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

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE
PLASTICS TRADE**

The following statement, dated 13 June 2022, is being circulated at the request of the Ministers of the coordinators of the Informal Dialogue on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (IDP): Australia, Barbados, China, Ecuador, Fiji and Morocco.

Plastic pollution is an immense challenge facing the world. Cosponsors of the WTO Dialogue on Plastic Pollution are committed to addressing the trade-related aspects of plastic pollution and to identifying opportunities for cooperation on trade and trade policies that could support the range of domestic and international efforts underway to reduce plastic pollution.

We welcome the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution to launch negotiations with the goal of forging an international legally binding instrument by the end of 2024 to end plastic pollution.

We have made substantial progress since the Ministerial Statement was made on 15 December 2021. The number of cosponsors has also grown to 72 WTO Members.

We have taken a number of tangible steps to implement the Ministerial Statement of the Dialogue on Plastic Pollution. We have intensified our work on areas of common interest with a view to identifying actions that participating Members could take collectively to support global efforts to reduce plastic pollution. We have launched a voluntary survey on trade-related measures relevant to plastic pollution reduction (INF/TE/IDP/W/7/Rev.1), which will help build a deeper understanding of the range of policy tools WTO Members employ or could adopt to address plastic pollution, and the areas where international cooperation through a trade dimension is most vital. We have also launched an Aid for Trade needs assessment review (INF/TE/IDP/W/8/Rev.1) – the results of which will support WTO Members understanding of the needs of developing Members to address plastic pollution through trade and trade policies where international cooperation is most needed.

We have and will continue to deepen our collaboration with other international processes and organizations to ensure we are engaging and supporting efforts to address this multifaceted and complicated problem. In our communication on 8 June 2022 (INF/TE/IDP/W/6/Rev.1), we announced our intention to deepen engagement with the World Customs Organization to cooperatively address trade-related aspects of plastic pollution. We are expanding our cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme. We will organize a workshop in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and other relevant stakeholders on plastics substitutes and alternatives.

We welcome the active participation of all WTO Members in the Dialogue on Plastic Pollution. We are committed to maintaining an open, inclusive, and transparent process.

We value and recognise the proactive engagement of multiple stakeholders. We will continue to openly engage with relevant stakeholders to seek advice and guidance, and to rely on their expertise and competences, particularly of the trade and environment community.

We look forward to working with the cosponsors and all WTO Members as we advance our efforts to address the trade-related aspects of plastic pollution and develop further concrete, pragmatic and effective outcomes by MC13.
