



UNOFFICIAL ROOM DOCUMENT¹

**DIALOGUE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY
SUSTAINABLE PLASTICS TRADE (DPP)**

COMPILATIONS ATTACHED TO THE POSSIBLE MC13 STATEMENT

Pre-Plenary meeting held on 23 November 2023

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**DIALOGUE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY
SUSTAINABLE PLASTICS TRADE (DPP)****COMPILATIONS ATTACHED TO THE POSSIBLE MC13 STATEMENT***Pre-Plenary meeting held on 23 November 2023*

The following document has been presented during the DPP pre-plenary meeting held on 23 November 2023 and is being circulated at the request of the Dialogue Coordinators.

**1 FACTUAL COMPILATION I – OPEN, ILLUSTRATIVE, NON-EXHAUSTIVE AND EVOLVING
COMPILATION OF TRADE-RELATED TRANSPARENCY EFFORTS AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS
IDENTIFIED**

1.1. Across the work of the Dialogue, delegations and relevant stakeholders have extensively shared their trade-related plastics policies and approaches to tackle plastic pollution, including their efforts to improve transparency, monitoring and understanding of trade flows across the full life cycle of plastics, including flows of plastics embedded in or associated with internationally traded goods, as well as of alternative plastics and non-plastic substitutes and related trade measures. These discussions have been reflected in the Dialogue's Informal Summaries and Aide Memoires prepared by coordinators and facilitators, in the room documents (RDs) containing studies and presentations produced for the meetings, as well as in the Factual Summaries of technical discussions under the reduction ([INF/TE/IDP/RD/125](#)) and promotion workstreams ([INF/TE/IDP/RD/88/Rev.1](#)).² Delegations have further shared their trade-related plastics measures (TrPMs) through a dedicated Survey, whose results have been compiled in the Dialogue TrPMs Report ([INF/TE/IDP/W/11](#)).

1.2. Reflecting such work, and recognizing the need to periodically update this compilation based on global, regional and domestic efforts, including those of other international processes, as well as on technical and scientific developments, the open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilation of suggestions and practices below has been developed based on the trade-related transparency efforts and approaches identified in the Survey and in Dialogue discussions:

- a. Support efforts undertaken at the WCO to improve international cooperation on the classifications of plastics and plastic products, and of potential alternative plastics and non-plastic substitutes, in order to support monitoring and regulation of trade across their life cycles.
- b. Improve precise identification of targeted goods/products in domestic customs classification to facilitate better monitoring, evaluation, reporting and regulation of trade in polymers, chemicals, additives, plastics and plastic products, and explore opportunities for individual and collective actions to improve this transparency in the plastics economy.
- c. Identify customs and related technological solutions that can support transparency of trade flows across the life cycle of plastics.
- d. Promote cooperation, including with the private sector, on standards, product identifiers and other applications that can support transparency of trade flows across the life cycle of plastics.
- e. Improve the understanding and transparency of TrPMs and enhance cooperation and peer-learning, including by:

² These documents are available at the Dialogue's dedicated website:
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/ppesp_e/ppesp_e.htm

- Updating the Survey of TrPMs on a regular basis, including with draft or proposed measures.
 - Sharing domestic, regional and international experiences leading to, whenever appropriate and practical, compilations of specific trade policy approaches.
 - Enhancing efforts to identify and share TrPMs which are not currently well captured in the Survey, including subsidies, support measures, internal taxes, and EPR schemes.
 - Providing structured information on TrPMs and related issues in trade policy reviews.
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2 FACTUAL COMPILATION II - OPEN, ILLUSTRATIVE, NON-EXHAUSTIVE AND EVOLVING COMPILATION OF TRADE-RELATED CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING MEMBERS, LEAST DEVELOPED MEMBERS AND VULNERABLE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) IDENTIFIED IN DIALOGUE DISCUSSIONS.

