



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Climate Change Service
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Legal Affairs Service

FROM : **The OIC Director**
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **MC13 STATEMENT OF THE DIALOGUE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PLASTICS TRADE**

DATE : **14 FEB 2024**

This refers to the electronic mail dated 14 February 2024 from the Department of Trade and Industry - Bureau of International Trade Relations transmitting the report from the Philippine Mission to the WTO in Geneva on the revised **13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13) Statement (Annex A)** and **Factual Compilation (Annex B)** of the Dialogue on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (ZWTO-44-2024 dated 12 February 2024).

It may be recalled that the Department has submitted comments on the first draft which was circulated last September 2023, attached as **Annex C**. Following the inputs received from the Technical Committee on WTO Matters (TCWM) members including **DENR**, the Mission alongside like-minded co-sponsors pushed to maintain language on technical assistance with trade-specific needs of developing Members, cooperation on trade to promote non-plastic substitutes, plastic alternatives, re-use, repair and refill, and services and technology for transparency, waste management and clean-up activities, and cooperation to control the transboundary movement of plastic pollution, among others.

Given the concerns of several members, it was clarified that the Factual Compilations (Annex B) are non-binding on co-sponsors. A disclaimer was now included that "*the factual compilations do not imply an endorsement of any particular Member practice and do not affect the regulatory framework and practices of each Member.*"

Further, the Mission highlighted that the DPP can be harnessed to support the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC) process and its

outcome. Please also note that the DPP will develop a Roadmap after MC13 to identify key areas of work moving forward.

In this regard, we would like to request your Office to review the revised MC13 statement and factual compilation of the DPP provided by the Mission. Given the urgency, the DTI is requesting the Department's inputs on or before 16 February 2024. We would appreciate receiving an advance copy of your inputs and comments by **16 February 2024, 3:00 PM**, through these email addresses: psddivision@gmail.com and/or policy@denr.gov.ph, so we can facilitate our submission to DTI.

For your information and consideration, please.


CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL

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

MC13 STATEMENT

Revision

The following communication, dated 19 January 2024, is being circulated at the request of the Dialogue Coordinators.

We, the Ministers representing the following Members of the WTO [], issue this statement:

Recalling that the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO recognizes the role of trade in achieving the objective of sustainable development and the need to protect and preserve the environment and to enhance the means for doing so in a manner consistent with WTO Members respective needs and concerns at different levels of economic development.

Expressing our deep concern about the triple global environmental challenges of biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change and its related disasters, and *recognizing* that these challenges are interlinked, mutually reinforcing, and driven largely by unsustainable patterns of consumption, production and disposal and their related economic and health costs.

Acknowledging the negative impact that plastic pollution has on the environment, particularly in small, vulnerable economies (SVE) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as on all economies, including the blue economy, and on human health while recognizing the important role plastics play in society.

Recognizing the transboundary nature of plastic pollution, plastic waste and plastics trade, making it crucial for Members to cooperate and coordinate their efforts to address the plastic pollution crisis and its adverse effects on the environment and human health, and acknowledging the growing urgent need to tackle this crisis, the need for coordinated action across policy areas and to regularly evaluate and assess approaches consistent with developments in science, technology and knowledge.

Welcoming the timely conclusion of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, to protect human health and the environment, pursuant to the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14: End plastic pollution, recognizing the efforts of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) to complete their work by the end of 2024 and without prejudice to the ongoing negotiations, and noting the resolution's call to continue and step up activities, and adopt voluntary measures, to combat plastic pollution.

Acknowledging the efforts under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions and commending the successful adoption under the Basel Convention, of the Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Wastes, and the decision under the Stockholm Convention to update Annex A with the addition of two chemicals used as plastic additives, fostering international cooperation and progress towards environmentally sound and safe plastic waste management.

Highlighting the importance of the rules-based multilateral trading system and the WTO at its core and of trade-related cooperation as a contribution to global efforts to end plastic pollution, including through developing and implementing relevant trade-related plastics measures and increasing transparency across the life cycle of plastics, in particular to support efforts by developing Members to tackle plastic pollution.

Acknowledging the ongoing international, regional and domestic efforts to address plastic pollution and the contribution by many of these processes and relevant stakeholders to the Dialogue.

Reaffirming the Dialogue's Ministerial Statement (WT/MIN(21)/8/Rev.[X]) issued on 10 December 2021 which committed co-sponsors to work towards "concrete, pragmatic, and effective outcomes" on the trade-related aspects of plastics pollution in order to contribute to the global response to end plastic pollution on the areas of substantive focus further articulated by the Dialogue Plan (INF/TE/IDP/W/5): Cross-cutting issues, including capacity building and technical assistance, international cooperation, and transparency and data; Reduction and circularity to tackle plastic pollution; and Promotion of trade to tackle plastic pollution.

