

CHAPTER 2: International Trade Organizations

Pre-session task:

Look up information about one of the international organizations below (the teacher will assign which) – its role, aims, functions, objectives etc. Use at least 2 suitable Internet sources, cite them please. Write a 150 word summary. Select the most relevant information (not full sentences) and prepare a Powerpoint presentation on the topic consisting of an introduction page and 3 slides. Tips for designing good PPP slides can be found at: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/powerpoint-help/tips-for-creating-and-delivering-an-effective-presentation-HA010207864.aspx>

World Bank

International Chamber of Commerce

UNCITRAL

International Monetary Fund

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

Created by the team of authors.

Seminar Session:

I. Group minipresentations: you have prepared slides for introducing one of the international trade organizations. Do your slides follow the KISS principle? Keep It Short and Simple. (Key words only. No sentences. Never read your slides, talk freely.)

1. Discuss and negotiate with your group the best slides and the way to present. The following exercises can help you with suitable phrases.

Useful Language - Discussing, Negotiating.

In discussions, we express opinions, agree, or disagree with others. Name some phrases expressing an opinion, agreement or disagreement.

a) Match the phrases (1) -(10) to its function:

O expressing an opinion

A expressing agreement

D expressing disagreement

A+D expressing agreement, but adding an opposing view

1 Exactly!

2 I agree with you, but we should include this point as well.

3 I don't think there will be time to mention all the details.

- 4 You're absolutely right - we need to decide now.
- 5 I'm afraid I have to disagree with your point.
- 6 In my opinion, we should concentrate on the goals.
- 7 That is true, but what about possible disadvantages.
- 8 I think it's a very good introductory slide.
- 9 I see your point.
- 10 That's not a bad idea.

b) Understanding a point. Complete the phrases below using the following words:

fair saying any have words agree

- That's a _____ suggestion.
- So what you're _____ is that you ...
- In other _____, you feel that ...
- You _____ a strong point there.
- I think we can both _____ that...
- I don't see _____ problem with that.

c) Objection on a point or offer. Complete the phrases with suitable words, the first letter(s) are given:

- I understand where you're coming from; how _____,...
- I'm prepared to comp _____, but...
- The way I s _____ things...
- If you look at it from my point of v _____...
- I'm afraid I had something different in m _____.
- That's not exa _____ how I look at it.
- From my pers _____...

Adopted from: Krois-Lindner, Matt Firth and TransLegal. /Introduction to International Legal English. /CUP, 2008. Krois-Lindner and TransLegal. /International Legal English./ CUP, 2006.

2. Each team presents one organization. Listen to the presentations of other groups, note down the most important information and prepare questions.

- **World Bank**

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II. The World Trade Organization (WTO)

1. The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an international body whose purpose is to promote free trade by persuading countries to abolish import tariffs and other barriers. As such, it has become closely associated with globalisation. Read the text and answer the questions below.

The WTO is the only international agency overseeing the rules of international trade. It polices free trade agreements, settles trade disputes between governments and organises trade negotiations.

WTO decisions are absolute and every member must abide by its rulings. So, when the US and the European Union are in dispute over bananas or beef, it is the WTO which acts as judge and jury. WTO members are empowered by the organisation to enforce its decisions by imposing trade sanctions against countries that have breached the rules.

Based in Geneva, the WTO was set up in 1995, replacing another international organisation known as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt). Gatt was formed in 1948 when 23 countries signed an agreement to reduce customs tariffs.

The WTO has a much broader scope than Gatt. Whereas Gatt regulated trade in merchandise goods, the WTO also covers trade in services, such as telecommunications and banking, and other issues such as intellectual property rights.

China formally joined the body in December 2001 after a 15-year battle. Russia joined only after convincing the EU and US that it had reformed business practices, and after Georgia dropped its politically-motivated veto in late 2011.

The highest body of the WTO is the Ministerial Conference. This meets every two years and, among other things, elects the organisation's chief executive - the director-general - and oversees the work of the General Council.

The Ministerial Conference is also the setting for negotiating global trade deals, known as "trade rounds" which are aimed at reducing barriers to free trade.

The General Council is in charge of the day-to-day running of the WTO and is made up of ambassadors from member states who also serve on various subsidiary and specialist committees.

Among these are the Dispute Settlement Panels which rule on individual country-against-country trade disputes.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/2429503.stm

- a) Explain the purpose of WTO.
- b) How does it act in a dispute and what are the powers of the WTO members?
- c) What is the relation of the WTO and GATT?
- d) What is the position of China and Russia?
- e) Compare the roles of the Ministerial Conference and the General Council.

Based on: ŠOPOVOVÁ, Radoslava a Radek ŠIMEK. Introduction to English for International Trade Law. Masarykova univerzita Brno, 2005

2. Do you know the verbs from the text? Match the English verbs with their Czech equivalents.

to promote	zrušit
to abolish	(vy)řešit
to oversee	vynutit
to administer	dohlížet na, kontrolovat
to settle	uvalit, nařít
to abide by	podporovat
to enforce	spravovat, vést

to impose

poružit

to breach

dodržovat, podrobit se

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3. Make collocations:

<p>to settle to enforce to impose</p>	<p>rulings barriers disputes tariffs disagreements</p>
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4. There are both opponents and proponents of the WTO. Read the following text and prepare arguments supporting/opposing the existence of the WTO.

The WTO has been the focal point of criticism from people who are worried about the effects of free trade and economic globalisation. Opposition to the WTO centres on four main points:

- WTO is too powerful, in that it can in effect compel sovereign states to change laws and regulations by declaring these to be in violation of free trade rules.
- WTO is run by the rich for the rich and does not give significant weight to the problems of developing countries. For example, rich countries have not fully opened their markets to products from poor countries.
- WTO is indifferent to the impact of free trade on workers' rights, child labour, the environment and health.
- WTO lacks democratic accountability, in that its hearings on trade disputes are closed to the public and the media.

Supporters of the WTO argue that it is democratic, in that its rules were written by its member states, many of whom are democracies, who also select its leadership.

They also argue that, by expanding world trade, the WTO in fact helps to raise living standards around the world.

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