



**UNOFFICIAL ROOM DOCUMENT<sup>1</sup>**

**DIALOGUE ON PLASTICS POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE  
PLASTICS TRADE**

EVOLVING DOCUMENT WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS, INCLUDING FOR MC13  
OUTCOMES, SHARED IN DPP MEETINGS

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<sup>1</sup> Documents issued in the RD series are not official WTO documents. They are intended for use in WTO meeting rooms and are attributed an unofficial symbol for archiving purposes only.

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## **EVOLVING DOCUMENT WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS, INCLUDING FOR MC13 OUTCOMES, SHARED IN DPP MEETINGS**

The evolving compilation below reflects suggestions made by delegations and stakeholders at meetings to implement the Dialogue's 2021 Ministerial Statement ([WT/MIN\(21\)/8/Rev.2](#)), in particular Ministers call to achieve "concrete, pragmatic, and effective outcomes... at the latest by MC13".

### **1 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

- I. Promote transparency and understanding of trade flows across the life cycle of plastics, including flows of plastics embedded in or associated with internationally traded goods, including by:
  - a) Contributing to the ongoing work at the World Customs Organization's (WCO) HS amendment cycle, though, inter alia, approaches that could better differentiate plastics and plastic products, and their intended utilization purposes along their lifecycle, in ways that would support efforts by governments to reduce plastic pollution.
  - b) Identifying best practices at a national or regional level to improve granular classification to enable better monitoring and regulation of trade in certain plastics and plastic products.
  - c) Exploring technological options and promote cooperation on standards that can also support transparency of trade flows across the life cycle of plastics.
- II. Promote trade-related capacity building and technical assistance, as well as cooperation with other international organizations and processes, including by:
  - a) Completing the analysis of the DPP Survey on trade-related capacity building and technical assistance needs of developing members with regards to plastic pollution, in particular LDCs and SIDS, including through Aid for Trade (e.g., on design and implementation of trade-related measures; promoting production and trade in environmentally sound substitutes; support for engagement in design and implementation of standards, and for monitoring and regulating trade of flows in plastics at the border).
  - b) Cooperating with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, and other stakeholders, including regional organizations and international environmental organizations, to carry out complementary analyses in identifying relevant Aid for Trade needs, opportunities and programmes.
  - c) Matching priorities outlined by developing members, particularly LDCs and SIDS, with existing and potential Aid for Trade programmes.
  - d) Undertaking exploratory work with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other standardization institutions towards identifying common understandings and gaps in internationally recognized standards and measuring tools relevant to reducing plastic pollution, including standards related to plastics, plastic products, the composition and eco-design of products, substitutes, and waste management goods and services.
  - e) Exchanging information and reporting on progress under the Dialogue, including potential subsequent Ministerial decisions, to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) developing an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

### **2 REDUCTION AND CIRCULARITY TO TACKLE PLASTIC POLLUTION**

- I. Reduce trade in unnecessary or harmful plastics and plastic products, and phase out trade in problematic plastics, starting with commonly targeted single-use plastics, as well as packaging associated with trade, that are not essential for health, safety, quality, medical or sanitary purposes, with special attention to challenges for developing members, in particular LDCs and SIDS, including by:

- a) Banning or restricting export and import of unnecessary and harmful plastics and plastic products, including wastes and additives, starting with those that are restricted or banned domestically or through relevant multilateral environmental agreements.
- b) Completing the analysis of the Trade-related Plastic Measures (TrPMs) Survey to support efforts to identify what members have already identified as harmful and unnecessary plastics and plastics products, and their related trade measures.
- c) Identifying the most harmful plastics and related-trade measures and compile an open/illustrative, non-binding, non-exhaustive and evolving set of commonly understood unnecessary or most harmful plastics and related trade measures to address them.
- d) Identifying voluntary principles related to design to reduce harmful and unnecessary plastics and devise actions that would help consumers have more transparent information on products and packaging, such as through labelling.
- e) Expanding notification efforts on tariff and non-tariff measures applicable to plastics and plastic products, including microplastics, and to the promotion of a more circular plastics economy.
- f) Supporting the work of international processes, in particular the INC, to develop an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution in the refinement of the reuse, terminology, including for reuse and refill systems and the use of labelling schemes.
- g) Enhancing coordination, coherence and international cooperation on standards, fees, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes and other trade-related plastics measures.
- h) Notifying public support to the virgin polymer sector (e.g., fossil fuel-based).

### **3 PROMOTING TRADE TO TACKLE PLASTIC POLLUTION**

- I. Promote trade that contributes to ending plastic pollution and support circularity, including trade in environmentally sustainable and effective non-plastic substitutes and alternatives and reuse systems, with a focus on those of interest to developing and least developed members, including SIDS and opportunities for MSMEs and
- II. Promote trade in goods and services, including access to, transfer, and uptake of technologies for environmentally sound waste management (collecting, sorting, recycling) and clean up, appropriate to local development circumstances and needs, including by:
  - a) Completing the analysis of the TrPMs surveys to support efforts to identify what members have already identified as environmentally sustainable and effective substitutes and alternatives and related trade measures.
  - b) Compiling an open/illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving list of possible environmentally sustainable and effective substitutes and alternatives currently already being produced and traded internationally, as well as technologies, goods, services for environmentally sound and safe waste management and clean up.
  - c) Identifying "good" and "bad" products and services, drawing on the trade-related measures and environmental policies already implemented or under consideration by members.
  - d) Identifying tariff and non-tariff measures to improve access to affordable and environmentally sustainable alternatives to harmful plastics, including single-use plastics.
  - e) Identifying opportunities and best practices for promoting and facilitating trade in plastic substitutes, reuse/refill systems, package less alternatives and environmentally sound waste management technologies as alternatives to current plastic production and consumption and disposal patterns including by addressing tariff and non-tariff measures, government procurement, financial and technical support.

- f) Expanding notification efforts on non-tariff measures applicable to plastic substitutes and alternatives.
  - g) Improving equal and fair access to, transfer, and uptake of technologies, as well as conditions for technologies to flow smoothly, including using TRIPS flexibilities, such as for environmentally sound waste management (such as collecting, sorting, recycling) and clean up, appropriate to local development circumstances and needs.
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