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

PLAN 2024

The following communication, dated 05 April 2024, is being circulated at the request of the delegations of Australia, Barbados, China, Ecuador, Fiji and Morocco (DPP Coordinators).

1. This plan is intended to outline the implementation of the Ministerial Statement on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (WT/MIN(24)/14). As per the Ministerial Statement the DPP co-sponsors will aim for concrete, pragmatic and effective outcomes on the agreed actions and understandings set out in the Ministerial Statement at the latest by MC14. DPP coordinators will continue to lead the work of the Dialogue, with the support of the facilitators.

2. The DPP will host two plenary and three pre-plenary meetings in 2024 as set out in this plan. The DPP meetings are tentatively scheduled for the following dates:

- 12 April (pre-plenary meeting)
- 13 June (pre-plenary meeting)
- 18 July (plenary meeting)
- 19 September (pre-plenary meeting)
- 31 October (plenary meeting)

3. DPP meetings will continue to be open to all interested WTO Members and DPP stakeholders. The DPP will regularly review its progress towards the implementation of the Ministerial Statement. To advance further technical discussions and make progress towards concrete, pragmatic and effective outcomes, the DPP will maintain its current workstreams, which cover the agreed actions and topics from the Ministerial Statement and previous discussions in the Dialogue (see below). Workstreams will advance work in intersessions through informal discussions or workshops. Workstreams will be held in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner, and in coordination with the facilitators. Efforts of the workstream will be supported by evidence-based information and data, and any outcomes will be developed in consultation with Members, and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, including those outlined in paragraph 4 below. Scheduling of workstreams will be managed to support the participation of co-sponsors, noting the resource capacities of delegations, in particular developing and least developed Members.

4. Noting the value and importance of proactive engagement by a broad diversity of Members and relevant stakeholders – including *inter alia* international organizations and institutions, trade and environmental authorities and domestic bodies, the private sector, academia, and civil society –, relevant stakeholders will be invited to contribute to DPP meetings. The inputs of stakeholders are intended to enhance discussions through technical expertise and experience.

POST-MC13 WORKSTREAM PLAN

Workstream – Crosscutting Issues (covering mainly action points 1, 2 and 6 of the MC13 Ministerial Statement)

5. Topics include capacity building and technical assistance; fostering international cooperation on transparency and data, including on flows of single-use plastics, plastic films and hard-to-recycle plastics and plastic constituents; cooperation and collaboration with other international organizations and processes, including the ongoing negotiations under the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC), the effective implementation by its Parties of the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments and its Plastic Technical Guidelines and the ongoing 2027 reform of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Harmonized System (HS); collective approaches; issues of particular concern to least developed countries (LDCs), small, vulnerable economies (SVEs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and land-locked developing countries (LLDCs); and illegal trade in plastics.

• Workstream – Reduction to Tackle Plastic Pollution (covering mainly action points 3, 4 and 6 of the MC13 Ministerial Statement)

6. Topics include how trade-related cooperation could help to support efforts to reduce plastics and plastic products that are harmful to the environment and / or human health, or unnecessary single-use plastics and plastics packaging, associated with international trade; promote cooperative and effective trade-related policies or measures to address the environmental, social and human health impacts and leakages across the full lifecycle of plastics, plastics products and their constituents; identify opportunities for harmonization, convergence or mutual recognition of trade-related plastic measures, including by collaborating with international and regional standardizing bodies; contribute to the control of transboundary movement of plastic pollution and progress towards environmentally sound and safe plastic waste management; assessing the impact of regulatory measures, taxes and support measures on efforts to reduce plastic pollution, including on products and issues of interest for the agriculture sector (e.g. mulch film); and sharing experiences of effective approaches and best practices to move towards more circular resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable plastics trade.

• Workstream – Promoting Trade to Tackle Plastic Pollution (covering mainly action points 3, 5 and 6 of the MC13 Ministerial Statement)

7. Topics include environmentally sustainable waste management technologies; environmentally sound, safe and effective non-plastic substitutes and plastic alternatives; reused, repaired and recycled plastics, including by incentivizing increased reuse, repair and recycling of plastics (considering evidence of their long-term impacts); identify barriers to and facilitate services and systems to collect, sort, reuse, repair and refill and services and technologies including for improving transparency, waste management and clean-up activities, in ways that consider the waste hierarchy and are appropriate to local development circumstances and needs, and in line with Basel Convention Technical Guidelines on Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Wastes; enhanced engagement with the private sector, in particular Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) women, and indigenous people-led businesses and developing country entrepreneurs; and technologies for environmentally sustainable and effective substitutes and alternatives of interest to developing Members and least developed Members including SIDS, SVEs and LLDCs.