2.1. Across the work of the Dialogue, delegations and relevant stakeholders have extensively shared their trade-related plastics policies and approaches to address pollution, including their trade-related capacity building and technical assistance needs. These discussions have been reflected in the Dialogue's Informal Summaries and Aide Memoires prepared by coordinators and facilitators, in the room documents (RDs) containing studies and presentations produced for the meetings, as well as in the Factual Summaries of technical discussions under the reduction ([INF/TE/IDP/RD/125](#)) and promotion workstreams ([INF/TE/IDP/RD/88/Rev.1](#)).³ Delegations have further shared their Aid for Trade (Aft) needs assessments, approaches and suggestions through a dedicated Survey, whose results have been compiled in the Dialogue's Aft Assessment Report ([INF/TE/IDP/W/12](#)).

2.2. Reflecting such work, and recognizing the need to periodically update this compilation based on global, regional and domestic efforts, including those of other international processes, as well as on technical and scientific developments, the open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilation below of suggestions and practices has been developed based on the needs and approaches most often identified in the Survey and in Dialogue discussions:

- a. Enhance cooperation with institutions identified in discussions so far who lead or support technical assistance and capacity building projects to tackle plastic pollution with trade-related elements, including: UNCTAD; UNEP; BRS; WCO; World Bank; GEF; WHO; FAO; ISO; UNIDO; UNDP; IMO; INTERPOL; UNODC; OECD; ALADI; Inter-American Development Bank; European Investment Bank; Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility; Oceania Customs Organisations; Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme; WEF; IUCN and WWF.
- b. Involve relevant stakeholders in technical assistance and capacity building discussions and actions, including representatives of the: civil society; academia; businesses; industry associations; chambers of commerce; regional and international organisations; financial institutions; and research institutions.
- c. Pursue the following actions to help better identify Aft plastic-related projects and needs in the Aft Global Review and increase Members' engagement in the process:
 - o Prior categorisation of existing plastic-related programmes to better identify their nature, scope and linkages to trade.
 - o Exchange of case studies, experiences and challenges in the implementation of domestic programmes, policies, activities, and efforts and establish a public platform containing good practices from Members.
 - o Increase discussions on the topic in the Dialogue, feed findings into the Aft review process and prioritise plastic pollution in Aft strategies.
 - o Introduce questions allowing for inputs on Members' priorities and needs on technical assistance and capacity building programmes specific or complementary to plastics and plastic pollution.
 - o Introduce questions allowing Members and regional and international donor institutions and organisations to share specific information on existing Aft programmes targeted at tackling plastic pollution.
 - o Organise Training and capacity building workshops (technical and non-technical) for delegates.
 - o WTO Secretariat to work closely with the OECD and other institutions, including regional organisations, identified in the discussions to enhance transparency of plastic pollution-related Aft information, while avoiding duplication of work.
- d. Priority areas in addressing trade-related aspects of plastic pollution identified by respondents of the Aft Survey (in order of response frequency):

³ These documents are available at the Dialogue's dedicated website:
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/ppesp_e/ppesp_e.htm

- Improve the environmentally sound management, recovery and recycling of plastics.
 - Move towards more circular economies of plastics.
 - Design and implement trade policies to address plastic pollution.
 - Facilitate access to key technologies.
 - Expand trade in environmentally sustainable and effective non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastics.
 - Develop and strengthen local capacities to produce environmentally sustainable and effective non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastics to single-use plastics.
 - Encourage collaboration with the relevant stakeholders through, inter alia, the exchange of knowledge and experience relating to the development of and access to environmentally sustainable and effective (including cost and functionally effective) non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastic to single-use plastics.
- e. Specific needs and challenges in addressing trade-related aspects of plastic pollution identified by respondents of the AFT and TrPM Surveys (in order of response frequency):
- Domestic private sector engagement and partnerships
 - Access to technology
 - Civil society engagement, including local and domestic stakeholders
 - Technical assistance on policy implementation
 - Financial and investment assistance
 - Technical assistance on policy development
 - Cooperation from value chain actors (incl. exporters)
 - Certification, testing and metrology
 - Regional cooperation
 - Cooperation from exporting and importing Members
 - Customs challenges
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3 FACTUAL COMPILATION III - OPEN, ILLUSTRATIVE, NON-EXHAUSTIVE AND EVOLVING COMPILATION OF PRODUCTS MOST OFTEN ADDRESSED BY TRPMS AND IDENTIFIED IN DIALOGUE DISCUSSIONS

