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

WTO SECRETARIAT PRESENTATION ON THE OVERVIEW OF SELECTED RESULTS FROM THE TWO
DIALOGUE SURVEYS

Pre-Plenary Meeting – 23 November 2023

DOCUMENT DE SÉANCE NON OFFICIEL¹

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

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Overview of selected results from the two Dialogue Surveys

23 November 2023

WTO Secretariat
Trade and Environment Division

Background



- Two Surveys launched by the Dialogue in June 2022 (answers up to August)
- Factual Report of the Trade-Related Plastics Measures (TrPMs) Survey [INF/TE/IDP/W/11](#)
- Factual Report of the Aid for Trade (AfT) global review and needs assessment survey [INF/TE/IDP/W/12](#)



Factual Report of the Aft Survey

selected results

How to better reflect plastic pollution in Aft programmes in Aft Global Review cycles

Suggested improvements to the Aft questionnaire to gather more targeted information on Aft programmes addressing plastics and plastic pollution

Sharing of case studies and domestic experiences

Priorities and needs on technical assistance and capacity building programmes specific or complementary to plastics and plastic pollution

As regards the **categorisation of existing programmes**, generally covering:

- objective (e.g. research programmes into alternatives and substitutes to plastics);
- type of policy and programme;
- type of plastics targeted (including specific polymers and additives);
- alternatives and substitutes available; and
- services, including access to technologies targeted at tackling plastic pollution.

Specific information on existing domestic programmes

Prior categorisation of programmes

How to better reflect plastic pollution in Aft programmes in Aft Global Review cycles



Broad range of suggestions on improvements to the Aft review process and how to improve members engagement on the topic, including:

Prioritise plastic pollution in Aft strategies	Increase engagement in Aft review exercise	Increase engagement in the Dialogue
Feed Dialogue findings into Aft review	Facilitate links between Dialogue and INC negotiations	Coherence in trade policy and regulatory design
Monitoring and evaluation	Mobilise financial resources	South-South cooperation
Training and capacity building workshops (technical and non-technical) for delegates	Public platform (e.g. WTO website) containing good practices of Members	Communication and public advocacy

Should stakeholders involved in work on plastics and plastic pollution be engaged in the Aft discussions? If so, which?

Non-exhaustive list



Intergovernmental

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Secretariat
 Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC) Secretariat
 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
 Global Environment Facility (GEF)
 World Bank Group (incl. PROBLUE fund)
 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
 United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 International Maritime Organization (IMO)
 International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
 World Customs Organization (WCO)

Should stakeholders involved in work on plastics and plastic pollution be engaged in the AfT discussions? If so, which?

Non-exhaustive list



Regional

Inter-American Development Bank
European Investment Bank (EIB)
Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF)

Oceania Customs Organizations (OCO)
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Civil Society and Multi-stakeholder

Forum on Trade, Environment, and the SDGs (TESS)
Pew Charitable Trusts
World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF)

World Economic Forum (incl. Global Plastic Action Partnership)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Businesses / Industry

Suppliers of raw materials for the production of plastic products
Manufacturers/producers of plastic products
End-users or businesses that depend on plastic products

Producers of substitutes and alternatives to plastics and plastic products, including refill and reuse systems
Industry leaders with highly visible EPR programmes and strong community presence

6

What are the subjects that participants have identified for engaging with stakeholders

