

MINI-MODEL UN TOOLKIT

UNEA

SIMULATION

*STUDENT WORKSHEETS: WORKSHEET 3
ZERO DRAFT & AMENDING A RESOLUTION*

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS
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STUDENT WORKSHEETS: WORKSHEET 3

In this worksheet you find: 1) the Zero Draft Resolution you will be using during your negotiations on Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics, 2) a short explanation of how this resolution is structured and what kind of content typically goes in the preambular paragraphs and what typically goes in the operative paragraphs, 3) an overview of the type of amendments you can make during the line by line review of the zero draft, and 4) a table you can use to keep track of the amendments you want to propose and their level of priority for your country's position.

1.ZERO DRAFT RESOLUTION

In the UNEA, the Committee of Permanent Representatives often writes the initial draft (called a Zero Draft) of the resolution to be negotiated. This mini simulation follows this procedure by providing a Zero Draft for you to use. Delegates can make any changes they want to this Zero Draft based on the "Amending a Resolution" rules below.

A Zero Draft presents the first version of an agreement. It is the starting point of negotiations, and its "zero" status implies that it is an early text that will undergo extensive revision before being finalized. The revision process begins with the line by line review of the Zero Draft in order to create a compilation text that contains a complete list of amendments proposed by delegates.

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

PP1 Recognising that marine plastic litter and microplastics are a growing global problem that threatens ecosystems, wildlife, human health, and livelihoods, especially in coastal and island communities that depend on tourism and fishing for survival,

PP2 **Acknowledging** that most plastic pollution comes from land-based sources—such as poorly managed waste, littering, and lack of recycling—and from sea-based sources, including fishing gear, shipping waste, and offshore industries,

PP3 **Concerned** about the rising levels of microplastics—tiny plastic particles that come from broken-down larger plastics and products like synthetic clothing, cosmetics, and tires—which are difficult to detect and remove once they enter the marine environment,

PP4 **Noting** the efforts made by countries, regional bodies, and other stakeholders to introduce plastic bans, improve waste collection systems, create public education campaigns, and support innovation in biodegradable or reusable alternatives,

PP5 **Recalling** previous UNEA resolutions and multilateral environmental agreements, including the Basel Convention and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), which encourage international cooperation on preventing marine pollution,

PP6 **Recognizing** that not all countries have the same capacity or resources to prevent plastic pollution, and that special attention must be given to the needs of developing countries, including small island developing States (SIDS), least developed countries (LDCs), and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs),

OP1 **Encourages** Member States to develop and strengthen national strategies to prevent and reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics, including policies to reduce single-use plastics, invest in waste management and recycling infrastructure, and support sustainable alternatives such as compostable materials and reusable packaging;

OP2 Urges Member States to promote education and awareness campaigns that inform the public—especially youth, businesses, and local communities—about the environmental and health impacts of plastic pollution, and to promote responsible consumption and waste disposal habits;

OP3 **Calls upon** industries, including manufacturers and retailers, to take responsibility for the plastic products they produce, to reduce excessive packaging, to adopt product designs that are easier to recycle or reuse, and to support research and development into innovative, non-polluting materials;

OP4 **Requests** Member States to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other stakeholders to share scientific data, monitoring systems, and successful practices that address plastic pollution, and to support research into how marine litter and microplastics affect biodiversity, ecosystems, and human health;

OP5 **Invites** Member States to support and participate in projects that clean up marine plastic litter from rivers, beaches, and oceans, particularly in areas where plastic pollution poses serious risks to marine biodiversity or coastal economies;

OP6 **Encourages** regional and international collaboration through financial and technical assistance, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building to help countries—especially developing countries—adopt effective measures to reduce plastic waste and improve circular economy practices;

OP7 **Requests** the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to report back to the Assembly at its next session with an update on actions taken to address marine litter and microplastics, and to explore possible global options—including a legally binding international agreement—for long-term coordination to combat plastic pollution.

