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

STATEMENT BY THE FORUM ON TRADE, ENVIRONMENT & THE SDGS (TESS)

Plenary Meeting 11 October 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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Dialogue on Plastics Pollution**

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Agenda Item 4 (c). Promoting Trade to Tackle Plastic Pollution

TESS welcomes the various initiatives taking place on plastic substitutes and alternatives and in particular the sharing of different experiences from various member states. In regard to the forthcoming UNCTAD-WTO workshop on plastic substitutes to be held on 6th December, we believe that it would be useful to have the opportunity to learn from the experiences of Members on plastic substitutes and alternatives. Every Member might have different substitutes and alternatives that are appropriate for them and their environmental sustainability across the life cycle will depend on local production and disposability options. It would be useful to learn more about the kinds of challenges Members are facing in the scale-up of manufacturing and exports of environmentally sound substitutes and alternatives. It would also be helpful to learn more about the operation of global supply chains for plastic substitutes. For example, what sort of North-South private sector linkages or collaboration exists? Are there any companies in OECD countries for example that have invested in plastic substitutes in developing countries? How has that worked and what have been the challenges they faced? Are there examples of South-South cooperation or value chains for plastic substitutes? It may be useful to draw lessons from private sector companies that are involved in such supply chains.

Agenda Item 4 (d). Crosscutting Issues

TESS welcomes the collaboration between WTO and WCO. A very quick follow up on the WCO's intervention at the last pre-plenary. Their representative, Gael Grooby, highlighted that the next WCO meeting for this ongoing 2027 cycle of the Harmonised System review process will take place in early November followed by a final one early next year. These two meetings represent the final opportunities for Members to put forward proposals for discussion for amendments in the current HS review cycle. The next opportunity will be the 2032 HS review process. With this in mind, we encourage Members to submit proposals or requests for specific work on this topic to the WCO Secretariat in order to kick start some explicit discussion on possible amendments related to trade across the life cycle of plastics. We refer members again to our policy brief and research paper on [Plastic Pollution and Trade Across the Life Cycle of Plastics: Options for Amending the Harmonized System to Improve Transparency](#)