Illustrative list of topics

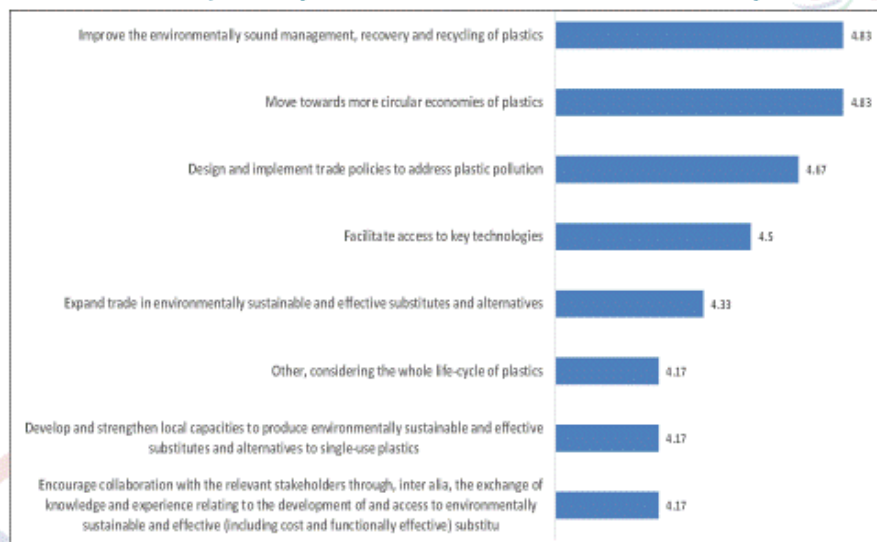


Circular plastic economy	Sustainable waste management	Customs requirements
Financing mechanisms	Quantitative analyses e.g. on AfT flows and trade statistics	Alternatives and substitutes
Marine plastic pollution	Transboundary movement of plastic and waste management	Agricultural plastics
Health impacts of plastic pollution	INC process	Industry-led initiatives
Linking customs/trade data systems and environmental data systems	Use and treatment after receipt of plastic products	Community-based solutions

7

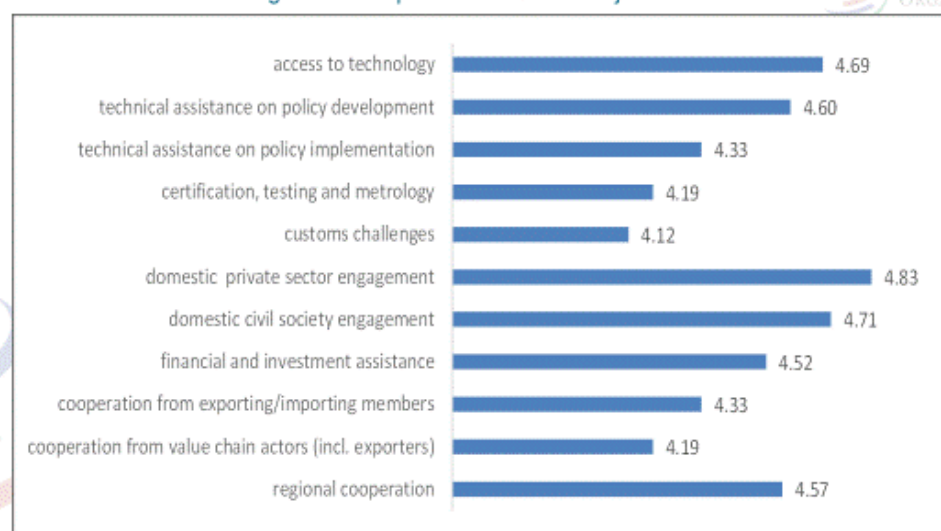
What are the priority areas in efforts to address trade-related aspects of plastic pollution

The specific objectives most often referred to in the AFT Survey



What specific needs are required to efficiently implement trade-related policies addressing plastic pollution

Average score of specific needs for all objectives combined



What specific needs are required to efficiently implement trade-related policies addressing plastic pollution for specific each objective	
Objective	Specific Support Needed most often referred (average scores)
Move towards more circular economies of plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to technology (4.83) • Domestic private sector engagement (4.83) • Civil society engagement (4.83) • Regional cooperation (4.83)
Improve the environmentally sound management, recovery and recycling of plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic private sector engagement (4.83) • Civil society engagement (4.83) • Technical assistance on policy implementation (4.6)
Facilitate access to key technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to technology (5) • Domestic private sector engagement (4.83) • Civil society engagement (4.83)
Expand trade in environmentally sustainable and effective substitutes and alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to technology (4.83) • Domestic private sector engagement (4.83) • Civil society engagement (4.83)
Encourage collaboration with the relevant stakeholders through, <i>inter alia</i> , the exchange of knowledge and experience relating to the development of and access to environmentally sustainable and effective (including cost and functionally effective) substitutes and alternatives to single-use plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic private sector engagement (4.83) • Civil society engagement (4.83) • Cooperation from exporting Members (4.67)

