Hungry for Justice 2015 Game

**World Trade Organization Ministerial Chairperson’s Brief**

**Aim of Exercise:**
To show that the good intentions of governments, as outlined in the 2015 Millennium Development Goals are not enough to ensure poverty reduction. The rules which govern world trade are loaded against poor people and the environment; these rules must be changed to ensure that poverty reduction is the goal of trade negotiations. Only then will developing countries be given the chance to develop.

**Directions:**
Split the participants up into four groups and give each group one of the country briefs. Do not tell the groups which country the other groups represent; let them start negotiating to find out! Give the groups 5 minutes to read their country brief (Note: you can give the groups their country briefs prior to the meeting so that they can research their country).

1. Read the following text out loud:
   “After the riots in Seattle and the growing protestor presence in Gothenburg and Genoa, the World Trade Organization has decided to pacify campaigners by stating its intention to work towards the World Food Summit’s target of ‘halving the number of hungry people in the world by 2015.’ In this meeting you have to negotiate terms of trade for your individual country whilst bearing in mind the new initiative of the World Trade Organization.”

2. Allow 30 minutes for the groups to develop their country’s policy. Ten minutes into this session, suggest to the United States and Cargill Delegations that they may want to negotiate with each other to make a private deal.

3. Bring the group back together for the debate. Allow each group to summarize briefly their main points. Allow a further 20 minutes for formal negotiations. At the end of the negotiations, terms of trade must be agreed upon by all parties; ask for a show of hands on each point.

**Suggested debrief questions: 15 minutes**
Explain your strategy. Was it easy to combine poverty reduction with your national trade agenda? Which agenda won the day: good terms of trade or poverty reduction? Do you think the task was easier for developed countries? Why?

Did the World Food Summit target make a real difference, or was your group able to work around it to your advantage?

Did you make any concessions out of compassion for the poorest people in the world or did self interest rule the day?

What specific laws need to be put in place to ensure that countries work towards the goal of halving the number of hungry people in the world by 2015?

*Please note: For background information on the World Trade Organization, please see the Education for Justice Unit on Debt.*

Source: SCIAF (http://www.sciaf.org.uk/)
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World Trade Organization Ministerial
Cargill Delegation

You, and the other people in your group, are members of the policy team for Cargill. While multinational corporations are not formally allowed to enter into negotiations at the World Trade Organization, this is a very special meeting and in this instance an exception has been made.

**About Cargill:**
Cargill is an international marketer, processor and distributor of agricultural, food, financial and industrial products. Cargill’s corporate goal is “to double every five to seven years” and “to raise living standards by creating distinctive value for the people we serve.”

**Your aim:**
To ensure that the company continues to expand and increase its turnover. You have to show the trade representatives present that your company can solve the food problems in the world.

**Your strategy:**
As you did during the Uruguay Trade Round, you need to have a trade representative in the U.S. government who will ensure that the WTO discussions help your expansive vision. Thus, your closest ally should be the U.S. government, and it is advisable to link up with them as soon as possible. India would also be a good partner to have on side. Why not try offering concessions to them if they use your genetically modified seeds and fertilizers?

**Ideas:**
It may be useful to adopt the strategy of investing in poorer countries. Business and people benefit as poorer countries achieve the economic growth they need. Perhaps Cargill can have a role to play in training and investing in India.

Biotechnology has the potential to improve crop yields, reduce chemical usage, improve quality and remain environmentally friendly. Food production will rise and keep pace with population growth and feed those who are hungry. You could offer these seeds to developing countries.

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World Trade Organization Ministerial
Indian Delegation

You, and the other people in your group, are members of the Indian government’s trade representative committee. You have been invited today to enter into negotiations at this special meeting of the World Trade Organization where, for the first time, the World Food Summit target of halving the number of hungry people by 2015, is guiding discussions. This is a brilliant opportunity for you to present to the wealthy nations a policy which would reduce the suffering of your people.

About India:
In India, there are approximately 550 million farmers, which accounts for 61% of the labor force. Since trade liberalization began in India in 1991, the lives of at least three million people working in food grains have been destroyed, leaving them no money to buy food. The dairy sector has also been badly affected by the EU, U.S., Australia and New Zealand exporting low-cost milk powder to the Indian market. This again threatens the livelihoods of millions of small milk producers.

