

# CHEMUN

## General Assembly (GA) GUIDEBOOK



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# INTRODUCTION

Established in 1945 under the UN Charter, The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the six principal organs of the UN, and is the central deliberative, policymaking, and representative body where all 193 member states have equal representation and voting rights. The UNGA meets annually in New York to discuss and make recommendations on a wide range of global issues, including peace and security, human rights, development, and international law, while also being in charge of overseeing and approving the UN budget, electing non-permanent members to the Security Council, appointing the Secretary-General, and overseeing other UN bodies. The Assembly operates through its six main committees:

- GA1: Disarmament and International Security (DISEC)\*
- GA2: Economic and Financial (ECOFIN)\*
- GA3: Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural (SOCHUM)\*
- GA4: Special Political and Decolonization (SPECPOL)\*
- GA5: Administrative and Budgetary
- GA6: Legal

(committees with \* are at CHEMUN XX)

All 6 committees address specific thematic areas and prepare draft resolutions for the full Assembly's consideration. While the resolutions in the General Assembly are not legally binding (except in budgetary matters (not applicable in MUN)), they carry significant moral and political weight, shaping international norms and guiding the work of the UN system. Most Decisions in all UNGA committees are made by a simple majority where the For/Against votes outweigh the other.

## GENERAL RULES

1. Be on time for every session.
2. Turn off all cell phones before the committee is in session.
3. Delegates should stand when speaking for any purpose.
4. The use of electronic devices is solely permitted during lobbying.
5. The use of electronic recording (audio or visual) devices by Delegates is prohibited.
6. Address other delegates with dignity and respect.
7. Voting should not take place when all delegates are not present, with the exception of absent delegates

## GA PROCEDURE

### *Resolution*

#### *Format of a Resolution*

A **resolution** is comprised of three main sections: the header, the preambulatory clauses, and the operative clauses. Details of resolution formatting can differ in each conference, but each resolution should have these main parts. In CHEMUN, we follow the THIMUN procedures which also apply to resolution writing.

**Headers** give basic information about a resolution. They tell the committee and the reader which committee is discussing the issue, the issue being discussed, the main submitter, co-submitters, and signatories. Below is an example of a resolution header:

COMMITTEE: [insert committee name here]

QUESTION OF: [insert topic name here]

SUBMITTED BY: [insert main submitter delegation here]

Keep in mind that after the heading of a resolution, there must be an address to the committee. Do this by writing the name of the committee and follow it with a comma and a space between the address and the preambulatory clauses.

**Preambulatory clauses** function as the introduction of the resolution and provide scope to the issue. It specifically justifies why particular measures should be carried out based on examples from history or actions from past resolutions.

*Always* begin a preambulatory clause using a phrase from the useful prefix-list at the end of this section ***in italics***. End each preambulatory clause with a comma (,) and use full names of organizations, bodies of government, and so forth before using abbreviations (e.g. first state “World Health Organization” before using “WHO”).

Preambulatory clauses can:

- a) give examples of past resolutions, statistics, and policies for context
- b) give reasons why the issue should be discussed
- c) briefly outline difficulties from past actions and
- d) acknowledge and/or congratulate past actions by UN bodies or other NGOs.

The following is an example of a preambulatory clause:

*Expressing with satisfaction* the African Women's Decade (2010-2020) launched by African Union to promote gender equality and women's empowerment through expediting the implementation of the relevant regional and global decisions and commitments,

## Useful Prefix List for Preambulatory Clauses

(Note: must be *italicized* in resolution)

|                 |                             |                  |                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Affirming       | Expecting                   | Having examined  | Further recalling |
| Alarmed by      | Emphasizing                 | Having received  | Reaffirming       |
| Approving       | Expecting                   | Keeping in mind  | Deeply            |
| Bearing in mind | Expressing its appreciation | Noting           | Guided by         |
| Believing       | Fulfilling                  | Deeply concerned | Realizing         |
| Confident       | Fully aware                 | Deeply convinced | Disturbed         |
| Declaring       | Further deploring           | Observing        | Recognizing       |
| Regretting      | Referring                   | Having adopted   | Recalling         |

**Operative clauses** are statements offering or suggesting solutions to the topic of discussion. This is the most significant part of the resolution. Operative clauses also set the tone and sort of actions that should be carried out by the UN; for example, this can be seen in the difference between the tone created by a phrase such as “suggests” versus “strongly affirms”.

These clauses are the foundation of the resolution. Begin an operative clause by denoting it first with a number and **underlining** the operative prefix being used. End each clause with a semicolon (;).

The following is an example of an operative clause:

1. Calls for all relevant member states to sign and ratify the KPCS as created in 2003 by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly which will help to promote cooperation and awareness of the illicit diamond trade;

If using **sub-clauses**, use phrases like “such as but not limited to...” or “by...” to demonstrate that the clause has more specifics that need to be discussed. Press *Enter* and continue to the next line, hit *Tab*, and begin the sub-clause with a letter (ex. a, b, c...). Leave a space between each clause.

**Sub-sub clauses** follow the same process but are denoted by lowercase Roman numerals (ex. i, ii, iii, iv...) with no punctuation after it. In the sub-clauses and sub-sub clauses, details for the solutions and recommendations should be discussed. This can include how that action will be executed, who will be involved, and examples of resources needed.