What specific needs are required to efficiently implement trade-related policies addressing plastic pollution for specific each objective	
Objective	Specific Support Needed most often referred (average scores)
Develop and strengthen local capacities to produce environmentally sustainable and effective substitutes and alternatives to single-use plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to technology (4.83) • Domestic private sector engagement (4.83) • Certification, testing and metrology (4.5)
Design and implement trade policies to address plastic pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance on policy development (4.83) • Domestic private sector engagement (4.83) • Civil society engagement (4.83)
Other, considering the whole life-cycle of plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custom training on transboundary movement of hazardous waste including toxic plastics. • Regional Policy that would mandate the banning of non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP) and regional policy on the mandatory shifting to alternatives. In addition to the policy, support is needed in establishing sustainable supply and market of alternatives to plastics. • Assistance on certification, testing and metrology for biodegradable goods, as well as technical assistance on policy implementation (e.g. on post-consumer plastics control).

What assistance do Members/Institutions provide to address plastic pollution

Non-exhaustive list of assistance programmes and actions to address plastic pollution

Member/Institution	Programme/Initiative	Example projects
Australia	Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF)	
	SPREP funding to build capacity and support Pacific Island Members	
	ANZPAC Plastics Pact	
	Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP)	
	CSIRO: Ending Plastic Waste Mission (with several Members)	Australia-Indonesia Plastics Innovation Hub Plastic Innovation Hub Vietnam Mekong Plastics Innovation Alliance (Thailand)
European Union	CSIRO: Reducing Plastic Waste in India (+ plastics research project)	
	SWITCH to Circular Value Chains (with UNIDO, EIB)	Improve practices by MSMEs in developing Members in the plastic packaging value chain
	Pac Waste + project	Waste management projects in the Pacific
Japan	Rethinking Plastic	Seven economies in East and South-East Asia
	MARINE Initiative (Osaka Blue Ocean Vision)	Various waste management assistance programmes in developing Members
	Asia-Pacific Plastic Waste Border Management Project (with WCO)	Capacity building support to customs officers to deal with illicit cross-border shipments of plastic waste in South-East Asia and neighbouring economies

What assistance do Members/Institutions provide to address plastic pollution

Non-exhaustive list of assistance programmes and actions to address plastic pollution

Member/Institution	Programme/Initiative	Example projects
Norway	Norwegian Development Programme to Combat Marine Litter and Microplastics (~50 programs)	No Plastic in Nature (WWF) PROBLUE (World Bank) GloLitter Partnership Project (IMO and FAO)
	Strengthening capacity of Members to implement the Basel Convention, including the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments of 2019 (administered by the BRS Secretariat)	Pilot projects in over 35 economies BRS Plastic Waste Inventory Toolkit
	Marine Pollution Enforcement Project Phase II (with INTERPOL)	
	UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme	

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Non-exhaustive list of assistance programmes and actions to address plastic pollution

Member/Institution	Programme/Initiative	Example projects
United Kingdom	Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP), through Blue Planet Fund, with the World Economic Forum (WEF) and others	Partnerships in Indonesia, Ghana, Vietnam, Pakistan, Nigeria, India and South Africa e.g. National Plastic Action Plan (NPAP) in Ghana on a study on the role of trade policy in addressing plastic pollution
	Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution (SMEP) (in partnership with UNCTAD)	Targeted projects in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, including Ghana, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo and Nepal
	ODA Environmental Quality Pollution	
	Projects under the Basel Convention	Updating (and implementation) of the Technical guidelines for the identification and environmentally sound management (ESM) of plastic wastes and for their disposal Plastic Waste Partnership (established under the Basel Convention)

What assistance do Members/Institutions provide to address plastic pollution

Non-exhaustive list of assistance programmes and actions to address plastic pollution

Member/Institution	Programme/Initiative	Example projects
United States	US Agency for International Development (USAID): Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO)	Enhancing circularity in rapidly urbanizing areas of developing economies (aim to reduce mated 11 million metric tons of plastic that flow into the ocean each year)
	USAID-Circulate Capital Agreement, backed by multinational corporations	Leveraging more than USD 100 million in private-sector investment strategy to incubate and finance companies and infrastructure that prevent ocean plastic pollution in South and Southeast Asia
SPREP	PacWaste Plus	
	Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP)	
IUCN	Close the Plastic Tap Programme	
	MARPLASTICCs Circular Economy Grants in Eastern and Southern Africa	



