

The World Trade Organization

Appleby College Model United Nations 2025

Director's Letter

Hello delegates, my name is Jacob Greene and I will be your director for the World Trade Organization! I have been involved in Model United Nations since middle school, and all I can talk about is just how far it has taken me. Over the past several years, I have been very involved in Model United Nations, serving as president of my school club and Co-Secretary-General for Toronto Model United Nations. I also represented the DMUN (Discover MUN) Foundation at COP28 in 2023 in Dubai, UAE, and served as a board member for the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction committee at the 13th iteration of Asia Youth International MUN in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Model UN has been pivotal in my life, it has opened the doors to opportunities I never thought would come to me. For that, I am forever thankful.

The World Trade Organization is the single handedly most important economic trade group on earth. As you will learn in this guide, you will understand the core fundamentals of the organization, its origins and of most importance: Its history. I strongly encourage delegates to study both this guide and their assigned country's policy directed towards world trade. The topics in this guide both correlate to trade inequality and the overarching issues which arise within them, although I encourage delegates to also research independently to truly grasp both their delegation's policies and goals. Ultimately, out-of-the-box solutions and creativity will be to your advantage, truly find what makes your solution different and modern compared to what has been implemented (or tried to have been) in the past.

Finally, delegates, good luck! I look forward to meeting each one of you at ACMUN 2025!



Introduction to the Committee:

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an international organization that manages global trade by setting rules, solving disputes and promoting free and equal trade among nations across the globe. Currently, there are 166 member states which make up 98% of the world's trade. The WTO is pivotal in resolving trade disputes between countries, ensuring trade flows fairly, predictably and freely by reducing barriers and executing trade-related agreements.

To begin to understand the functions and role of the World Trade Organization, it is first necessary to understand its importance and predecessor organization, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). GATT was formed in 1947 by 23 nations (every major nation at the time except for the Soviet Union).² GATT was formed just a few years after other international economic organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were established, both in 1944. What made GATT different from the World Bank and IMF was simply its focus on trade deals and regulations. The World Bank and IMF aimed to focus on more niche economic issues related to funding and economics, whilst GATT focused primarily on agreements and lobbying between countries and other parties such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).³ GATT was instrumental in organizing trade deals throughout the latter half of the 20th century and was responsible for enhancing the principles of Most-favoured-nation (MFN).⁴ MFN relates to the idea that all countries should treat their trade partners equally and that no party should face unequal treatment. GATT eventually grew to 128 members worldwide by the early 1990s.⁵ The organization, however, lacked a crucial element: enforcement. It was merely a multilateral trade agreement; as a result, it lacked the proper framework to be fully effective. Another issue with GATT was that it was missing countries with significant global influence, such as China, Saudi Arabia and the post-Soviet Russian Federation.

¹ WTO. "WTO Members and Observers." Wto.org, World Trade Organization, 2024, www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/org6_e.htm.

² Majaski, Christina. "General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - GATT." Investopedia, 29 Oct. 2022, www.investopedia.com/terms/g/gatt.asp.

³ Investopedia "General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - GATT."

⁴ Wilkinson, Bruce. "General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) | the Canadian Encyclopedia." Thecanadianencyclopedia.ca, 2017.

www. the canadian encyclopedia. ca/en/article/general-agreement-on-tariffs-and-trade.

⁵WTO. "WTO | GATT Members." Wto.org, 2020, www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/gattmem_e.htm.

All members of GATT around this time were feeling similar sentiments, GATT needed to transform into a much more formal and binding organization. Around this time, globalization was growing rampant with the advancement of technology and trade, making it very necessary for there to be some form of updated policy to GATT. Both independent economists and GATT organizational leads understood and predicted a trend of globalization way back in the 1980s. As a result, it was decided amongst GATT members to finally create a legally binding and fair succession organization that would deal with trade amongst all nations, an organization which any nation could and would want to join. This stage (1986-1994) was known as the Uruguay Round, the most ambitious and important stage in the history of GATT.

