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

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

STATEMENT BY THE FORUM ON TRADE, ENVIRONMENT & THE SDGS (TESS)

*Plenary Meeting – 13 March 2023*

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**DOCUMENT DE SÉANCE NON OFFICIEL<sup>1</sup>**

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WTO DIALOGUE ON PLASTICS POLLUTION**

*Plenary meeting*

*13 March 2023*

**c. Open discussion on the following guiding questions preceded by a presentation by the coordinators on their vision for a possible pathway to MC13**

1. Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. It is excellent news to hear that the United States has joined the WTO Dialogue on Plastics Pollution. Having the United States as a cosponsor of this initiative is a positive development; the initiative which will now have the three largest economies in the world on board, which are also among the world`s largest traders and producers of plastic. The United States has also been a supporter of international cooperation to reduce plastic pollution in a range of different inter-governmental processes and we look forward to their engagement in the work of the Dialogue as well.
2. It has been great to hear positive feedback from Members this morning on the vision the DPP Coordinators have put forward and support in the room for concrete, pragmatic and effective outcomes at MC13. TESS would like to thank the delegation of Japan for mentioning the presentation we made at the end of the pre-plenary on 16<sup>th</sup> February in which we shared ideas on possible ways forward and potential outcomes at MC13. That presentation is available on the DPP website.
3. Our vision for MC13 is, firstly, that it would be helpful to have a statement from all members of the DPP that underlines the broad commitments and priorities for cooperation and action. It will be important that your statement reflects and reaffirms the spirit and balance in the MC12 statement including within and across the three workstreams. As our colleague from WWF mentioned this morning, a key message that could be conveyed by the DPP is the importance of common global rules and standards to underpin cooperation, which in turn can also support the INC process for a new global plastics treaty.
4. Secondly, the statement can be accompanied by Annexes; there have been many constructive suggestions and recommendations made today on different possible Annexes and options of concrete policy actions that WTO Members could pursue. There will be considerable work ahead to pull together content for the Annexes and options, including voluntary pledges. As with many of the stakeholders present here, we look forward to supporting you in that effort and to offering specific suggestions of what the Annexes, concrete policy actions and voluntary pledges could look like. It is great that the Secretariat will be maintaining a compilation of the suggestions that will be made.
5. It is also very important that the statement reflects the interests of the range of WTO Members. Here, one crosscutting issue that TESS would like to underline as vital is the importance of addressing the concerns of least-developed countries (LDCs) and small-island developing states (SIDS). There is specific mention in the Ministerial Statement of the importance of responding to their concerns and priorities.
6. In the months before the next plenary, TESS will be sharing a study that looks in detail at trade flows across the life cycle of plastics, including on some of the single-use plastics that have been raised as important in the Dialogue. We are also working on a study that maps the various standards relevant to plastics pollution and where international cooperation is needed, which we hope will be useful for both the Dialogue on Plastic Pollution and the INC process. We are also looking at specific trade policy options that could be considered in relation to single use plastics

and packaging. We hope that this can help inform the compilation of the Annexes and voluntary pledges, such as in relation to work in this Dialogue on reducing unnecessary or harmful plastics and plastic products.

7. We would like to remind all participants that HS amendments at the WCO to improve transparency of trade flows across the life cycle of plastics is an urgent matter. Now is really the time to request the support of the WCO Secretariat if you wish to submit recommendations; already the timing is very tight for any amendment submissions for the 2027 HS amendment cycle, and the next major opportunity will be for the 2032 amendment cycle. We hope that delegations here actively and rapidly encourage their colleagues responsible for the WCO to express their interest in exploration of possible HS amendments and put forward concrete submissions in this respect.
  8. Finally, at TESS we are working with our colleagues from UNEP to organize an informal one-day deep dive discussion focusing on reduce elements to address plastic pollution. The deep dive will bring together a small group of environmental delegates focused on the global plastics treaty with trade delegates involved in the Dialogue on Plastic Pollution to share ideas on trade-related policy options and research needs. It will also provide a way to connect environment and trade officials, an opportunity to learn from work underway in each process, and to promote complementarity.
  9. Thank you again Ambassador for the opportunity to intervene.
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