of the working group in charge of the declaration. The Vice Chair of the General Committee will propose, in consultation with the delegations that make up the working group, the drafting procedure and the schedule of meetings of this group.
3. The working group will consist of one-third (1/3) of the participating delegations; however more delegates can be a part of it. The working group will be supported by an OAS specialist.
4. During the working group’s first meeting, it will elect one of its members as the group representative and another as its secretary. The secretary will be in charge of drafting, consolidating and organizing all of the proposals made by each member of the working group.
5. The delegates must propose the clauses for the preamble and for the operative section. A maximum of three (3) perspectives related to the theme of the declaration may be included.
6. A consensus must be reached by all members of the working group before the declaration may be presented to the General Committee by the group representative. During this presentation, the delegates from the General Committee will have the opportunity to suggest changes to the document. Those changes must be discussed and implemented (if relevant) during the last meeting of the working group.
7. The declaration will be presented by the representative of the working group during the First Plenary Session of the MOAS General Assembly. Afterwards, the Committee Chairs will debate and approve it by **consensus**.