



## MEMORANDUM

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

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

**SUBJECT :** UPDATES ON THE COALITION OF TRADE MINISTERS ON CLIMATE

**DATE :** 30 MAY 2024

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This has reference to the electronic mail dated 27 May 2024 from the Department of Trade and Industry – Bureau of International and Trade Relations, transmitting the report from the Philippine Mission to the World Trade Organization in Geneva (PM – WTO) regarding the updates on the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate highlighting the following:

1. Summary of the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Coalition held on 25 February 2024, including a compilation of written statements by Members;
2. Summary of the Roundtable on Trade, Climate, and Finance held in Davos, Switzerland on 17 January 2024;
3. Summary of the Senior Officials Meeting held on 20 October 2023; and
4. Draft Agenda for the Contact Points meeting in June.

Please be informed that in preparation for the next meeting of Coalition Contact Points scheduled on 18 June 2024, the Coalition secretariat has launched a survey attached as **Annex A** to solicit views on the possible action/s following the adoption of the Menu of Voluntary Actions (**Annex B**). The survey includes a comment box for suggestions on the next steps that could be taken, including where members are ready to champion a particular action.

Additionally, the PM – WTO is also requesting guidance from the Technical Committee on WTO-related Matters (TCWM) on possible concrete deliverables or dedicated discussions that could be pursued as part of the Coalition's work. It may be recalled that in the previous Coalition meetings, the Philippines has highlighted the following areas for possible engagement:

1. Recognition of price and non-price trade-related environment measures;
2. Explore benchmarks for regulatory reform that will improve alignment in terms of licensing and permitting processes;


3. Consider voluntary liberalization measures on trade and investment aligned to APEC's list of Environmental Goods and Services;
4. Engage with the private sector on voluntary licensing arrangements to support energy transitions; and
5. Encourage engagement in conformity assessment to support mutual recognition arrangements on environmental goods under existing FTAs or GSP schemes.

In this regard, we would like to request your inputs on 1) the **Coalition Survey** with initial inputs from the DTI – BITR (Annex A) and 2) the suggestions for possible concrete deliverables and discussions of the Coalition. We would appreciate receiving your responses **on or before 05 June 2024** through the following email addresses: [psddivision@gmail.com](mailto:psddivision@gmail.com) and/or [policy@denr.gov.ph](mailto:policy@denr.gov.ph).

For your information and consideration, please.

  
CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL, *EnP.*

## Survey of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate

Question	Response	Suggestion on Next Steps To Be Taken
Identify possible actions from the Menu of Voluntary Actions <sup>1</sup> that are of particular interest to the Philippines as a focus for cooperation and collective action.	1. Item 1: Continue to break silos by fostering joint and inclusive Ministerial-level dialogue between trade, climate and finance Ministers. <del>DTI:BITR</del>	PH welcomes the <i>Roundtable on Trade, Climate and Finance</i> held at the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland on 17 January 2024. The Coalition may explore organizing this roundtable regularly at the sidelines of the WEF. <del>DTI:BITR</del>
	2. Item 3: Actively engage in the WTO on the nexus of trade, climate and sustainable development. <del>DTI:BITR</del>	PH would welcome discussions and thematic sessions on the transfer of goods and technologies that support climate adaptation and mitigation. <del>DTI:BITR</del>
	3. xxx	
	4. xxx	
Positive examples of actions that the Philippines is already taking with other countries/partners on the trade, climate and sustainable development agenda, which could be showcased at COP29 or other Coalition engagements as a contribution to the global climate agenda.	1. The Philippines was selected as one of the seven (7) beneficiary countries of the EU Project on Climate Competitiveness which will be managed and implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC). The project will run for one (1) year beginning April 2024. The project's overall objective is to strengthen climate resilience and improve the low carbon transition path of the beneficiary countries. Specifically, the project aims to assist the Philippines in utilizing trade as a tool to meet objectives related to decarbonization and build resilience and adaptation to climate change. It will also assist government policymakers and MSMEs in	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Coalition may invite the ITC on one of its meetings/sessions to share information on the EU Project and its beneficiaries, as well as other initiatives of the ITC on trade and environment nexus. <del>DTI:BITR</del></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The Coalition's Menu of Voluntary Actions is accessible at [https://www.tradeministersonclimate.org/files/uq/d/214b22\\_9885273308e249bea67d94f6b4c21aae.pdf](https://www.tradeministersonclimate.org/files/uq/d/214b22_9885273308e249bea67d94f6b4c21aae.pdf) and attached as Annex B.

	<p>addressing sustainability requirements and potential barriers to trade. Under the Project, there will be three (3) results areas, including (1) Raising the awareness of stakeholders on trade and environment nexus and identifying their needs; (2) Providing the capacity building activities to stakeholders; and (3) Submission of report to the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment. <b>[DTI:BITR]</b></p>	
	<p>2. xxx</p>	
	<p>3. xxx</p>	



### MENU OF VOLUNTARY ACTIONS

In line with the Coalition's principles of cooperation, inclusivity, transparency and leadership, and the priorities identified in the Coalition Launch Statement, the Coalition members intend to draw from the following menu of voluntary trade-related actions at the Ministerial level to address the climate crisis as and when appropriate:

1. **Continue to break silos by fostering joint and inclusive Ministerial-level dialogue** between trade, climate and finance Ministers.
2. **Calls for action on the nexus of trade, climate and sustainable development**, during appropriate occasions, including at the WTO Ministerial Conferences or the UN Climate Change Conferences.
3. **Actively engage in the WTO on the nexus of trade, climate and sustainable development**, including through exchanges in relevant WTO bodies and initiatives as well as the Trade Policy Review mechanism. This may include engagement on domestic climate measures relevant to trade; incentivising sustainable production practices through non-distortionary trade policies; sharing practices on dissemination of climate technologies; or examples of how trade agreements can contribute to the global response to the climate crisis.
4. **Support developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable, including least developed countries, small island developing states, and landlocked developing countries**, through trade-related technical assistance, capacity building and Aid for Trade, to engage in international settings and foster joint activities that support their efforts and recognize their needs, including those of small, vulnerable economies, to develop trade and climate strategies and policies, that support climate adaptation and fair and just transitions toward climate-resilient development.
5. **Encourage cooperation on trade-related climate action in international organizations or intergovernmental initiatives<sup>1</sup> and meetings**. Members highlighted additional themes of interest at trade and climate interface for possible cooperation, such as: renewable energy access and transitions, green hydrogen, biotrade/economy, sustainable fisheries, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable food systems, natural disasters, climate change resilience, nature conservation, and interlinkages with other environmental challenges, such as pollution and biodiversity loss, among others.
6. **Engage on good regulatory practices and international standards setting** to help decarbonisation efforts, including on the methods to measure embodied carbon content in internationally traded goods.
7. **Engage with private sector leaders on climate action**, including with micro, small and medium size enterprises (MSMEs) with a view to promote women's empowerment, identify actions that can drive decarbonization efforts and contribute to the development of sustainable, transparent and resilient supply chains for climate adaptation and mitigation.
8. **Explore how trade can further help climate action by identifying synergies** between the work of various multilateral, plurilateral, regional and bilateral trade initiatives that work on facilitating dissemination, accessibility and uptake of goods, services and technologies that support climate mitigation and adaptation.

Ministers instruct the contact points of the Coalition to identify the most promising opportunities and further steps that can be taken in pursuit of these actions.

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<sup>1</sup> E.g. World Trade Organization, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Conference for Trade and Development, World Intellectual Property Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, World Customs Organization, International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, International Organization on Standardization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, The Latin American Integration Association, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, the Climate Vulnerable Forum, the Global Centre on Adaptation, G20, and the G7.



