



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

*Communication from Australia, Barbados, Cabo Verde, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Fiji, The Gambia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Morocco, New Zealand, Switzerland, Thailand and United Kingdom*

*Revision*

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1. The rising environmental, health and economic cost of plastics pollution is a concern that increasingly unites all countries and regions, large and small, developed and developing. The COVID-19 pandemic has only amplified these concerns, underscoring the world's vulnerability to natural crises, and reinforcing the importance of building more resilient and sustainable economies.
  2. Given the growing need for coordinated global action – and recognizing the important trade dimension of this challenge – we, as interested Members, are launching an open-ended informal dialogue on plastics pollution and environmentally sustainable plastics trade, in which all WTO Members are invited and encouraged to participate.
  3. Aiming to complement existing international processes in other fora – and avoid duplication – the informal dialogue will explore how improved trade cooperation, within the rules and mechanisms of the WTO, could contribute to domestic, regional and global efforts to reduce plastics pollution and transition to a more circular and environmentally sustainable global plastics economy. Possible subjects for discussion include improving transparency, monitoring trade trends, promoting best practices, strengthening policy coherence, identifying the scope for collective approaches, assessing capacity and technical assistance needs, and cooperating with other international processes and efforts.
  4. We believe that the informal dialogue should be a key part of broader WTO discussions to advance our shared trade and environmental sustainability objectives.
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