2. RESOLUTION STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

Although this mini simulation uses a pre-written Zero Draft, students must be familiar with the structural and editorial guidelines of resolutions to ensure their work is consistent with UN practice.

1) Structure

A resolution has two sections:

1. Preambular paragraphs: these provide context; begin with a participle (e.g., *Recalling*, *Concerned about*), end with a comma.
2. Operative paragraphs: set out actions; begin with a present-tense verb (e.g., *Encourages*, *Requests*), end with a semicolon (the last operative paragraph ends with a period).

2) Content of the Preamble

- References past actions:
Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1...
Reaffirming UNEA resolution 2/10...
Welcoming the IMO revised strategy on ship emissions...
- Expresses concern:
Concerned about threats to the health of oceans and coastal areas...
- Recognises progress:
Noting with appreciation the Regional Seas Programme since 1974...

3) Content of Operative Paragraphs

- Concrete actions or requests, e.g.:
Encourages Member States to adopt or implement regional protocols and action plans...

4) Editorial Guidelines

- Opening verbs are italicised (never underlined).
- Repetition in preambular paragraphs: (Noting, Noting also, Noting further).
- Repetition in operative paragraphs: (Requests, Also requests, Further requests).

The best way to learn is by reviewing and comparing existing UNEA and UNGA resolutions.

3. AMENDING A RESOLUTION

1) Delete a word, phrase, or sentence in a paragraph

Amendment to delete a word, phrase, or sentence:

PP 7 *Emphasising* the need to link policies on economic, social and environmental development to ensure that all **[CAN DEL: people]** benefit from economic growth...

Amendment to delete a paragraph:

OP 3 *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a concise report on the implementation of the present resolution, which neither duplicates nor summarizes other reports, and decides to include in the provisional agenda the item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conferences on Financing"; **[CAN DEL OP3]**

2) Add a word, phrase, or section in a paragraph

Amendment to add a word proposed by Canada and co-sponsored by Italy:

PP7 *Emphasising the need to link policies on economic, social and environmental development to ensure that all benefit* **[CAN, ITA ADD: equally]** *from economic growth...*

3) Replace a word, phrase, or section in a paragraph with new text

Amendment to replace:

PP7 *Emphasising the need to link policies on economic, social and environmental development to ensure that all* **[CAN, ITA REP: women and men people]** *benefit from economic growth...*

4) Add a completely new paragraph

A new paragraph is indicated in the following manner:

PP3 bis THAI Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it,

If additional new paragraphs were added immediately after this one the sequence is marked as follows:

PP3 ter

PP3 quater

PP3 quinquies

3. AMENDING A RESOLUTION (CONT.)

4) Add a completely new paragraph (cont.)

If you want to add a new paragraph between PP1 and PP2, the proposal for a new paragraph takes the number of the previous paragraph:

PP1 *Recalling its resolution...*

PP1 *bis GER Reaffirming...*

PP2 *Noting...*

This is because the proposal has not yet been accepted. If it is accepted by all of the delegates or a revised version of it is accepted, then the numbering will be modified appropriately:

PP1 *Recalling its resolution...*

PP2 *Reaffirming...*

PP3 *Noting...*

5) Add an alternate version of a paragraph

There are two different types of alternated paragraphs.

One type of alternate paragraph occurs when a delegate wants to delete a paragraph and replace it with a new paragraph. A second type of alternate paragraph maintains some of the wording of the original paragraph but makes some revisions in how the idea is expressed. Both options are noted the same way:

OP 3 Requests the Secretary-General to submit a concise report on the implementation of the present resolution, which neither duplicates nor summarizes other reports, and decides to include in the provisional agenda the item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conferences on Financing"

OP 3 ALT Norway: Requests the Secretary-General to submit a note at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution and decides to include in the provisional agenda the item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conferences on Financing," unless otherwise agreed in the revitalization of the Second Committee;

3. AMENDING A RESOLUTION (CONT.)

6) Move a paragraph to another place in the resolution

PP6 Emphasizing the need to link policies on economic, social and environmental development to ensure that all people benefit from economic growth... [PERU MOVE PP6 between PP1 and PP2]