## [For inputs – Deadline by 10 June 2024] Updates on the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate (ZWTO-157-2024)

1 message

**Kareen Hope A. Eltagon** <KareenHopeEltagon@dti.gov.ph> Mon, May 27, 2024 at 10:34 AM  
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*Sent on behalf of the TRM-TCWM Technical Secretariat*

Dear Sir/Madame:

Please find attached the report from the Philippine Mission to the WTO in Geneva which provided the pertinent documents on the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate (ZWTO-157-2024) as follows:

1. Summary of the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Coalition held on 25 February 2024, including a compilation of written statements by Members;
2. Summary of the *Roundtable on Trade, Climate and Finance* held in Davos, Switzerland on 17 January 2024;
3. Summary of the Senior Officials Meeting held on 20 October 2023; and
4. Draft Agenda for the Contact Points meeting in June.

The next meeting of Coalition Contact Points is scheduled on 18 June 2024, at 01:15-02:45 pm (CET) at the Geneva Graduate Institute. A survey (**Annex A**) was launched by the Coalition Secretariat in preparation for the meeting to solicit views on the possible action/s following the adoption of the Menu of Voluntary Actions (**Annex B**). The DTI-BITR has provided preliminary inputs on Annex A.

We reiterate the Mission's request for guidance on possible concrete deliverables or dedicated discussions that could be pursued as part of the Coalition's work. It may be recalled that in the previous Coalition meetings, the Philippines has highlighted the following areas for possible engagement:

- Recognition of price and non-price trade-related environment measures;
- Explore benchmarks for regulatory reform that will improve alignment in terms of licensing and permitting processes;
- Consider voluntary liberalization measures on trade and investment aligned to APEC's list of Environmental Goods and Services;
- Engage with private sector on voluntary licensing arrangements to support energy transitions; and
- Encourage engagement on conformity assessment to support mutual recognition arrangements on environmental goods under existing FTAs or GSP schemes.

In view of the above, we kindly request the relevant agencies to provide inputs on the Coalition survey (Annex A) and on the suggestions for possible concrete deliverables and discussions of the Coalition on or before **10 June 2024**. For queries, please coordinate with the DTI-BITR TCWM Secretariat at [RaissaFaminial@dti.gov.ph](mailto:RaissaFaminial@dti.gov.ph) and [KareenHopeEltagon@dti.gov.ph](mailto:KareenHopeEltagon@dti.gov.ph), copy [JanRedmondDelaVega@dti.gov.ph](mailto:JanRedmondDelaVega@dti.gov.ph).

Thank you.

Best regards,  
TCWM Secretariat



**KAREEN HOPE A. ELTAGON (Ms.)**

*Trade-Industry Development Specialist*

Multilateral Relations Division – Bureau of International Trade Relations

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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**3 attachments**

-  **ZWTO-157-2024\_Updates on the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate.pdf**  
2181K
-  **Annex A\_Survey of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate.pdf**  
96K
-  **Annex B\_Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate Menu of Voluntary Actions.pdf**  
86K



To: SFA  
Fr: Geneva WTO  
Dt: 22 May 2024  
Re: **Updates on the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate**  
Rt: OUMAIER, OIER, UNIO  
Cc: Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry  
Secretary of the Department of Agriculture  
Director General of the National Economic & Development Authority  
Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Chair of the Technical Committee on WTO Matters (TCWM)  
Cn: ZWTO-157-2024  
Pgs: 24 including this page

Mission respectfully transmits the following reports of the Trade Ministers on Climate meetings held this year:

1. Summary of the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Coalition held on 25 February 2024, with a compilation of written statements;
2. Summary of the Roundtable on Trade, Climate and Finance in Davos held on 17 January 2024;
3. Summary of the Senior Officials' Meeting held on 20 October 2023; and
4. Draft Agenda for the Contact Points meeting.

Mission would note that the next Coalition Contact Points meeting is scheduled on **18 June 2024, from 13h15 to 14h45**, at the Geneva Graduate Institute. Mission would note that a survey has been launched by the Coalition Secretariat, which aims to:

a) identify possible actions from the Menu that are of particular interest to your Minister as a focus for cooperation and collective action. The survey includes a comment box for suggestions on next steps that could be taken, including where members are ready to champion a particular action.

b) gather positive examples of actions that Members are already taking with other countries/partners on the trade, climate and sustainable development agenda, which could be showcased at COP29 or other Coalition engagements as a contribution to the global climate agenda.

Mission would appreciate guidance on possible concrete deliverables or dedicated discussions that could be pursued as part of the Coalition's work. Mission would note that in previous meetings, the Philippines has highlighted the following areas for possible engagement:

- Recognition of price and non-price trade-related environment measures;
- Explore benchmarks for regulatory reform that will improve alignment in terms of licensing and permitting processes;
- Consider voluntary liberalization measures on trade and investment aligned to APEC's list of Environmental Goods and Services;



- Engage with private sector on voluntary licensing arrangements to support energy transitions; and
- Encourage engagement on conformity assessment to support mutual recognition arrangements on environmental goods under existing FTAs or GSP schemes.

For the Department's and TCWM's consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MAGN', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**MANUEL A.J. TEEHANKEE**  
*Ambassador and Permanent Representative*



**Second Ministerial Meeting  
25 February 2024**

**Meeting Summary**

**Introduction**

The Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate (the Coalition) convened its second Ministerial meeting in the margins of the thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Abu Dhabi. The Ministerial meeting marked a pivotal moment as it brought together the largest diversity of Coalition Ministers to date. In total, the meeting was attended by trade Ministers, vice Ministers and ambassadors representing 45 of the 61 Coalition Ministers.

The Ministerial meeting opened with welcome remarks from the co-leads, including updates on the Coalition activities in 2023 and the outlook for 2024. In their remarks, the co-leads welcomed three new members to the Coalition – Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Morocco – and emphasized that a unique contribution of the Coalition lies in its diversity. The co-leads noted the progress of the Coalition over its first year, emphasizing the value of communicating the importance of international cooperation on the nexus of trade, climate, and sustainable development, providing a consistent voice in different fora, and highlighting the urgency of a positive trade contribution to the climate crisis. The co-leads also highlighted the key activities of the Coalition in its first year, including the Coalition’s presence at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) through a roundtable on the importance of Shaping Ministerial Leadership and Collective Action for Trade and Climate Change as well as a dialogue with the experts and stakeholders from the climate community on their perspectives on trade priorities. In addition, they reported on the Coalition’s first-ever dialogue between trade, finance, and climate Ministers in the margins of the 54th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos along with a meeting with the Alliance of the CEO climate leaders.

Overall, the co-leads conveyed that a core value of the Coalition lies in sending a unified message on the urgent need to tackle the climate crisis and the important role that trade and trade-related cooperation can play in that effort. The co-leads encouraged members to maintain momentum by taking action on the Voluntary Menu of Actions, including by supporting positive climate outcomes at MC13, and underlined their commitment to working with members to realize concrete actions in 2024.

The co-leads also thanked the Director-General of the World Trade Organization for her support for the Coalition and her leadership on the first edition of the Trade Day and the Trade House Pavilion at the COP28. The WTO Director provided guest remarks, during which she highlighted examples of trade tools that could be used to support climate action, the WTO’s support for the Coalition, and the importance of the Coalition’s support for ongoing work at the WTO on trade and climate.

**Roundtable of Ministers<sup>1</sup>**

During the Roundtable of Ministers, a broad range of Ministers and heads of delegations shared reflections on Ministerial priorities and endorsed the Menu of Voluntary Actions (the Menu).

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<sup>1</sup> This summary reflects views expressed by Coalition members at the Second Ministerial meeting. For reference, Annex 1 compiles those written statements shared by members with the Coalition Secretariat after the meeting. Further additions to the compilation of statements are welcome and can be added to an updated version.

