



# MODEL WTO 2021

24<sup>th</sup> Edition







# MODEL WTO

## PARTICIPANT'S BROCHURE

Model WTO  
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# | Our Partners

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**STIFTUNG  
MERCATOR  
SCHWEIZ**



# Contents

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Brochure

- 1 | Vision
- 2 | Project
- 3 | Topic
- 4 | Role of Participants
- 5 | Further Information and Application Process
- 6 | Provisional Week Outline
- 7 | Online Version of the Model WTO 2021
- 8 | Previous Participants
- 9 | Awards for Participants
- 10 | Advisory Board of the Model WTO
- 11 | Organisation Committee of the Model WTO



# 01 | Vision

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## Concept

The Model WTO is a student initiative that provides a unique opportunity for future decision-makers to debate on important global issues within the simulation framework of the WTO ministerial negotiations. Every year since 1997, students from all around the world are invited to Switzerland to debate and exchange creative ideas in the exceptional context of the World Trade Organization.

## Objectives

Our objective is to sensitize our student audience to the current issues of international trade as well as to enable the participants to have a unique insight into the procedure for adopting trade resolutions. In that sense, the Model WTO offers a unique experience for students to get involved in a high-level training and benefit from the expertise of WTO professionals. In addition, our goals are more than academic: we seek and encourage the exchange of knowledge, the meeting of international students from different backgrounds, and the active participation of young people in today's society.

## Organization

The upcoming conference will be held from **April 9<sup>th</sup> to April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at the campus of the University of St. Gallen as well as at the WTO headquarters in Geneva.** The event is organized by 7 students of the University of St. Gallen who are supported by an advisory board of experts in international trade to ensure the quality of the simulation. Moreover, the conference will be supervised by a team of 12 additional students from the University of St. Gallen who will undertake the role of chairs and will actively guide the negotiations.



# 02 | Project

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Trade & Public  
Health

University of St. Gallen, St. Gallen  
WTO Headquarters, Geneva

12 Students from the  
University of St. Gallen

7 Students from  
the University of  
St. Gallen

Topic

Date

Location

Participants

Chairs

Advisory  
board

Organisation  
Team

9-16 April 2021

72 Students from around  
30 countries

5 Experts in  
International Trade





# 03 | Topic - Trade and Public Health

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As the world becomes more and more interconnected, it is not possible anymore to deny the linkage between multilateral trade and public health. This linkage is being further emphasized by the current Covid-19 pandemic notably as states compete for access to drugs, medical equipment and the future vaccine. There is a crucial need for greater cooperation and coordination between states.

The issue of public health is high on the agenda of the WTO and as Mike Moore, former director-general of the WTO stated in 2002 in the joint report by the WTO and WHO WTO agreements & Public Health "The endorsement by the international community of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health is a very visible expression of governments' commitment to ensuring that the rules-based trading system is compatible with public health interests."

The Model WTO 2021 will address issues particularly relevant in the context of the on-going pandemic namely export restrictions on medical goods, Research & Development subsidies, technical barriers to trade and intellectual property rights. Finally, this year's topic, not only focused on health, will also use the current Covid-19 pandemic as a basis case study to examine more broadly how the WTO system can respond to a global health crisis."



# 04 | Role of Participants

## Delegates

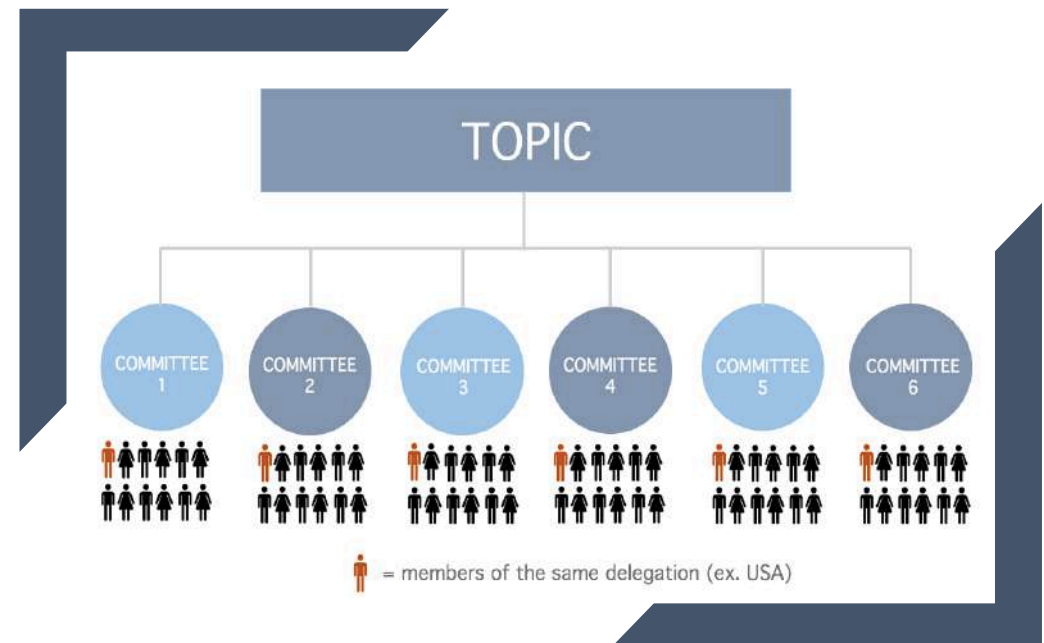
The role of the conference's Participant is to represent the **delegate of one of the 12 countries present in one of the 6 committees.**

The delegate's main contribution comes during the negotiations of Committee resolutions during which participants are tasked with defending the views and interests of their represented countries.

