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TRADE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRUCTURED DISCUSSIONS (TESSD)

CONVENING NOTICE

The following Convening Notice, dated 6 May 2022, is being circulated at the request of the TESSD Coordinators and Facilitators.

TESSD will hold meetings of its Informal Working Groups on:

- **17 and 18 May 2022 from 10:00 to 18:00** (Geneva/CEST).

In keeping with TESSD's open, transparent and inclusive nature, all WTO Members are invited to attend and are encouraged to participate in the meeting.

The meeting will be held in hybrid form, allowing for in-person participation in Room E and virtual participation via the Zoom platform. Delegates wishing to participate virtually via the Zoom platform, including capital-based officials, should register through the following link:

<https://worldtradeorganization.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qc-ihRDMSEtIWkyVpNzpdf7SCwVGI-X7Q>

To guide the discussions in the meeting, the Facilitators propose the following agenda:

1 Introductory remarks by the TESSD Coordinators (Canada and Costa Rica)

2 Working Group on Environmental Goods and Services (10:00-13:00, Tuesday, 17 May)

2.1. Introductory remarks by the Facilitators (Carlos Guevara, Ecuador and Helga Helland, Norway).

Members' priorities regarding environment and climate goals

2.2. Members are invited to respond to the following questions (written replies after the meeting are also welcome):

- What are Members' priorities in terms of objectives and sectors to be discussed in the Working Group?
- How can trade in environmental goods and services aid in achieving environment and climate goals? (Guiding question in TESSD Work Plan 2022 (INF/TE/SSD/W/17/Rev.1))

Objective and sector example: climate mitigation and renewable energy

2.3. Presentation by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) on trade-related challenges and opportunities for developing countries in the renewable energy sector to achieve climate objectives.

2.4. Exchange of views by Members. Members are invited to react to the presentation and share their experiences with regard to challenges and opportunities of trade in environmental goods and

services by responding to the following two questions in relation to climate mitigation and the renewable energy sector (written replies after the meeting are also welcome):

- What are important considerations regarding supply chains, technology, services, and technical and regulatory elements?
- What challenges and policies impede the ability of developing countries and LDCs to engage in and maximize benefits from trade in environmental goods and services and how can these be addressed?

2.5. Interventions by stakeholders.

2.6. Concluding remarks by the Facilitators.

3 Working Group on Trade-related Climate Measures (15:00-18:00, Tuesday, 17 May)

3.1. Introductory remarks by the Facilitators (Jean-Marie Meraldi, Switzerland and Göksu Tülümen, Turkey).

3.2. Presentation by the World Bank on measuring carbon pricing and carbon content of production and transport.

3.3. Exchange of views by Members. Members are invited to react to the presentation and the discussion paper by the United States on Climate Change – Circular Economy (INF/TE/SSD/W/19).¹ Members are also invited to reply to the following question based on the Work Plan 2022 (written replies after the meeting are also welcome):

- What trade-related climate measures and policies, including regulatory requirements, are Members pursuing, and what are related objectives, design characteristics, and potential trade implications?

3.4. Presentation by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on the Industrial Deep Decarbonisation Initiative (IDDI), and the challenges and opportunities for developing countries in decarbonizing their manufacturing industry and participating in low-carbon markets.

3.5. Exchange of views by Members. Members are invited to react to the presentation and respond to the following question based on the Work Plan (written replies after the meeting are also welcome):

- What are the challenges facing MSMEs globally, and for developing countries, with regard to the design and use of trade-related climate measures and policies, and how can these be addressed?

3.6. Interventions by stakeholders.

3.7. Concluding remarks by the Facilitators.

4 Working Group on Circular Economy – Circularity (10:00-13:00, Wednesday, 18 May)

4.1. Introductory remarks by the Facilitators (Olivia Cook, Chile and Kazunari Morii, Japan).

4.2. Presentations by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and representatives of IKEA, Mercedes Benz Group, Ragn-Sells and TrashCon. The presentations will provide a business perspective on opportunities and challenges with regard to trade-related aspects of the circular economy.

¹ The submission also relates to the Working Groups on Environmental Goods and Services and Circular Economy – Circularity.

4.3. Presentation by the World Economic Forum (WEF) on possible vertical and horizontal approaches for circular trade. The presentation will discuss trade-related challenges and possible solutions for improving e-waste recycling, as well as what trade policy can more broadly do to support the momentum towards a global circular economy.

4.4. Reactions to the presentations. Members are invited to react to the presentations and discuss challenges and opportunities of businesses in the respective sectors.

4.5. Exchange of views by Members. Members are invited to reply to the following question based on the Work Plan (written replies after the meeting are also welcome):

- What are Members' experiences and lessons learned from efforts to advance circular economy goals (including reducing unsustainable resource use, promoting resource efficiency, sustainability and safety across product lifecycles, restoring and regenerating ecosystems, and minimizing waste) and the opportunities and challenges linked to trade and trade policies? (Indications of specific sectors/trade-related issues of Members' interests and expected outcomes are welcome.)

4.6. Interventions by stakeholders.

4.7. Concluding remarks by the Facilitators.

5 Working Group on Subsidies (15:00-18:00, Wednesday, 18 May)

5.1. Introductory remarks by the Facilitator (Sveinn K. Einarsson, Iceland). This meeting will focus on the first two guiding questions in the Work Plan in the context of fossil fuel subsidies (FFS) and agricultural subsidies. Other subsidies will be covered in future meetings.

5.2. Presentation by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The presentation will give an overview of the OECD Inventory of Support Measures for Fossil Fuels, methodologies for evaluating FFS, as well as existing information and information gaps relating to FFS.

5.3. Presentation by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The presentation will give an overview of the joint UNEP-FAO-UNDB report (A Multi-Billion-Dollar Opportunity: Repurposing agricultural support to transform food systems) on agricultural support measures in the context of environmental sustainability.

5.4. Exchange of views by Members. Members are invited to share their experiences on monitoring of subsidies and respond to the following questions based on the Work Plan (written replies after the meeting are also welcome):

- How can the environmental effects and trade impacts of relevant subsidies be identified?
- What information exists to better understand these impacts and where are there information gaps?

5.5. Interventions by stakeholders.

5.6. Concluding remarks by the Facilitator.