Many Ministers spoke in favour of coordinated efforts and underlined the urgency of collective responses to tackle climate change and its impacts at the global level. Many Ministers emphasised the Coalition's value as a space for high-level discussions, political guidance, and direction, highlighting the importance of leadership and trust at the highest political levels. A range of Ministers stressed the need for coordination of efforts to tackle climate challenges through trade policy, fostering joint and inclusive political dialogues toward common goals, and exploring new and innovative approaches. Highlighting regional and economic diversity as key strengths of the Coalition, the voluntary Menu was noted as a useful roadmap to foster concrete actions and tangible, impactful outcomes that reflect the Coalition's principles and as a launch pad for deeper conversations.

In their remarks, Ministers highlighted the important role the Coalition can play in conveying a unified and consistent political message in a range of international processes on the urgency of tackling the climate crisis and the contribution that trade and trade policies can play in that effort. Several Ministers noted the importance of raising the visibility of the trade community in climate policy settings, such as through the Trade Day at the UNFCCC COP, and of highlighting trade and trade-related cooperation as part of the solution. The forthcoming COP 16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity was also identified as an opportunity for the Coalition to spotlight the importance of trade-related cooperation on climate and biodiversity goals.

Many Ministers emphasised the importance of active engagement and proactive support for ongoing work at the WTO on the nexus of trade, climate, and sustainable development, including enhancing the deliberative function of the WTO, revitalising discussions in the WTO Committee on Trade and the Environment, and advancing discussions on climate in member-led environment initiatives. A number of Ministers spoke of the importance of developing practical, concrete outcomes at the WTO that support the common purpose of an enhanced global climate response.

Several Ministers supported continuing the Coalition's work to break down silos by promoting dialogue on the nexus of trade, finance and climate and identifying opportunities for collective and inclusive action. Various Ministers called for identifying opportunities for collaboration with development and private sector partners on transition and trade-related finance and to foster the role of trade policies as multiplier for spurring green investment in new technologies, strategies for climate mitigation and adaptation, and just energy transitions. Some members highlighted the need for comprehensive approaches that include scaling up climate finance, reforming the multilateral financial system, debt swaps, and boosting investment in climate action and resilience.

Recognizing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable developing economies, a range of members emphasised the importance of support for developing and least developed countries, small island developing states and small vulnerable economies in their development of trade and climate strategies that support adaptation, climate change resilience and responses to natural disasters, including through trade-related technical assistance, capacity building and Aid for Trade. To ensure fair and just transitions in the context of global efforts to achieve climate goals, several Ministers underlined the need to duly take into account the needs of developing countries in the Coalition's work and to build bridges between developed and developing countries so that no one is left behind. Some called for greater recognition of all three dimensions of sustainable development, the needs of LDCs, and the specific challenges facing countries that depend on carbon intensive exports but are committed to decarbonization.

Coalition members highlighted interest in cooperation on specific themes of trade-related climate action. Several members highlighted the importance of trade-related cooperation on renewable energy access and transitions as well as on the critical materials vital to the energy transition and development strategies of many Coalition members. Some members underlined their efforts and interests in scaling up clean energy sources, including solar and wind power as well as hydrogen, with

several noting the importance of technology transfer for energy transitions. Several members called for cooperation to discipline global support for fossil fuels and to address environmentally harmful agricultural subsidies. Emphasising links between the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and nature conservation, some members stressed the need for trade-related climate action and cooperation that is nature positive, promotes resilience, and addresses the impacts of natural disasters. Several members noted that this work could be pursued through a range of different international settings and in collaboration with other relevant intergovernmental initiatives.

With respect to good regulatory practices and international standards to support decarbonization efforts, members highlighted the importance of cooperation on trade-related policies and measures, including on trade-supportive approaches to carbon leakage, the development of carbon markets, and standards for measurement of carbon emissions associated with internationally-traded goods. There were also calls for deeper cooperation on the design of trade-related climate measures and policies to avoid unnecessary trade barriers, including through information-sharing on best practices, noting that developing countries have success stories to share on best practices and policies. Several members underlined the importance of multilateral cooperation to ensure that measures taken in response to the climate crisis do not undermine the rules-based trading system. Other themes of interest included designing positive trade incentives to support climate goals while promoting the transition to more sustainable development, including preferential market access arrangements.

To inform the work of the Coalition, various members stressed the importance of continuing to consult and engage with private sector leaders and external stakeholders, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). In addition, they noted the need for partnerships that can accelerate climate action and create positive incentives for decarbonisation and resilient supply chains that support climate mitigation and adaptation, and climate-resilient development.

Finally, several members highlighted the need for enhanced cooperation to foster the diffusion, development, accessibility, and uptake of climate-related goods, services, and technologies. This included suggestions related to cooperation on R&D, the dissemination of goods, services and technologies that support climate adaptation and mitigation, and on a “menu” or reference list of climate-related goods and services for trade facilitation and promotion. Several members noted the importance of promoting trade and investment in clean energy sources, cleaner technologies, and lower-emission goods. Others emphasised the importance of cooperation to keep supply chains open and stable in order to support the rollout of low-carbon technologies and enhance circularity. Finally, several members noted the importance of identifying synergies among different initiatives and processes, including by sharing experiences on the development of path-finding initiatives.



**Second Ministerial Meeting  
25 February 2024**

**Compilation of Written Statements Received<sup>2</sup>**

**1. AUSTRALIA**

Australia recognises the urgency of addressing the climate crisis, and we are committed to working with others to scale up global action.

We are building clean energy industries that underpin our own transition and support our trading partners on their respective decarbonization pathways. Australia's renewable energy superpower ambitions are tied to our ability to be competitive in new and diversified export markets, such as critical minerals and green hydrogen.

We firmly believe trade must be part of the solution to the climate crisis. This Coalition has an important role here. We need to use the multilateral rules-based trading system to help achieve our climate objectives without compromising our open trade objectives.

We want the WTO to be at the forefront of tackling the trade and climate nexus in order to ensure that measures taken in response to the climate crisis don't undermine the rules-based trading system. Australia is pushing for strong reform outcomes at MC13 to better equip the WTO to tackle global trade challenges like this, including through our discussion on trade and sustainable development.

We support the Coalition's MC13 Ministerial communiqué and its commitment to advance discussions on trade and climate at the WTO and other multilateral fora. We endorse the recognition of WTO committees and plurilateral initiatives for their role in addressing this crisis.

Australia endorses the voluntary framework of actions for the Coalition. We should focus on providing political direction and guidance to bolster cooperation on difficult areas of policy. Two important areas for us are addressing the harmful environmental impacts of agricultural subsidies and developing cooperative and trade-supportive approaches to carbon leakage. We also want to hear from developing members on how the Coalition can best support them.

We look forward to working together to provide political momentum to address the challenging nexus of trade, climate change and sustainable development.

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<sup>2</sup> This compilation gathers statements received in writing from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, EU, Fiji, Iceland, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Mozambique, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, United States of America, Uruguay, and the WTO Director General (as guest speaker). Further additions to the compilation of statements are welcome and can be added to an updated version.

## **2. CANADA**

Thank you very much, Co-Chairs. Let me begin by thanking the co-chairs for this really important work and for your leadership. It's really great to see the DG here as well. And I suppose it's actually quite appropriate for Canada to start the first meeting of MC 13 on the coalition of trade Ministers on climate. We have a saying in Canada, and that saying in Canada goes like the environment and the economy indeed go hand in hand, and how apropos that we're having this conversation.

Canada of course is committed to ensuring that trade and environmental protection is mutually supportive of each other. And through the years, environmental considerations are very much weaved into the trade agreements that we have on our books. But we know that there is much more to do.