Factual Report of the TrPMs Survey

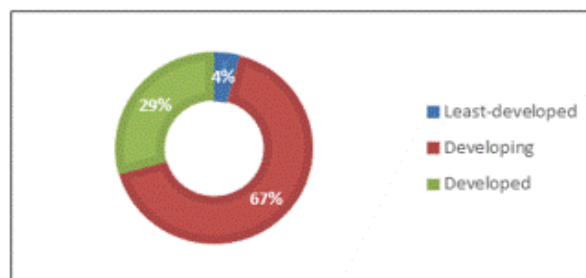
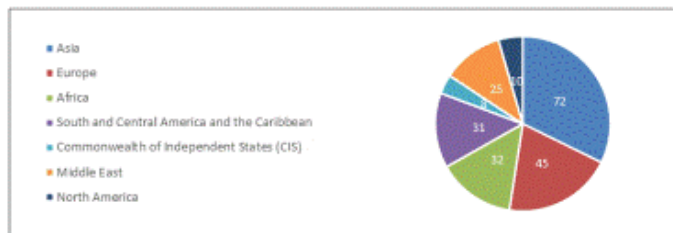
selected results

Selected results

223
TrPMs

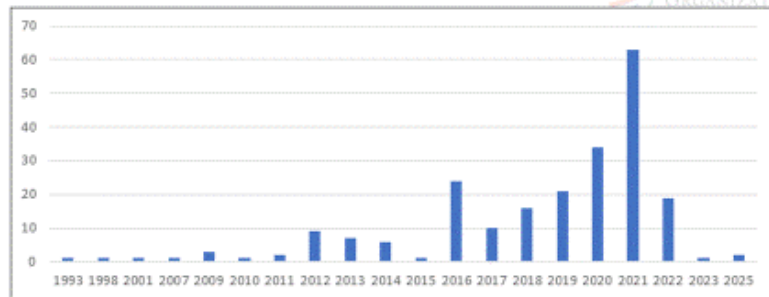
85
Members

**From all regions and mostly
developing and LDCs**



Selected results

Number of TrPMs per Year



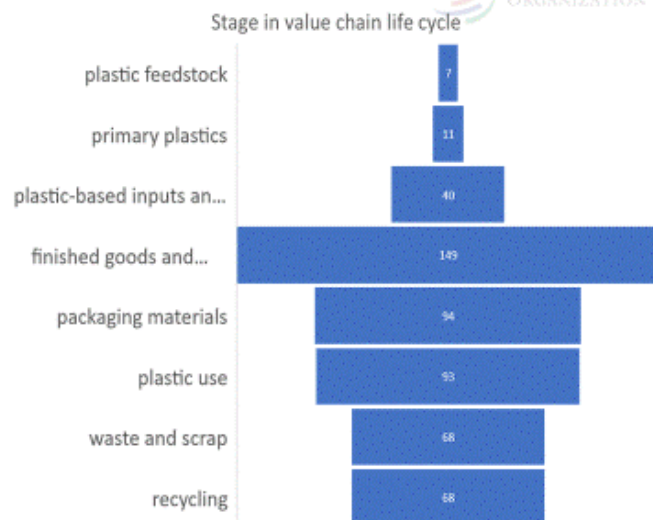
- **Types of TrPM**
- **Objectives pursued**
- **Stage in the Value Chain Life Cycle**
- **Needs and challenges to Implement Specific TrPMs**
- **Mechanisms to assess measure's efficiency and targeted results**