Highlighting the progress of the collective work of the Dialogue since its launch, including:

- The substantive technical work and discussions of the Dialogue, with the support of the expertise from delegations and relevant stakeholders, which has helped advance our collective knowledge of the intersection between trade, trade policies and plastic pollution, under each of the workstreams of the Dialogue, and supported the production of several outputs from the Dialogue such as those reflected in the open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilation of suggestions, practices, options, and opportunities attached to this statement, as well as information documents, factual summaries and reports, specialized workshops, surveys and communications.
- The enhanced, close, and constructive cooperation with other international and regional efforts and institutions, such as with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the BRS Conventions, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR), the World Bank Group, the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and a range of stakeholder organizations involved in the work of the Dialogue.

We have accordingly reached the following shared understandings.

We will continue to cooperate on the basis of the following shared principles:

- Focusing on trade-related actions within the rules and mechanisms of the WTO that participating Members could take collectively and individually to support global efforts to end plastic pollution.
- Deepening cooperation and collaboration with other international organizations, secretariats and processes; ensuring coherence and complementarity; avoiding duplication; and ensuring that our work is informed by and supports the ongoing INC negotiations as well as the implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and takes into account relevant technical and scientific developments.
- Deepening cooperation to address challenges facing WTO Members, in particular developing Members, LDCs, SVEs, SIDS and land-locked developing countries (LLDCs), in the trade-related aspects of plastic pollution and sustainable development goals.
- Emphasizing the role of multilateral trade-related cooperation including in promoting transparency and sustainable practices to tackle plastic pollution.

- Continuing open, inclusive, and transparent engagement with all WTO Members, relevant WTO Committees, and all relevant stakeholders.
- Continuing our efforts in further exploring the interlinkages of plastic pollution and trade.

We agree on the importance of international cooperation on the following actions and pursuing such actions, including on a voluntary basis, individually and collectively, in the spirit of international cooperation while recognizing different domestic challenges and priorities for action:

- Improve transparency, monitoring and understanding of trade flows throughout the value chain of plastics, including flows of single-use plastics, plastic films and hard-to-recycle plastics.
- Address trade-related capacity building and technical assistance needs of developing Members, least-developed Members, SVEs and SIDS, including through the implementation of Aid for Trade and facilitate ongoing efforts to better match existing funding opportunities with specific trade-related needs identified by developing Members to tackle plastic pollution.
- Promote cooperative and effective trade-related policies or measures implemented to support efforts to reduce plastics and plastic products that are harmful to the environment or human health, or unnecessary single-use plastics and plastics packaging, associated with international trade that are not essential for medical or sanitary purposes.
- Promote cooperative and effective trade-related policies or measures to address the environmental, social and human health impacts and leakages across the lifecycle of plastics, plastics products and their constituents.
- Promote cooperation on trade that contributes to ending plastic pollution, including trade in environmentally sound, safe, and effective non-plastic substitutes taking into account scientific evidence and knowledge; and environmentally sound, safe and effective plastic alternatives; as well as systems to reuse, repair and refill; and services and technologies including for improving transparency, waste management and clean-up activities, in ways that consider the waste hierarchy and are appropriate to local development circumstances and needs, and in line with Basel Convention Technical Guidelines on Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Wastes.
- Promote trade-related cooperation to contribute to the control of transboundary movement of plastic pollution, including through, for example, the effective implementation by its Parties of the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments and its Plastic Technical Guidelines, where relevant to international cooperation and progress towards environmentally sound and safe plastic waste management.

Related to each of the actions noted above, a factual compilation with actions, policies and measures identified through the Dialogue's discussions and surveys, as being undertaken or proposed by Members to reduce plastic pollution, is attached to this declaration.

This compilation will be updated periodically based on global, regional and domestic efforts and outcomes including means of implementation, as well as on technical and scientific developments.

We will continue to hold dedicated discussions with a view to identify best practices and share experiences regarding all topics identified by the Dialogue. The Dialogue will work to update a forward plan in the months following MC13. We will look for further concrete, pragmatic, and effective outcomes on these actions and understandings at the latest by MC14. In this process, we will reflect the results of the INC negotiations on the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in updating the compilation.



19 January 2024

(24-0445)

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Original: English

UNOFFICIAL ROOM DOCUMENT¹**DIALOGUE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY
SUSTAINABLE PLASTICS TRADE (DPP)**

COMPILATIONS ATTACHED TO THE MC13 STATEMENT

Revision

The following document has been presented during the DPP pre-plenary meeting held on 23 November 2023 (INF/TE/IDP/RD/146) and has been revised and presented during the meeting held on 26 January 2024. It is being circulated at the request of the Dialogue Coordinators.

¹ Documents issued in the RD series are not official WTO documents. They usually appear in their language of submission and will not be translated systematically into the working languages of the WTO. They are intended for use in WTO meeting rooms and are attributed an unofficial symbol for archiving purposes only.

Les documents de la série RD ne sont pas des documents officiels de l'OMC. Ils ne paraissent généralement que dans la langue dans laquelle ils ont été communiqués et ne seront pas systématiquement traduits dans les langues de travail de l'OMC. Ils sont destinés aux salles de réunion de l'OMC et une cote non officielle leur est attribuée à des fins d'archivage.

