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

A4T in the IDP: Initial findings on state of play and priorities

IDP Workstreams Meeting – 18 March 2022

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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TESS | Forum on Trade
Environment & the SDGs

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Forum on Trade, Environment & the SDGs (TESS)
Presentation at IDP
18 March 2022

Role of A4T in supporting action on trade dimensions of plastic pollution

1999 OECD-WTO Study

In 2019, a monitoring and evaluation self-assessment exercise carried out by the OECD and WTO included reference to a number of sustainable development goals that A4T could help to achieve. Among these SDG goals, sustainable production and consumption that is relevant to addressing plastic pollution was identified 49 times in the 88 responses received from partner countries and 16 times in the 36 responses received from donors.

Areas for capacity-building and technical assistance identified in IDP Ministerial Statement

- move towards more circular plastics economies
- improve the environmentally sound management, recovery and recycling of plastics
- facilitate access to key technologies
- expand trade in environmentally sustainable and effective substitutes and alternatives
- 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 substitutes and alternatives to single-use plastics
- develop and strengthen local capacities to produce environmentally sustainable and effective substitutes and alternatives to single-use plastics and
- design and implement trade policies to address plastic pollution.

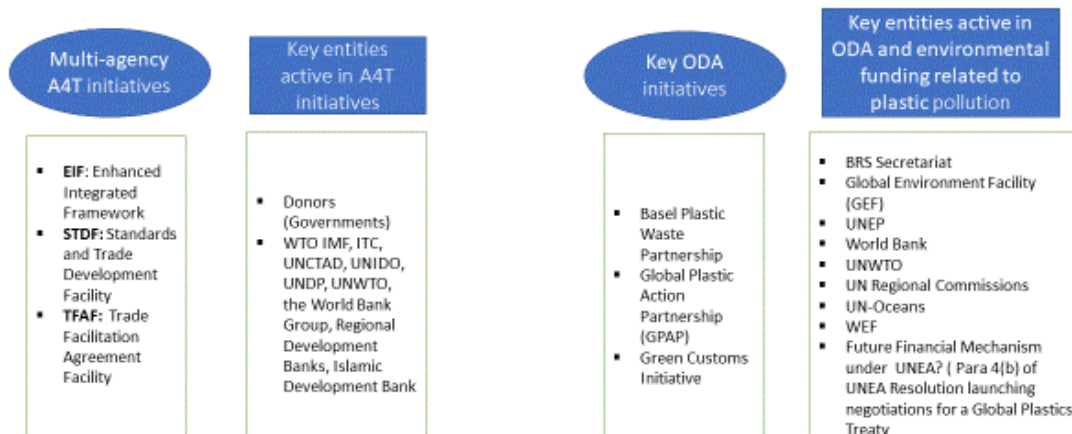
Source: WTO (2020). *Aid-For-Trade Work Programme, 2020-22: Empowering Connected, Sustainable Trade*.
WT/COMTD/AFT/W/81/Rev.1. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/COMTD/AFTW81R1.pdf&Open=True>