18

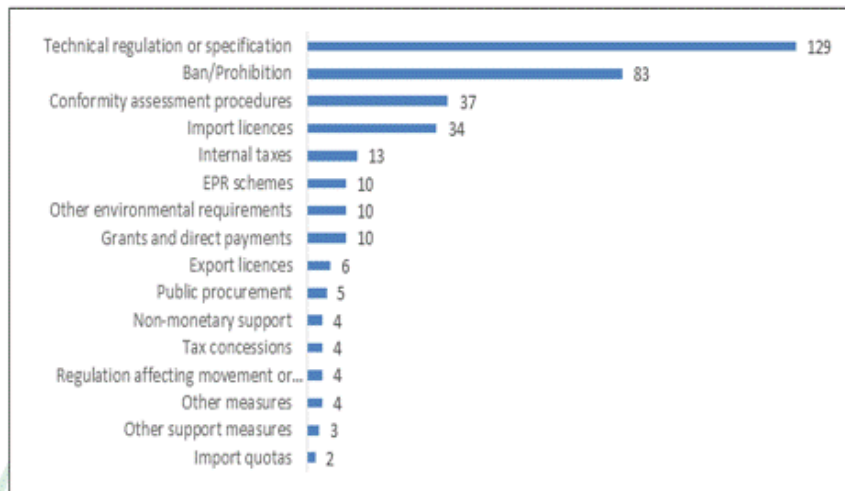
Broad categories of measures



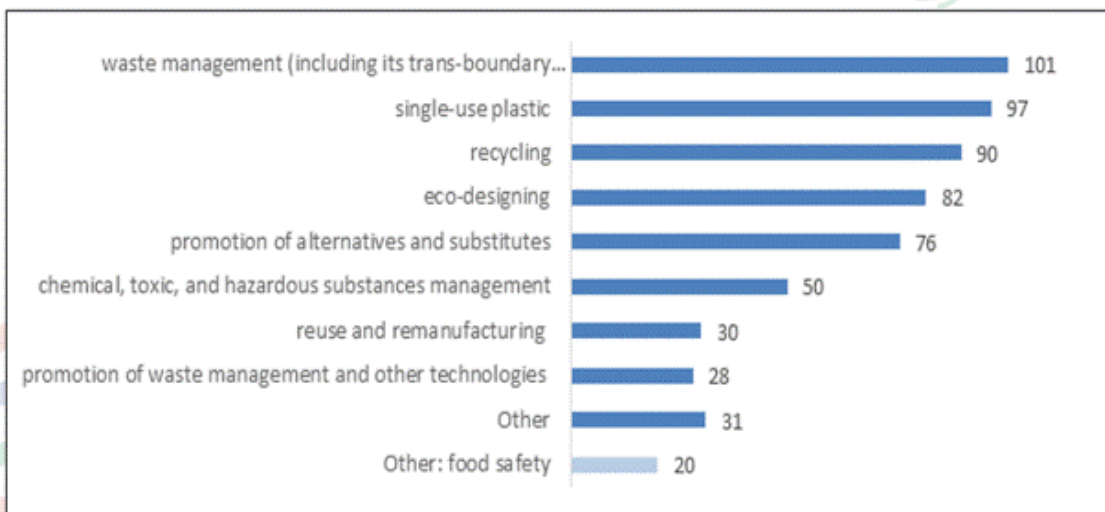
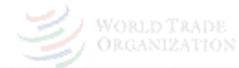
Stage in value chain life cycle