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**DIALOGUE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY
SUSTAINABLE PLASTICS TRADE (DPP)****COMPILATIONS ATTACHED TO THE MC13 STATEMENT**

The factual compilations below do not imply an endorsement of any particular Member practice and do not affect the regulatory framework and practices of each Member.

**1 FACTUAL COMPILATION I – OPEN, ILLUSTRATIVE, NON-EXHAUSTIVE AND EVOLVING
COMPILATION OF TRADE-RELATED TRANSPARENCY EFFORTS AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS
IDENTIFIED**

1.1. Across the work of the Dialogue, delegations and relevant stakeholders have extensively shared their trade-related plastics policies and approaches to tackle plastic pollution, including their efforts to improve transparency, monitoring and understanding of trade flows across the full life cycle of plastics, including flows of plastics embedded in or associated with internationally traded goods, as well as of alternative plastics and non-plastic substitutes and related trade measures. These discussions have been reflected in the Dialogue's Informal Summaries and Aide Memoires prepared by coordinators and facilitators, in the room documents (RDs) containing studies and presentations produced for the meetings, as well as in the Factual Summaries of technical discussions under the reduction ([INF/TE/IDP/RD/125](#)) and promotion workstreams ([INF/TE/IDP/RD/88/Rev.1](#)).² Delegations have further shared their trade-related plastics measures (TrPMs) through a dedicated Survey, whose results have been compiled in the Dialogue TrPMs Report ([INF/TE/IDP/W/11](#)).

1.2. Reflecting such work, and recognizing the need to periodically update this compilation based on global, regional and domestic efforts and outcomes, including those of other international processes, as well as on technical and scientific developments, the open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilation of suggestions and practices below has been developed based on the trade-related transparency efforts and approaches identified in the Survey and in Dialogue discussions:

- a. Support efforts undertaken at the WCO to improve international cooperation on the classifications of plastics and plastic products, and of potential alternative plastics and non-plastic substitutes, in order to support monitoring and regulation of trade across their life cycles.
- b. Improve precise identification of targeted goods/products in domestic customs classification to facilitate better monitoring, evaluation, reporting and regulation of trade in polymers, chemicals, additives, plastics and plastic products, and explore opportunities for individual and collective actions to improve this transparency in the plastics economy.
- c. Identify customs and related technological solutions that can support transparency of trade flows across the life cycle of plastics.
- d. Promote cooperation, including with the private sector, on standards, product identifiers and other applications that can support transparency of trade flows across the life cycle of plastics.
- e. Improve the understanding and transparency of TrPMs and enhance cooperation and peer-learning, including by:
 - o Updating the Survey of TrPMs on a regular basis, including with draft or proposed measures.
 - o Sharing domestic, regional and international experiences leading to, whenever appropriate and practical, compilations of specific trade policy approaches.

² These documents are available at the Dialogue's dedicated website:
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/ppesp_e/ppesp_e.htm

- Enhancing efforts to identify and share TrPMs which are not currently well captured in the Survey, including subsidies, support measures, internal taxes, and extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes.
 - Providing structured information on TrPMs and related issues in trade policy reviews.
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2 FACTUAL COMPILATION II – OPEN, ILLUSTRATIVE, NON-EXHAUSTIVE AND EVOLVING COMPILATION OF TRADE-RELATED CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING MEMBERS, LEAST DEVELOPED MEMBERS AND VULNERABLE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) IDENTIFIED IN DIALOGUE DISCUSSIONS.

2.1. Across the work of the Dialogue, delegations and relevant stakeholders have extensively shared their trade-related plastics policies and approaches to address pollution, including their trade-related capacity building and technical assistance needs. These discussions have been reflected in the Dialogue's Informal Summaries and Aide Memoires prepared by coordinators and facilitators, in the room documents (RDs) containing studies and presentations produced for the meetings, as well as in the Factual Summaries of technical discussions under the reduction (INF/TE/IDP/RD/125) and promotion workstreams (INF/TE/IDP/RD/88/Rev.1).³ Delegations have further shared their Aid for Trade (Aft) needs assessments, approaches and suggestions through a dedicated Survey, whose results have been compiled in the Dialogue's Aft Assessment Report (INF/TE/IDP/W/12).