Arthur Dunkel, the Director-General of GATT (1980-1993), played a crucial role in the early stages of the Uruguay Round. Pioneering the "Dunkel Draft", a major proposal which would later become very influential in WTO agreements.⁶ The Dunkel Draft was specifically geared towards expanding the scope of global trade by incorporating new areas such as services and intellectual property into the framework of international trade rules, which had traditionally focused on goods. Dunkel also introduced a framework relating to Intelectual Property, by drafting a formal agreement known as TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intelectual Property Rights). TRIPS would later be included in the WTO and would prove significant in patent law worldwide. Another instrumental pioneer in the Uruguay Round would be Peter Sutherland, the Director-General of GATT at the time and the very first director of the WTO (1993-1995).8 Sutherland continued to mediate trade disputes and pushed for compromises regarding agriculture and services. He was the last Director-General of GATT and officially concluded the Uruguay Round negotiations on April 15th, 1994. This conclusion was known as the Marrakesh Agreement, it marked the end of GATT and the official beginning of the World Trade Organization. On January 1st, 1995, the WTO officially began operating. This time with legally binding treaties, enforced patent law, and now a framework which aimed to welcome non-members into the organization.

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⁶ Babkina, A. M. World Trade Organization. Nova Publishers, 2000.

⁷ "WTO | Intellectual Property (TRIPS) - Agreement Text - Contents." Wto.org, 2019, www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/27-trips_01_e.htm.

⁸ WTO. "WTO | Former Director-General Peter Sutherland." Wto.org, 2018, www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/dg_e/ps_e.htm.

Through the passing of new deals and legislation, the WTO was now ready to take on the role of facilitating trade in the 21st century. One of the major breakthroughs of the Marrakesh agreements was the creation of the Ministerial Conference. The Ministerial Conferences serve as the highest decision-making body of the WTO. Each member of the WTO sends their most senior-ranking trade ministers to the Ministerial Conferences which typically happen biennially to discuss trade, policy, and to potentially introduce new agreements into the WTO.9 The first Ministerial Conference of the WTO was held in Singapore from December 9 to December 13, 1996. 10 This conference was significant as it marked the beginning of the WTO's operations after its establishment just a year back, and it set the stage for subsequent negotiations on global trade agreements. From this point on, the WTO continued to engage in new dialogue and work towards solutions which aimed to foster global cooperation and further diplomacy. On December 11th, 2001, then President of China Jiang Zemin officially entered his nation into the WTO after 15 long years of negotiations. 11 China had a major interest in joining the WTO throughout the 1990s but was in the process of negotiating for revised IPR and patent law. Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji eventually came to a deal with both WTO secretariat and American delegates to reduce tariffs on agricultural products and committed to enforcing the protection of patents, marking China's ascension to the WTO.¹² China joining the WTO was massive for the organization, now out of all major-power countries, only the Russian Federation was yet to join. Russia also began negotiations for entry in the 1990s and finally joined on August 22nd, 2012.¹³ In contrast to China, WTO negotiations differed because Russia had to address issues from its transition away from a Soviet-style economy, like state-owned enterprises and subsidies. China, on the other hand, focused more on market access, agriculture, and intellectual property, since it had already started market reforms by then. The accession of Russia and China to the WTO was vital for the

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⁹ WTO. "WTO | Ministerial Conferences." Www.wto.org, 2019, www.wto.org/english/thewto e/minist e/minist e.htm.

¹⁰ WTO. "WTO | Ministerial Conferences - Singapore"

¹¹ WTO. "WTO | China - Member Information." Wto.org, 2024, www.wto.org/english/thewto e/countries e/china e.htm.

¹² WTO. "WTO | China - Member Information."

¹³ WTO. "WTO | Russian Federation - Member Information." Www.wto.org, 2024, www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/countries_e/russia_e.htm.

organization, many other high-GDP nations around this time also saw the global benefit and joined, most throughout the 2000s (Saudi Arabia - 2005, Vietnam - 2007). 1415

To this day, the World Trade Organization plays an indispensable role worldwide and serves as a foundation for international trade commerce. By adapting to new global challenges, it continues to help countries work together and resolve trade disputes, supporting global stability and growth.

Figure 1: Members and Observers of the World Trade Organization as of 2019¹⁶



HQ: Centre William Rappard, Geneva, Switzerland

¹⁴ WTO. "WTO | Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Member Information." Www.wto.org, 2024, www.wto.org/english/thewto e/countries e/saudi arabia e.htm.

