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

PRESENTATION BY THE FORUM ON TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND SDGs (TESS)

Pre-Plenary Meeting – 16 February 2023

DOCUMENT DE SÉANCE NON OFFICIEL¹

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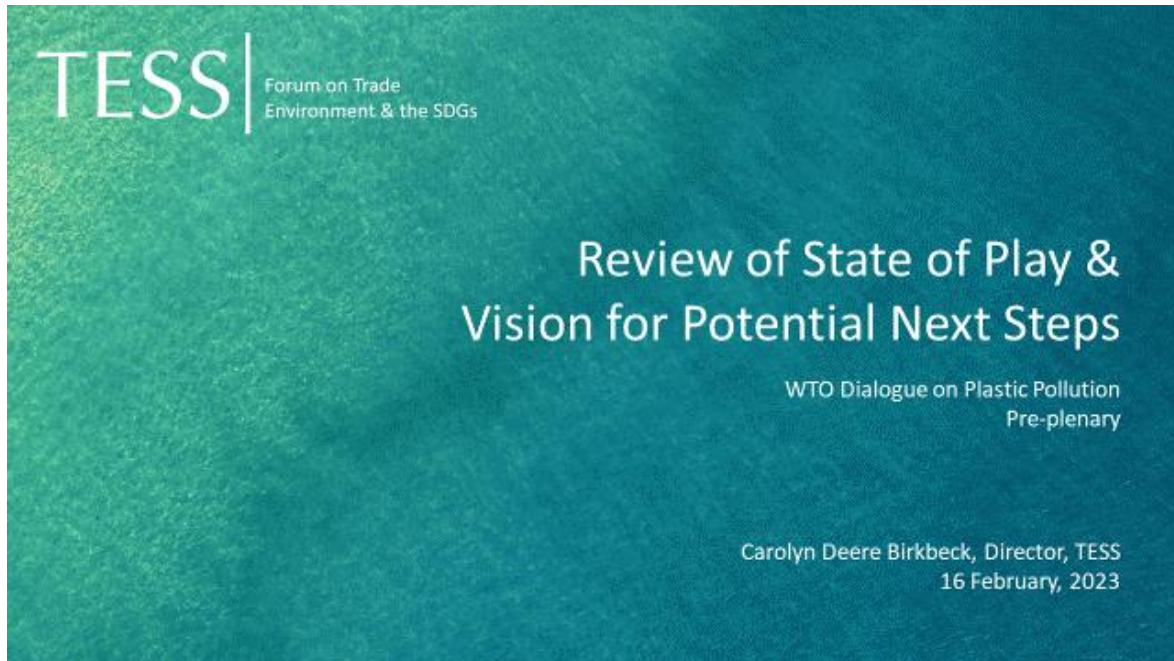
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* In Original language only/En langue originale seulement/En el idioma original solamente.

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➔ Offers introduction for government officials & stakeholders on origins, purpose & work of the DPP.

- reviews work of DPP so far & workplan
- introduces other relevant processes, conventions & organisations beyond WTO on plastic pollution
- outlines three DPP work streams
- presents overview of options for cooperation identified to date by co-sponsors & stakeholders
- includes compilation of relevant resources and links

<https://tessforum.org/media/2022/12/TESS-Policy-Brief-The-WTO-Dialogue-on-Plastics-Pollution.pdf>

Context & opportunity

May 2019	Basel Convention 'Plastic Waste Amendments'
November 2020	Launch of the Informal Dialogue (16 co-sponsors of the statement)
December 2021	Ministerial Statement on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (now w/ 75 co-sponsors)
January 2022	Workplan & three workstreams
May 2022	UNEA Resolution calling for negotiations on internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution
June 2022	MC12 Ministerial Statement from co-leads
June 2023	INC 2 of plastics treaty, preceded by report on options for elements
February 2024	MC13 – concrete, pragmatic and effective outcomes? + UNEA
December 2024	Conclusion of Plastics Treaty (entry into force 2029?)

MC13: Possible concrete, pragmatic, effective outcomes?

DPP Workstreams



* topics include capacity building and technical assistance; fostering international cooperation on transparency and data; cooperation and collaboration with other international organizations and processes, and collective approaches.

MC13 Ministerial
Statement:
Vision

- Political statement highlighting broad priorities for cooperation & action
 - Reaffirm & build on spirit, language & balance of issues in MC12 Statement
 - Provide guidance for future work
 - Accompanied by Annexes, including compilation of voluntary pledges by members
-
- A 'gift' to the treaty process on key supporting actions
 - Not legally binding

MC13
Ministerial
Statement:
Potential
content

1. Reaffirm launch statement & value/need for trade-related cooperation
2. Highlight progress on shared work to date
3. Underline shared vision on principles underpinning cooperation
4. Highlight priorities on which members commit/agree to cooperate as a next step
5. Guidance for future work, including issues for ongoing exploration
6. Encourage new members
7. Commit to further progress on concrete, pragmatic & effective outcomes for MC14

MC13 Statement (1): Preambular principles

Reflecting understandings in MC12 Launch Statement, DPP members could reiterate guiding principles:

- Supporting negotiations on the legally-binding international instrument on plastic pollution, as well as ongoing exchanges so work of DPP is guided by treaty discussions
- Deepening cooperation & collaboration with other international organizations, secretariats and processes, ensuring complementarity and avoiding duplication
- Focusing on trade-related aspects & actions that participating Members could take collectively to support global efforts to reduce plastic pollution
- Recognising challenges facing developing countries, particularly LDCs & SIDS, in addressing trade-related aspects of plastic pollution & sustainable development goals
- Emphasising role of WTO in promoting transparency & good practices
- Committing to continued open engagement with relevant stakeholders

MC13 Statement (2): Potential shared priorities

- Identify 5-6 priorities on which there is broad convergence and potential for concrete actions among DPP members
- Draw on already-agreed language in MC12 statement
- Sample of potential shared priorities (see next slide)



MC13 Statement (3): Sample of topics for continued work

- Encourage specific voluntary pledges
- Continue transparency efforts, share experiences, identify further concrete options, including:
 - best practices on design & implementation of trade-related environmental measures
 - expand transparency & notification of tariff & non-tariff measures
 - intensify focus on 'harder' trade-related issues (coordination on standards, fees, EPR schemes, subsidies to primary plastics, etc)
 - update Annex lists where relevant, reflecting evolution of plastics treaty discussions
- Continue to cooperate with relevant IOs & processes on trade-related issues, dimensions & policies
 - through the on standards, criteria and labelling (e.g., including for environmentally sound substitutes & re-use systems), including through plastics treaty process, ISO & the Basel & Stockholm Conventions
 - addressing challenges arising for developing country producers & exporters (e.g., with UNCTAD)
 - advancing implementation of trade-related measures in MEAs (e.g., Basel)
- Continue liaison with plastic treaty process, including sharing insights from DPP dialogue

MC13 Statement (4): Possible annexes

Possible lists (open, illustrative and evolving), :

- To restrict: plastics and products to be controlled (banned, restricted)
- To promote: A++ environmentally sound & effective non-plastic substitutes & alternatives
- To promote: A++ technologies, goods, services for environmentally sound waste management
- To address: capacity building & technical assistance needs
- To promote: best practices for trade-related action to reduce plastic pollution

Voluntary pledges

- Matrix of options for trade-related actions organised according to priorities in statement
 - Members select priorities & options for concrete trade-related actions to which they make voluntary pledges, individually or with others (à la carte)

Possible next steps

- Identify shared MC13 priorities, focusing on topics of convergence & high potential impact
- Identify information needs related to shared priorities
- Compile Annexes, drawing also from submissions in plastics treaty process
- Identify matrix of potential trade-related actions for each shared priority in order to guide potential pledges, focusing on actions where there is potential convergence
- Structure 2023 workplan to support MC13 outcomes

and meanwhile

- Advance proposals on HS amendments at WCO
- Complete responses & analysis of DPP surveys on trade-related measures & AfT needs
- Continue to expand DPP membership, inform CTE, deepen linkages w/ plastics treaty process

TESS Forum on Trade Environment & the SDGs

To read the HS policy brief and research paper, see:
<https://tessforum.org/news/publications/plastic-pollution-and-trade-across-the-life-cycle-of-plastics-options-for-amending-the-harmonized-system-to-improve-transparency-2/>

TESS Forum on Trade Environment & the SDGs

POLICY BRIEF
Plastic Pollution and Trade Across the Life Cycle of Plastics: Options for Amending the Harmonized System to Improve Transparency
 Gabriela Gasparyan and Caroline Quinn-Rohrbach
 May 2022

Key insights

- In March 2022, governments agreed at the United Nations Environment Assembly to launch negotiations to begin an international instrument on plastic pollution by the end of 2024.
- To tackle the plastic pollution crisis, a growing number of countries are implementing policies to better regulate environmental risks in plastic, waste and all types of plastic products and inputs.
- While trade across the life cycle of plastics worth over 23 billion trade plus plays a role in the global plastic economy and trade policies are important in shaping international plastic trade.
- A critical missing piece for effective, evidence-based policymaking to tackle plastic pollution is reliable and disaggregated data on cross-border trade flows across the life cycle of plastics.
- As the collection of trade data is underpinned by the World Customs Organization's (WCO) Harmonized System (HS), this international instrument is an important starting point for a more granular picture of trade flows across the life cycle of plastics.
- This policy brief identifies gaps and challenges in the HS that are relevant to efforts to tackle plastic pollution. It then puts forward options for amending the HS that would facilitate monitoring and regulation of trade flows across the life cycle of plastics.
- Drawing from the range of potential HS amendment options identified, the paper recommends a subset of options that could feasibly be pursued in the current 2022-2027 HS amendment cycle at the WCO.
- The options also aim to reform international cooperation as trade policies could support efforts to tackle plastic pollution, including through negotiations for a new international instrument on plastic pollution, implementation of the Basel Convention, "plastic waste amendments", and the Informal Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastic Trade (IDP) at the World Trade Organization.

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