

Basic Rules for Wesleyan WTO Simulation

1. During this simulation, you will play the role of trade ministers of your respective countries participating in a ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization, similar to the one that will take place in Hong Kong on December 13-18 of this year.
2. Your purpose is to reach an agreement on the basic issues of international trade that fall under the jurisdiction of the WTO. Your role will be to focus on the “big issues” (remember, you are trade ministers and can leave the minutiae to be worked out by your subordinates). The goal is to reach an agreement which can take the form of a Ministerial Declaration, such as that signed in Doha on 14 November 2001.
(http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min01_e/mindecl_e.htm).
3. Your objective is to reach an agreement that best represents the interests of the nation(s) that you represent.
4. Member countries should take the initiative of presenting proposals. A proposal consists of a stance on all issues specified in the base document “WTO Issues”. Any member can present a proposal. In order to present a proposal, you must e-mail Adelina Halim (ahalim@wesleyan.edu) and we will post it on the Course Documents section of the WTO Blackboard as soon as possible and at most 24 hours after they are submitted. Proposals can be submitted by multiple representatives (if so, indicate this in the email)
5. If another country has presented a proposal which you feel close to, you need not present another proposal. Remember, the goal is to achieve the agreement that best represents the interests of your countr(ies). You don’t get extra points by being the author of a proposal.
6. Your proposal must have a position on all of the issues covered in the base document. You may add additional issues, as long as they are related to the areas covered by the WTO. For example, the US could propose the institution of a new quota system to replace the extinct Multi-Fiber Agreement. When you do this, you must specify clearly that you have added an issue when you are submitting the proposal.
7. If you agree completely with a country’s proposal, you should indicate that you endorse that country’s proposal by e-mailing Adelina Halim (ahalim@wesleyan.edu). A list of endorsers will be posted next to each proposal. You may also indicate that you endorse the proposal on the discussion board, but remember that your official statement will be what you e-mail Adelina.
8. A country may modify, withdraw or resubmit its proposal as many times as it wants. A country may change its endorsements as many times as it wants, even if the proposal has not changed. Note, however, that if a proposal changes and you do not change your endorsement, we will consider that you are still endorsing the proposal.
9. If by the end of Week 1 (Nov. 1) you are not endorsing any proposal you should post a message on the discussion board stating why you agree/disagree with each of the current proposals. You must update this message at least every seven days

- to reflect your stance on all current proposals (or decide to endorse a proposal). If you fail to comply with this rule you will incur in a penalty in your grade.
10. Final versions of the proposals must be submitted by midnight, Nov. 16. After that day, you may not alter a proposal.
 11. Final endorsements must be submitted by midnight, November 18. After that day, you may not change your endorsement.
 12. If there is a proposal that is endorsed by all member countries by the deadline for final endorsements, then that proposal is adopted and becomes the ministerial declaration.
 13. If no proposal counts with the endorsement of all member countries, then any member country may call a vote on any or all outstanding proposals. To call a vote, you must e-mail Adelina Halim (ahalim@wesleyan.edu) by midnight, November 22.
 14. If a vote is called, a special assembly will be convened to carry out the vote. The tentative date for that assembly is November 29th at 5:00 PM (room TBA). If you cannot attend, you may e-mail us your vote.
 15. If a vote is called, any proposal must be adopted by simple majority of member countries.
 16. If no proposal has garnered a majority of votes during a special assembly, countries may present last-minute proposals to be voted on that day.
 17. If no proposal garners a simple majority, then no proposal will be adopted.
 18. If you voted against a proposal and were defeated, you may choose to withdraw your country from the WTO by e-mailing Adelina Halim (ahalim@wesleyan.edu). Deadline for withdrawals is midnight December 1st.
 19. You must prepare a report to your government explaining why your position best represented the interests of your countr(ies). Minimum is 5000 words. Your argument must be backed by an analysis of the likely effects of the final outcome on your country's economy. The report must be handed in during class on December 8th.
 20. When adopting a position, bear in mind that there are good reasons why the WTO has never gone down to a vote during a ministerial meeting. Even though Article IX of the Agreement establishing the WTO allows votes to take place (see http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/04-wto_e.htm), the fear is that this would alienate countries that may then choose to leave the organization. So, although you may call a vote, remember that the final report must justify your decision to call a vote in terms of your countr(ies)' interests. If your decision led a sizable number of countries to withdraw from the organization, then it will be hard to make that case. For example, in the 2003 Cancun meeting representatives decided to go home without an agreement rather than to call a vote.