2.2. Reflecting such work, and recognizing the need to periodically update this compilation based on global, regional and domestic efforts and outcomes, including those of other international processes, as well as on technical and scientific developments, the open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilation below of suggestions and practices has been developed based on the needs and approaches most often identified in the Survey and in Dialogue discussions:

- a. Enhance cooperation with institutions identified in discussions so far who lead or support technical assistance and capacity building projects to tackle plastic pollution with trade-related elements, including: UNCTAD; UNEP; BRS; WCO; World Bank; GEF; WHO; FAO; ISO; UNIDO; UNDP; IMO; INTERPOL; UNODC; OECD; ALADI; Inter-American Development Bank; European Investment Bank; Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility; Oceania Customs Organisations; Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme; WEF; IUCN and WWF.
- b. Involve relevant stakeholders in technical assistance and capacity building discussions and actions, including representatives of the: civil society; academia; businesses; industry associations; chambers of commerce; regional and international organizations; financial institutions; and research institutions.
- c. Pursue the following actions to help better identify Aft plastic-related projects and needs in the Aft Global Review and increase Members' engagement in the process:
 - o Prior categorisation of existing plastic-related programmes to better identify their nature, scope and linkages to trade.
 - o Exchange of case studies, experiences and challenges in the implementation of domestic programmes, policies, activities, and efforts and establish a public platform containing good practices from Members.
 - o Increase discussions on the topic in the Dialogue, feed findings into the Aft review process and prioritize plastic pollution in Aft strategies.
 - o Introduce questions allowing for inputs on Members' priorities and needs on technical assistance and capacity building programmes specific or complementary to plastics and plastic pollution.
 - o Introduce questions allowing Members and regional and international donor institutions and organizations to share specific information on existing Aft programmes targeted at tackling plastic pollution.
 - o Organize Training and capacity building workshops (technical and non-technical) for delegates.
 - o WTO Secretariat to work closely with the OECD and other institutions, including regional organizations, identified in the discussions to enhance transparency of plastic pollution-related Aft information, while avoiding duplication of work.
- d. Priority areas in addressing trade-related aspects of plastic pollution identified by respondents of the Aft Survey (in order of response frequency):

³ These documents are available at the Dialogue's dedicated website:
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/ppesp_e/ppesp_e.htm

- Improve the environmentally sound management, recovery and recycling of plastics.
 - Move towards more circular economies of plastics.
 - Design and implement trade policies to address plastic pollution.
 - Facilitate access to key technologies.
 - Expand trade in environmentally sustainable and effective non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastics.
 - Develop and strengthen local capacities to produce environmentally sustainable and effective non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastics to single-use plastics.
 - Encourage collaboration with the relevant stakeholders through, *inter alia*, the exchange of knowledge and experience relating to the development of and access to environmentally sustainable and effective (including cost and functionally effective) non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastic to single-use plastics.
- e. Specific needs and challenges in addressing trade-related aspects of plastic pollution identified by respondents of the AFT and TrPM Surveys (in order of response frequency):
- Domestic private sector engagement and partnerships
 - Access to technology
 - Civil society engagement, including local and domestic stakeholders
 - Technical assistance on policy implementation
 - Financial and investment assistance
 - Technical assistance on policy development
 - Cooperation from value chain actors (incl. exporters)
 - Certification, testing and metrology
 - Regional cooperation
 - Cooperation from exporting and importing Members
 - Customs challenges
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3 FACTUAL COMPILATION III – OPEN, ILLUSTRATIVE, NON-EXHAUSTIVE AND EVOLVING COMPILATION OF PRODUCTS MOST OFTEN ADDRESSED BY TRPMS AND IDENTIFIED IN DIALOGUE DISCUSSIONS

3.1. Across the work of the Dialogue, delegations and stakeholders have extensively shared their trade-related plastics policies and approaches to address pollution. These discussions have been reflected in the Dialogue's Informal Summaries and Aide Memoires prepared by coordinators and facilitators, in the room documents (RDs) containing studies and presentations produced for the meetings, as well as in the Factual Summary of technical discussions under the reduction workstream ([INF/TE/IDP/RD/125](#)).⁴ Delegations have further shared their trade-related plastics measures (TrPMs) through a dedicated Survey, whose results have been compiled in the Dialogue TrPMs Report ([INF/TE/IDP/W/11](#)).

3.2. Reflecting such work, and recognizing the need to periodically update this compilation based on global, regional and domestic efforts and outcomes, including those of other international processes, as well as on technical and scientific developments, the open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilation below has been developed based on the specific plastic and plastic products that have most often been identified in TrPMs and in Dialogue discussions:

- a. Specific goods most often targeted by TrPMs and raised in Dialogue discussions (in order of frequency):
 - Packaging
 - Single-use plastic products (in general)
 - Wastes and scraps
 - (Single-use) Plastic bags
 - Tableware
 - Food containers
 - (Products containing) Recycled plastics (e.g. to ensure food safety)
 - Straws
 - Cups
 - (Expanded) Polystyrene
 - Bottles
 - Film
 - (Microbeads in) Care products
 - Cotton buds
 - Beverage stirrers
 - Plastic lids
 - Sachets
 - Tyres
 - (Plastics component in) Electronics
 - Textiles
 - PVC
 - Fishing Gear
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⁴ These documents are available at the Dialogue's dedicated website:
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/ppesp_e/ppesp_e.htm

4 FACTUAL COMPILATION IV – OPEN, ILLUSTRATIVE, NON-EXHAUSTIVE AND EVOLVING COMPILATION OF TRPMS ON REDUCTION AND OTHER APPROACHES

4.1. Across the work of the Dialogue, delegations and stakeholders have extensively shared their trade-related plastics policies and approaches to address pollution. These discussions have been reflected in the Dialogue's Informal Summaries and Aide Memoires prepared by coordinators and facilitators, in the room documents (RDs) containing studies and presentations produced for the meetings, as well as in the Factual Summary of technical discussions under the reduction workstream ([INF/TE/IDP/RD/125](#)).⁵ Delegations have further shared their trade-related plastics measures (TrPMS) through a dedicated Survey, whose results have been compiled in the Dialogue TrPMS Report ([INF/TE/IDP/W/11](#)).

