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PRESENTATION BY TESS

IDP MEETING – 30 MARCH 2022

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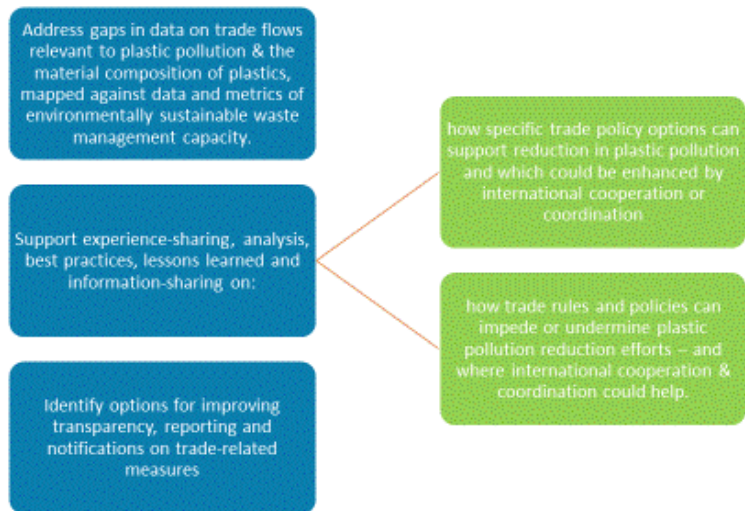
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Workstream on cross-cutting issues & international cooperation

- Input into & support for international environmental processes (UNEA & international agreement on plastic pollution)
- Strengthen cooperation with WCO & among customs authorities to pursue HS amendments to enable more effective monitoring and regulation of plastics trade to tackle plastic pollution
- Implementation of trade-related measures in MEAs (e.g., Basel Convention 'plastic waste' amendments and Stockholm Convention)
- Cooperation with UNCTAD on development aspects of trade and plastic pollution
- Strengthen WTO Secretariat engagement in efforts to promote system wide cooperation across UN system & IOs on plastic pollution, such as through cooperation on shared data portal
- Strengthen capacity building, technical assistance and finance & technology transfer for transition, including through Aid for Trade and integrating trade in environmental financing
- Identify options for regional cooperation on trade policies that support plastic pollution reduction efforts, including through engagement with regional economic and political organisations
- Information-sharing & exchanges in OECD JWPTE and environmental processes on the IDP, including input on policy options and lessons

Transparency



Workstream on promoting trade to tackle plastic pollution: Sample of possible options



Workstream on
circularity &
reduction to tackle
plastic pollution:
Sample of possible
options

Promote policy coherence through voluntary joint pledges to end export of single-use that are restricted or banned domestically

Pledge to reduce unnecessary and excessive plastic packaging associated with international trade, starting with packaging related to international distribution, transportation & customs clearance.

Cooperate on the design and implementation of extended producer responsibility systems and their trade dimensions

Agree to promote transparency, consultation and coordinate on policies, standards and requirements on plastics and plastic packaging, including consideration of challenges arising for developing country exporters

Enhance cooperation & transparency on trade restrictions, bans and phase-outs of trade in unnecessary and harmful plastics and plastic additives.

Identify approaches to facilitate the functioning of markets that can promote safe and non-toxic circularity, including by reducing unnecessary and harmful use; promoting re-use, repair, remanufacturing of plastic products as well as re-use and refill business models; and facilitating markets for non-toxic recycled plastics and recyclable products.

Sample of early milestones in 2022 (1):
Aid for Trade

- Jointly agree on the need to work together to **boost capacity building and technical support** to developing countries to design and implement trade policies related to plastic pollution, support capacity building for customs authorities, build trade capacity for non-plastic substitutes, meet sustainability standards, and boost their access to environmentally sustainable waste management technologies.
 - Integrate priorities related to trade-dimensions of plastic pollution and environmentally sustainable plastics trade in the next work programme of the A4T Initiative and the EIF
 - Integrated trade aspects into wider environmental assistance and funding for plastic pollution
 - Host thematic events on plastic pollution in the Aid for Trade Global Review
 - Call for specific technical assistance and training initiatives by the WTO Secretariat on legislative and regulatory aspects of trade and plastic pollution
 - Call for cooperation with among IGOs on this topic (WCO, UNCTAD, ITC, GEF) and with regional organisations
 - Agreed to enhance technical assistance for customs authorities in regard cross-border flows of plastics and plastic waste, including for implementation of the Basel Convention

Sample of early milestones in 2022 (2): Amendments to the HS classification

- Jointly agree on the need to work together to address shortcomings of the HS classification in relation to information needs for tackling plastic pollution.
- Empower national customs authorities to explore options and develop proposals for **amendments to the HS classification** in the 2027 HS amendment cycle
- Share experience on 8-, 10-digit codes in domestic HS classifications that can improve trade-related data
- Call for expert input from stakeholders and environmental experts on specific priorities and recommendations
- Request WTO-WCO Secretariats to cooperate on specific options

Sample of early milestones in 2022 (2): Amendments to the HS classification

- Implementation of a voluntary survey of members to share information on national experiences & best practices, challenges and opportunities on trade, trade policy and plastic pollution, drawing on consultation with relevant national ministries and stakeholders
- This would help:
 - Build a shared repository of knowledge on challenges and opportunities
 - Support efforts to identify specific opportunities and priorities for greater international cooperation on trade policies
 - Form a basis for concrete collaboration

The work ahead: TESS contributions

- Public Events
 - Next steps for the plastic pollution treaty (including relevance of trade), April 7
 - Research reports
 - *How can international trade policy help tackle plastic pollution? Options & Pathways*
 - *Amending the HS to support international efforts to end plastic pollution*
 - Policy brief series to support implementation of IDP Statement on trends, experiences & options
 - *Aid for Trade and plastic pollution (draft presented at March IDP meeting)*
 - *Recommendations for HS amendments*
 - *Options for promoting trade in non-plastic substitutes*
 - *Trade related options to support reduction of unnecessary and harmful plastics*
 - *International standards relevant to plastic and plastic pollution*
 - Expert roundtables
 - Liaison with IDP stakeholders to support effective participation in IDP process – informal consultations before IDP workstream meetings
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