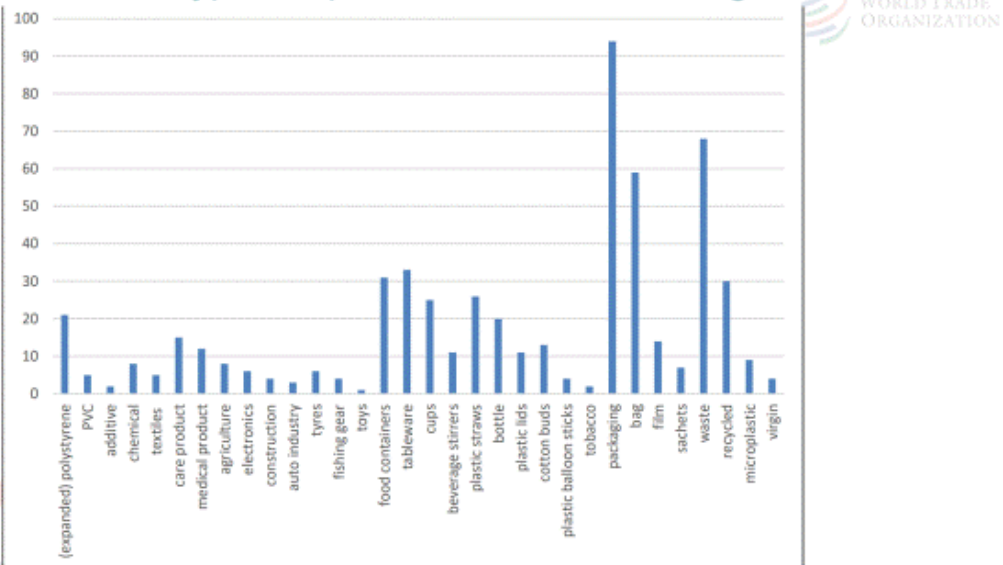
Harmonized type of measures



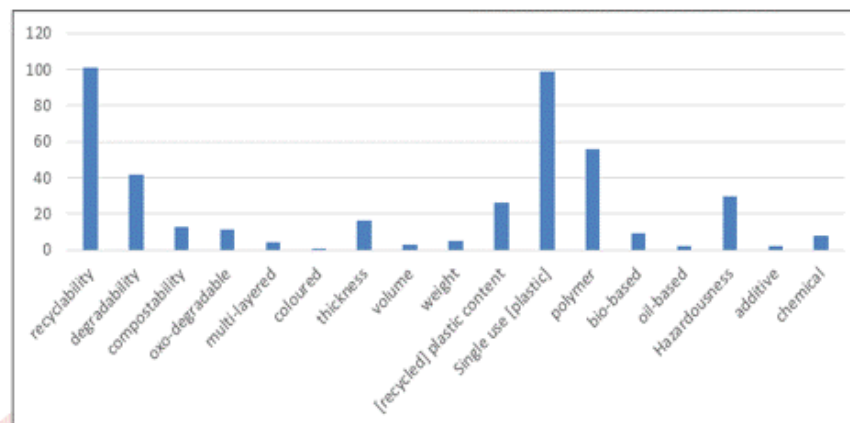
Objectives most often pursued



Harmonized types of products most often targeted



Harmonized types of criteria mentioned when targeting products



Overview of criteria used by TrPMs to identify single-use plastic bags



Thickness (ranges)	Usage (e.g: purpose or capacity) includes	Polymer references	End-of-life properties include
< 15 microns	Designed to carry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purchased goods from a business • goods, materials or products • products and goods that are delivered to a consumer 	Bio-Based <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a blend of materials with plant derived products 	Biodegradable or compostable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whose composition and/or characteristics do not allow or hinder its biodegradability
< 25 microns	Capacity / volume / surface density of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 10 kilograms, > 53 meters 	Polymers of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ethylene • one or more organic polymeric substances of large molecular weight • contains as an essential ingredient a high polymer such as polyethylene terephthalate, high density polyethylene, ... 	Made of degradable plastic often included in the ban <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incl. oxo-degradable, biodegradable and compostable materials • consists of polyethylene and oxo-degradable impurities
< 30 microns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 25 liters 		
< 35 microns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equal to or greater than 60 g/m² 		
< 50 microns			
< 70 microns			
< 100 microns	Designed for single-use/short useful life or to be "reusable" or used > than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 times 	Oil-based <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • petroleum-based material or its derivatives 	

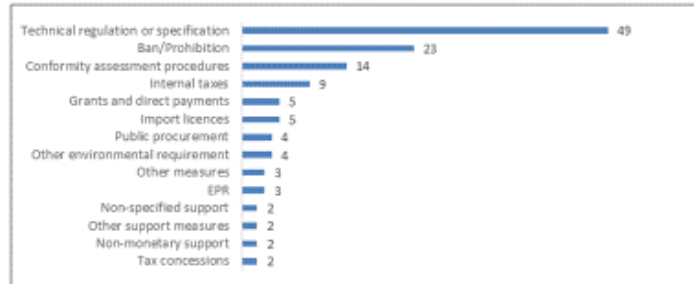
24

Types of activities targeted

TRADE
ZATION

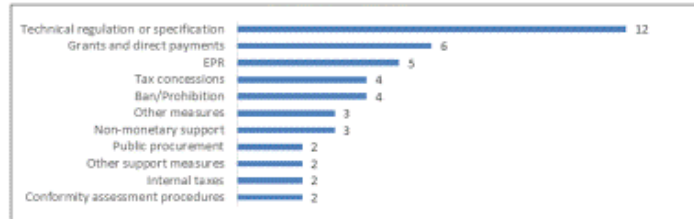
- 72 TrPMs apply to sale/distribution, consumption and/or possession (banned or restricted in the internal market) + also to at least production and/or export as well (i.e. restricted internally and for exports)
- 103 TrPMs apply only to imports, consumption and/or sale and distribution, but not to export and/or production (at least explicitly) i.e. could still be produced and exported.
 - technical regulations or specifications notified often do not explicitly refer to production or exports (and would thus be classified as applying "only" to 'sale/distribution' in the survey) but might nonetheless be applicable to all production in a market.
 - Still, out of these 103 TrPMs, only 56 have been notified to the TBT Committee.
 - Only 17 TrPMs explicitly indicate they apply to exports
- 41 TrPMs explicitly apply solely to imports, but not to sale/distribution, production, and/or consumption.
 - measures notified pursuant to the Agreement on ILP or to the QR decision could be expected to only refer to imports in their application.
 - 11 TrPMs are not related to either.
 - 6 from SIDS, with the remaining measures originating from 21 different Members.
 - 25 are applied to wastes, while the remaining 15 are not