4.2. Reflecting such work, and recognizing the need to periodically update this compilation based on global, regional and domestic efforts and outcomes, including those of other international processes, as well as on technical and scientific developments, the open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilation below has been developed based on the specific TrPMS that have most often been identified in the TrPMS Survey and in Dialogue discussions, as well as options for trade-related actions:

- a. Types of TrPMS most often identified in the Survey and raised in Dialogue discussions (in order of frequency):
 - o Technical regulations or specifications (and related conformity assessment procedures), usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - Eco-design and labelling requirements (e.g. to facilitate recycling, reuse, reduce unnecessary packing, material composition, *additives* and transparency).
 - Recycling targets and/or recyclability requirements.
 - Waste management (including its trans-boundary movement) and leakage avoidance (e.g. degradability/compostability requirements).
 - Chemical, toxic, and hazardous substances management.
 - Food safety requirements, in particular for goods with recycled content.
 - o Bans/prohibitions, usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - Restricting single-use plastics and other goods (sometimes coupled with exceptions for medical goods, those certifiably degradable and/or compostable, or considering socio-economic factors).
 - Waste management (including its trans-boundary movement) and leakage avoidance (e.g. banning imports and exports of wastes based on the Basel Convention, including when final destination/disposal cannot be ascertained).
 - Chemical, toxic, and hazardous substances management (e.g. prohibiting the addition of microplastics in certain goods, or targeting certain polymers or additives such as those covered by the Stockholm Convention).
 - o Import and export licences, usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - Waste management (including its trans-boundary movement) and leakage avoidance (e.g. implementing the Basel Convention prior informed consent requirements, or to verify waste recyclability, degradability and other criteria).
 - Addressing single-use plastics and other goods (e.g. to help implement restrictions on single-use products, including by monitoring upstream inputs).
 - Chemical, toxic, and hazardous substances management (e.g. to help implement controlled chemicals, additives and verify hazardousness criteria in recycled plastics).
 - o Internal taxes, usually pursuing the following objectives:

⁵ These documents are available at the Dialogue's dedicated website:
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/ppesp_e/ppesp_e.htm

- Fees (on goods, services or on a sector basis) to finance collection, repurposing and recycling activities and targets (and promote reuse, refill systems).
 - (reimbursable) Charges on single-use products (e.g. bags) to reduce their consumption, promote reusable goods and facilitate collection.
 - EPR schemes, usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - Waste management (including its trans-boundary movement) and leakage avoidance.
 - Enhance collection and recycling rates.
 - Stimulate eco-designing innovation.
 - Promote reuse, refill systems.
 - b. Options for trade-related actions raised in Dialogue discussions:
 - Align requirements and restrictions in key TrPMs (e.g. those targeting single-use plastic bags) to facilitate implementation, avoid illegal trade and improve market for non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastics.
 - Extend restrictions to exports currently only applicable to domestic consumption and/or imports.
 - Extend restrictions to domestic production and consumption currently applicable to imports and/or exports.
 - Following a specific request, apply equivalent restrictions to exports of plastics and plastics products, including wastes and additives, to countries and regions which have imposed restrictions on such goods.
 - Revise and continue to apply EPR schemes to exports, including at their end of life.
 - Review and realign tariff profiles to level the playing field between plastics and non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastics.
 - Prioritize the development of international standards applicable to sustainable and safe non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastics.
 - Prioritize sustainable and safe non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastics in public procurement tenders.
 - Promote eco/sustainable design of products to facilitate the reduction of material use, their reuse, refill, refurbishment, remanufacturing or recycling.
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5 FACTUAL COMPILATION V – OPEN, ILLUSTRATIVE, NON-EXHAUSTIVE AND EVOLVING COMPILATION OF ALTERNATIVE PLASTICS AND NON-PLASTIC SUBSTITUTES AND OTHER RELEVANT GOODS, SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGIES MOST OFTEN ADDRESSED BY TRPMS AND IDENTIFIED IN DIALOGUE DISCUSSIONS

5.1. Across the work of the Dialogue, delegations and stakeholders have extensively shared their trade-related plastics policies and approaches to promote environmentally sustainable, safe and effective alternative plastics and non-plastics substitutes, as well as other relevant goods, services and technologies. These discussions have been reflected in the Dialogue's Informal Summaries and Aide Memoires prepared by coordinators and facilitators, in the room documents (RDs) containing studies and presentations produced for the meetings, as well as in the Factual Summary of technical discussions under the promotion workstream (INF/TE/IDP/RD/88/Rev.1).⁶ Delegations have further shared their trade-related plastics measures (TrPMs) through a dedicated Survey, whose results have been compiled in the Dialogue TrPMs Report (INF/TE/IDP/W/11).