3.1. Across the work of the Dialogue, delegations and stakeholders have extensively shared their trade-related plastics policies and approaches to address pollution. These discussions have been reflected in the Dialogue's Informal Summaries and Aide Memoires prepared by coordinators and facilitators, in the room documents (RDs) containing studies and presentations produced for the meetings, as well as in the Factual Summary of technical discussions under the reduction workstream ([INF/TE/IDP/RD/125](#)).⁴ Delegations have further shared their trade-related plastics measures (TrPMs) through a dedicated Survey, whose results have been compiled in the Dialogue TrPMs Report ([INF/TE/IDP/W/11](#)).

3.2. Reflecting such work, and recognizing the need to periodically update this compilation based on global, regional and domestic efforts, including those of other international processes, as well as on technical and scientific developments, the open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilation below has been developed based on the specific plastic and plastic products that have most often been identified in TrPMs and in Dialogue discussions:

- a. Specific goods most often targeted by TrPMs and raised in Dialogue discussions (in order of frequency):
 - Packaging
 - Single use plastic products (in general)
 - Wastes and scraps
 - (Single use) Plastic bags
 - Tableware
 - Food containers
 - (Products containing) Recycled plastics (e.g. to ensure food safety)
 - Straws
 - Cups
 - (expanded) Polystyrene
 - Bottles
 - Film
 - (Microbeads in) Care products
 - Cotton buds
 - Beverage stirrers
 - Plastic lids
 - Sachets
 - Tyres
 - (Plastics component in) Electronics
 - Textiles
 - PVC
 - Fishing Gear

⁴ These documents are available at the Dialogue's dedicated website:
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/ppesp_e/ppesp_e.htm

4 FACTUAL COMPILATION IV - OPEN, ILLUSTRATIVE, NON-EXHAUSTIVE AND EVOLVING COMPILATION OF TRPMS ON REDUCTION AND OTHER APPROACHES

4.1. Across the work of the Dialogue, delegations and stakeholders have extensively shared their trade-related plastics policies and approaches to address pollution. These discussions have been reflected in the Dialogue's Informal Summaries and Aide Memoires prepared by coordinators and facilitators, in the room documents (RDs) containing studies and presentations produced for the meetings, as well as in the Factual Summary of technical discussions under the reduction workstream ([INF/TE/IDP/RD/125](#)).⁵ Delegations have further shared their trade-related plastics measures (TrPMS) through a dedicated Survey, whose results have been compiled in the Dialogue TrPMS Report ([INF/TE/IDP/W/11](#)).

4.2. Reflecting such work, and recognizing the need to periodically update this compilation based on global, regional and domestic efforts, including those of other international processes, as well as on technical and scientific developments, the open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilation below has been developed based on the specific TrPMS that have most often been identified in the TrPMS Survey and in Dialogue discussions, as well as options for trade-related actions:

- a. Types of TrPMS most often identified in the Survey and raised in Dialogue discussions (in order of frequency):
 - o Technical regulations or specifications (and related conformity assessment procedures), usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - Eco-design and labelling requirements (e.g. to facilitate recycling, reuse, reduce unnecessary packing, material composition, *additives* and transparency).
 - Recycling targets and/or recyclability requirements.
 - Waste management (including its trans-boundary movement) and leakage avoidance (e.g. degradability/compostability requirements).
 - Chemical, toxic, and hazardous substances management.
 - Food safety requirements, in particular for goods with recycled content.
 - o Bans/prohibitions, usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - Restricting single-use plastics and other goods (sometimes coupled with exceptions for medical goods, those certifiably degradable and/or compostable, or considering socio-economic factors).
 - Waste management (including its trans-boundary movement) and leakage avoidance (e.g. banning imports and exports of wastes based on the Basel Convention, including when final destination/disposal cannot be ascertained).
 - Chemical, toxic, and hazardous substances management (e.g. prohibiting the addition of microplastics in certain goods, or targeting certain polymers or additives such as those covered by the Stockholm Convention).
 - o Import and export licences, usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - Waste management (including its trans-boundary movement) and leakage avoidance (e.g. implementing the Basel Convention prior informed consent requirements, or to verify waste recyclability, degradability and other criteria).
 - Addressing single-use plastics and other goods (e.g. to help implement restrictions on single-use products, including by monitoring upstream inputs).
 - Chemical, toxic, and hazardous substances management (e.g. to help implement controlled chemicals, additives and verify hazardousness criteria in recycled plastics).
 - o Internal taxes, usually pursuing the following objectives:

⁵ These documents are available at the Dialogue's dedicated website:
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/ppesp_e/ppesp_e.htm

- Fees (on goods, services or on a sector basis) to finance collection, repurposing and recycling activities and targets (and promote reuse, refill systems).
 - (reimbursable) Charges on single-use products (e.g. bags) to reduce their consumption, promote re-usable goods and facilitate collection.
 - EPR schemes, usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - Waste management (including its trans-boundary movement) and leakage avoidance.
 - Enhance collection and recycling rates.
 - Stimulate eco-designing innovation.
 - Promote reuse, refill systems.
 - b. Options for trade-related actions raised in Dialogue discussions:
 - Align requirements and restrictions in key TrPMs (e.g. those targeting single-use plastic bags) to facilitate implementation, avoid illegal trade and improve market for non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastics.
 - Extend restrictions to exports currently only applicable to domestic consumption and/or imports.
 - Extend restrictions to domestic production and consumption currently applicable to imports and/or exports.
 - Following a specific request, apply equivalent restrictions to exports of plastics and plastics products, including wastes and additives, to countries and regions which have imposed restrictions on such goods.
 - Revise and continue to apply EPR schemes to exports, including at their end of life.
 - Review and realign tariff profiles to level the playing field between plastics and non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastics.
 - Prioritize the development of international standards applicable to sustainable and safe non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastics.
 - Prioritize sustainable and safe non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastics in public procurement tenders.
 - Promote eco/sustainable design of products to facilitate the reduction of material use, their reuse, refill, refurbishment, remanufacturing or recycling.
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5 FACTUAL COMPILATION V – OPEN, ILLUSTRATIVE, NON-EXHAUSTIVE AND EVOLVING COMPILATION OF ALTERNATIVE PLASTICS AND NON-PLASTIC SUBSTITUTES AND OTHER RELEVANT GOODS, SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGIES MOST OFTEN ADDRESSED BY TRPMS AND IDENTIFIED IN DIALOGUE DISCUSSIONS

5.1. Across the work of the Dialogue, delegations and stakeholders have extensively shared their trade-related plastics policies and approaches to promote environmentally sustainable, safe and effective alternative plastics and non-plastics substitutes, as well as other relevant goods, services and technologies. These discussions have been reflected in the Dialogue's Informal Summaries and Aide Memoires prepared by coordinators and facilitators, in the room documents (RDs) containing studies and presentations produced for the meetings, as well as in the Factual Summary of technical discussions under the promotion workstream ([INF/TE/IDP/RD/88/Rev.1](#)).⁶ Delegations have further shared their trade-related plastics measures (TrPMS) through a dedicated Survey, whose results have been compiled in the Dialogue TrPMS Report ([INF/TE/IDP/W/11](#)).

5.2. Reflecting such work, and recognizing the need to periodically update this compilation based on global, regional and domestic efforts, including those of other international processes, as well as on technical and scientific developments, the open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilation below has been developed based on the specific goods, materials and services that have most often been identified in TrPMS and in Dialogue discussions:

- a. Specific non-plastic substitutes mentioned by TrPMS and raised in the Dialogue discussions:

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| Abaca (Manila hemp) | Algae biomass / Seaweed (brown, red, green) | Aluminium |
| Areca leaves | Balsa Wood | Bamboo |
| Banana/Plantain (leaves, stem, pseudo-stems or fibers) | By-products of ready-made garments ("jhoot") | Calabash hard shell |
| Casein | Cellulose (fiber, nanofibers) | Ceramics |
| Clay | Coconut Husks | Coir |
| Cork | Corn husks, other by-products | Cotton (linters) |
| Down | Fish skin or residues | Flax |
| Fruit peels | Glass | Grape waste |
| Hay | Hemp | Jute |
| Leather | Linen | Microbial cellulose of mixed vegetables and bacteria |
| Murta | Mushroom-based resins and materials | Natural waxes (e.g. beeswax) |
| Nettles | Palm | Paper (cardboard) |
| Pineapple leaves | Plant Waste | Rattan |
| Ray | Rayon | Rice paper |
| Silk | Sisal | Steel |
| Straw | Sugarcane pulp – bagasse | Tofu waste |
| Wheat (fibre, paper, husks, stems) | White clover | Wood (bark, pulp, chip) |
| Wools (e.g. alpaca, angora, cashmere, sheep) | Natural fibers (vegetable fibres; animal fibres) | Mineral materials |