¹⁵ WTO. "WTO | Viet Nam - Member Information." Wto.org, 2024, www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/countries_e/vietnam_e.htm.

¹⁶ Market Business News. "World Trade Organization (WTO) – Definition and Meaning." Market Business News, 2020,

marketbusinessnews.com/financial-glossary/world-trade-organization-wto-definition-meaning/.

Topic 1 - Ensuring equitable access to global markets for developing nations

One of the most pivotal structures of the WTO and its predecessor organization, GATT, is the Most Favoured Nation principle (MFN). ¹⁷ MFN ensures that all nations are treated equally in trade and that no nation is excluded from deals for unfair purposes. The exception to MFN would be free-trade deals or "preferential" trade organizations made in the interest of strategic (and fair) importance. Take the European Union (EU)¹⁸ or the former North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)¹⁹ as examples. NAFTA and the EU do not violate MFN because WTO rules allow regional trade agreements (RTAs) as long as they promote free trade without raising barriers for other WTO members. In other words, NAFTA and the EU do not violate WTO rules because they promote free trade without unfairly blocking other countries. However, despite not being outlawed, RTAs still do not necessarily work alongside MFN in essence. In free-trade deals, there is always a party that benefits more than the other. Looking at the EU would make a great case study for a more specific explanation. For example, Germany and the Netherlands, as major exporters and trade hubs, are more affected by economic disparities in the EU because they rely heavily on intra-EU trade.²⁰ When weaker economies like Greece, Italy, or Spain struggle, their lower demand for imports can hurt German and Dutch industries, which depend on selling goods across Europe.²¹ Additionally, because Germany and the Netherlands contribute more to EU bailout and recovery funds,²² they bear a greater financial burden when supporting weaker economies, affecting their own economic stability and taxpayer costs. Almost all trade organizations have some sort of disparity and inequality amongst members, and it is not just limited to trade organizations; as individual trade from one country directly to another will also have elements of unfairness. While this may seem obvious, all WTO members are bound by the

¹⁷ Wilkinson, Bruce. "General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)"

¹⁸ Igler, Wolfgang. "The European Union and the World Trade Organization | Fact Sheets on the European Union | European Parliament." Www.europarl.europa.eu, Apr. 2023,

www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/161/the-european-union-and-the-world-trade-organization.

¹⁹ Monnet, Jean. "NORTH AMERICAN INTEGRATION - II. The NAFTA in the WTO System." Jeanmonnetprogram.org, 2019, jeanmonnetprogram.org/archive/papers/99/990204.html.

²⁰ Igler, Wolfgang. "The European Union and the World Trade Organization | Fact Sheets on the European Union"

²¹ Igler, Wolfgang. "The European Union and the World Trade Organization | Fact Sheets on the European Union"

²² Igler, Wolfgang. "The European Union and the World Trade Organization | Fact Sheets on the European Union"

principles of MFN, no country should be treated unequally when it comes to trade. The WTO aims to address issues regarding MFN and continues to advocate for fairness amongst its members. While the WTO and GATT collectively have made their due diligence efforts to combat trade inequality, many systemic trade issues remain, especially in developing countries.

To get a more specific idea of trade inequality in the developing world, it would be beneficial to analyze former biases and preferential treatment by nations in the past. One of the most infamous modern trade inequalities in the developing world would be the "Banana Wars" or the "Banana Trade Wars" (not to be confused with the U.S. military intervention in Central America during the early 20th century.) The Banana Wars were an informal term used to represent the long-lasting legal battle between U.S.-based companies and Central American countries against the European Union.²³ The conflict centred on the EU's preferential trade agreements with former European colonies in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP countries), which gave them lower tariffs and better access to the EU market while imposing higher tariffs on Latin American bananas.²⁴ This created an unfair advantage that disproportionately hurt larger banana producers like Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Colombia, whose economies depended heavily on banana exports. 25 This sparked outrage over Central America, as no country in the region had modern (20th century onwards) European influence apart from Belize (British). Belize was the outlier nation and a clear benefactor of the then-European trade. Between 1986 and 1990, Belize's economy expanded at an average annual rate of over 10%, with bananas, citrus exports and tourism being the main reason for their financial success.²⁶ ACP countries during the 1980s were prospering in trade industries primarily due to European influence and favouritism, while the economies of the Banana Republics in Central America were stuck in recession. Eventually, the dispute escalated in the 1990s, when Latin American nations—backed by the United States (representing U.S.-based banana corporations like Chiquita and Dole)²⁷—brought the case to GATT (which carried onto the WTO), arguing that the EU's

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²³ Barkham, Patrick. "The Banana Wars Explained." The Guardian, The Guardian, 5 Mar. 1999, www.theguardian.com/world/1999/mar/05/eu.wto3.