We are supportive of the coalition's framework on the voluntary actions to enhance our dialogue advocating for proactive engagement on climate change adaptation and mitigation and we very much look forward to working with members so that we can share best practices, align our capabilities, and emphasize the value of sharing this information and working together in an effort to achieve a greener economy.

So, I think the work that is being done by the coalition and congratulations for bringing in 60 members and I hope many, many more will join this nexus between trade and finance and climate is one which we all across the globe need to tackle whether this is in the resiliency of our supply chains or to tackle the effects of climate and that trade becomes a real part of that solution.

It's terrific to see the menu that is here because the last point I would make is that it's very practical and very pragmatic and I think that all of us can see ourselves choosing some or all or even one of these actions in an effort to keep doing this work, which ultimately is about the future of our economy, the future of our people, and fighting something that is just so important to the globe, and that is climate change. So, thank you very much. I look forward to working with all of you. Minister, thank you.

## **3. COLOMBIA**

I want to start by expressing my appreciation for the statement presented. However, considering the founding principles of our coalition to combat the climate crisis - cooperation, inclusion, leadership, and transparency - I believe it is necessary to be more ambitious in our actions.

On cooperation: The WTO must be subordinate to the decisions of the COP [UNFCCC], reflecting advantages for countries that depend on exports but are committed to decarbonization. A new cooperation should go beyond mere provision of funds from North to South; it implies support for reforming the multilateral financial system and allowing climate economic instruments, such as debt swaps, reflecting recognition of the South's contribution to oxygen, water, and biodiversity.

We need a scale change; the \$100 million that has been promised and not granted are not enough, at least 30 times more is needed than that. During the decarbonization process, countries dependent on oil and coal exports need compensation for lost benefits.

For example, Colombia faces considerable but achievable costs to meet its climate objectives, which would also generate economic benefits. Estimates suggest that an investment package to promote resilience and carbon neutrality would require an additional \$92 billion, representing 1.2% of Colombia's discounted cumulative GDP for the 2030-2050 period. Trade rules should support us in this process.

On inclusion: Consider the economic needs of the least developed countries. Address all three dimensions of sustainable development, especially the social and environmental aspects. More dialogue on trade, peace, and social justice should be encouraged to ensure equitable representation of all communities affected by conflicts. It is essential to promote the participation of women in national and local decision-making processes.

On leadership: Lead by example and do not impose unilateral protectionist measures with false environmental objectives. Colombia has decided not to contract more oil and gas as part of our commitment to decarbonization. Encourage global initiatives such as the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Fossil Fuel Subsidies project at the WTO.

On transparency: Do not hide the truth in forums and remain open to discussions: allow discussion of the relevance of [Climate] COPs and their decisions, and of technology transfer as an effective tool for energy transition. Recognize the responsibility of the North in carbon production (i.e., the United States produces 15 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita, China 8, the EU 8, Switzerland 4, and Colombia 2). Promotion and invitation for members to participate in COP16 [of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity].

#### **4. COSTA RICA**

Costa Rica appreciates the co-leads' efforts in organizing this meeting and putting together these documents. I would like to make some general reflections on Costa Rica's views.

We agree on the importance of having a high-level dialogue, like this Coalition, to address the challenges that developing countries, and particularly LDCs, face related to the climate crisis. However, it is also important to recognize that developing countries can also share success stories on best practices and policies on how trade has become an instrument for economic growth, well-being and environmental sustainability.

Almost two years ago, when this Coalition was launched, Costa Rica stressed that *"Developing countries and LDC's face very different realities in terms of adaptation and implementation of trade-related climate measures or policies, so further and deeper cooperation in the design of these policies among all parties involved is desirable"*. Today, our vision remains unchanged.

Costa Rica is not indifferent to the diversity that exists among us, and we also believe the small island developing states have specific challenges and vulnerabilities in terms of climate adaptation and mitigation. That requires our engagement and compromise in terms of creating spaces for further cooperation, that even among us, developing countries, can be enhanced.

However, we need to reflect on the kind of vulnerabilities this Coalition is willing to take on. At the same time, we should consider that through trade and investment policies we can contribute to providing solutions to countries at all levels of development.

Thank you for your time and attention.

#### **5. ECUADOR**

Today, as we gather in the spirit of collaboration and shared purpose, Ecuador proudly welcomes both current and potential new members of the Coalition. It's a moment to recognize the pivotal leadership of our co-leads: the Trade Ministers from Kenya, New Zealand, and the European Union. Their vision and determination are the guiding lights on our path toward integrating climate action with trade.



Hosting our second Ministerial meeting here is not just an honor; it represents a significant step forward in our collective journey towards climate resilience. This meeting is a testament to our shared commitment to not only talk about change but to enact it through concrete actions and proposals from the trade perspective.

We are moving beyond mere declarations to implement our Statement with tangible, impactful initiatives that embody a collaborative and holistic approach to the climate crisis.

The challenges we face are manifold. Climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss form a triad of crises that demand an urgent, collective, and coordinated response from the global community. This is particularly crucial for developing and least developed countries, small vulnerable economies, and small island developing states, which bear the brunt of these environmental challenges. Our gathering here underscores the pressing need to address these issues head-on, with both ethical consideration and economic pragmatism.

As trade Ministers, we are uniquely positioned to influence global policy in ways that can lead to sustainable economic growth while addressing pressing environmental concerns. It's our responsibility to deliver results that not only drive economic prosperity but also ensure sustainability. Ecuador is committed to leading by example, actively seeking ways in which trade Ministers can enhance their support for an effective collective global response to these challenges.

Leadership and trust at the highest political levels are indispensable for achieving our goals. They are the bedrock upon which we can build shared understandings of the intricate challenges at the intersection of trade and climate. Through fostering effective and just transitions, we can pave the way for cooperation on trade and trade policies that bolster ambitious climate action.

I am happy that today, 61 Ministers of a diversity of economies are endorsing our Ministerial communiqué, together with our menu of actions. We are advancing in our collective tasks and leveraging political dialogue towards common goals.

Our vision for a coalition of trade Ministers is rooted in the belief that a competitive economy and a sustainable future are inextricably linked. An economy that prioritizes sustainability and inclusiveness is more resilient, more innovative, and better equipped to face the challenges of tomorrow.

As we move forward, we are eager to hear your proposals. It's time to position our collective messages to emphasize that trade, the environment, and sustainable development play crucial roles not just at MC13 but well into the future. By considering how leaders from diverse backgrounds can address the undeniable nexus of trade, climate, finance, and sustainable development, we can unlock new opportunities for progress.

This meeting has served as a beacon of hope and a call to action. Together, let's envision and work towards a future where trade policies are fully aligned with our global climate goals, where economic growth goes hand in hand with environmental stewardship, and where every nation, regardless of size or wealth, can enjoy the fruits of sustainable development.

## **6. EUROPEAN UNION**

Honourable Ministers, Director General, Excellencies,

I would like to also extend a warm welcome to new members and all of you to this meeting. It is remarkable and impressive to see such a diverse group of Ministers from all regions of the world, different levels of development, and climate vulnerabilities that share the same goal. This makes our Coalition unique.

The work of the Coalition reflects our shared belief that trade, and trade policy, can – and must – do more to tackle the global climate crisis and help the global transition to net zero. It is also clear we can only do it if we join our forces. This is why one of the key objectives for the inaugural year of the Coalition was to break silos and build bridges and partnerships with climate and finance communities and relevant stakeholders – to explore how best to foster climate action, the green transition, and climate-resilient development on the ground.

