

# COUNTRY PERSPECTIVE: INTERNATIONAL TRADE

## ACTIVITY CARD

Trade is one of the principal ways that nations are connected to each other. Increased trade has created many opportunities for countries that manufacture goods for export. Countries can gain from trade because it is a way for them to produce more and grow their economies. But the effects of trade are not beneficial to all. Some countries feel a need to restrict trade to protect certain industries or to protect certain workers' jobs from foreign competition. Economies around the world are becoming increasingly integrated, but each country still has to think through the costs and benefits of its trade policy.

**Directions:** As a group, discuss the questions below so that you become knowledgeable about your country's position on international trade. Use your *World Problems Scenario* as a resource. In addition, investigate the websites from the Scenario (at the beginning of the Country Profiles section, and the Trade section under Economics), and the ICONS research library – linked to *Delegate Central* at [www.cwhp.info/delegates.html](http://www.cwhp.info/delegates.html).

1. Is your country a developed or a developing country? Explain why you think it is developed or developing. What is the size of your country's economy, and how would you judge the living standards of most of the people who live in your country?
2. What are your country's main imports and exports? Who are your country's major trading partners? What kinds of trade policies and laws has your country adopted? Is your country a member of the WTO?
3. What is meant by free trade? Would free trade be beneficial to your country's economy? How? Would free trade be harmful to your country's economy? How? What is your country's position on international trade and why does it take this position?
4. Identify key trade-related problems and challenges facing your country. Prioritize these problems and challenges in terms of seriousness and urgency regarding the need for attention.
5. Define the goals your country has in dealing with the key trade problems and challenges that you have prioritized. Prioritize your goals for dealing with your country's international trade issues. What is the best way to grow the global economy while providing a sustainable standard of living for your country? How can trade be managed to provide a sustainable standard of living for all?
6. Identify strategies for achieving the goals your group has prioritized. Identify the strategies that your country could implement at both the national and international levels to address these international trade issues. Remember, your strategies must realistically reflect the way you have prioritized your goals in your country.

**Task: Design a visual that has four distinct sections: 1) A brief summary of key points on the international trade situation in your country and the policy approaches that have been used; 2) A prioritized list of the key trade problems and challenges for your country; 3) A prioritized list of the goals your country has for dealing with the trade issues it faces; and 4) The national and international plans and strategies you have for achieving your goals for dealing with international trade issues in your country. Present your visual to the class with the kind of depth and breadth of explanation that will thoroughly teach your fellow delegates about the issue of international trade. Be ready to explain what role your country can play in managing trade to establish a sustainable standard of living for all.**

## **TASK EVALUATION CRITERIA**

- **Visual includes four distinct sections and makes use of color, symbols, maps, timelines, charts, graphs, or other visual techniques that help to convey information.**
- **Visual includes a summary of key points on the current international trade situation in your country and summarizes the policy approaches your country has used in dealing with international trade.**
- **Visual includes a prioritized list of the key international trade problems and challenges your country faces.**
- **Visual includes a prioritized list of the goals your country has for dealing with international trade.**
- **Visual includes the national and international plans your group has for achieving your country's international trade goals.**
- **Presentation teaches the class about the issue of international trade in your country.**