Priorities noted by WTO members in context of IDP and Basel Convention

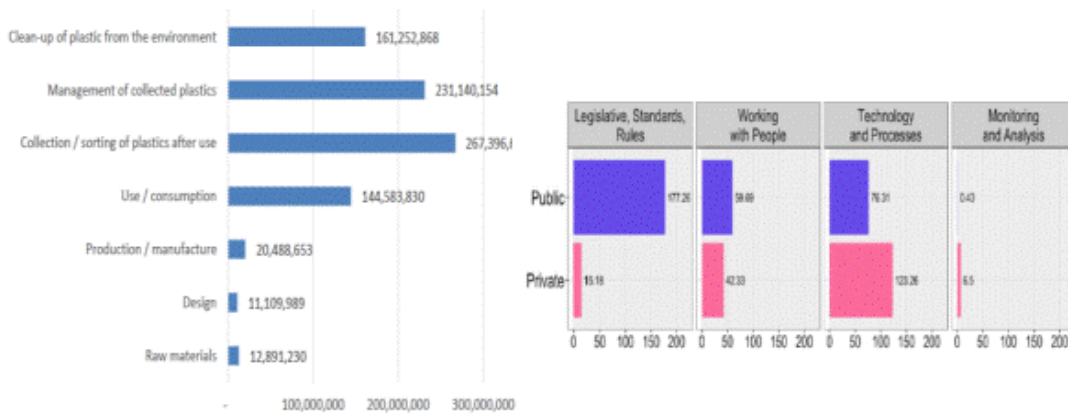
Examples noted in IDP Discussions*	Examples from Parties' submissions to the BRS Secretariat
Incentivizing trade and investment opportunities in new markets for non-plastics substitute and alternative plastics	Standards for alternatives to single use plastics that promote sound management, e.g. bio-degradability, compostability
Building capacity with regard to clarifying product classification, identification, and regulatory definitions	The creation of a database system on plastic waste management and inventory of plastic waste
Support for the development and implementation of circular economy strategies, including access to technologies	Technical support for governments during the development of legislation including technical requirements, assessment of alternative materials and their waste management, among other issues
Support for creation of sound domestic policy and regulatory frameworks to address plastic pollution	Support the development of international industrial standards on sorted plastic waste and recycled plastics; Development of standards for sorted plastic waste and recycled plastic
Identifying and addressing challenges in the implementation of trade-related Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) obligations relevant to plastics	Co-operation in the field of preventing and monitoring of illegal traffic and in providing training to enforcement personnel with the World Customs Organization and other relevant organizations

* based on IDP Minutes and feedback from IDP co-ordinators

A4T and capacity building initiatives relevant to trade & plastic pollution



Funding to address plastic pollution by life-cycle stage and category of action: Results from a UNEP stocktaking survey

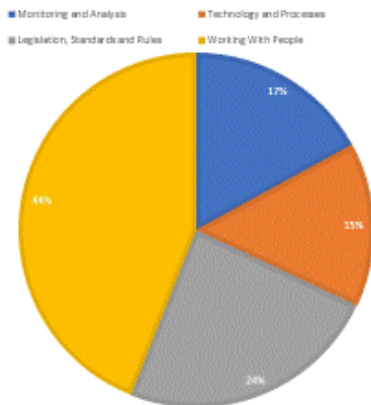


Total funding (in US\$) to initiatives with at least a partial focus on plastic lifecycle or supply chain (for actions undertaken as of 1 Jan 2018-July 2020)

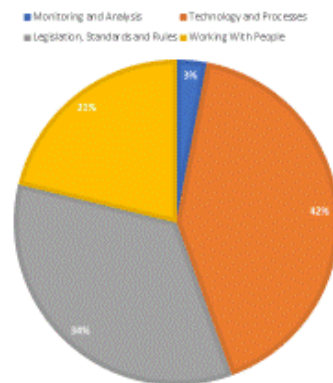
Source: Data from stock-taking survey conducted by UNEP.

Actions to address plastics pollution (undertaken as of 1 January 2018-July 2020) and share of funding received: Results from a UNEP stocktaking survey

SHARE OF TOTAL REPORTED ACTION ON PLASTIC POLLUTION BY TYPE OF ACTION



PROPORTION OF TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED FOR ADDRESSING PLASTIC POLLUTION BY TYPE OF ACTION



Source: UN Environment Programme (2020b). Report on the inventory of technical and financial resources or mechanisms for supporting countries in addressing marine plastic litter and microplastics. UNEP/AHEG/4/INF/7.28 October 2020.

Initial suggestions for A4T discussions in the IDP

Short-term

- Integrate priorities related to trade-dimensions of plastic pollution and environmentally sustainable plastics trade in the next work programme of the A4T Initiative
- Thematic events on plastic pollution in the Aid for Trade Global Review
- Specific technical assistance and training initiatives by the WTO Secretariat on legislative and regulatory aspects of trade and plastic pollution
- Enhance technical assistance for customs authorities in regard cross-border flows of plastics and plastic waste, including for implementation of the Basel Convention

A process for advancing cooperation on A4T priorities in the IDP

