

## WTO Issues

This is the basic list of issues that must be covered in any proposal submitted by a member country or group of member countries. Proposals can be modified to add additional issues at any time.

### Agriculture

1. Extension of the Peace Clause until \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes/No, Date)

*The Peace Clause refers to Article 13 of the Agreement on Agriculture ([http://www.wto.org/english/docs\\_e/legal\\_e/14-ag\\_01\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/14-ag_01_e.htm)). It allows countries to set subsidies to Agriculture without being subject to retaliation under the WTO rules. Article 1(f) stated its expiration date as 2003, so approval of this proposal would require a reform of that article.*

2. Gradual phase-out of \_\_\_\_\_% (percentage) of all EU agricultural subsidies by \_\_\_\_\_ (year)
3. Gradual reduction of all EU tariffs on agricultural imports by \_\_\_\_\_% (percent) b by \_\_\_\_\_ (year)
4. Gradual phase-out of \_\_\_\_\_% (percentage) of all US agricultural subsidies by \_\_\_\_\_ (year)
5. Gradual reduction of all US tariffs on agricultural imports by \_\_\_\_\_% (percent) b by \_\_\_\_\_ (year)
6. Gradual phase-out of \_\_\_\_\_% (percentage) of all Japanese agricultural subsidies by \_\_\_\_\_ (year)
7. Gradual reduction of all Japanese tariffs on agricultural imports by \_\_\_\_\_% (percent) b by \_\_\_\_\_ (year)

*You may also specify tariff cuts in terms of reduction to a single rate or use any of the mathematical formulas that are discussed in [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/agric\\_e/agnegs\\_swissformula\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/agnegs_swissformula_e.htm).*

*You may also include subsidy cuts for any of the 25 member countries currently allowed to subsidize exports. The list is available at [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/agric\\_e/negs\\_bkgrnd06\\_export\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/negs_bkgrnd06_export_e.htm).*

You may find a description of your country's current tariff rate for agriculture and other goods in its latest WTO Trade Policy Review (TPR). To access this, go to [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/tpr\\_e/tp\\_rep\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp_rep_e.htm) and choose your country's latest TPR, either by the search engine or choosing directly from the chronological list of TPRs immediately below. You can also look at a summary of its trade policies by looking at its trade profile at <http://stat.wto.org/CountryProfile/WSDBCountryPFHome.aspx?Language=E>.

Quantitative information on US farm subsidies can be found at <http://www.ewg.org/farm/>. Estimates for the EU, Japan and other countries can be found in Table 1.3 of <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/33/27/35016763.pdf>.

## **Biotechnology**

1. To reform Article 27.3(b) of the TRIPS Agreement to read:  
Countries may exclude from patentability plants, animals, microorganisms and parts thereof, and any processes making use thereof or relating thereto.  
(Yes/No)

This Article currently reads “Members may also exclude from patentability: (b) plants and animals other than micro-organisms, and essentially biological processes for the production of plants or animals other than non-biological and microbiological processes. However, Members shall provide for the protection of plant varieties either by patents or by an effective *sui generis* system or by any combination thereof.” A good review of the issues can be found at <http://www.twinside.org.sg/title/oh1-cn.htm>.

2. To revise all WTO agreements to be made consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity (<http://www.biodiv.org/convention/default.shtml>) (Yes/No)
3. To transfer discussions of all issues related to biotechnology to the World Intellectual Property Organization (Yes/No)
4. To recognize the right of all member countries to ban the imports of Genetically Modified Foods (Yes/No)

## **Competition/Anti-Dumping**

1. To set up a committee with the mandate to provide, by the year 2007, a proposal for the creation of international standards of competition in order to harmonize anti-dumping legislation around the world.  
(Yes/No)
2. To mandate such committee to draw up restrictions on the use of market power to raise international prices by any country or multi-country cartels (Yes/No).

## **Corporate Social Responsibility**

1. Members agree to pass laws that make it a crime in their country of origin to bribe foreign officials, even if the bribe occurs in another country (Yes/No).

## **Internal functioning/Rules**

1. To require that all meetings involving country representatives within the WTO be public, recorded and open to all other countries (Abolition of “green room” deals). (Yes/No)
2. To set up a budget to assist lower-income countries to participate in all WTO meetings. (Yes/No)

## **E-Commerce**

1. To classify E-Commerce as Trade in \_\_\_\_\_ and to apply the corresponding treaties (Goods/Services)
2. To extend the moratorium on internet tariffs until \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes/No, Year)
3. To publicly broadcast all WTO meetings (Yes/No)

## **Environment**

1. To recognize all Multilateral Environmental Agreements(MEA) and the WTO as equal bodies of law (Yes/No)

Under the principle of “*lex specialis*”, if all parties to a treaty conclude a more specialized treaty, the provisions of the latter prevail over those of the former. Thus countries could agree to allow themselves to impose trade restrictions that are valid under an MEA even if not under the WTO. See [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/envir\\_e/cte01\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/cte01_e.htm).

