



DIALOGUE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PLASTICS TRADE

ZERO DRAFT / MC13 OUTCOME

The following document is being circulated at the request of the Dialogue Coordinators.

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

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 climate change and its related natural disasters, biodiversity loss and pollution and *recognising* that these challenges are inextricably interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and that they are driven largely by unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.

Acknowledging the impact that plastic pollution has on the environment, including in the marine environment, on land and in the air, particularly in vulnerable economies and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as on economies and human health.

Recognizing the transboundary nature of plastic pollution and plastics trade, making it difficult for individual Members to address this global problem and its adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

Calling for an ambitious international legally binding instrument, pursuant to the UN Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, to end plastic pollution by 2040, to protect human health and the environment.

Highlighting the importance of trade-related cooperation as a contribution to these global efforts to end plastic pollution, including with the implementation of trade-related plastics measures, relevant data and information on the plastics economy, and promotion of trade in safe and sustainable solutions, in particular those important for developing members.

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

- The close cooperation between the Dialogue and the World Customs Organization (WCO), including through our 2022 Communication to the WCO to improve transparency and data of trade flows across the life cycle of plastics and *emphasising* the need for cooperation on reform of the WCO's Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) to enhance transparency of trade flows and to explore complementary actions that could support trade-related cooperation on plastic pollution at the border.
- the results of the Dialogue's Aid for Trade needs assessment survey and the survey of trade-related measures taken by Members relevant to contribute to end plastic pollution.

Highlighting the progress made []

Recalling the Dialogue's Ministerial Statement [WT/MIN(21)/8/Rev.X] issued on 10 December 2021 which committed co-sponsors to work on the trade-related aspects to contribute to the global response to end plastic pollution and towards "concrete, pragmatic, and effective outcomes" at MC13.

Skeleton:

Underline **shared vision on principles** underpinning cooperation:

- Focusing on trade-related aspects and actions that participating Members could take collectively to support global efforts to end plastic pollution.
- Deepening cooperation, collaboration with other international organizations, secretariats and processes, ensuring complementarity and avoiding duplication, and ensuring that the work is informed by ongoing INC negotiations.
- Addressing challenges facing developing members, particularly LDCs and SIDS, in the trade-related aspects of plastic pollution and sustainable development goals.
- Emphasizing the role of multilateral trade cooperation in promoting transparency and good practices.
- Continued open and inclusive engagement with relevant stakeholders.

Highlight **priorities** on which members agree to cooperate as a next step:

- Promote transparency and understanding of trade flows across the full life cycle of plastics, including flows of plastics embedded in or associated with internationally traded goods.
- Cooperate with WCO and customs authorities to pursue HS amendments and other trade instruments for more effective monitoring and regulation of plastics trade, improve information on chemical and material characteristics of traded products.
- Address trade-related capacity building and technical assistance needs of developing members, least developed members and SIDS. Implement Aid for Trade to address plastic pollution.
- Promote trade-related cooperation to effectively implement the disciplines, in accordance with the legal instrument adopted in INC, including regarding the trade in unnecessary or harmful plastics and plastic products.
- Promote trade-related cooperation to effectively implement the disciplines in accordance with the legal instrument adopted in INC, regarding the trade of those primary plastics, additives, plastics products, items and wastes.
- Promote trade that contributes to ending plastic pollution and results in safer circularity, including trade in environmentally sustainable and effective non-plastic substitutes, alternatives and re-use systems, with a focus on those of interest to developing and least developed members, including SIDS and opportunities for MSMEs.
- 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.

- Highlight the potential annexes to this statement that reflect our collective effort to identify effective practices and options to implement trade-related measures and cooperation to contribute to end plastic pollution; to make an illustrative compilation of goods, services and technologies that governments could seek to reduce or promote as part of their trade-related contribution; trade-related technical assistance and capacity building priorities for developing countries and potential sources and mechanisms to address these challenges.
 - Encouraged efforts/commitments by a range of co-sponsors to foster and implement collective actions in this respect and welcome those individual and collective efforts already announced.
 - Guidance for future work, including issues for ongoing exploration.
 - Commit to further progress on concrete, pragmatic and effective outcomes for MC14.
-