We have organized a first-ever dialogue between trade, finance, and climate Ministers in the margins of the World Economic Forum. The aim was to exchange ideas on how trade and finance can help deploy the necessary technologies and investments to achieve our climate mitigation and adaptation goals - for example, through trade-related finance – including for the most vulnerable countries. This dialogue needs to continue and grow.

As co-leads, we have organized several encounters with stakeholders. We have met the Alliance of the CEO climate leaders emphasized that supply chains need to be kept open and stable to roll out low-carbon technologies and that more public-private partnerships are needed to create positive incentives to decarbonize supply chains. These are objectives that we share, and which the Coalition will also work towards.

During the 28th UN Climate Change Conference, we met academia and stakeholders working on the trade and climate interface to hear their perspectives. Minister Umana Mendoza of Colombia has participated in the event organized by Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and her counterparts from other international organizations on the importance of Shaping Ministerial Leadership and Collective Action for Trade and Climate Change.

Allow me to also use this opportunity to thank the Director-General for her relentless commitment to organizing the historic first edition of the Trade Day at the COP, thereby affording us an invaluable platform to clearly showcase the role of the trade community in the fight against climate change.

The ideas we heard this year have been distilled in the voluntary actions we have outlined for all of us to take individually and collectively going forward. But before we turn to the discussion on strategic priorities led by [Minister McClay/Todd], let me invite Director General Ngozi to provide a few remarks from the perspective of the WTO. Director General, the floor is yours.

## **7. FIJI**

Honourable Ministers and Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Bula Vinaka and good morning to you.

At the outset, Fiji is a newcomer to the “Coalition of Climate Change” and we are excited to be part of this configuration. I acknowledge the leadership role of Ecuador, European Union, Kenya and New Zealand, in this regard.

Fiji, as a Pacific Island Country, are at the forefront of climate challenges which puts our vulnerable economies at risk, and for us, small island developing states (SIDS) climate change affects us disproportionately.

SIDS are the most vulnerable and we welcome and appreciate their inclusion in the Ministerial outcome. While facing the climate crisis is a major challenge for all stakeholders on all sides of the equation, there is no pragmatic, scientific, or even economic excuse for the lack of action achieved to date.

We need immediate and concerted action to reduce global emissions. Hence, we strongly believe that green, inclusive and resilient development is required and trade has a critical role to play, thus the support of our development partners is essential.

We need a breakthrough in our fight against climate change -we must translate our words into actions and deliver. Therefore, we endorse the Coalition Communique and framework of voluntary actions and we look forward to working with you all in achieving our climate change goals through this configuration.

In terms of voluntary commitments, I commit to push for the Pacific Groups ratification of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. In addition, I wish to also support the revitalization of climate discussions at the WTO committee on trade and environment and commit to supporting climate vulnerabilities for SIDS and efforts to address their sustainable trade concerns.

I thank you for giving me the floor. Thank you and vinaka.

## **8. ICELAND**

It is important that future economic growth ensures development that is robust, inclusive, and environmentally responsible. And we want to see a multilateral trading system that supports our common objectives to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is why we actively engage in environmentally focused trade negotiations and initiatives.

We are working to liberalize trade in environmental goods and services under the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainable Development. As well as disciplining harmful Subsidies to fossil fuels. We will never achieve our climate goals while global support for fossil fuels exceed that provided for renewable energy.

And let's not forget fisheries subsidies. You may think the fisheries negotiations are only about preserving the biological diversity of our oceans – which is, of course, a core objective. But there is a climate angle here too. Icelandic studies demonstrate that sustainable fisheries management systems incentivize efficient fishing and greatly reduce CO2 emissions per unit of catch.

So, wrapping up negotiations for the phase 2 Fish Agreement this week will benefit the sustainability of our Oceans but will also be good for the climate!

## **9. JAPAN**

We need to build a bridge between developed and developing countries, to make this world a better place in terms of climate. Japan would like to demonstrate that trade and climate change response are not mutually exclusive; rather, they are mutually complementary. I want to make three points in terms of voluntary action that Japan is ready to take.

One is on environmental goods and technologies, for example, hydrogen. Japan is trying to promote trade and investment in environmentally friendly goods, services and technologies, including hydrogen, which will become more important as a clean energy source in the future.

The second point is that we need to develop standards on some issues, and avoid unnecessary trade barriers caused by environmental protection measures. For example, how to measure carbon emissions during the production of internationally trade goods should be standardized to the extent possible.

The third point is that it is beneficial for each Member of this Coalition to engage in discussions on climate change and environmental sustainability, for example in the Committee on Trade and the Environment and other WTO bodies. These efforts will support the enhancement of the deliberative function of the WTO. Japan will actively participate in this discussion.

At MC13, starting tomorrow, I look forward to working with Coalition members to achieve meaningful outcomes in the area of trade and the environment.

#### **10. KENYA**

I wish to welcome you all to the Second Ministerial meeting of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate. This is my first meeting of the Coalition, and I am delighted to be here. I also wish to extend my gratitude to fellow co-leads and our experts for their tenacity in steering this initiative from its inception on the margins of MC 12, to the subsequent launch in January 2023, and the earnest preparations for our meeting today.

The Director-General of the WTO, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala's consistency in partnering with us under the Coalition's configuration is laudable, given the necessity for collaboration with key intergovernmental institutions to address the multifaceted dynamics of trade and climate.

In the wake of relentless outreach efforts, the membership of the Coalition has grown and reflects global diversity. I take this opportunity to officially welcome the new members who have joined us since the last Ministerial meeting – Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Morocco. We expect more Ministers to join us in the course of MC13.

The progress of the Coalition thus far has been remarkable, and it is growing to be a consistent political voice in different forums, communicating the nexus of trade and climate and calling for the urgency of responding to the climate crisis. As Kenya, we see it as the avenue to explore new and innovative approaches to cooperation and collective action by providing the space for high-level discussions and coordination of efforts to tackle climate challenges through trade policy.

I look forward to continued engagement with you all to promote trade-related contributions to climate mitigation, adaptation and climate-resilient development. We have the benefit of regional and economic diversity and a range of different approaches and possibilities. So, let us move this initiative to the desired level and contribute to the ongoing efforts, within and beyond the WTO, to provide solutions to the climate crisis.

#### **11. REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

First of all, I would like to thank our co-leads for organizing today's meeting. It is a pleasure to meet fellow Trade Ministers for discussions on climate change on the occasion of MC13.

Korea believes that coordination on members' policies and measures to tackle climate change as well as efforts to liberalize trade in environmental goods and services are important.

And I appreciate the co-leads for circulating the voluntary action menu that reflects member countries' positions. I believe that the document includes balanced and comprehensive details for cooperation.

Addressing climate change is a goal that goes beyond the single efforts of an individual country, and can only be achieved through collective action. As such, we believe international cooperation to this end is of the utmost importance.

Korea also emphasized the importance of the WTO becoming more proactive in responding to global environmental issues.

I hope today's adoption of the Communique will contribute to securing the WTO's relevance at addressing global challenges, and look forward to engaging in candid discussions on trade and environmental issues during the "Trade and Sustainable Development" Ministerial Conversation scheduled for tomorrow.

## **12. MOZAMBIQUE**

Thanks, Co-chairs for giving me the floor on this important Second Ministerial meeting. Mozambique congratulates the hard work done by the Co-Chairs since its launch of this important initiative on 19 January 2023. We also congratulate the new members who have joined this important initiative. My delegation would like to emphasize two main aspects:

The need for collective and inclusive action between the Ministers for the Environment, Trade and Finance. The urgency of coordinated measures to tackle the impact of climate change at the global level, and in particular in Least Developed Countries.

Ministers and Co-chairs, we would like to mention that the Government of Mozambique recently launched the Energy Transition Project during COP 28. Mozambique would like to reiterate that the energy transition requires large investments in new technologies, adaptation and building policies for green development. This shows our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. Finally, Mozambique supports the voluntary actions.