Sub-sub-sub clauses are not in order in CHEMUN. After the final operative clause, use a period (.) to end the resolution. The next page includes useful prefixes for operative clauses.

### Useful Prefix List for Operative Clauses

(Note: must be underlined in resolution)

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

When creating a resolution, always be mindful of the specific format used by the conference. It is also imperative that your resolution is clear, concise, and coherent. If,

for example, you decide it is important to lower income disparity, make sure you can say: [1] who will be affected, [2] what measures will be taken to do this, [3] the time frame in which it will take place, [4] where it will be done, [5] and ways to hold parties accountable. To augment your credibility in the committee, you should propose realistic goals based on your country's social, political, and economic background. Never contradict your representative country's stance.

## ***Debate***

The General Assembly's, just like most other committees, debates resolutions as a whole. Procedure in committee is mostly the same as any other committee. Delegates will raise their placard after the chair(s) indicate that the floor has been opened for speeches, at which point a delegate will be recognised, this delegate can make a speech or have their amendment entertained, after which there will be points of information at the discretion of the speaker. After this, the delegate can yield the floor to the chair or to another delegate unless the chair requests otherwise.

## ***Lobbying & Clause Writing***

Lobbying occurs on the first day, after the opening ceremony, roll call, and opening speeches are completed. The room will be divided into the three topics, and delegates will work with others (in blocs) to create a final resolution for that group, which will be compiled into one document. There will be 2 resolutions per topic in a committee, so the final number of resolutions as a whole should total to 6 resolutions that will be debated upon. Delegates may not move between groups due to the size of each GA.

As mentioned previously the committee debates a resolution as a whole. This means that each reso should contain at least 7 clauses. Clauses can be interdependent since they are part of a resolution.

## ***Voting***

### ***Voting for Resolutions***

Once time has elapsed for debate on the resolution, and the chair is ready for the resolution to be voted upon, the committee will move into voting procedures. If the delegate is in favor of a resolution passing, simply raise your placard when the chair addresses delegates wishing to vote in favor of the resolution. Similarly, if the delegate is against a resolution, the delegates may do the same when the chairs request for delegates wishing to vote against the resolution. If the delegate does not want to vote for or against a resolution, the delegate may abstain from voting. To do so, simply raise your placard when the chair calls for any abstentions.

### ***Voting for Amendments***

Once the chair, during debate on the resolution, is ready to entertain an amendment to be voted upon after allotted time has elapsed, or the house sets a motion to move to voting procedure, the chair will move into voting procedures for the amendment. If the delegate is in favor of the amendment passing, simply raise your placard when the chair requests it. If the delegate is against a resolution passing, simply raise your placard when the chair requests it. It is important to note that abstentions are not in order for amendments.

### ***Use of Subclauses***

Within the Model United Nations program, resolutions are commonly full of long clauses, sub-clauses, and sub-sub-clauses, which add excessive amounts of detail. These types of resolutions are much less common in real United Nations resolutions, as the more specified the resolution becomes, the less accommodating it is to a plethora of differing situations. As a result, the negotiation process becomes troublesome. Consensus requires compromise, therefore, clauses may become more general in order to become more adaptable.

# MOTIONS & POINTS

All the Motions and Points that are entertained in CHEMUN General Assembly's (GA2, GA3, and GA4) are listed below:

## Points and Motions

### Points:

- **Point of Information:** Questions to a delegate who has just finished a speech, these will be opened up to the house at the discretion of the delegate
- **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry:** Questions asked to the chairs regarding parliamentary procedures, or to indicate that the chair has made an error in procedure
- **Point of Personal Privilege:** Only point that can interrupt a speaker, if pertaining to audibility, may also be used to ask chairs to turn the AC off or other points of comfort
- **Point of Order:** Point used to point out mistakes made by chairs or other delegates
- **Point of Information to the Expert Chair:** Used to clarify any point regarding the topic in debate, delegates are not permitted to check facts they must ask the expert chair to do so
- **Right of Reply:** If Delegate A says something that offends Delegate B.

### Motions:

- **Request/Motion for Follow Up:** Used to ask a question, pertaining to the initial POI
- **Point of Information to the Expert Chair:** Used to clarify any point regarding the topic in debate, delegates are not permitted to check facts they must ask the expert chair to do so
- **Motion to Move to Previous Question:** A motion that calls for debate to be moved to the next phase, ie moving from time for to time against, or moving from time against to voting

- **Motion to Table a Resolution:** Used by a delegate to remove a resolution without any voting, requires strong support to pass. (not advisable at CHEMUN)
- **Motion to Extend Debate Time:** A motion that calls for the set debate time to be extended; this has to be done before debate time has elapsed, as the motion is no longer valid after the chair moves into voting procedure, also note that an extension for debate time for will not be entertained when the committee is in time against
- **Motion to Move Into Unmoderated Caucus:** Calls for the committee to move into a state similar to lobbying where there is no formal debate that occurs in the committee room
- **Motion to Move Into Moderated Caucus:** Calls for committee to be moved into a faster form of debate where delegates who wish to make a speech do so in only 30 seconds and entertain no points of information, this is discouraged in such a small committee

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact the President of The General Assemblies, or the chairs of DISEC, GA2, GA3, GA4, with any further questions.