



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



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Climate Change Service
Environmental Management Bureau
Foreign Assisted and Special Projects
Legislative Liaison Office

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

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR INPUTS ON THE DIALOGUE ON PLASTICS POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PLASTICS TRADE (DPP) POINTS OF FOCUS AND ROADMAP**

DATE : **09 SEP 2024**

This is in reference to the electronic mail dated August 29, 2024 from the Department of Trade and Industry – Bureau of International Trade Relations, transmitting the comments and recommendations from the Philippine Mission to the World Trade Organization (PM-WTO), regarding the outcomes of the Informal Meeting of the Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP) held on July 24, 2024.

The DPP co-convenors discussed the 1) DPP's Point of Focus which was classified into three workstreams: 1) Cross-cutting Issues; 2) Reduction; and 3) Promotion to tackle plastic pollution (*Annex A*); and 2) Roadmap of Work (*Annex B*). The two documents were developed based on the informal consultation and the result from the DPP survey questionnaire accomplished by the DPP co-sponsors, which will be the point of focus for DPP towards the 14th Ministerial Conference (MC 14). The PM - WTO informed that for the upcoming plenary meeting on 18 September 2024, the discussion will focus on the two PF:

- PF3 - How to enhance capacity of developing Members to integrate trade as part of the solution to plastic pollution, including, for example, by identifying opportunities to work with UNCTAD, the World Bank, and the work of other relevant institutions; and
- PF4 - Continue to identify members trade-related plastic measures (TrPMs), building domestic inventories/internal coordination.

Relatedly, in preparation for the next plenary meeting on September, PM-WTO would appreciate potential inputs for the following points under the workstreams:

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1. Cross-cutting Issues

- With respect to PF3, please provide updates / information on plastic related cooperation led by the DENR with other developing partners such as World Bank and UNCTAD among others. Including the following:

1. Report entitled "Guidance on the Development of a Roadmap for the Management of Plastic Waste and Reduction of Non-Recyclable Single-Use Plastics in the Philippines" released last July 2024.
2. Distributional Impacts of Plastics Policies in the Philippines (Plastic Policy Simulator) Study; and
3. Other plastic-related initiatives

2. Reduction to tackle plastic pollution

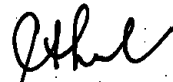
- On PF4, Updates on trade-related plastics measures (TRPMs) including the status of the following:

1. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law
2. Updates on the green public procurement; and
3. Pending legislation on the imposition of an excise tax on single-use plastics.

3. The PM-WTO also noted that several government agencies, including DILG, DOH, and PPA have made substantial progress in implementing the National SOLid Waste Management Commission Resolution No. 1363/2020 to ban unnecessary single-use plastics in government agencies. **As the lead agency responsible for this resolution, Mission requests an update from DENR on the current status of its implementation.**

In this regard, considering the plastic-related initiatives of the Department, particularly on the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022, NPOA-ML, Circular Economy, as well as the participation to the ongoing Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution are under your purview, we would appreciate your advance feedback on the above requests on or before **September 11, 2024**, through email at psddivision@gmail.com and policy@denr.gov.ph.

For your information and consideration, please.



CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL, EnP.



[For inputs – DL by 13 September] Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP) Points of Focus and Roadmap (ZWTO-256-2024)

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

Thu, Aug 29, 2024 at 1:50 PM

To: "ouppia@denr.gov.ph" <ouppia@denr.gov.ph>, "cleal@denr.gov.ph" <cleal@denr.gov.ph>, "odpps@yahoo.com" <odpps@yahoo.com>, "mojicallarina@gmail.com" <mojicallarina@gmail.com>, Llarina Mojica <llarinamojica@gmail.com>, "DENR - Venerando U. Garcia" <policy@denr.gov.ph>, "psddivision@gmail.com" <psddivision@gmail.com>, "nhmeusebio@denr.gov.ph" <nhmeusebio@denr.gov.ph>, "zausuello@denr.gov.ph" <zausuello@denr.gov.ph>, "emb@denr.gov.ph" <emb@denr.gov.ph>, "eia@emb.gov.ph" <eia@emb.gov.ph>, recordsco <recordsco@emb.gov.ph>, "od@emb.gov.ph" <od@emb.gov.ph>, "jacaancan@denr.gov.ph" <jacaancan@denr.gov.ph>, "esperanza_sajul@emb.gov.ph" <esperanza_sajul@emb.gov.ph>
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Sent on behalf of the TRM-TCWM Technical Secretariat

Dear Sir/Madame:

We refer to the attached report from the Philippine Mission to the WTO in Geneva regarding the outcomes of the Informal Meeting of the Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP) held on 24 July 2024 (ZWTO-256-2024). The meeting discussed the DPP's Points of Focus (Annex A to the report) and Roadmap of Work (Annex B) in the lead up to the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference.