7) Merge two paragraphs into one

OP25 Recognizes the need for the international financial institutions to promote gender mainstreaming in their programs including job creation in accordance with national priorities;

OP26 Urges donors and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reaches women and girls; [US MERGE OP 25 and 26]

Accepting an Amendment

Whenever an amendment or subamendment is accepted, the brackets around the proposed change are removed, along with the initials of the country that proposed it and the indication of the type of amendment that was proposed:

PP7 Emphasising the need to link policies on economic, social and environmental development to ensure that all [CAN, ITA REP: women and men people] benefit from economic growth...

PP7 Emphasising the need to link policies on economic, social and environmental development to ensure that all women and men benefit from economic growth...

3. AMENDING A RESOLUTION (CONT.)

Considerations as you Draft Amendment Proposals

Use the following questions to guide you when you fill out the next section, “Zero Draft Notes for Line by Line Review”.

For Each Preambular Paragraph (PP1–PP6)

These paragraphs describe the problem and set the context. They are not binding but are still debated.

1. Do I agree with how this issue is described? Why or why not?
2. Is anything important missing from this paragraph? (e.g. equity, specific impacts, certain regions or groups)
3. Should this paragraph include stronger or clearer language?
4. Could this wording create bias or misrepresent your country's circumstances?
5. Does this paragraph align with your country's interests and values?

For Each Operative Paragraph (OP1–OP7)

These paragraphs contain the action steps. They are the most important parts to negotiate.

1. Can my country implement this recommendation? Why or why not?
2. Does this paragraph require resources, technology, or infrastructure that my country has—or lacks?
3. Are there any words or phrases we might want to change or clarify?
4. Would my country want to add, modify, or delete anything in this paragraph?
5. Does this action respect national sovereignty, or could it create obligations we can't fulfill?
6. Is this solution too vague, or does it suggest realistic and measurable outcomes?

Consensus Building

1. Which paragraphs do I think most delegates will agree on quickly?
2. Which paragraphs will be more difficult to agree on and might require compromise?
3. Where am I willing to be flexible, and where will I stand firm?
4. If an amendment I propose faces opposition, what are some alternate versions or compromises I could accept?

4. AMENDMENTS YOU WANT TO PROPOSE DURING THE LINE BY LINE REVIEW

Instructions: Insert the language you would like to add, delete, or replace in the zero draft and note any paragraphs you would like to move to a new location or merge with other paragraphs. Extra space is left after the preambular and operative paragraphs if there are any new paragraphs you would like to propose. If you agree with the text in a paragraph of the Zero Draft, leave the cell next to it blank.

Use these notes during the line by line review.

Please note there are four priority levels: 1) low priority means that the change you are proposing has minimal impact on the resolution, 2) medium priority means you should make your best efforts to get the proposed language or similar language included however, if it is not accepted it should not affect your support of the resolution, 3) high priority means that proposed change should be strongly encouraged and 4) redline, the highest level of priority should be indicated for those changes that if not accepted would result in not sponsoring the resolution.

Use the priority level in the third column to guide you during the debate of amendments and to help you decide if you want to be added as a sponsor after the negotiations are completed if some of your amendments are not adopted.

4. AMENDMENTS YOU WANT TO PROPOSE DURING THE LINE BY LINE REVIEW (CONT.)

Use the empty rows at the end of each paragraph to add new paragraphs.

Paragraph Reference	Amendments (When proposing a change, be specific about how you want the text to read.)	Indicate if the Priority Level is high, medium or low.
PP1		
PP2		
PP3		
PP4		
PP5		
PP6		

4. AMENDMENTS YOU WANT TO PROPOSE DURING THE LINE BY LINE REVIEW (CONT.)

Paragraph Reference	Amendments (When proposing a change, be specific about how you want the text to read.)	Indicate if the Priority Level is high, medium or low.
OP1		
OP2		
OP3		
OP4		
OP5		
OP6		