## **13. NEW ZEALAND**

*[Closing remarks]* Welcome again to the new members to the Coalition, including Morocco as well as Fiji and Papua New Guinea from New Zealand's own Pacific region.

Note excellent progress for the Coalition's first year. Encourage members to maintain momentum by taking action from the 'voluntary menu' of actions, including supporting positive climate outcomes at MC13. Note New Zealand's commitment to addressing the nexus of trade, climate change and sustainable development. Look forward to further concrete action in 2024, and to working with members.

## **14. NORWAY**

Norway would like to express its support and commitment to the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate and its efforts since the launch in 2023. We are pleased to welcome Morocco, Fiji and Papua New Guinea as new members.

We commend the co-leads for drafting the Ministerial Communiqué and the Menu of Voluntary Actions. Rather than expressing our priorities amongst the Menu of Voluntary Actions, we would like to share a few general reflections:

Firstly, we believe it's important that we duly take into account the needs of developing countries in this work.

Secondly, we think it's valuable that also external stakeholders and the private sector be involved and consulted as part of this process.

## **15. PHILIPPINES**

WTO Director-General Ngozi, Co-Leads, Ministers and Colleagues, a pleasant afternoon. First and foremost, I would like to commend the group for its strong commitment to help address climate change within the ambit of the Coalition. It has been a year since our launch and I agree that there is much work to be done. The Philippines broadly supports the endorsement of the Coalition's Framework of Voluntary Actions.

It is imperative that we continue our collective efforts to foster joint and inclusive dialogues on trade, climate and sustainable development. These collaborations can pave the way for innovative solutions that can help address the critical issues of our time.

We believe that the work of the Coalition complements the existing work at the WTO on trade and sustainable development. We would welcome discussions and thematic sessions on the transfer of goods and technologies that support climate adaptation and mitigation.

As one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, the Philippines applauds the Coalition's commitment to support developing and least developed countries, and small vulnerable economies in their trade and climate strategies. We must ensure a fair and just transition towards achieving our climate goals so that no one will be left behind.

The Philippines will continue its engagement in the Coalition and will work with other members to implement the Coalition's priorities.

## **16. SINGAPORE**

This Coalition represents an important and timely initiative. Trade can, and should, play an important role in advancing towards the goal of achieving net zero. Allow me to make three points from Singapore's perspective.

First, Singapore welcomes the *Menu of Voluntary Actions*, which provides a useful compilation of actions that Members can take. Singapore would suggest that we build upon the significant work that has already been done on this front and facilitate trade in environmental goods and services by developing a similar "menu" or reference list of environmental goods and services.

Second, the Coalition should continue to advance and deepen international cooperation. In this connection, Singapore is ready to collaborate with members on carbon markets, research and development, and transition finance. We look forward to building on these conversations to identify concrete opportunities for collaboration. Singapore would also be happy to share our experiences in developing path-finding initiatives such as the Green Economy Agreement between Singapore and Australia.

Third, the *Menu of Voluntary Actions* serves as a useful launch pad for the Coalition to engage in deeper conversations which will then complement and add value to discussions at the WTO. In this regard, it may be helpful to identify tangible outcomes that we can work towards. I look forward to a fruitful discussion ahead and continued close collaboration with members. Thank you.

## **17. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The United States would like to thank the co-chairs for their hard work in convening this meeting and coordinating our joint efforts on climate in advance of MC13. We also welcome the new members of the Coalition.

The United States values the important role that this Coalition can play in the fight to address climate change, and we are pleased to be a part of this effort. The real value of this Coalition is to send a unified message on the urgent need to tackle the climate crisis and the important role that trade can play in that effort. I know that most members recognize the urgent need to act, to ensure a safe future for our communities, good-paying jobs for workers, and a healthy planet for future generations.

Most of us are working to better understand the challenges and opportunities of the green transition, and I think we all agree that the WTO and trade policies need to be part of the climate solution. As members develop and implement their trade-related climate measures, the WTO can serve as a convener to promote deeper conversations on how our policies can work toward a common purpose.

The WTO already has multiple climate workstreams and we are having fruitful discussions, including through the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions.

We have discussed facilitating trade in cleaner technologies and lower-emission goods, enhancing circularity in our economies, and fully implementing the Trade Facilitation Agreement to reduce the environmental effects of port delays.

But we also need to consider when some of those informal conversations are more advanced and can be brought back to the broader WTO Membership and developed into practical, concrete outcomes.

The United States has been considering impactful ways we can do this at the WTO. U.S. Trade Representative Tai and I look forward to sharing our thinking and listening to others' thoughts this week, so that together we can move the work on climate and trade forward.

## **18. URUGUAY**

First of all, let me extend my appreciation to you for convening this meeting and also to the Secretariat for its support. Uruguay is enthusiastic to have joined the Coalition and hopes to contribute to its objectives. We are grateful for this opportunity to release a framework of voluntary actions from this Coalition.

This may act as a roadmap to foster concrete actions that reflect the Coalition's principles. This Coalition is a testimony to the increasing importance of the relationship between trade and environment and sustainable development. We all know that previous efforts in the WTO framework, including those for the elimination and reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers for environmental goods and services, did not achieve the expected outcomes.

Nevertheless, Uruguay believes that the multilateral trading system can contribute to the solution of global challenges, such as climate change, pollution and the loss of biodiversity and that, the legitimate interest of members in addressing trade issues in light of environmental commitments, must be implemented taking into account sustainable development objectives.

Having already promoted some initiatives in the financial field, as reflected by the issuance by Uruguay of the first sovereign Bond Indexed to Climate Change Indicators (BIICC), Uruguay is now interested in discussing how to transfer such an approach of positive incentives to the transition towards sustainable economies through trade.

This should be implemented while reducing the adoption of measures that constitute market access barriers under environmental grounds, such as non-tariff barriers, including standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, just to name a few. Uruguay shares that the urgency of the current climate crisis deserves multilateral actions, in line with the principles and rules of the WTO.

In order to address these challenges, Uruguay proposes to consider the design of trade incentives that take the form of preferential access to markets based on environmental criteria. This could be translated into preferential access related to indicators linked to environmental performance and objectives to be achieved by each country based on its own commitments, such as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the Paris Agreement.

Therefore, Uruguay invites the members of this coalition to consider these ideas and begin a joint debate on the development of mechanisms to create positive trade incentives through market access, while promoting the transition towards a more sustainable development.

#### **19. WTO DIRECTOR-GENERAL (as guest speaker)**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, First allow me to welcome all of you to Abu Dhabi for the WTO's 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference. I'd also like to thank all of you and your delegations for working hard to keep reforming and strengthening the multilateral trading system. The week ahead of us will be intense.

Turning to this Coalition's efforts to leverage trade for climate impact, there are two important questions we should ask ourselves. The first is, "What have we achieved"? Since the WTO's last Ministerial conference, this Coalition has cultivated bold ideas on how to harness the power of trade policies for climate action.

At COP28, you laid further groundwork for trade-related cooperation in a dialogue with the climate community. And just last month in Davos, we brainstormed on how to break down the silos separating trade, climate and finance, in order to make trade policies a stronger force multiplier for spurring green investment and a just transition.

Excellencies, to stay within the Paris Agreement targets, we need to elevate the role of trade for climate change adaptation and mitigation. This transformation has to happen at all levels: from governments, multinationals, and international organizations to smallholders and consumers.

This agenda is gaining traction. At COP28, the WTO secretariat worked hard with UAE to get to a dedicated "Trade Day". Tomorrow, Ministers will look at some of these issues in the first-ever Deliberative Session on Trade and Sustainable Development at a Ministerial Conference. I encourage all of you to engage actively.