Your aims:
You must develop a policy which addresses the food security of your people and protects your agricultural and dairy sectors. You are also a large food exporting country, and you want to get fair access to the US and European markets.

Strategy:
You have to bring a realistic policy back to the table which will be listened to by the most powerful stakeholders, i.e. the U.S. and Cargill.

Ideas:
You could bargain with the U.S. to get a commitment from them to reduce subsidies to their agricultural sector so that India can export to the U.S. Perhaps you could offer the U.S. a deal which allows them to buy up to 90% of local Indian software companies in exchange for a reduction in subsidies.

On issues relating to food security in your own country, try forming a block with Zimbabwe and the least developed countries to present a united front against policies which you consider to be detrimental to your farmers. For example, India has concerns about the costs and health hazards associated with GM (genetically modified) crops and seeds. They will be much costlier and will therefore be of little use to improve the food security of the poor farmer. This is something you would not be prepared to shift on.

Source: SCIAF (http://www.sciaf.org.uk/)
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World Trade Organization Ministerial
United States Delegation

You, and the other people in your group, are members of the USTR (United States Trade Representatives) policy team. Your job today in the negotiations is to maximize the U.S. trade potential while acknowledging the new WTO goal.

About the U.S.:
Trade continues to be critically important to the long-term economic health and prosperity of the U.S. food and agriculture sector. The U.S. has more capacity than needed to meet domestic food market requirements, thus they must maintain and develop more customers worldwide. Agriculture generally ranks among the top six U.S. industry groups in exports. However, the U.S. market share has steadily eroded and the EU is now on the verge of overtaking them.

Your Aims:
To ensure that the U.S. once again becomes the world’s export leader in agricultural trade by pushing the other countries to commit themselves to sweeping away existing barriers to trade in foodstuffs, and ending measures such as export subsidies.

Your Strategy:
One of your main interests is in the transnational agribusiness because it is the business which ensures U.S. access to global markets. Thus you probably need to keep Cargill on your side. Perhaps you would benefit from having the expertise of a Cargill representative on your team in order to strike a deal.

Another important influence on your policy decisions is the U.S. voter. In a recent nationwide poll conducted by the University of Maryland, of those surveyed, 83% said they felt the United States should join an international program to cut world hunger in half by 2015. In addition, 75% said they would be willing to pay an extra $50 in taxes per year to achieve this. You must decide how important this influence is in your policy making. Should you try and bargain with Zimbabwe and the least developed countries to show the U.S. public that you are listening to them? What concessions would you be prepared to make?

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World Trade Organization Ministerial
Zimbabwe Delegation

You, and the other people in your group are members of the Zimbabwe government’s trade representatives committee. This is a good opportunity for you to discuss with the wealthy nations a plan which would ensure the food security of your people.

About Zimbabwe:
In 1990 Zimbabwe was listed by the World Bank as a “middle income” developing country. By 1998 Zimbabwe was classified by the World Bank as a “low income” country. The adoption of a stringent Structural Adjustment Program¹ in 1990 had meant that Zimbabwe’s annual income had fallen to US$610. The situation has been exacerbated by drought, poor soil, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Your people are now facing serious food shortages.

Your Aims:
You are very concerned about the food situation in your country, and you must develop a policy which addresses this issue. You believe that free market access for all agricultural products abroad and preferential prices for your crops (to compensate for being a monocrop system) would go some way to addressing this issue.

Strategy:
You are in the worst bargaining position of all the groups here at the WTO discussions—your situation is desperate. However you must make the best of the discussions and try and form alliances with countries facing similar situations to yours. The best strategy would be to try and get India to support you. Bargain together with the big world players. If you have no bargaining tools, try appealing to their better nature!

¹ Structural Adjustment Policies (SAPS) are economic policies which countries must follow in order to qualify for new World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans and help them make debt repayments on the older debts owed to commercial banks, governments and the World Bank.

Source: SCIAF (http://www.sciaf.org.uk/)