Writing a clause

- **Clauses** are the primary tools of discussion and decision-making at the **United Nations**.
  They form **the basis for all UN debate**,
  bringing one or several **issues** to the floor in a form that delegates can **discuss**, **amend**, **and reject or ratify** as circumstances dictate.

- **Clauses** usually state a policy that the **UN will undertake**.

They range from very general to very specific in content but during **INOMUN** *you should avoid too general clauses . They may call for or suggest a course of action, condemn an action, and require action or sanctions on the part of the member states.*

Do you have the perfect idea for a clause ?

Perfect, but you need to master "the writing rules".

1. First of all, **the headings** : it contains **3 pieces of information** :

   the submitter, the co-submitters and the signatories.

   -The submitter is your country.

   -The co-submitters are other countries who agree with your clause and would be willing to defend it

   -The signatories are countries who aren't sure but want to discuss it.

To obtain co-submitters and signatories you will need to present your clause to the other delegates during the lobbying time.

Then, each clause has to start with some pre-ambulatory sentences, they state the main issues and any action that has already taken place.

Here's what should be stated in your preambs and some examples that you can use :

- References to **the UN Charter**

- Citations of **past UN resolutions or treaties** on the topic under discussion;

- Recognition of **the efforts of regional or nongovernmental organizations** in dealing with the issue

- **General statements** on the topic, its significance and its impact.

Sample Preambulatory Phrases:

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

2. After this, write your **operative clause** the clearest possible :
operative clauses offer solutions to the topic being discussed.

Try to explain the "who, where, when, what, why and how" of your solutions.

Your clause should follow the principles below:

- Clause **should be numbered;**

- Should **start with operative phrases;**

- Each clause should **support one another and continue to build your solution;**

- **Add details** to your clauses in order to have a complete solution;

- Operative clauses are punctuated by **a semicolon,** with the exception of your last operative clause which should end with **a period.**

Sample Operative Phrases

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

FIRST EXAMPLE:

Submitter : United-Kingdom

Co submitters: France, USA

Signatories : Mexico, Italy, Japan, Egypt.

Topic:

"Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies"

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

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;

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.

The basics

Here you will find everything you need to know about the debating rules and the vocabulary related to it. Read this and then watch our video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Km8FsOe-bGE)

❖ <u>**Vocabulary**</u>

➔ <u>The Resolution</u>

The Resolution is composed of all the clauses voted and approved by all the delegates during the debates.

➔ <u>Clauses</u>

As explained before, a clause is written by the delegates and are submitted to the Chairs.

If <u>one allie totally agrees</u> with the clause, the delegate can "co-submit" it, that is to say he/she is ready to defend the clause and <u>is not supposed to speak against the clauses.</u> If a delegate wishes to debate about the clause (either in favour or against) he/she can "sign" it.

In a committee, delegates share the clauses and ideas during <u>the lobbying sessions.</u> At the end of the lobbying sessions, the delegates submits their clauses to the chairs.

<u>The more co-submitter and signatories</u> you have, the quicker your clause is going to be debated.

> **Ex:** *Submitter: Ukraine*
> *Co-submitter: OK, USA, Germany*
> *Signatories: France, Poland, Romania, Hungary*
>
> *"Urges all the MEDCs trading with Russia to stop any form of commercial exchanges until the end of the occupation of the Ukraine by Russian military forces."*
>
> *(Russia would neither co-submit or even sign such a clause, and would certainly take the floor to speak against it.)*

➔ <u>Amendments</u>

During the debates, if <u>one delegate</u> wants to bring a modification to a clause, he/she has to write an amendment (<u>it needs to be in favour of the global idea</u>) . Then the country passes the amendment to the Chairs and takes the floor to defend it.

After, the amendment is debated like a clause.

 If the amendment passes, it will be added to the clause.

If not, the committee will go back to the clause without the amendment.

➔ <u>Take the floor</u>

To take the floor is to stand in front of all the delegates to speak in favour or against a clause/amendment.

➔   <u>"Order in the house"</u>

A Chair claims order when the noise is disturbing the debate, the Chairs asks for calm.

Indeed, <u>no direct speaking between the delegate is allowed.</u>

If a delegate wishes to say something to another delegate, or wants to get signatories for a clause he had not finished during the lobbying: <u>he writes his message on a piece of paper (a "note")</u> and calls the admin who will give it to the right address.

❖ <u>Procedures of debating</u>

<u>IMPORTANT POINTS :</u>

- Delegates speak <u>at the third person</u>

- They <u>do not use PERSONAL PRONOUNS</u> during the debates <u>no "I" nor "YOU"</u>

Indeed, delegates don't give their own opinion and speaking without personal pronoun is also one of the ways to avoid conflict between delegates.

Ex: "The delegates of UK wonders how the delegate of Germany…"

A rather formal English is also necessary, no need of real elaborate sentences

but <u>no insults and avoid "ain't / gonna / dudes / etc..."</u>

Lobbying

It is the time at the beginning of each committee, when the delegates have to write their clause, try to get other delegates' signatures or find co-submitters as well as co-submit and sign other delegates' clauses.

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• Points of information

When a delegate has taken the floor, other delegates can make **"point of information".** Indeed, after a speech, he or she may yield time to points of information.
A point of information is a question from a delegates concerning the point of the delegate who has the floor.
They must be under the form of a question and wait until the Chair invites them to speak. <u>In general, delegates do not speak aloud or at all until they are invited to.</u> During the points of information, delegate wishing to make one <u>raises their placard.</u>
If the point of a delegate has already been answered the delegate can sit down and reply **"the delegate's point has already been answered"**.

- ## <u>Closed debate</u>

  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.

Here was a quick overview of the basic procedures of MUN you HAVE to know to debate, for more see below (all that is not above cited is not necessary to survive but being aware of the existence of certain point or motion might help and remember that there is no time settled to speak in our type of MUN).

- # <u>Useful Tools</u>

http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation/resolutions

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1J7ELDid4uA0BP9ZLCm4R9_NHi3USxQwx_6ZWZ2Cs4/edit#slide=id.g4144b2c77b816f9_13

- # <u>Activities to ensure you understand everything!</u>

<u>Some games and activities to complete about the MUN vocabulary with correction:</u>

http://www.unausa.org/images/content/GC_Model_UN/Model_UN_Prep/Activity_5_-_Model_UN_Vocabulary.pdf

» **<u>An activity to complete about the different MUN Procedures with its correction:</u>**

http://www.unausa.org/images/content/GC_Model_UN/Model_UN_Prep/Activity_6_-_Points_and_Motions.pdf