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

POSSIBLE MC13 STATEMENT

Revision

The following communication, dated 20 November 2023, is being circulated at the request of the Dialogue Coordinators.

We, the Ministers representing the following Members of the WTO [], issue this statement:

Recalling that the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO recognizes the role of trade in achieving the objective of sustainable development and the need to protect and preserve the environment and to enhance the means for doing so in a manner consistent with WTO Members respective needs and concerns at different levels of economic development.

Expressing our deep concern about the triple global crisis of biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change and their related natural disasters, and *recognizing* that these challenges are inextricably interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and that they are driven largely by unsustainable patterns of consumption, production and disposal and their related economic and health costs.

Acknowledging the negative impact that plastic pollution has on the environment, particularly in small, vulnerable economies (SVE) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as on all economies, including the blue economy, and on human health, while recognizing the important role plastics play in society.

Recognizing the transboundary nature of plastic pollution, plastic waste and plastics trade, making it crucial for Members to cooperate and coordinate their efforts to address the plastic pollution crisis and its adverse effects on the environment and human health, and acknowledging the growing urgent need to tackle this crisis, the need for coordinated action across policy areas and to frequently evaluate and assess approaches consistent with developments in science, technology and knowledge.

Welcoming the timely conclusion of an ambitious international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, to protect human health and the environment, pursuant to the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 to end plastic pollution, recognizing the efforts of governments to complete their work by the end of 2024 and without prejudice to the ongoing negotiations, while also noting the resolution's call to continue and step up activities, and adopt voluntary measures, to combat plastic pollution.

Acknowledging the efforts under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions and commending the successful adoption of the Technical Guidelines for the Identification and Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Wastes and for their Disposal, fostering international cooperation and progress towards environmentally sound and safe plastic waste management.

Highlighting the importance of the rules-based multilateral trading system and of trade-related cooperation as a contribution to global efforts to end plastic pollution, including through implementing relevant trade-related plastics measures and increasing transparency across the life cycle of plastics, in particular to support efforts by developing Members to tackle plastic pollution.

Acknowledging the ongoing international, regional and domestic efforts to address plastic pollution and the contribution by many of these processes and relevant stakeholders to the Dialogue.

Reaffirming the Dialogue's Ministerial Statement (WT/MIN(21)/8/Rev.[X]) issued on 10 December 2021 which committed co-sponsors to work towards "concrete, pragmatic, and effective outcomes" on the trade-related aspects of plastics pollution in order to contribute to the global response to end plastic pollution on the areas of substantive focus further articulated by the Dialogue Plan (INF/TE/IDP/W/5): Cross-cutting issues, including capacity building and technical assistance, international cooperation, and transparency and data; Reduction and circularity to tackle plastic pollution; and Promotion of trade to tackle plastic pollution.

Highlighting the progress of the collective work of the Dialogue since its launch, including:

- The substantive technical work and discussions of the Dialogue, with the support of the expertise from delegations and relevant stakeholders, that has helped advance our collective knowledge of the intersection between trade, trade policies and plastic pollution, under each of the workstreams of the Dialogue, and supported the production of several outputs from the Dialogue such as those reflected in the open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilation of suggestions, practices, options, and opportunities attached to this statement, including information documents, factual summaries and reports, specialized workshops, surveys and communications.
- The enhanced, close, and constructive cooperation with other international and regional efforts and institutions, such as with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the BRS Conventions, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR), the World Bank Group, the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and a range of stakeholder organizations involved in the work of the Dialogue.

We have accordingly reached the following shared understandings.

We will continue to cooperate on the basis of the following shared principles:

- Focusing on trade-related actions within rules and mechanisms of the WTO that participating Members could take collectively and individually to support global efforts to end plastic pollution.
- Deepening cooperation and collaboration with other international organizations, secretariats and processes, ensuring coherence, complementarity, avoiding duplication, and ensuring that the work is informed by and supports the ongoing INC negotiations, favours implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and accounts for relevant technical and scientific developments.
- Deepening cooperation to address challenges facing WTO Members, in particular developing Members, LDCs, SVEs and SIDS, in the trade-related aspects of plastic pollution and sustainable development goals.
- Emphasizing the role of multilateral trade-related cooperation including in promoting transparency and sustainable practices to tackle plastic pollution.
- Continuing open, inclusive and transparent engagement with all WTO Members and all relevant stakeholders.

- Continuing our efforts in further exploring the interlinkages of plastic pollution and trade.

We agree on the importance of international cooperation on the following actions and agree to pursue such actions on a voluntary basis, individually and collectively, in the spirit of international cooperation while recognizing different domestic capacities and priorities for action:

- 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.
- Address trade-related capacity building and technical assistance needs of developing Members, least-developed Members and SIDS, including through the implementation of Aid for Trade to address plastic pollution and to launch a mechanism to match existing funding opportunities with specific needs identified by developing Members, particularly LDCs, SVEs and SIDS, to implement trade-related policies and measures to tackle plastic pollution.
- Promote trade-related cooperation, including through implementing trade-related measures to reduce unnecessary or harmful plastics and plastic products and to address the environmental, social and health impacts and leakage associated with primary plastics, polymers, additives and/or plastics products.
- Promote cooperation on trade in environmentally sound, safe, and effective non-plastic substitutes; in plastic alternatives and re-use, repair and re-fill systems; and in waste management and clean-up technologies using waste hierarchy appropriate to local development circumstances and needs, and in line with Basel Convention technical guidelines on environmentally sound waste management.
- Promote trade-related cooperation to contribute to the control of transboundary movement of plastic pollution, including through, for example, effectively implementing the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments and its Plastic Technical Guidelines relevant to international cooperation and progress towards environmentally sound and safe plastic waste management.

For each of these action areas, we call attention to the factual, open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilations¹ attached to this statement that reflect our collective and individual efforts so far to identify practices, options and opportunities for trade-related cooperation to contribute to ending plastic pollution and encourage efforts and commitments by a range of co-sponsors to foster and implement collective and individual actions in this respect. In doing so, we encourage a focus on those of interest to WTO Members, in particular developing Members, including LDCs, SVEs and SIDS, and opportunities for MSMEs.

We recognize the need to periodically update the compilations based on global, regional and domestic efforts and means of implementation, as well as on technical and scientific developments.

We will continue to hold dedicated discussions with a view to identify best practices and share experiences regarding all topics identified in the Dialogue. We will work to develop a new Dialogue Plan in the months following MC13. We will look for further concrete, pragmatic, and effective outcomes on these actions and understandings at the latest by MC14. In this process, we will take into account the results of the INC negotiations on the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

¹ The concrete and factual information regarding key aspects of our work is summarized in the following open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilations: I) Trade-Related Transparency Efforts and Potential Actions Identified; II) 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; III) Products Most Often Addressed by Trade-Related Plastic Measures (TrPMs) and Identified in Dialogue Discussions; IV) TrPMs on Reduction and Other Approaches; V) Alternatives Plastics and Non-Plastic Substitutes and Other Relevant Goods, Services and Technologies Most Often Addressed by TrPMs and Identified in Dialogue Discussions; VI) TrPMs on promotion and Other Approaches.