²⁴ Bucheli, Marcelo. "Banana War Maneuvers." Harvard Business Review, Nov. 2005, hbr.org/2005/11/banana-war-maneuvers.

²⁵ Bucheli, Marcelo. "Banana War Maneuvers."

²⁶ International Monetary Fund. "Belize: Recent Economic Developments." IMF, 28 Oct. 1998, www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2016/12/30/Belize-Recent-Economic-Developments-2814. Accessed 15 Mar. 2025.

²⁷ Bucheli, Marcelo. "Banana War Maneuvers."

system violated MFN principles by treating ACP nations with superior trade dealings. As a result, the WTO ruled in favour of the U.S. and Central American countries (excluding Belize) and ordered the E.U. to either drop tariffs or have tariffs equal to those in the ACP regions. The E.U. did not immediately reply, and as a result, the U.S. introduced \$191 million in trade sanctions on EU goods, including French handbags and British bed linens, as a form of retaliation authorized by the WTO.²⁸ The dispute was only resolved when the EU agreed to a tariff-only system for banana imports worldwide in 2006.²⁹



Figure 2: Banana Producing Areas of Central America³⁰

The Banana Wars outlined very key aspects of international trade disputes in ruling. First, it showed just how crucial resources of typically lower global importance can be for developing nations, such as Bananas. Countries should have more to offer than just agriculture for their economies; but in a lot of cases, it forms the most necessary component of their financial wealth. Furthermore, the Banana Wars showed that no country is excused from MFN. Trade must be equal, and cannot antagonize for the sake of political nuance. Even when E.U. nations at the time

²⁸ Bucheli, Marcelo, "Banana War Maneuvers,"

²⁹ Geitner, Paul . "U.S. And European Union Settle `Banana War' | the Seattle Times." Seattletimes.com, 12 Apr. 2001,

archive.seattletimes.com/archive/20010412/banana12/us-and-european-union-settle-banana-war. Accessed 15 Mar. 2025.

³⁰ Cortés Ramos, A. (2020). Banana-producing areas of Central America. ResearchGate. https://www.researchgate.net

tried to downplay the WTO's role in facilitating the disputes, there were still consequences. The U.S. was granted permission from the WTO to return the favour on the E.U. and impose tariffs, and as a result, the "war" came to an end. The WTO has made a huge and substantial leap from GATT in efforts to prove themselves, letting not even the world's most powerful nations get away with disproportionate ruling.

To this day, however, there are concerning amounts of trade inequalities that exist within the global sphere of both developed and developing nations, many issues of which are systemic. A major issue is the rise of protectionism, where larger economies impose tariffs and trade barriers that disproportionately affect smaller and less-developed nations. WTO terminology is also used loosely in justification of trade barriers, making it legally easy for almost any country to engage in violating MFN to a certain extent. Moreso relating to protectionism, countries using the argument of preserving domestic business will also result in less longstanding trade with one another. Developing economies struggle with equitable trade due to protectionist policies like subsidies, quotas, and strict regulations from wealthier nations. Agricultural subsidies in the U.S. and EU make it hard for poorer countries to compete, while environmental and digital trade rules impose additional costs. With the WTO's dispute system weakened, developing nations have limited ways to challenge unfair practices. To address this, the WTO has taken several steps to make global trade more accessible and fair. One major initiative is the Aid for Trade program, which has raised around \$648 billion since 2006 to help lower-income countries strengthen their trade infrastructure, and compete more effectively in global markets.³¹ The 2024 Global Review of Aid for Trade highlighted ways to help developing economies overcome trade barriers and expand their market access. The WTO is also pushing for more inclusive trade policies. The Villars Framework,³² for example, ensures that sustainability-related measures, like carbon tariffs, don't unfairly disadvantage exports from developing countries. It also promotes a greater role for these nations in shaping global trade rules and negotiating subsidies that align with their economic priorities.

