

Finding/Citing UN Security Council Resolutions

Last Updated 8/13/2015 A Demers

1. Locate a preliminary citation through books, articles or websites. Note that many of these citations are not complete.

2. According to the McGill Guide, a proper citation to a UNSC Resolution must include information about where it can be found in the UN Official Record. Example:

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. SC Res. 1291, UN SCOR, 55th Sess., U.N. Doc. S/INF/56 (2000) 51.

(Title, resolution number, UNSC Official Records, session, supplement number, UN document number recorded at the top of the supplement, year, page number of the supplement on which the treaty is recorded.)

3. Where do you find all of these elements?

A) title, resolution number and year: most citations in books and journal articles will include at least this information. See also UNSC website: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/>

B) supplement number, UN document number, page number: Locate the document entitled "Resolutions and Decisions Adopted by the Security Council During Its ___ Session" for the session in question, using this website:

<http://documents.un.org> Search ALL UN Documents using the drop down menu in the upper left corner. Your search should include the Session number, in the session field, and the word "Resolutions" in the Title field.

C) Choose "English PDF" to see the full-text. The document may take time to load. The first page of this document will give you the year, the supplement number and the UN Document number for this supplement.

D) Next, locate the text of the resolution. Use the Table of Contents and locate "Index to Resolutions and Decisions". Use the Index to locate the resolution. Note the page number.

E) Alternatively, clicking on the UNSC resolution from the UNSC website above will also give you the page number. However important information from the title page of the supplement is not shown from this view.

TIP: Do not use UN GAOR in a citation if you have not actually looked at the Official Record and are not able to provide a supplement number / document number.



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