

11 August 2023

(23-0000)

Page: 1/4

Original: English

**DIALOGUE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PLASTICS
TRADE (DPP)****FIRST DRAFT – POSSIBLE MC13 STATEMENT**

The following communication, dated 11 August 2023, is being circulated at the request of the Dialogue Coordinators.

We, the Ministers representing the following Members of the WTO [], issue this statement:

Preamble

Recalling that the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO recognizes the role of trade in achieving the objective of sustainable development and the need to protect and preserve the environment.

Expressing our deep concern about the triple planetary crisis of biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change and their related natural disasters, and *recognizing* that these challenges are inextricably interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and that they are driven largely by unsustainable patterns of consumption, production and disposal and their related economic and health costs.

Acknowledging the negative impact that plastic pollution has on the environment, including in the marine environment, on land, in the air, and in water, particularly in small and vulnerable economies and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as on economies, including the blue economy, and on human health, while recognizing the role played by plastics in society.

Recognizing the transboundary nature of plastic pollution, plastic waste and plastics trade, making it crucial for members to cooperate and coordinate their efforts to address this global problem and its adverse and spill over impacts on the environment and human health and acknowledging the growing urgent need to tackle the plastic pollution crisis, the need for coordinated action across policy areas and the need to constantly assess approaches consistent with evolution in science and knowledge.

Calling for an ambitious international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution to protect human health and the environment, pursuant to the UN Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 to end plastic pollution.

Acknowledging the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and commending the successful adoption of the Plastic Technical Guidelines under the Basel Convention, fostering international cooperation and progress towards environmentally sound and safe plastic waste management.

Highlighting the importance of the rules-based multilateral trading system and of trade-related cooperation as a contribution to global efforts to end plastic pollution, including through the implementation of trade-related plastics measures across the life cycle of plastics, including by preventing the leakage of plastic pollution, sharing of relevant data and information on the plastics economy, and promotion of safe and sustainable solutions, in particular those important for developing members.

Acknowledging the ongoing international, regional and domestic efforts to address plastic pollution and the contribution by many of these processes and relevant stakeholders to the Dialogue.

Reaffirming the Dialogue's Ministerial Statement (WT/MIN(21)/8/Rev.[X]) issued on 10 December 2021 which committed co-sponsors to work towards "concrete, pragmatic, and effective outcomes" on the trade-related aspects of plastics pollution in order to contribute to the global response to end plastic pollution on the areas of substantive focus further articulated by the Dialogue Plan (INF/TE/IDP/W/5): Cross-cutting issues, including capacity building and technical assistance, international cooperation, and transparency and data; Reduction to tackle plastic pollution; and Promotion of trade to tackle plastic pollution.

Highlighting the progress of the collective work of the Dialogue on Plastic Pollution since its launch, including:

- The substantive technical work and discussions of the Dialogue, with the support of the expertise from delegations and relevant stakeholders, that has helped advance our collective knowledge of the intersection between trade, trade policies and plastic pollution, under each of the workstreams of the Dialogue, and supported the production of several outputs from the Dialogue such as those reflected in Annex [X], including information documents, factual summaries and reports, specialized Workshops, surveys and communications.
- The enhanced, close, and constructive cooperation with other international and regional efforts and institutions, such as with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR), the World Bank Group, the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and a range of stakeholder organisations involved in the work of the Dialogue.

We have accordingly reached the following shared understandings:

We will continue to cooperate on the basis of the following **shared principles**:

- Focusing on trade-related aspects and actions that participating Members could take collectively and individually to support global efforts to end plastic pollution.
- Deepening cooperation and collaboration with other international organizations, secretariats and processes, ensuring complementarity and avoiding duplication, and ensuring that the work is informed by and supports the ongoing INC negotiations, and implementation of relevant Multilateral Environment Agreements, as well as relevant technical and scientific developments.
- Addressing challenges facing WTO members, in particular developing members, LDCs and SIDS, in the trade related aspects of plastic pollution and sustainable development goals.
- Emphasizing the role of multilateral trade cooperation including in promoting transparency and good practices.
- Continued open, inclusive and transparent engagement with all WTO members and all relevant stakeholders.
- Continuing our efforts in exploring the interlinkages of plastic pollution and trade in other areas.

We agree to the following **actions**:

- Improve transparency, monitoring and understanding of trade flows across the full life cycle of plastics, including flows of plastics embedded in or associated with internationally traded goods, including through the actions listed in Annex [X].
- Address trade-related capacity building and technical assistance needs of developing members, least developed members and SIDS, such as those listed in Annex [X], including through the implementation of Aid for Trade to address plastic pollution and to launch a mechanism to match funding opportunities with specific needs identified by developing members, particularly LDCs and SIDS, to implement trade-related policies and measures to tackle plastic pollution.
- Promote trade-related cooperation, including through implementing trade-related measures, such as those listed in Annex [X], to reduce unnecessary or harmful plastics and plastic products such as those listed in Annex [X].
- Promote trade-related cooperation, including through implementing trade-related measures such as those listed in Annex [X], to address the environmental, social and health impacts and leakage associated with primary plastics, polymers, additives and plastics products.
- Promote trade, including through implementing trade-related measures such as those listed in Annex [X], that contributes to ending plastic pollution and results in safe circularity, including trade in environmentally sustainable, safe, and effective non-plastic substitutes and environmentally sustainable, safe, and effective plastic alternatives and re-use, repair and re-fill systems such as those listed in Annex [X], with a focus on those of interest to WTO Members, in particular developing members, including SIDS, and least developed members, and opportunities for their MSMEs.
- Promote trade, including through implementing trade-related measures, such as those listed in Annex [X], of goods, services and technologies to tackle plastic pollution, including those necessary for environmentally sound and safe waste management and clean up, using the waste hierarchy, appropriate to local development circumstances and needs, and in line with Basel Convention Technical Guidelines on environmentally sound waste management.
- Promote trade-related cooperation, including through implementing trade-related measures, such as those listed in Annex [X], to contribute to the control of cross-border movement of plastic pollution, including through, for example, effectively implementing the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments and its Plastic Technical Guidelines relevant to the management of plastic waste, fostering international cooperation and progress towards environmentally sound plastic waste management.

We call attention to the annexes¹ to this statement that reflect our collective and individual efforts so far to identify practices and options to implement trade-related measures and opportunities for cooperation to contribute to ending plastic pollution.

We recognize the need to periodically update the annexes based on global, regional and domestic efforts, as well as on technical and scientific developments, and encourage efforts and commitments by a range of co-sponsors to foster and implement collective and individual actions in this respect.

¹ The concrete and factual information regarding key aspects of our work is summarized in the following annexes: I) Trade-Related Transparency Efforts and Potential Actions Identified; II) Trade-Related Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Needs of Developing Members, Least Developed Members and Vulnerable Small Island Developing States (SIDS) identified in Dialogue discussions; III) Products Most Often Addressed by Trade-Related Plastic Measures (TrPMs) and Identified in Dialogue Discussions; IV) TrPMs on Reduction and Other Approaches; V) Plastic Alternatives and Substitutes and Other Relevant Goods, Services and Technologies Most Often Addressed by TrPMs and Identified in Dialogue Discussions; VI) Goods, Services and Technologies for Environmentally Sound Waste Management Most Often Addressed by TrPMs and identified in Dialogue discussions; VII) TrPMs on promotion and Other Approaches.

We will continue to hold dedicated discussions with a view to identify best practices and share experiences regarding all topics identified in the Dialogue. We will work to develop a new Dialogue Plan in the months following MC13. We will look for further concrete, pragmatic, and effective outcomes on these actions and understandings at the latest by MC14.