Ultimately, it comes down to global cooperation and stricter following of WTO rules and

³¹ WTO, "Aid for Trade." OECD, 2024, www.oecd.org/en/about/programmes/aid-for-trade.html.

³² Villars Framework 2.0. "The Villars Framework for a Sustainable Global Trade System." Remaking the Global Trading System for a Sustainable Future Project, remakingtradeproject.org/villars-framework.

boundaries. In a utopic society, the values of fair trade and MFN should be perfectly kept intact, allowing all countries a fair shot at success, both developed and developing. Developing Countries are still in need of an equal shot at developing trade, and turning to the WTO is one of their only options.

Questions to Consider

- 1) How has the WTO's Most Favoured Nation (MFN) principle helped create a fairer trade system, and where has it fallen short?
- 2) Do regional trade agreements (e.g., the E.U., NAFTA) promote global free trade, or do they reinforce inequalities between nations?
- 3) What steps can the WTO take to strengthen its dispute resolution system and better support developing countries?
- 4) Should the WTO have more authority to regulate the trade policies of wealthier nations to prevent systemic inequalities?

2. Reducing trade barriers in the agricultural sector

Regardless of a nation's economic class, assuming it has a hinterland; it will always have an agricultural sector. Indeed, developed nations typically rely far less on agricultural industries for economic premises than those in the developing world. Still, nonetheless, Agriculture will always play a powerful role in every country's everyday life. While agriculture remains a universal pillar of economic and social stability, its role and impact vary significantly between developed and developing nations. For wealthier countries, agriculture is often highly subsidized and technologically advanced, whereas, for developing economies, it serves as a critical livelihood for millions. However, global trade policies do not always reflect this disparity, creating significant barriers for less-developed nations seeking fair market access. Another key challenge in agricultural trade is the lack of market access for developing countries due to stringent health and safety regulations, as well as complex certification requirements imposed by wealthier nations. These non-tariff barriers (NTBs) can act as indirect trade restrictions, making it difficult for farmers in poorer countries to export their products. Additionally, export restrictions and stockpiling policies by some major agricultural producers can cause price volatility in global food markets. When countries limit exports during crises—such as during the COVID-19 pandemic or recent geopolitical conflicts—developing nations that rely on food imports suffer from skyrocketing prices and shortages.³³

International Trade's role in Agriculture has systemically been shaped by inequalities. With wealthier nations implementing tariffs, subsidies, and trade barriers to protect their own industries while limiting the market access of developing countries. Furthermore, while it may seem that trade inequalities exist as a result of locational coincidence rather than actual bias, historically there have been numerous occasions where agricultural trade has intentionally been polarized. Looking at Europe for example, the E.U. back in the 1960s introduced the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). CAP aimed to heavily subsidize agriculture throughout E.U.

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³³ Mahmood, Haider, et al. "The Effects of COVID-19 on Agriculture Supply Chain, Food Security, and Environment: A Review." PeerJ, vol. 12, 23 Apr. 2024, pp. e17281–e17281, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC11048076/, https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.17281.

countries in hopes of creating and sustaining a long-term agricultural plan for the continent.³⁴ CAP was very successful in creating a sufficient amount of agricultural produce for the E.U. but ultimately worked at an unsustainable surplus.³⁵ In 1983, EU grain stocks were estimated to be over 40 million tons, a substantial surplus beyond the required market levels.³⁶ The E.U. also infamously faced a "butter mountain," with stockpiles reaching about 700,000 tons of butter by the mid-1980s.³⁷ As a result, the E.U. had no choice but to sell off their resources at an artificially low price in order for their overstock to be purchased. This severely hurt the agricultural field in all corners of the globe. Even affecting wealthy nations such as the United States and Canada at the time, which are famous for their massive grain and dairy hinterlands.³⁸ During the 1980s, it was important to keep in mind that even though GATT was a widely followed and organized organization, its policies and enforcements were still very lenient. It wasn't until the establishment of the WTO that predator pricing - specifically in agricultural trade was addressed. During the Uruguay Rounds of the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) was established to address trade inequalities and distortions. The AoA sought to create a more transparent, fair, and competitive agricultural trading system by establishing clear rules to reduce trade barriers and subsidies.³⁹ Under the AoA, countries agreed to reduce agricultural subsidies and tariffs over time. This was done in a way that allowed for special treatment for developing countries, recognizing that they were more reliant on agriculture for economic development. The agreement aimed to lower market access barriers, making it easier for developing countries to sell their agricultural products on the global market. It also focused on curbing export subsidies, which had previously allowed wealthy nations to flood the global market with cheap agricultural goods, undercutting farmers in poorer nations. However, the AoA definitely and obviously did not eliminate subsidies. Developed countries, especially the United States and countries in the E.U., continued to offer subsidies, but in a more controlled and transparent manner. One of the most significant criticisms of the AoA is that it did

