



Model WTO 2009 Project Outline

**April 19-24, 2009
St. Gallen – Geneva
Switzerland**

Poverty Reduction & Trade

THE MODEL WTO

oikos international, the student organization for sustainable economics and management, organizes since 1997 the Model WTO.

The Model WTO is an international event with 70 students simulating regular WTO minister conferences. During an intense five-day program in St.Gallen and Geneva, Switzerland, selected international students are given the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of both gains and problems of global trade.

Groups of participants are attributed a given country. They must defend its interests in several negotiation rounds. The Model WTO revolves around a central topic: the students negotiate related issues in specific subcommittees. The students get to discuss the result of their negotiations with WTO experts in Geneva. A *Final Declaration* is then submitted to the vote and endorsed (or not...) by all participating delegations.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Model WTO 2008 focused itself on the topic "Trade & Sustainability", raising the awareness of interaction between these two fields.

The Model WTO 2009 wants to take the discussion one step further, focusing this year's topic on "Poverty Reduction & Trade".

Poverty is a still a major concern around the globe and its reduction an issue that every country has to take responsibility for in a globalized world. The need for action has never been more evident than today. With a growing world population, limited resources and first affects from climate change, it is inevitable that effective ways to poverty reduction have to be developed now, if one wants to prevent a worsening fight over resources.

There are many opportunities to overcome the challenge of poverty, whereas one of the most promising ones is international trade. While many have profited from a global free trade, others have not yet seen a positive change in their lives. However, if free trade is said to make society better of as a whole, it cannot only benefit some while ignoring others.

The Model WTO 2009 aims therefore at discussing how the WTO can impact the discussion and actions on poverty reduction and trade.

The Model will consider how WTO tools and committees could be used to find different ways to poverty reduction and assess the role of trade and member states interests in these concepts.

NEGOTIATION COMMITTEES

Together with about 70 students from all over the world we will try to develop new and interesting solutions within the five following fields of expertise:

	TRADE AND POVERTY REDUCTION
1) TRIPS: committee on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights	<p>Issue 1: Patenting medicine</p> <p>Reducing poverty or at least mitigating one of its worst effects, the lack of health care, could be achieved by granting poor countries access to costly patented medicines. The circumstances under which the beneficiaries of these patents (the developed countries) would be ready to grant access will have to be discussed.</p> <p>Issue 2: Patenting plants</p> <p>Do countries have the right to exclude plant and animal varieties from patenting, especially those that can be used for food production.</p>
2) Committee on agriculture	<p>Issue 1: Agricultural subsidies</p> <p>Some countries are still adamant about protecting their agricultural sector. Especially rich industrialized countries support their farmers to stay competitive. Discussion about if</p>

	<p>and how tariff and subsidies reduction will ease poverty. Developing countries need to have access to markets hence the necessity of realistic, undistorted prices.</p> <p>Issue 2: Net food importing countries</p> <p>Some countries, mostly in North Africa and the Middle East, but also some of the very poorest, depend largely on food imports. They suffer from the <i>reduction</i> of subsidies in other countries because it raises food prices. Furthermore, some states need assistance in developing their own food production.</p>
<p>3) NAMA: committee on non-agricultural market access</p>	<p>Issue 1: Employment effect</p> <p>Wealthy developed states protect their markets also in the realm of non-agricultural products, usually by means of import taxes. The consequence of this trade distortion is unemployment and much less than potential output in poor countries.</p> <p>Issue 2: Aid for trade</p> <p>Continuation and conditions/specifications of the 2005 “aid for trade” initiative.</p>
<p>4) SPS: committee on sanitary and phytosanitary measures</p>	<p>Issue 1: Developed countries’ health safety rules</p> <p>Surely countries need to take some measures to keep imported food safe for consumption, but are developed countries using the weapon of “health safety rules” to create virtual trade barriers against products from developing countries? Where is the border between protection and protectionism?</p> <p>Issue 2: Biotechnology / genetically modified organisms</p> <p>Should poor countries welcome GM crops as a way to overcome malnutrition and production shortages or is it a vicious way of imposing a questionable technology? Both GMO for human consumption and for feeding cattle should be discussed.</p>
<p>5) Committee on trade and development</p>	<p>Issue 1: Special and differential treatment</p> <p>The essential committee for developing and least developed countries. Reforms of “special and differential treatment” can potentially reduce poverty.</p> <p><i>Maybe</i> Issue 2: Aid for trade initiative</p>

The following countries will be represented in the negotiations:

Developed: EU, CH, USA, either Australia, Canada

Developing: Brazil, India, Egypt, China

Least developed: Bangladesh, Tanzania or Rwanda

- Additional 4 countries still to be selected

EXPECTED OUTCOME

As the WTO is the platform where decisions are made and future trade is fostered, we think it is important to deal with the WTO and the way decisions are made to understand the current rules of world trade. We want to educate students from all over the world and offer them the possibility to discuss and negotiate new rules for world trade by consensus.

The model does not only want to imitate the negotiations of the current WTO working programs but also to anticipate future negotiations. While keeping the political reality in mind, constructive, innovative and possibly unconventional solutions and compromises for current economic, ecologic and social challenges should be worked out.

Moreover, past Models had the positive side-effect of provoking new oikos chapters in oikos Johannesburg, South Africa in 2006. Universities around the globe (e.g. oikos Hamburg, Germany and oikos Beirut, Lebanon in 2004)

A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY

In order to run our ambitious project, we are looking for committed international sponsors.

The oikos Model WTO 2009 is an opportunity for your organization to meet bright and engaged students from around the world.

Our participants do not only thrive to make a difference in the world: many of them participate in our Simulation because they are contemplating a potential public international career in the field of global trade. The Model WTO doesn't only put students together: we gather future *decision-makers* that will one day influence, if not design international policies that will shape the future of international affairs and global business worldwide.

By supporting the Model WTO 2009, you will have the following advantages:

- Foster contact with international students from renowned universities
- Access to participants' information and CV *
- Company presence on every Ad, Flyer, Poster that will be displayed at St. Gallen University and universities worldwide. This includes our website (www.modelwto.org) and project publications (e.g. Final Declaration)
- Be our Premium Partner! We will allocate you a time slot for you to present your organization and its understanding of poverty reduction and trade related issues

TESTIMONIALS

"My heart felt gratitude goes to the organising committee of the Model WTO for their outstanding work in putting things together. The experience is a lifetime one, educationally, socially and also for the purposes of student connection. Lastly, thanks to the student helpers (and everyone) for their warm reception"

Enoch Ralehoko,
Stellenbosch University, South Africa

"At the time, it sure seemed like a lot of hassle – writing the application, preparing beforehand, even taking part in the negotiations was hard work – but at the end of the day, it was all worthwhile – just like anything else, the more you contribute, the more fun you will have and the more you will get out of it. I highly recommend the experience"

Philippa Sholl,
Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration, Norway

SPONSORING THE MODEL WTO 2009

It would be an honor for oikos International to count your organization as a sponsor of the Model WTO 2009.

Our Budget will cover costs around CHF 80'000. We are looking for partners willing to provide us with CHF 10'000 or more.

Being our **Premium Partner** will give you special advantages, including a specific time slot in the Simulation program.

Premium Partner status will be awarded to an organization willing to give more than CHF 20'000 - 25'000.

Model WTO Organization Team 2009 – Sponsoring

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