Below are the highlights of the meeting:

- On behalf of the Coordinators, Ecuador and Barbados presented the Points of Focus and Roadmap, which were developed based on informal consultations and insights from the DPP survey. The Coordinators observed a broad consensus on the documents, though they recognized that some sensitivities persist among certain members.
- Members welcomed Brazil as a new co-sponsor, bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 82 WTO Members.
- The US expressed broad support for the Points of Focus and emphasized its interest in enhancing transparency of trade flows across the plastics value chain, focusing on waste management, and supporting circular economy services and technologies, such as reuse, refill, and repair infrastructure. The EU, Canada, Philippines, China, Hong Kong China, Norway, Jamaica, and several members also conveyed general support for the Coordinators' work. Russia, which noted some general concerns, indicated that it needed additional time for consultation on the documents.
- The Coordinators informed that the next pre-plenary meeting will be convened on 18 September 2024 and will focus on the following points:
 - PF3 – How to enhance the capacity of developing Members to integrate trade as part of the solution to plastic pollution, including, for example, by identifying opportunities to work with UNCTAD, the World Bank, and the work of other relevant institutions; and
 - PF4 – Continue to identify members trade-related plastic measures (TrPMs), building domestic inventories/internal coordination.

Mission Comments and Recommendations

1. On PF3, the Mission notes that DENR, in collaboration with the World Bank, released the "Guidance on the Development of a Roadmap for the Management of Plastic Waste and Reduction of Non-Recyclable Single-Use Plastics in the Philippines" in July 2024. The report includes recommendations on trade-related actions such as the development of national standards on quality of plastic recyclables, development of guidelines on eco-design and green public procurement, and on-product and on-packaging information about proper waste disposal. The Mission seeks further information and updates on this initiative as well as on other plastic-related cooperation led by DENR.
2. On PF4, the Mission seeks updates on trade-related plastics measures, including on the status of implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law. Relatedly, Mission would appreciate updates on green public procurement and the pending legislation on the imposition of an excise tax on single-use plastics.
3. The Mission notes that several government agencies, including DILG, DOH, and PPA, have made substantial progress in implementing the National Solid Waste Management Commission Resolution No. 1363/2020 to ban unnecessary single-use plastics in government agencies. As the lead agency responsible for this resolution, Mission requests an update from DENR on the current status of its implementation.

We would appreciate receiving the DENR's feedback on the above requests by **13 September 2024**. For queries, you may coordinate with the TCWM Secretariat at JanRedmondDelaVega@dti.gov.ph, RaissaFaminial@dti.gov.ph, and KareenHopeEltagon@dti.gov.ph.

Thank you.

Best regards,

To: SFA
Fr: Geneva WTO
Dt: 21 August 2024
Re: **Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP) Points of Focus and Roadmap**
Rt: OUMAIER, OIER
Cc: Secretary of the Department of Agriculture
Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry
Director General of the National Economic Development Authority
Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources
Undersecretary of DTI and Chair of the Technical Committee on WTO Matters
UNIO, Nairobi PE, Washington PE
Cn: ZWTO-256-2024
Pgs: 4 (including this page)

Mission is pleased to report on the discussions of the Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP), which held an informal meeting on 24 July 2024 to focus the DPP's Points of Focus and Roadmap of Work over the next eighteen (18) months leading to the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14). The proposed DPP "Points of Focus" is attached as *Annex A* and the draft Roadmap is attached as *Annex B*.

Ecuador and Barbados, on behalf of the Coordinators, introduced the Points of Focus and Roadmap, which were based on informal consultations as well as the DPP survey, which had garnered responses from 60% of DPP co-sponsors. The Coordinators noted that there was broad agreement on both the Points of Focus and Roadmap, though they acknowledged there remained certain sensitivities among certain co-sponsors. Ecuador stressed that while there was strong convergence on areas of focus, the Coordinators noted that work would evolve without any predetermined outcomes or inflexibility in the process. On approach, Barbados noted the feedback from co-sponsors and assured that less time would be spent on expert presentations and more space will be given to reactions to guide questions and members' interactions.

The Coordinators noted that next pre-plenary meeting will be convened on 18 September 2024 and will focus on the following two points:

- PF3 – How to enhance capacity of developing Members to integrate trade as part of the solution to plastic pollution, including, for example, by identifying opportunities to work with UNCTAD, the World Bank, and the work of other relevant institutions
- PF4 – Continue to identify members trade-related plastic measures (TrPMs), building domestic inventories/internal coordination

Members also welcomed Brazil as a new co-sponsor, with the DPP now attracting support from 82 WTO Members. The U.S., which recently announced a national strategy "Mobilizing Federal Action on Plastic Pollution: Progress, Principles, and Priorities"; expressed broad support for the Points of Focus and noted its interest in enhancing transparency of trade flows throughout the value chain of plastics; increasing attention to waste management; and supporting circular economy services and technologies, including reuse, refill, and repair infrastructure systems. The comprehensive U.S. federal strategy covers reducing plastics pollution, supporting innovative materials and product design, reducing plastic consumption and waste generation, improving environmentally sound waste management, and conducting



plastic pollution capture and removal. The U.S. administration also announced a plan to phase out federal procurement of single-use plastics from food service operations, events, and packaging by 2027, and from all federal operations by 2035. The EU, Canada, Philippines, China, Hong Kong China, Norway and Jamaica, among others, also signalled general support for the Coordinators' work. Russia, which indicated it had some general concerns, stated it required more time to consult with Moscow on the documents.