I am really delighted to see the growing membership of this Coalition, which now encompasses 60 members cutting across a wide range of regions, development levels, climate vulnerabilities, and global trade integration.

This reflects the growing recognition that trade needs to be part of the climate comprehensively. The diversity of your membership is a strength: because you bring a wide range of interests to the table on issues at the heart of the trade and climate nexus – managing and minimizing trade frictions associated with carbon pricing being only one such issue – it will increase the collective impact of solutions you are able to propose.

But the second question we should ask ourselves is "How can we accelerate climate action and build strong partnerships to that end?". Nearly two years ago, at MC12, you agreed that trade should play an important role in responding to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

It is time to pave the pathways you have sketched and find synergies with work ongoing in the WTO. This meeting, which follows in the footsteps of COP28 in more ways than one, is an emblematic occasion to step up collaborative trade-related policies to accelerate and amplify the global climate response. The CTE is in the process of reform to improve their deliberations on global environmental challenges. At MC13, the three environmental initiatives will also be delivering outcomes from two years of work, including recommendations on trade policy approaches and actions that could be taken to support environmental goals. I encourage you to engage actively in all of these processes: acting through the WTO can amplify the impact of this Coalition's work.

When I spoke to you in Davos just over a month ago, I drew your attention to the analytical work that the WTO Secretariat launched at COP28 (with the PM of Barbados, the World Bank President, UN Special Envoy on Climate, China's Special Envoy for Climate and others), namely the 10 "Trade Policy Tools for Climate Action". These tools range from harnessing trade policy reform to lower renewable energy costs to decarbonizing supply chains, green procurement, repurposing harmful subsidies and strengthening cooperation on carbon pricing. Together, they offer ideas for how you can leverage trade to keep global temperature rises in check while supporting the most vulnerable developing and least developed countries. In addition, more than 40 standards-setting bodies, international organizations, steel producers and industry associations, endorsed WTO principles to align carbon measurement methodologies in the steel sector. Perhaps one measure of success for this Coalition in a year's time, would be for the group to take stock and share experiences, as to how they are implementing such policy tools, the challenges they are encountering, and how we can help.

You have an opportunity to make history for people, the planet, and the trading system. The road ahead will not be easy at a time of uncertainty and greater pressures for geopolitical and economic fragmentation. We in the WTO Secretariat remain resolute in supporting you in utilizing these trade policy tools.

Now is the time to work together and build bridges with those WTO members not yet in the Coalition. You can strengthen the WTO as a hub for transparency, knowledge, discussion and negotiation, trade policy reviews, and actions on trade in support of climate. And I trust that is what you have come here to do.



**Roundtable on Trade, Climate and Finance in Davos**  
17 January 2024

**Summary Report**

The Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate convened a Ministerial-level roundtable on trade, climate, and finance on 17 January 2024 at the 54th Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos. As underlined in the Coalition's launch statement, one of its key priorities is to engage nationally and internationally with fellow Ministers working on climate, environment, finance, and development. Davos presented a unique opportunity for the Coalition Ministers present to take concrete action on this commitment. Co-hosted by the trade Ministers of Ecuador and the EU, representing the Coalition co-leads, the roundtable was designed to break down silos and to spur a first exchange of views with a focus on identifying opportunities for cooperation and collective action.

The roundtable brought together a mix of 15 Ministers or Vice-Ministers responsible for trade, climate, energy, investment, and finance from within and outside the Coalition,<sup>1</sup> as well as the heads of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The participants exchanged views on which topics at the nexus of climate, trade, and finance should be prioritized for more cooperation nationally and internationally, and what collective actions could be taken to advance that work.

Topics noted by Ministers for enhanced cooperation included: leadership from trade ministers in putting climate cooperation at the heart of cooperation in the range of relevant international agencies, from the WTO to APEC and the G20; enhancing trade and investments in renewable energy technologies; global financial system reforms to support just transitions in the context of climate action, including just transitions to sustainable trade; aligning fiscal policies and incentives with climate priorities, such as by harnessing government procurement as a tool for climate action and phasing down fossil fuel subsidies and other environmentally harmful subsidies; integrating trade and investment considerations into NDCs; identifying opportunities to promote or liberalize trade in climate-friendly environmental goods and services; and establishing a platform for sharing best practices for integrating climate considerations into trade and policies.

Several Ministers noted the challenges that developing countries and least developed countries face in their efforts to attract investment that supports environmental objectives and to align investment agreements with climate goals. They also highlighted their lack of fiscal space to make significant public investments in a green and just transition for their economies and to support the competitiveness of their exports in the face of changing market and regulatory requirements. A number of Ministers emphasized the adverse effects of climate change on their economies, trade, balance of payments, debt servicing capacity, environment and society. They stressed the urgency of economic partnerships, financing, and expertise to support climate adaptation, clean energy access and transition, responses to climate shocks, and avoiding deforestation (e.g., investment in viable strategies to generate financial returns from the protection of forests and biodiversity).

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<sup>1</sup> This included representatives of Colombia, Ecuador, the European Union, Morocco, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Rwanda, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

A number of Ministers also noted the importance of transparency and cooperation in carbon pricing (including pricing of carbon sequestration) and measurement, and called for cooperation on carbon-related standards to ensure high-integrity carbon markets with real, verified mitigation outcomes. More broadly, several Ministers noted the importance of cooperation on climate-related standards, including guidelines for voluntary eco-labelling, and their implementation to support transitions to sustainable production in developing countries. Further topics at the nexus of climate, trade, and finance that various Ministers prioritized for more cooperation included mobilizing transition finance from different sources to support the decarbonization and adaptation efforts of developing countries, including using resources from carbon border adjustments to facilitate technology transfer; aligning trade finance with climate goals; using bilateral trade concessions and trade preference programs to incentivize and promote positive climate outcomes; and devising policies to diversify supply chains for climate-friendly technologies in ways that share opportunities for international trade and prevent disruptions in the climate transition.



**Senior Officials Meeting  
20 October 2023**

## **Summary Report**

### **Introduction**

The Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate (the Coalition) hosted its first Senior Officials Meeting on Friday, 20 October 2023. The two-hour meeting was held in hybrid format and 54 of 58 Coalition Ministers were represented. The meeting had over 65 participants, of which 34 attended online.

In their opening remarks, the co-leads welcomed the three new members<sup>1</sup> that have joined the Coalition since its launch in January 2023 and outlined the meeting agenda.

### **Coalition priorities and actions: Introduction to the draft Framework of Voluntary Actions**

New Zealand provided an overview of the draft Framework of Voluntary Actions (the Framework), which aims to spur inputs from the Coalition members on trade related actions in line with the Coalition's principles and priorities that could be taken by members at the ministerial level. Given the different levels of capacity and interest, Coalition members were urged to look at the draft Framework as a way to collectively develop a 'buffet' of ideas on concrete actions that can be advanced. Ecuador observed that the Coalition reflects the commitment of members to a common objective of contributing positively to the climate agenda and invited members to work together to offer concrete responses to climate change from a trade perspective.

### **Member reactions and responses**

A range of senior officials and delegates shared their comments and reflections on the draft Framework. Several noted that the Menu should remain a voluntary and living document so that future discussions on other priority areas can also be incorporated, and that the compilation should be viewed as an internal document, which could also be updated over time. In general, members welcomed the ideas put forward by the co-leads and provided many specific suggestions, particularly on key priorities and how the Coalition could best add value. Following is a synthesis of the main points by the senior officials or their representatives in this initial round of consultations. Members were advised that written contributions to the Voluntary Framework of Action should be shared by December 15 for review by the co-leads and to serve as a basis for further consultations. As such, the summary below should be viewed as a preliminary and partial set of views.