5.2. Reflecting such work, and recognizing the need to periodically update this compilation based on global, regional and domestic outcomes and efforts to identify solutions with the best socio-economic and environmental outcome from a lifecycle perspective, including those of other international processes, as well as on technical and scientific developments, the open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilation below has been developed based on the specific goods, materials and services that have most often been identified in TrPMs and in Dialogue discussions:

a. Specific non-plastic substitutes mentioned by TrPMs and raised in the Dialogue discussions:

Abaca (Manila hemp)	Algae biomass / Seaweed (brown, red, green)	Aluminium
Areca leaves	Balsa Wood	Bamboo
Banana/Plantain (leaves, stem, pseudo-stems or fibres)	By-products of ready-made garments ("jhoot")	Calabash hard shell
Casein	Cellulose (fibre, nanofibers)	Ceramics
Clay	Coconut Husks	Coir
Cork	Corn husks, other by-products	Cotton (linters)
Down	Fish skin or residues	Flax
Fruit peels	Glass	Grape waste
Hay	Hemp	Jute
Leather	Linen	Microbial cellulose of mixed vegetables and bacteria
Murta	Mushroom-based resins and materials	Natural waxes (e.g. beeswax)
Nettles	Palm	Paper (cardboard)
Pineapple leaves	Plant Waste	Rattan
Ray	Rayon	Rice paper
Silk	Sisal	Steel
Straw	Sugarcane pulp – bagasse	Tofu waste
Wheat (fibre, paper, husks, stems)	White clover	Wood (bark, pulp, chip)
Wools (e.g. alpaca, angora, cashmere, sheep)	Natural fibres (vegetable fibres; animal fibres)	Mineral materials
Technologies relevant for the production of non-plastic substitutes		

b. Specific alternative plastics mentioned by TrPMs and raised in the Dialogue discussions:

- (Marine, naturally, commercially) Biodegradable plastics
- Bio Low-Density Polyethylene (Bio-LDPE)
- Bioplastics

⁶ These documents are available at the Dialogue's dedicated website: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/ppesp_e/ppesp_e.htm

- Bio-polypropylene
 - Corn-based resins
 - Low-density polyethylene (multiple use)
 - Polybutylene succinate (PBS)
 - Polylactic acid (PLA) and CPLA
 - rPET and other recycled plastics and recycled plastic containing goods
 - (Easily, commercially, effectively) Recyclable plastics and resins
 - Technologies relevant for the production of alternative plastics and meeting recycled content standards/requirements.
- c. Services mentioned by TrPMs and raised in the Dialogue discussions:
- Refill and cleaning bottle and other consumer goods containers schemes
 - Reusable/returnable (takeaway food) packaging
 - Social and environmental impact assessment services
 - Tracking, segregation, traceability and identification services
 - Renting, leasing and other product-service systems
 - Labelling, certification and conformity assessment services (e.g. regarding commercial compostability)
 - Product eco-design, research and development
 - Return and reimbursement systems (e.g. bottle and boxes deposit systems)
 - Upcycling processes
 - Research and development services
 - Post-consumer sorting, disassembly, remanufacturing and recycling services
 - Waste recovery, collection and management
 - Clean-up services
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6 FACTUAL COMPILATION VI – OPEN, ILLUSTRATIVE, NON-EXHAUSTIVE AND EVOLVING COMPILATION OF TRPMS ON PROMOTION AND OTHER APPROACHES

6.1. Across the work of the Dialogue, delegations and stakeholders have extensively shared their trade-related plastics policies and approaches to promote environmentally sustainable trade. These discussions have been reflected in the Dialogue's Informal Summaries and Aide Memoires prepared by coordinators and facilitators, in the room documents (RDs) containing studies and presentations produced for the meetings, as well as in the Factual Summary of technical discussions under the promotion workstream ([INF/TE/IDP/RD/88/Rev.1](#)).⁷ Delegations have further shared their trade-related plastics measures (TrPMS) through a dedicated Survey, whose results have been compiled in the Dialogue TrPMS Report ([INF/TE/IDP/W/11](#)).