Mission Comments and recommendations

Mission would like to thank the TCWM Secretariat and member agencies for their substantive feedback on the DPP survey, which was welcomed by the DPP Coordinators. Mission would note that the agency feedback is well aligned to the Points of Focus that have been identified.

In preparation for the next pre-plenary meeting in September, Mission would appreciate potential inputs related to PF3 and PF4. In particular, Mission would welcome the following:

- With respect to PF3, Mission notes the ongoing cooperation on plastics with UNCTAD (plastic substitutes and alternatives) and WCO (updates to HS Code and transparency of trade flows). Updates would be welcome on other plastic-related cooperation, including with the World Bank. Mission would note that the World Bank, in collaboration with DENR, has released in July 2024 the "Guidance on the Development of a Roadmap for the Management of Plastic Waste and Reduction of Non-Recyclable Single-Use Plastics in the Philippines." The report includes recommendations on trade-related actions such as the development of national standards on quality of plastic recyclables, development of guidelines on eco-design and green public procurement, and on-product and on-packaging information about proper waste disposal.
- With respect to PF4, Mission would welcome any updates on trade-related plastics measures (TRPMs), including the status of implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law, FDA Administrative Order No. 2024-0008 providing the guidelines on the regulation of establishments engaged in the refilling activity of certain cosmetics and household/urban hazardous substances (HUHS) products and national standards under the Technical Committee 45 of the Bureau of Product Standards (Mission would note that the last related TBT notification was notified in 2014 under G/TBT/N/PHL/181 on the draft Philippine National Standard Specification for Plastics that Degrade in the Environment by a Combination of Oxidation and Biodegradation). Mission would also appreciate plastic-related updates under green public procurement and pending legislation such as the imposition of excise tax on single use plastics.
- Mission notes that certain government agencies including DILG, DOH, and PPA have made significant strides in implementing the National Solid Waste Management Commission Resolution No. 1363/2020 to ban unnecessary single use plastics in government agencies. Mission would appreciate an update on the status of implementation of other agencies and would recommend that this policy guidance be extended by the Department to all Foreign Service Posts (FSPs).

For the Department's and TCWM's consideration.



MANUEL A.J. TEEHANKEE
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

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

POINTS OF FOCUS

While the points of focus below reflect the results of consultations and the broad agreement around them, they should not be read as indicating any prejudgment of potential MC14 outcomes or inflexibility in the process, nor an exhaustive list of topics that will or could be discussed at the DPP. The DPP work will continue to be open, inclusive and transparent, and based and anchored in its Ministerial Statements and outputs. All co-sponsors will continue to have full opportunity to shape its discussions and outcomes.

<u>Cross-Cutting Issues Workstream</u>	
PF1	How to support the United Nations Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution process and its implementation
PF2	How to enhance transparency of trade flows of plastics, including, for example, by supporting the work at the World Customs Organization, UNITAR and other relevant institutions
PF3	How to enhance capacity of developing Members to integrate trade as part of the solution to plastic pollution, including, for example, by identifying opportunities to work with UNCTAD, the World Bank, and the work of other relevant institutions
<u>Reduction Workstream</u>	
PF4	Continue to identify members trade-related plastic measures (TrPMs), building domestic inventories/internal coordination
PF5	Identify potential best practices from Members collective experiences
PF6	Identify opportunities for greater harmonization, alignment or interoperability of TrPMs, starting by focusing on single-use plastics
<u>Promotion Workstream</u>	
PF7	How to facilitate access to technologies and services, including for environmentally sound waste management technology (e.g. by identifying key technologies, challenges, and opportunities)
PF8	Identify opportunities for enhanced trade cooperation on non-plastic substitutes and alternatives, starting with standards (e.g. by identifying gaps in international standards applicable to substitutes and/or alternatives)

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

ROADMAP

Roadmap of the Dialogue on Plastic Pollution (DPP) [8 points of focus - PF]			
Order	Starting Date	Session Type	Session Information
0	24-Jul-24	informal DPP meeting	Agree on PFs for each WS
1	18-Sep-24	pre-plenary meeting	Technical work on 2 PFs (1 per WS)
2	31-Oct-24	pre-plenary meeting	Technical work on 3 PFs (1 per WS)
non-DPP date	25.11 - 01.12.2024	INC -5 (final negotiation meeting)	
3	Feb-25	pre-plenary meeting	Reflections on INC final text + Technical work on 3 PFs (1 per WS)
4	Apr-25	pre-plenary meeting	Mid-point review of advancements; fine-tuning of remaining technical work
5	Jun-25	pre-plenary meeting	Technical work on concrete MC14 outcomes
6	Jul-25	pre-plenary meeting	Technical work on concrete MC14 outcomes
7	Sep-25	pre-plenary meeting	Technical work on concrete MC14 outcomes
8	Nov-25	plenary meeting	Presentation of 0 draft MC14 outcomes; start of drafting process