#### **A. General comments**

A number of members stated that the Coalition has the potential to be a powerful voice at COP28 and the 13<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13) in communicating the role of trade on climate policies at the political level. They encouraged socializing this narrative with the broader international

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<sup>1</sup> The three new members of the Coalition that joined by October 2023 are Cameroon, Uruguay, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

community by focusing on discrete policy challenges and solutions backed by evidence. Some members emphasised the importance of considering the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development when designing and implementing climate policies, particularly trade policies. Others noted that while the draft Framework offers a practical way to foster constructive engagement of members, there is also a need to sustain and develop strong common intention and messaging from the whole Coalition. A cross-cutting point noted was the need for the Coalition's work to advance its principles and priorities in ways that recognise differences in socio-economic circumstances, different historical and current emissions, as well as the technological and financial capacities of states to contribute to environmental protection.

## **B. Specific comments based on priorities.**

### **1. Foster international cooperation and collective action to promote trade and trade policies that pursue climate action across the WTO and relevant multilateral, plurilateral, regional and sectoral initiatives.**

Members welcomed the suggestion of the Coalition's presence at the Trade Day at the COP28. Several members noted the importance of other international processes and settings, such as those led by or engaging the WTO, UNCTAD, ICC, the World Bank, OECD and the Climate Club as well as the Climate Vulnerable Forum and the Biodiversity COP, as places where the Coalition could also make a positive contribution, while being careful to avoid duplicating efforts under different initiatives. One suggestion of a concrete action was for the Coalition to issue a few short and focused statements around major trade and climate events.

### **2. Identify ways to ensure the multilateral trading system contributes to the global response to climate change and promotes a positive contribution to the climate agenda, including through focused attention across sectors on the nexus between climate and trade.**

A number of concrete suggestions were advanced, including for the Coalition to lend its support to invigorating deliberative discussions at the WTO, such as at the CTE, on plastic pollution, on the FFSR initiative, and in the MSMEs working group. In addition, there were suggestions that the Coalition could use the WTO bodies and trade policy reviews to increase the interest and knowledge on climate related trade policies and improving transparency. Several members noted the potential to use multilateral processes to facilitate harmonization and cooperation on measures and methodologies relevant to the nexus of trade, climate and sustainable development, and the need to promote transparency of trade-related climate measures, including through WTO processes, and to ensure attention to developing country considerations. There were proposals for the Coalition to develop key messages that the Coalition Ministers can seed at the WTO and in international fora to shape the narrative and discourse on trade and environmental sustainability. Some members emphasised the importance of agricultural trade reform to the climate and nature agenda and others emphasised the importance of harnessing trade incentives to support environmental action, such as in the form of preferential access to markets based on environmental criteria.

### **3. Promote trade and investment that foster the development, diffusion, accessibility and uptake of goods, services and technologies that support climate mitigation and adaptation in both developed and developing countries.**

A number of Coalition members highlighted the importance of promoting trade and investment in goods, services and technologies that support climate mitigation and adaptation. Suggestions included voluntary liberalization measures on trade and investment in climate technologies and cross-pollinating the experience of APEC and other processes on the environment and environment-related

goods and services. Some members noted the option of developing a possible reference list of goods, services and technologies that members could prioritise for reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers. Other members underscored the potential to boost attention to cooperation on regulatory coherence and financing, and also to define common approaches, to support the use of sustainable goods, services and technologies. In this regard, some members also called for attention to positive incentives for sustainable trade and for sustainably produced products, and to the priorities of developing countries seeking to diversify economically in the development of green technologies or to bolster their participation in global value chains. Finally, it was also noted that the Coalition may consider collaborating with WIPO on their WIPO Green platform (on green technologies) and the ITC on their Trade for Sustainable Development approaches to promotion of sustainable trade.

#### **4. Identify trade-related strategies supportive of the most vulnerable developing and least developed countries.**

A number of Coalition members noted the need to account for the particular difficulties and capacity constraints of developing members in the multilateral trading system and in regard to climate impacts and policies. Suggestions from members included a broader engagement with climate vulnerable economies, including through the Climate Vulnerable Forum and Global Center on Adaptation; emphasis on the importance of integrating developing economies in global value chains central to the climate response; and the importance of considering sustainable development in all its dimensions when seeking to foster trade-related responses and related financing needs. Some members called for a coherent international vision for Aid for Trade, noting the Global Aid for Trade Review in June 2024 as an opportunity to support developing countries in regard to the green and circular economy transitions. It was also suggested that the Coalition could consider either hosting or facilitating a knowledge sharing on the state of play of countries at the nexus of trade, climate and sustainable development, and a compilation of best practices for consideration when it comes to strategies that would support developing countries. Finally, there were calls for actions that would support a fair, inclusive, and balanced green transition, taking into account disparities in capacities and greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **5. Build alliances and partnerships with climate and finance communities and relevant stakeholders to foster climate action, transitions, and climate-resilient development on the ground.**

Noting that trade issues are expected to arise at COP28 and related UNFCCC negotiations, a number of members emphasised the importance of the Coalition's goal of collaboration with other relevant policy circles such as the climate and finance communities. In particular, some members noted the need to take inspiration from the Coalition of Finance Ministers and various Coalitions created around climate goals and identify where the Coalition can work more closely with them. The potential for partnerships with a number of other entities, including the World Bank, IRENA, the Climate Vulnerable Forum, and the Global Centre on Adaptation, as well as the major climate funds for developing countries, was also noted.

### **Presentation of roadmap, proposed next steps & purpose**

In the last segment of the senior officials meeting, the co-leads provided an update regarding the Coalition's roadmap, focusing on upcoming events. In regard to COP28, the Coalition is pursuing opportunities to raise the profile of the Coalition, including through participation by Ministers in events during 'Trade Week' and a hybrid event focused on the Coalition. While many members noted the low likelihood of having their trade ministers present, overall, the proposal was supported by

members. Colombia, Barbados and Norway noted that their Ministers intend to or are considering to attend in person.

Regarding the proposal for a joint meeting of trade, finance and climate Ministers in Davos, the co-leads emphasised the Coalition's priority of breaking silos. The co-leads noted the unique opportunity at Davos as a diversity of trade, finance and climate ministers are normally present, while recognising that some Coalition members do not expect to be present at Davos and the importance of maximising opportunities for inclusiveness. There were some questions regarding the logistical complexities. The co-leads noted that the intention is for members to be represented by one of three possible Ministers (not all three). While recognising the challenges of governments coordinating national priorities, objectives, agendas and messages among Ministries, the co-leads emphasised that such efforts to spur greater collaboration are at the heart of the Coalition's principles and priorities. The co-leads also noted the potential for a meeting between Coalition co-leads and leading business champions of climate action (including MSMEs) at Davos. There was also a discussion of the importance of seizing opportunities in regional settings for different configurations of Coalition Ministers to meet.

Finally, the co-leads provided a brief update on plans for the Coalition's Second Ministerial meeting of the Coalition on the margins of MC13, noting that it will be an important opportunity to have all the Coalition Ministers together. Members requested early invitations to ensure effective participation in all the proposed events.



## **Contact Point Meeting**

**18 June 2024, 13h15 – 14h45, Hybrid**

### **Draft Agenda**

- 1. Welcome and introductions by Coalition co-leads – Ecuador, European Union, Kenya and New Zealand**
- 2. Presentation of proposed next steps and discussion of:**
  - Outcome of the survey on the Menu of Voluntary Actions**
  - Areas for cooperation – members' priorities and the way forward**
  - Key events for the Coalition's presence in 2024-25**
  - Engagement with Friends of the Coalition and potential partners**
- 3. Possible date and venue for the next Coalition Ministerial meeting**
- 4. Any other business**