6.2. Reflecting such work, and recognizing the need to periodically update this compilation based on global, regional and domestic efforts and outcomes, including those of other international processes, as well as on technical and scientific developments, the open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilation below has been developed based on the specific TrPMS that have most often been identified in the TrPMS Survey and in Dialogue discussions:

6.3. Types of TrPMS most often identified in the Survey and raised in Dialogue discussions (in order of frequency):

- a. Technical regulations or specifications (and related conformity assessment procedures), usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - o Promotion of non-plastic substitutes and alternative plastics (e.g. by requiring minimum recycled content or certain preferable characteristics such as ease of recycling, composting or degradability, restricting certain goods while expressly exempting non-plastic substitutes and/or alternative plastics, or requiring labels to inform consumers).
 - o Promotion of technologies for waste management and other uses (e.g. requiring certain minimum performance for recycling processes or eco-design and circularity requirements as part of wider technology development efforts).
- b. Bans/prohibitions, usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - o Promotion of non-plastics substitutes and alternative plastics (e.g. by expressly exempting substitutes and/or alternatives, often coupled with wider technology development efforts).
- c. Support measures, including grants and direct payments, preference in public procurement, tax concessions, and non-monetary support (e.g. advisory services and research and development, governmental certification or recognition labels, education campaigns and provision of collection and waste management infrastructure), usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - o Promotion of non-plastics substitutes and alternative plastics, often specifically targeting the single-use plastics issue (e.g. research and development of new sustainable technologies, alternatives, and non-plastic substitutes, including through innovation grants and competitions, or public procurement schemes with mandatory or preferential requirements for sustainable alternatives and non-plastic substitutes to certain plastic products, reusable packaging, or a minimum content of recycled plastics).
 - o Promoting reuse and refill models (e.g. financing or providing collection, cleaning services).
 - o Promotion of technologies for waste management and other uses (e.g. waste-to-energy or waste-to-fuel facilities and other resource utilization schemes, or specific plastic goods recycling, such as packaging and agricultural films).

⁷ These documents are available at the Dialogue's dedicated website:
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/ppesp_e/ppesp_e.htm

- d. Internal taxes, including value-added tax, income tax, environmental taxes on specific products (packaging or waste fee/levies), specific industry/sectoral contributions (e.g. as part of EPR schemes), usually pursuing the following objectives:
 - o Promotion of non-plastics substitutes and alternative plastics (e.g. by expressly exempting substitutes and/or alternatives or by applying differential taxes, often coupled with wider technology development efforts).
-



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN

OCT 16 2023

MS. MARIE SHERYLYN D. AQUIA

Director
Bureau of International Trade Relations
Department of Trade and Industry
4F DTI International Building
375 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

Dear **Director Aquia**:

This refers to your letter from the Department of Trade and Industry requesting comments/ additional inputs on the potential outcome documents for the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference on Dialogues on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics.

In this regard, hereunder are the Department's comments and recommendations, for your consideration.

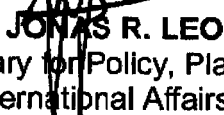
Action Bullet	DENR Comments
Shared Principles (Bullet No. 6) Continuing efforts in exploring the interlinkages of plastic pollution of trade in other areas.	The DENR recognizes the direct and indirect linkage of " human dimension " with plastic pollution. We suggest the word to be explicitly mentioned in the statement. In particular human need to change their behavior towards the environment especially on plastics where interventions are very much needed.
Actions (Bullet No. 1) - Transparency Improve transparency, monitoring and understanding of trade flows across the full life cycle of plastics, including flows of plastics embedded in or associated with internationally traded goods, including through the actions listed in Annex [X].	We propose to improve transparency on the volume of recyclable collected by the informal waste sectors and it should be part of the overall waste diversion and as input to circular economy.
Actions (Bullet No. 2) - Technical assistance and capacity building – needs identified Address trade-related capacity building and technical assistance needs of	We propose providing technical and financial capability building for the informal waste sector groups in developing countries to enhance proper accounting of wastes especially plastic wastes and at the

<p>developing members, least developed members and SIDS, such as those listed in Annex [X], including through the implementation of Aid for Trade to address plastic pollution and to launch a mechanism to match funding opportunities with specific needs identified by developing members, particularly LDCs and SIDS, to implement trade-related policies and measures to tackle plastic pollution.</p>	<p>same time to improve their working conditions.</p> <p>We also suggest the inclusion of CEPA Program/ IEC strategy for longtime solution which aims to foster collective responsibility of all sectors of society towards plastic pollution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The program/strategy should outline key priority areas to educate and raise the awareness of the communities on the plastic pollution and the dangers it causes if mismanaged.</i>
<p>Actions (Bullet No. 4) - Reduction – practices</p> <p>Promote trade-related cooperation, including through implementing trade-related measures such as those listed in Annex [X], to address the environmental, social and health impacts and leakage associated with primary plastics, polymers, additives and plastics products.</p>	<p>It is recommended to include the abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gears (ALDFGs) / “ghost gear” / “derelict fishing gear” in the specific goods listed in Annex (X) of this Action (Bullet 4).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The ghost gears are made from polypropylene, high density polyethylene or nylon. It is important also to manage ALDFGs because these are major contributor to marine plastic pollution impacting aquatic animals, entering the food web and ultimately humans. The local communities of WTO members should have waste Reception Facilities for this kind of plastic pollutions.</i>
<p>Actions (Bullet No. 5) Promotion – alternatives and substitutes and other relevant goods, services and technologies</p> <p>Promote trade, including through implementing trade-related measures such as those listed in Annex [X], that contributes to ending plastic pollution and results in safe circularity, including trade in environmentally sustainable, safe, and effective non-plastic substitutes and environmentally sustainable, safe, and effective plastic alternatives and re-use, repair and re-fill systems such as those listed in Annex [X], with a focus on those of interest to WTO Members, in particular developing</p>	<p>In terms of technology, aside from recycling, the DENR as a whole sees the Waste to Energy (WTE) technology as a cleaner and more sustainable alternative to the traditional sanitary landfill which is the disposal method allowed under the Philippines’ Ecological Solid Waste Management Act. WTE can be applicable to other developing members like Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).</p>

members, including SIDS, and least developed members, and opportunities for their MSMEs.	
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Thank you.