Technologies relevant for the production of non-plastic substitutes

- b. 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

⁶ These documents are available at the Dialogue's dedicated website: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/ppesp_e/ppesp_e.htm

- 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.

c. 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
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6 FACTUAL COMPILATION VI – OPEN, ILLUSTRATIVE, NON-EXHAUSTIVE AND EVOLVING COMPILATION OF TRPMs ON PROMOTION AND OTHER APPROACHES

6.1. Across the work of the Dialogue, delegations and stakeholders have extensively shared their trade-related plastics policies and approaches to promote environmentally sustainable trade. These discussions have been reflected in the Dialogue's Informal Summaries and Aide Memoires prepared by coordinators and facilitators, in the room documents (RDs) containing studies and presentations produced for the meetings, as well as in the Factual Summary of technical discussions under the promotion workstream ([INF/TE/IDP/RD/88/Rev.1](#)).⁷ Delegations have further shared their trade-related plastics measures (TrPMs) through a dedicated Survey, whose results have been compiled in the Dialogue TrPMs Report ([INF/TE/IDP/W/11](#)).

6.2. Reflecting such work, and recognizing the need to periodically update this compilation based on global, regional and domestic efforts, including those of other international processes, as well as on technical and scientific developments, the open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilation below has been developed based on the specific TrPMs that have most often been identified in the TrPMs Survey and in Dialogue discussions:

6.3. Types of TrPMs most often identified in the Survey and raised in Dialogue discussions (in order of frequency):

- a. Technical regulations or specifications (and related conformity assessment procedures), usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - Promotion of non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastics (e.g. by requiring minimum recycled content or certain preferable characteristics such as ease of recycling, composting or degradability, restricting certain goods while expressly exempting non-plastic substitutes and/or alternative plastics, or requiring labels to inform consumers).
 - Promotion of technologies for waste management and other uses (e.g. requiring certain minimum performance for recycling processes or eco-design and circularity requirements as part of wider technology development efforts).
- b. Bans/prohibitions, usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - Promotion of non-plastics substitutes and alternative plastics (e.g. by expressly exempting substitutes and/or alternatives, often coupled with wider technology development efforts).
- c. Support measures, including grants and direct payments, preference in public procurement, tax concessions, and non-monetary support (e.g. advisory services and research and development, governmental certification or recognition labels, education campaigns and provision of collection and waste management infrastructure), usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - Promotion of non-plastics substitutes and alternative plastics, often specifically targeting the single-use plastics issue (e.g. research and development of new sustainable technologies, alternatives, and non-plastic substitutes, including through innovation grants and competitions, or public procurement schemes with mandatory or preferential requirements for sustainable alternatives and non-plastic substitutes to certain plastic products, reusable packaging, or a minimum content of recycled plastics).
 - Promoting re-use and re-fill models (e.g. financing or providing collection, cleaning services).
 - Promotion of technologies for waste management and other uses (e.g. waste-to-energy or waste-to-fuel facilities and other resource utilization schemes, or specific plastic goods recycling, such as packaging and agricultural films).

⁷ These documents are available at the Dialogue's dedicated website:
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/ppesp_e/ppesp_e.htm

- d. Internal taxes, including value-added tax, income tax, environmental taxes on specific products (packaging or waste fee/levies), specific industry/sectoral contributions (e.g. as part of EPR schemes), usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - o Promotion of non-plastics substitutes and alternative plastics (e.g. by expressly exempting substitutes and/or alternatives or by applying differential taxes, often coupled with wider technology development efforts).
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