2. To recognize the Cartagena and Kyoto Protocols as binding for all WTO members (Yes/No).

To read the protocols, see <http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety/protocol.asp> and [http://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/kyoto\\_protocol/items/2830.php](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php).

3. To allow members of an MEA to impose trade-related sanctions on non-MEA members. (Yes/No)
4. To allow member countries to require imported goods to comply with eco-labeling standards related to non-product related processing and production methods)

## **Intellectual Property**

1. To reform the TRIPS agreement to give least-developed countries unambiguous right to import and produce generic drugs, even in non-emergency cases. (Yes/No)
2. To extend the deadline for least-developed countries to apply patent protection to pharmaceuticals to \_\_\_\_\_ (Year – must be greater than or equal to 2016).

### **Investment**

1. To extend the Most-Favored Nation rule to International Investment (Yes/No)
2. To extend the principle of national treatment to International Investment (Yes/No)
3. To require countries to allow free capital transfers (Yes/No)
4. To allow countries to suspend application of these rules in exceptional circumstances when they can demonstrate that they are undergoing balance of payments difficulties and in that case only for a maximum of \_\_\_\_\_ (Years) (Yes/No)

### **Labor Standards**

1. To require all member countries to ratify ILO Conventions 87 “Freedom of Association and the Right to Organize”(1948; Ratified by 124 states.), 98 “The Right to Organize and Bargain Collectively”(1949; Ratified by 141 states.), 29 “Forced Labour”(1930; Ratified by 150 states.), 105 “Abolition of Forced Labour” (1957; Ratified by 140 states.), 100 “Equal Remuneration” (1951; Ratified by 140 states.), 111 “Discrimination” (Employment and Occupation) (1958; Ratified by 137 states.) ,138 “Minimum Age Convention” (1973; Ratified by 77 states.) 182 “Prohibition and Immediate Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour” (1999; Ratified by 6 states) (Yes/No, or list of conventions to be ratified)
2. To set up a working committee to draft a definition of social dumping and the conditions under which countries can impose countervailing duties as a response to social dumping (Yes/No).

To check whether your country presently ratifies a given convention, check <http://ilolex.ilo.ch:1567/public/english/50normes/infleg/iloeng/countryq.htm>.

### **Industrial goods**

1. To reduce tariffs on industrial goods by developing countries by \_\_\_\_\_ % (or, alternatively, to a maximum rate of \_\_\_\_%) by \_\_\_\_\_ (Year)
2. To reduce tariffs on industrial goods by developed countries by \_\_\_\_\_ % (or, alternatively, to a maximum rate of \_\_\_\_%) by \_\_\_\_\_ (Year)

(You may make the list of countries more specific)

You may find a description of your country's current tariff rates for industrial and other goods in its latest WTO Trade Policy Review (TPR). To access this, go to [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/tpr\\_e/tp\\_rep\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp_rep_e.htm) and choose your country's latest TPR, either by the search engine or choosing directly from the chronological list of TPRs immediately below. You can also look at a summary of its trade policies by looking at its trade profile at <http://stat.wto.org/CountryProfile/WSDBCountryPFHome.aspx?Language=E>.

### **Services**

1. To require application of the Most-Favoured Nation rule in services. (Yes/No)
2. To extend the principle of national treatment to services (Yes/No)
3. To require all countries to open up their financial sectors to international competition (Yes/No)
4. To require all countries to open up their tourism sectors to international competition (Yes/No)

(You may include other services from the list at: [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/serv\\_e/s\\_propnewnegs\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/serv_e/s_propnewnegs_e.htm).)

### **Sanitary and phitosanitary measures**

1. To allow countries to interpret the Sanitary and Phitosanitary Agreement ([http://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/whatis\\_e/tif\\_e/agrm4\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/agrm4_e.htm)) in light of their own interpretation of the standards of scientific evidence. (Yes/No)

### **Trade Facilitation**

1. By the year \_\_\_\_\_, all member countries must harmonize border procedures, including the use of computerized systems and maximum waiting times, in accordance to rules that will be set up by the WTO Secretariat. (Yes/No, Year)