## Head Delegates

The role of the Head Delegate is to **represent a group of 6 participants** who set the confidential negotiation goals for one of the 12 countries they represent.

At the beginning of the week, Head Delegates are responsible for aligning the position of the delegation for the conference's debates and negotiations.





# 05 | Further Information & Application Process

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## Committees

Delegates will be allocated to one of six committees that will explore issues relating to **Trade and Public Health within the WTO**. Further updates can be found on our website and social media.

## Essay Topic

Amidst the current COVID-19-pandemic, some countries have bypassed multilateral principles and taken various measures affecting trade such as export restrictions on health supplies. What role could the WTO play to coordinate the international response to a sanitary crisis such as the COVID-19-pandemic?

## Application Timeline



Applicants will need to submit their **CV, an essay along with a short motivational letter by the application deadline**. Upon acceptance the participants will be asked to provide us with their country/committee preferences and they will be allocated accordingly. Following the final selection, participants must submit the payment for the participation fee within two weeks.

This year, the participation fee amounts to **CHF 380**.



Please fill out the application form and follow the instructions at [www.model-wto.org](http://www.model-wto.org) until the **24<sup>th</sup> of January 2021**.



# 06 | Provisional Week Outline

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Friday April 9th	Saturday April 10th	Sunday April 11th	Monday April 12th	Tuesday April 13th	Wednesday April 14th	Thursday April 15th	Friday April 16th
<p>Arrival in St. Gallen</p>  <p>Kick-off Event</p> <p>Meet your host</p> 	  Opening Ceremony  Team Building  Head Delegate Meeting <p>Workshop</p>  Agenda Setting  	   Head Delegate Meeting   	   Head Delegate Meeting   	   Head Delegate Meeting   	  Transfer to Geneva  Visit Missions   <p>Speakers at Geneva Institute</p>  Visit to Missions  	  <p>Feedback Session With WTO Experts</p>   Closing Ceremony   	 <p>Transport to St. Gallen/Airport</p> 

 - Free Time  
 - Negotiations



# 07 | Online Version of the Model WTO 2021

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Due to the high amount of uncertainty in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, **the probability that the Model WTO 2021 will be held fully online is substantial**. The essence of the event would stay the same, but the following, provisional changes, must be taken into consideration:

- 6-day Event from Saturday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2021, to Thursday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of April
- 3 hours of Negotiations per day, in addition to social, online Activities
- Highly reduced Participation Fee

Please note that these changes are provisional. Further updates and modifications will be made available through the Model WTO communication channels (website, social networks, emails). The final decision on whether the Event will be held in-person or online will be made public on the **17<sup>th</sup> of January 2021**, one week before the end of the application process.



# 08 | Our Previous Participants

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“Nothing gives you a taste of real diplomacy quite like sitting in a negotiation room with twelve other delegates, hammering out a consensus document for hours at a time while fighting for the interests of your country, forming international alliances while diving into the nitty-gritty of legality and logistics, and meeting some truly exceptional people.”

**Yelong Zhu - Harvard University, USA**



“The Model WTO is run by a skillful team of students who demonstrate professionalism, commitment, and passion in arranging every detail of the Conference. The overall result is a week that definitely adds to your personal, academic, and professional spheres through a superb simulation.”

**César Andrés Peniche Luna - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico**



“The Model WTO offers a unique opportunity to get an insight into the inner working of trade negotiations. The negotiation simulations were a unique experience to discuss and learn from exceptionally talented people from across the world.”

**Andrew Lunardi - Oxford University, UK**



“For the students from least developed countries and developing countries, Model WTO is the best platform to grab the opportunity to learn about international trade scenario, and provides the opportunity to learn more about how loopholes in trade agreements can be negotiated.”

**Unnati Amatya - Tribhuvan University, Nepal**





# 09 | Prizes for Participants

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## Prizes for Best Delegates

**Two weeks of your choice in a future WTI Winter/Summer Academy for the 6 best delegates, for each a prize worth CHF 2,200**

Based on a multitude of criteria, the Model WTO Team, WTO Experts, the Chairs and your fellow participants will evaluate your performance and the performance of your country-colleagues during the week.

We will take a look on your arguments, your strategy but also how you involve other countries and if you really made relevant attempts to construct a consensus. It is a team event, so if you want to win, you need to make sure that your delegates in the other committees do well collectively.

## Prizes For Best Essays

**Free courses at the EPLO LL.M. Program in Barcelona with a total value worth EUR 4,000**

The best three essays will be awarded with free courses at the EPLO LL.M. Program in Barcelona.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Prize**

40 hours at EPLO – free choice from the whole variety of courses (value of EUR 2,000)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prizes**

20 hours at EPLO – free choice from the whole variety of courses (value of EUR 1,000 each)



# 10 | Our Advisory Board

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**Bernard Kuiten**

Head of External Relations at the WTO.  
Former First Secretary at the WTO Unit of  
the Dutch Permanent Representation in  
Geneva.



**Dr. Theresa Carpenter**

Executive Director of the Graduate  
Institute's Centre for Trade and Economic  
Integration. Post-doc researcher in  
economics at the Graduate Institute of  
International and Development Studies.



**Dr. Klaus Dingwerth**

Professor of Political Science at the  
University of St. Gallen with a special focus  
on the Political Theory of the Globalizing  
and Digital Society.



**Dr. Reto Malacrida**

Counsellor and Head of the Government  
Procurement and Competition Policy  
Group. Intellectual Property, Government  
Procurement and Competition Division of  
the World Trade Organization.



**Chloe Domaradzki**

Chairwoman of the Advisory Board.  
Former President of the Model WTO  
International and Former Student at the  
University of St. Gallen.



# 11 | Our Team

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We are looking forward to  
your applications!

For further questions, do not  
hesitate to contact us:  
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