³⁴ European Commission. "CAP at a Glance." Agriculture.ec.europa.eu, European Commission, 2022, agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/cap-overview/cap-glance en.

³⁵ European Commission . SEPARATING FACT from FICTION the COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY the Common Agricultural Policy: Separating Fact from Fiction Contents.

³⁶ European Commission . SEPARATING FACT from FICTION the COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

³⁷ European Commission . SEPARATING FACT from FICTION the COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY ³⁸ Government of Canada, Statistics Canada. "Agriculture and Food Statistics." Statcan.gc.ca, 2021, www.statcan.gc.ca/en/subjects-start/agriculture and food.

^{39 ---. &}quot;WTO | Legal Texts - Marrakesh Agreement." Wto.org, 2024, www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/ag_e.htm.

not sufficiently address the persistent use of domestic support measures, which allow developed nations to continue providing indirect aid to their agricultural sectors through various mechanisms such as price supports and income support. The loopholes of the AoA allowed for continuous violations of MFN and led to not being a true and universal solution to trade inequality in the agricultural industry. As a result, to this day there are still inequalities that need to be truly reconciled and fixed.

Ultimately, one of the largest justifications for disrupting fair agricultural trade is the argument for preventing food waste. Currently, the world in recent years has averaged 1.05 Billion Tonnes of food waste, with one-quarter of food wasted being able to singlehandedly solve world hunger. Looking back in history, CAP had an overproduction of resources; and as a result, had the choice to either discard it or sell it off at rates countries would be able to buy affordably, and more importantly: quickly. With technology getting more advanced and procurement becoming more accurate, agricultural stock amounts have become far easier to predict in terms of domestic and international trade. There have been developments and far better predictions to understand global markets, and as a result; food production has become far more sustainable. In the long term, promoting trade equality in agriculture is not just about reducing trade distortions but also ensuring that developing countries can participate on equal footing, thus promoting global food security and sustainable practices across all regions. Through continued reforms and support for developing nations, the WTO's role in levelling the agricultural playing field is crucial for the future of international trade.

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⁴⁰ UNEP. "World Squanders over 1 Billion Meals a Day - UN Report." UN Environment, 27 Mar. 2024, www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/world-squanders-over-1-billion-meals-day-un-report.

Major agricultural trade flows between different world regions (2017–2019 averages) & cereal imports dependency ratio (in %)

Value (%)

100

0

-241

The arrows indicate the largest agricultural trade flows between different world regions (North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle-East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and Central Asia, Southern Asia, and Eastern Asia and Pacific) and their respective counterparts. The width of the arrow indicates the trade flows' relative size compared to global trade. The cereals imports dependency ratio, calculated as a 3-year average (2017-2019), tells the percentage of the available domestic food supply of cereals that has been imported. The maximum value of 100 indicates that a country relies fully on imports, while negative values indicate that the country is a net exporter of cereals.

Figure 3: Agirlcutral Trade Flow Between World Regions⁴¹

Questions to Consider

- 1) What would a reasonable alternative to regulating fair agricultural markets be in contrast to simply wasting food?
- 2) What non-tariff barriers (e.g., health standards) limit trade access for developing nations?
- 3) How do global food trade regulations affect market access for developing nations?
- 4) Can regional trade agreements help reduce agricultural trade barriers and benefit smaller economies?

⁴¹ Rural21. "Agrifood Prices and International Trade Flows." Rural21.com, 30 June 2023, www.rural21.com/english/a-closer-look-at/detail/article/agrifood-prices-and-international-trade-flows.html.

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