

Decoding UN document symbols

All UN official documents carry a unique document symbol composed of numbers and letters. The different components of the document symbol identify which principal organ and which subsidiary body the document is associated with and indicate the nature of the document.

	COMPONENT	WHAT IT INDICATES	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE
1	First	Principal organs	A = General Assembly S = Security Council E = Economic and Social Council ST = Secretariat
2	Secondary	Subsidiary body or committee	C1-C6 = Main Committees: C1 = Disarmament and International Security Committee C2 = Economic and Financial Committee C3 = Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee C4 = Special Political and Decolonization Committee C5 = Administrative and Budgetary Committee C6 = Legal Committee AC = Ad-hoc committee BUR = General Committee CN = Commission WG = Working Group
3	Special	Nature of the document	L. = limited distribution (DRAFTS) RES = resolution PV. = verbatim record (Meeting Records/Speeches) SR. = summary record (Meeting Records/Speeches) INF = information series CRP = conference room paper
4	Changes, if any	Modifications to the original text	Add. = Addendum Corr. = Corrigendum (corrected) Rev. = Revision
5	Session or Year	Session the document was issued (General Assembly documents) Year the document was issued (Security Council, Economic and Social Council, etc.)	A/74/ = 74th regular session A/S-401 = 40th special session A/ES-201 = 20th emergency special session S/2013/ = Security Council report from 2013 E/RES/2014/ = Economic and Security Council Resolution from 2014
6	Sequential number	Document number (within one document type)	Numeric 1-9999

Examples

DOCUMENT TYPE	SYMBOL	DECODED
Reports	A/74/447	Document number 447 of the 74th session of the General Assembly
	E/2015/8	Document number 8 issued by the Economic and Social Council in 2015
Resolutions	A/RES/74/333	Resolution 333 adopted at the 74th session of the General Assembly
Note: Only adopted resolutions have RES code.	S/RES/1325 (2000)	Resolution 1325 adopted by the Security Council in 2000
Draft resolutions	A/C.2/74/L.44	Draft resolution 44, tabled (submitted) in the Second Committee during the 74th session of the General Assembly
	S/2016/82	Document 82 issued by Security Council in 2016 (happens to be a draft resolution, says "Draft Resolution" in title)
Meeting records	A/74/PV.33	Verbatim record of the 33rd formal Plenary meeting during the 74th session of the General Assembly
	A/C.3/74/SR.6	Summary record of the sixth formal meeting of the Third Committee during the 74th General Assembly
	S/PV.7561	Verbatim record of the 7561th meeting of the Security Council

Adapted by Normandale Community College Library faculty Lacey Mamak from page 102 of *The PGA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly* by Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, 2011.