



TRADE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRUCTURED DISCUSSIONS (TESSD)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE TESSD COORDINATORS

Revision

The following communication, dated 18 February 2022, is being circulated at the request of the delegations of Canada and Costa Rica (TESSD Coordinators).

TESSD WORK PLAN 2022

1.1 This work plan is intended to outline the implementation of the operational part of the TESSD Ministerial Statement on Trade and Environmental Sustainability (WT/MIN(21)/6/Rev.2).

1.2 As outlined in the Roadmap, five formal TESSD meetings will be held in 2022. The main purpose of the meeting on 7 February is to adopt this work plan. Further substantive meetings are scheduled to be held in April, July and October. The meeting in July will take stock of implementation status of the Ministerial Statement and the need to adapt the work plan to achieve full implementation of this Ministerial Statement. In December, a high-level stocktaking event will be held to review progress achieved (notably identification of good practices, voluntary actions and partnerships in the relevant areas) and adopt next steps towards MC13.

1.3 Formal meetings of the TESSD will be open to all interested WTO Members. Members can contribute their views and experiences in respective thematic work areas during each meeting. In order to allow for more in-depth discussions and make progress towards tangible outcomes, Members will form working groups to advance work intersessionally through informal discussions or workshops among co-sponsors. Informal working groups will be led by facilitators in an inclusive and transparent way, and in coordination with the co-convenors. The thematic areas of work covered by formal TESSD meetings and the guiding questions for working groups can be found in the work plan below.

1.4 Stakeholders from academia, international organizations, civil society, NGOs and the business community will be invited to contribute to formal TESSD meetings. The inputs of stakeholders are intended to enhance discussions through technical expertise, experience and transparency.

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High-level Stocktaking Event – tentative date: 1-2 December

Formal TESSD Meetings – tentative dates: 31 March-1 April; 19-20 July; 26-27 October

Thematic work areas

- Dedicated discussions on trade-related climate measures and policies (Para. 2)
- Promoting and facilitating trade in environmental goods and services (EGS) (Para. 3 and Para. 4.(iii))
- Achieving a more resource-efficient circular economy (Para. 4.(i))
- Promoting sustainable supply chains and addressing challenges and opportunities arising from the use of sustainability standards and related measures, in particular for developing Members (Para. 4.(ii))*
- Challenges and opportunities for sustainable trade – capacity building and technical assistance (Aid for Trade) (Para. 5)*
- Environmental effects and trade impacts of relevant subsidies (Para. 6)

Informal Working Groups – tentative dates: 14-15 March; 17-18 May; 27-28 September

1. Trade related climate measures

- What trade-related climate measures and policies are Members pursuing and what are their trade implications?
- Can we identify best practices in the development of trade-related climate measures and policies to maximize climate and environmental benefits while also maximizing trade benefits?
- 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?

2. Environmental goods and services

- How can trade in environmental goods and services aid in achieving environment and climate goals?
- What are the opportunities, best practices, and possible approaches for promoting and facilitating trade in environmental goods and services to meet environmental and climate goals, including through addressing supply chain, technical and regulatory elements, promoting and facilitating access to and uptake of new and emerging low-emissions and other climate-friendly technologies, and attention to issues of particular interest to developing countries?
- What challenges and policies impede the ability of developing countries and LDCs to engage in and maximise benefits from trade in environmental goods and services and how can these be addressed?

3. Circular economy – circularity

- What trade policies, tools and collaborative actions can support the transition to a circular economy that supports the achievement of sustainable development goals?
- What trade policies, tools and collaborative actions could help developing and LDC Members ensure that circular economy approaches contribute to their sustainable development?
- What are the lessons learned from existing 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 minimising waste) and the opportunities and challenges linked to trade and trade policies?

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4. Subsidies

- 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?
- What are the opportunities to address the environmental impacts of subsidies at the WTO?

*A number of issues pertaining to the thematic work areas of sustainable supply chains/sustainability standards (Para. 4.(ii)) and sustainable trade/development (Para. 5) are cross-cutting and relevant aspects might also be included in discussions of working groups.