Types of measures in TrPMs seeking promotion of alternatives and substitutes



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Types of measures in TrPMs seeking promotion of waste management and other technologies



Challenges and needs indicated for the implementation of TrPMs



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Overview of challenges and concerns expressed through free-text replies



General challenges/concerns	Specific challenges/concerns
Rapid increase in plastic pollution	Competitiveness and cost-of-living concerns
Negative effects on the [domestic] natural/aquatic environment	Multi-stakeholder, public, civic engagement, including communication strategies
Negative effects on economic sectors such as tourism or on health	Private sector / [recycling] industry participation
Lack of adequate domestic waste management / recovery / recycling infrastructure	Unintended negative impacts on health and vulnerable populations
Lack of enforcement	Access to internal/external funding/financing
Domestic coordination	Customs control training, upgrade, adaptation
Need for training/capacity building	Absence of international standards

Overview of mechanisms to assess efficacy and efficiency of TrPMs

Target	Instrument	Entity involved	Results
Reduction [in waste] and recycling goals [not specified] to be achieved in the period 2020-2030	Forms	certifying entities of plastic bags	Products fully stopped entering the market
By 2024, a comprehensive monitoring system is established, covering 250 cities	Performance reports	concerned Bureaus/units under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources	Reduction from 283 to 89 bags/inhabitant/year in 2019.
Target [to be established] on the recovery of plastic beverage container	Annual sworn declarations	Municipalities, manufacturers, and waste generating businesses	Reduction at the domestic level of the consumption of plastic bags for containment and transport of goods and products
[increase in] Use of post-consumer plastic in their production process	Master management plans	Committee established to address, monitor and develop plastic pollution prevention programme	Collection and recovery of plastic packaging waste increased to 3%
The use of recycled plastic in packaging is increased by around 40% by 2022/23	Certification system	Independent third-party auditing	Single-use plastic carrier bags sold has fallen from 7.6 billion in 2014, to 197 million in 2021/2022, a reduction of over 97%

Overview of mechanisms to assess efficacy and efficiency of TrPMs

Target	Instrument	Entity involved	Results
Targets by 2025: • 70% of plastic packaging being recycled or composted • 50% of average recycled content included in [all] packaging • 20% of average recycled content included in plastic packaging	Industry reports [amount of plastic waste handled]	Domestic Directorate of the Environment	Retailers have donated over £200 million to good causes from the proceeds of the charge
	Waste statistics of plastic tableware disposed at landfill		Reduction of average annual per capita consumption of single-use carrier bags from 140 in 2014 to around 3 [in 2022]
	Register of producers, importers and recyclers of single-use plastics		After 1 year, estimated reduction of 80%, implying at least 650 million fewer bags used
	Routine and regular monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) processes		Beach litter data reflects falling numbers found on targeted beaches
	[[bi-]annual] Reviews [at least every 5 years]		Avoidance of delivery of around 4,800 million plastic supermarket bags
Targets by 2025 for industry: • 100% of packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable • 70% of plastic packaging goes on to be recycled or composted	Post-implementation review		Reduction in volumes of controlled plastic waste imported and exported
	Estimates of future performance		Plastic waste levy rate raised by one won/ton leading to waste reduced by 0.15%
	Compliance rate verification/monitoring		Proper disposal and recycling of domestic waste plastics
	Analysis of trade-related data for plastic waste		
	Regular audits of trade declarations		
	programmes to educate the public		
	[Independent third-party] auditing		
	Product stewardship arrangements		

Suggested improvements to the Aft questionnaire to gather more targeted information on Aft programmes addressing plastics and plastic pollution

