



29 November 2023

(23-8103)

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Original: English/anglais/inglés

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

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

STATEMENT FROM THE QUAKER UNITED NATIONS OFFICE (QUNO)

*Pre-Plenary Meeting – 23 November 2023*

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

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

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**Statement to the Dialogue on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics  
Trade (DPP)**

**Plenary Meeting — 23 November 2023**

Thank you for giving me the floor,

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Members of the WTO

My name is Ronald Steenblik, and I am speaking on behalf of the **Quaker United Nations Office**, or QUNO for short.

First, like others, we commend the DPP's efforts in fostering an inclusive platform for stakeholder engagement and acknowledge the substantial work undertaken by the co-facilitators and state sponsors in drafting this important document. And we appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspective on the revised draft MC13 Ministerial Statement circulated by the Secretariat earlier this week.

In line with our commitment to social justice and environmental sustainability, we wish to offer some constructive suggestions regarding the MC13 Ministerial Statement and its accompanying potential Compilations Document, particularly in light of the outcomes and discussions from the third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, or INC-3 for short, which took place in Nairobi last week.

What follows are a few observations and suggestions on both the "Possible MC13 Statement" and the "Draft 1 of Possible Compilations" to that statement.

In respect of **trade in environmentally sound, safe, and effective non-plastic substitutes, and plastic alternatives**, we would ask that any collective encouragement of measures proposed to encourage or ~~favour~~ such plastic substitutes and alternatives await the deliberations of the INC, specifically regarding important definitions (for example, on oxo-degradable plastics and biodegradable plastics) and criteria for assessing their environmental performance. This approach will ensure that actions taken within the DPP framework are aligned with the INC process and informed by the most up-to-date science and international consensus.

Relatedly, we think that the Ministerial Statement could make it more clear that the various lists in the **Compilation Document** are not collectively endorsed but simply reflect individual members' approaches. Our understanding is that they are pending the review and possible modification following the adoption of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

**Transparency** is also a common theme. The submissions to the INC-3, particularly those suggesting monitoring and tracking of types and volumes of production, imports, and exports of chemicals and polymers used in plastic production, as well as related subsidies and other fiscal incentives, underscore the need for enhanced transparency in these areas. This need was also mentioned by several countries at INC-3, and was highlighted in the non-paper circulated by New Zealand to the process. The DPP could complement this effort by facilitating initial stages of reporting on subsidies, using mechanisms established under the WTO's Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. This would support the objectives of the INC process and align with existing WTO practices.

In conclusion, QUNO remains dedicated to constructive collaboration within the DPP. We emphasize the importance of aligning the DPP's work with the broader global initiative to address plastic pollution, ensuring that our collective efforts are both effective and responsive to this critical environmental challenge.

Thank you for considering our suggestions and reflections. We look forward to continuing our engagement and contributing to the success of the DPP's endeavors.

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