Very truly yours,


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES
Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and
International Affairs

cc: Office of the Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN

MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Climate Change Service
Environmental Management Bureau

FROM : **The OIC Director**
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **FIRST DRAFT OF THE POSSIBLE OUTCOME DOCUMENTS
FOR 13TH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DIALOGUE
ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY
SUSTAINABLE PLASTIC**

DATE : **12 SEP 2023**

This has reference to the letter dated 08 September 2023 from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), requesting comments and additional inputs on the potential outcome documents for the 13 WTO Ministerial Conference on Dialogue on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastic (**Annex A**).

Please be informed that Geneva WTO-PM and the DTI provided their proposed inputs and edits on the Shared Principles and Action as reflected in Annex B. Considering that DPP is expected to play a complementary role and feed into the Intergovernmental Negotiations Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on Plastics pollution, as well as with other relevant processes. We viewed that there should be a continued synergy in the Philippine position on the plastic-related initiatives the Philippines is part of.

Likewise, as an additional reference, you may view the UNCTAD's report on "*Plastic Pollution: The Pressing Case for Natural and Environmentally Friendly Substitutes to Plastics*" and UNEP's policy paper on "*Turning off the Tap: How the World Can End Plastics Pollution and Create a Circular Economy*", using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2u5mkk9v>

In this regard, we would like to request your comments/inputs on the possible outcome document for the MC 13. We hope to receive an advance copy of your responses **on or before 15 September 2023** through our email address: psddivision@gmail.com copy furnish policy@denr.gov.ph.

For your information and preferential action, please.


CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL



[URGENT: For inputs – Deadline by 16 February 2024] MC13 Statement of the Dialogue on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (ZWTO-44-2024)

1 message

Kareen Hope A. Eltagon <KareenHopeEltagon@dti.gov.ph>

Wed, Feb 14, 2024 at 8:15 AM

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Cc: Norma Serra Arpafo <NormaArpafo@dti.gov.ph>, "Raissa Z. Faminial" <RaissaFaminial@dti.gov.ph>, "Shaira Steffany B. Granada" <ShairaSteffanyGranada@dti.gov.ph>, "BITR WTO Desk" <bitrwtodesk@dti.gov.ph>

Sent on behalf of the TRM-TCWM Technical Secretariat

Dear Sir/Madame:

Further to ZWTO-264-2023 and ZWTO-290-2023, kindly find attached the report from the Philippine Mission to the WTO in Geneva on the revised 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13) Statement (**Annex A**) and Factual Compilation (**Annex B**) of the Dialogue on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (ZWTO-44-2024 dated 12 February 2024).

We thank the BOI, DA, DENR, NEDA-ANRES and DTI-BITR for providing inputs/comments when the first draft was circulated in September 2023. Following the inputs received, the Mission alongside like-minded co-sponsors pushed to maintain language on technical assistance with trade-specific needs of developing Members, cooperation on trade to promote non-plastic substitutes, plastic alternatives, re-use, repair and refill, and services and technology for transparency, waste management and clean-up activities, and cooperation to control the transboundary movement of plastic pollution, among others.

Given the concerns of several members, it was clarified that the Factual Compilations (Annex B) are non-binding on co-sponsors. A disclaimer was now included that "the factual compilations do not imply an endorsement of any particular Member practice and do not affect the regulatory framework and practices of each Member."

In view of the above, we would like to request the member agencies to review and provide inputs, if any, on Annexes A and B. Due to the urgency of the request, we would appreciate receiving your inputs **on or before 16 February 2024**. Should we not receive any adverse comments on the documents on or before the deadline, we will take it as an indication that the Philippines can co-sponsor the statement. For queries, you may coordinate with the TCWM Secretariat through email at RaissaFaminial@dti.gov.ph, ShairaSteffanyGranada@dti.gov.ph and KareenHopeEltagon@dti.gov.ph.

Thank you.

Best regards,
TCWM Secretariat

Kareen Hope A. ELTAGON (Ms)

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5 attachments

 **Annex A_DPP MC13 Statement.pdf**
105K

 **Annex B_Factual Compilations_DPP MC13 Statements.pdf**
173K

 **ZWTO-44-2024_MC13 Statement of the Dialogue on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade.pdf**
1493K

 **ZWTO-264-2023_Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP) Outcome for MC13.pdf**
11453K

 **ZWTO-290-2023_Pre-Plenary Meeting of the DPP, 21 September 2023.pdf**
1189K