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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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## CHINA - CATALOGUE OF SOLID WASTES FORBIDDEN TO IMPORT INTO CHINA

STATEMENT BY CHINA TO THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE  
6 AND 7 MARCH 2019

The following communication, dated 1 April 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of China.

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1. China has been pushing for ecological progress, pro-actively practicing the values of "sustainable development" and "green development" in order to meet the Chinese people's ever-growing need for a beautiful eco-environment and aiming to solve significant outstanding environmental problems. Advancing the reform of the solid wastes import administration regime is one of the most important steps that the Chinese government has taken to implement the New Development Ideas, and to safeguard the eco-environment safety and population health.

2. In accordance with internationally recognized principles, each member has the obligation to handle and dispose of the wastes it has generated on its own. China, as a developing member with the largest population, must make the inevitable choice of restricting and prohibiting imports of solid wastes while improving its own domestic solid wastes treatment and disposal. Current scientific studies indicate that the residues resulting from the recycling and disposal of solid wastes and their carried wastes may pose various risks to human, animal, and plant life and health, as well as to the environment. China still allows the normal trade flow of raw materials processed from solid wastes, but the import of solid wastes must be strictly controlled and regulated in order to reduce the risks to human, animal, and plant life and health as well as to the eco-environment caused by solid wastes to the maximum extent possible. In coordination with the reform and adjustment of the domestic solid waste regulation, the strict control and regulation of the solid wastes import will also enhance effective recycling and utilization, treatment and disposal of solid wastes at home. Since solid wastes have already significantly increased the burden on China's eco-environment and had huge negative impacts on human, animal, and plant life and health, China considers that merely reforming the domestic regulation of solid wastes would not be sufficient for achieving our purpose of safeguarding the ecological safety and population health to the maximum extent possible.

3. In the process of adjusting the relevant policies, the Chinese Government has adequately taken into account voices at home and abroad and adjusted the Import Waste Management Catalogue in different batches. China has also set a sufficient transition period for the relevant industries and has fulfilled our transparency obligations under the WTO rules. Over the past decades, enterprises from other WTO members have exported large quantities of solid wastes to China and derived huge financial gains. We earnestly hope that these members could also actively fulfil their international social responsibility and make contributions to the global environmental protection.

4. At present, not only China, but also every member should follow the fundamental principle of disposal and absorbing the wastes it has generated on its own. Only on the basis of this principle can we reach a better consensus on managing solid waste pollution and search for a solution to this problem. At the same time, abiding by this principle will also contribute to the promotion of the global green low-carbon circular development, and the creation of a clean and beautiful world.

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