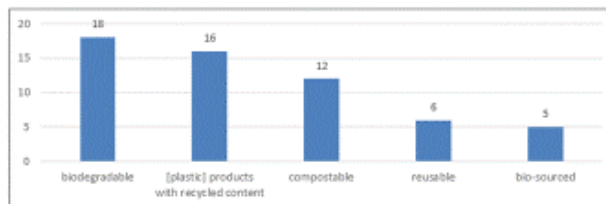
Prior
categorisation of
programmes

Sharing of case
studies and
domestic
experiences

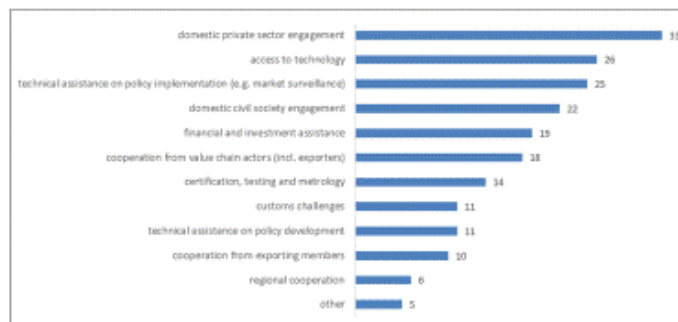
Sharing of case
studies and
domestic
experiences

Specific
information on
existing domestic
programmes

Categories of products promoted by TrPMs



Challenges and needs indicated for the implementation of TrPMs



Promotion: Services mentioned by TrPMs and raised in the Dialogue discussions



- Re-fill and cleaning bottle and other consumer goods containers schemes
- Reusable/returnable (takeaway food) packaging
- Social and environmental impact assessment services
- Tracking, segregation, traceability and identification services
- Renting, leasing and other product-service systems
- Labelling, certification and conformity assessment services (e.g. regarding commercial compostability)
- Product eco-design, research and development
- Return and reimbursement systems (e.g. bottle and boxes deposit systems)
- Upcycling processes
- Research and development services
- Post-consumer sorting, disassembly, remanufacturing and recycling services
- Waste recovery, collection and management
- Clean-up services

Promotion: Specific alternative plastics mentioned by TrPMs and raised in the Dialogue discussions



(marine, naturally, commercially) Biodegradable plastics

Bio-Low Density Polyethylene (Bio-LDPE)

Bioplastics

Bio-polypropylene

Corn-based resins

Low-density polyethylene (multiple use)

Polybutylene succinate (PBS)

Polylactic acid (PLA) and CPLA

rPET and other recycled plastics and recycled plastic containing goods

(easily, commercially, effectively) Recyclable plastics and resins

Technologies relevant for the production of alternative plastics and meeting recycled content standards/requirements

What potential sustainable and effective alternatives and substitutes? [Factual summary of “promotion discussions” INF/TE/IDP/RD/88/Rev.1]



HS code	Description
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, n.e.c.
05	Animal originated products; not elsewhere specified or included
07	Vegetables and certain roots and tubers; edible
08	Fruit and nuts, edible; peel of citrus fruit or melons
12	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits, ..., industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder
14	Vegetable plaiting materials; vegetable products not elsewhere specified or included
14.01	Vegetable materials of a kind used primarily for plaiting (for example, bamboos, rattans, reeds, rushes, osier, raffia, cleaned, bleached or dyed cereal straw, and lime bark)
1401.10	Bamboos
1401.20	Rattans
1401.90	Vegetable materials of a kind used primarily for plaiting (for example, bamboos, rattans, reeds, rushes, osier, raffia, cleaned, bleached or dyed cereal straw, and lime bark); Other [can be used for banana leave]
15	Vegetable waxes (other than triglycerides); whether or not refined
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants
20.05	Other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, not frozen, other than products of heading 20.06

Selected results

Specific plastics most often targeted by TrPMs



- Single use plastic products (in general) 97
- Packaging 94
- Wastes and scraps 68
- (single-use) plastic bags 59
- Tableware 33
- Food containers 31
- (products containing) Recycled plastics (e.g. to ensure food safety) 30
- Straws 26
- Cups 25
- (expanded) Polystyrene 21
- Bottles 20
- (microbeads in) Care products 15
- Film 14
- Cotton buds 13
- Beverage stirrers 11
- Plastic lids 11
- Sachets 7
- Tyres 6
- (plastics component in) Electronics 6
- Textiles 5
- PVC 5
- Fishing Gear 4