

TESS

Forum on Trade
Environment & the SDGs

How trade and trade policies can contribute to tackling plastic pollution – our work ahead

IDP

March 30, 2022

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Workstream on
cross-cutting
issues &
international
cooperation:
Sample of
options

Input into & support for negotiations on a UN agreement on plastic pollution, as well as ongoing exchanges to ensure work of IDP is guided by evolving treaty discussions

Strengthen cooperation with WCO & among customs authorities to pursue HS amendments to enable more effective monitoring and regulation of plastics trade to tackle plastic pollution

Cooperation on Implementation of trade-related measures in MEAs (e.g., Basel Convention 'plastic waste' amendments and Stockholm Convention)

Cooperation with UNCTAD on development aspects of trade and plastic pollution

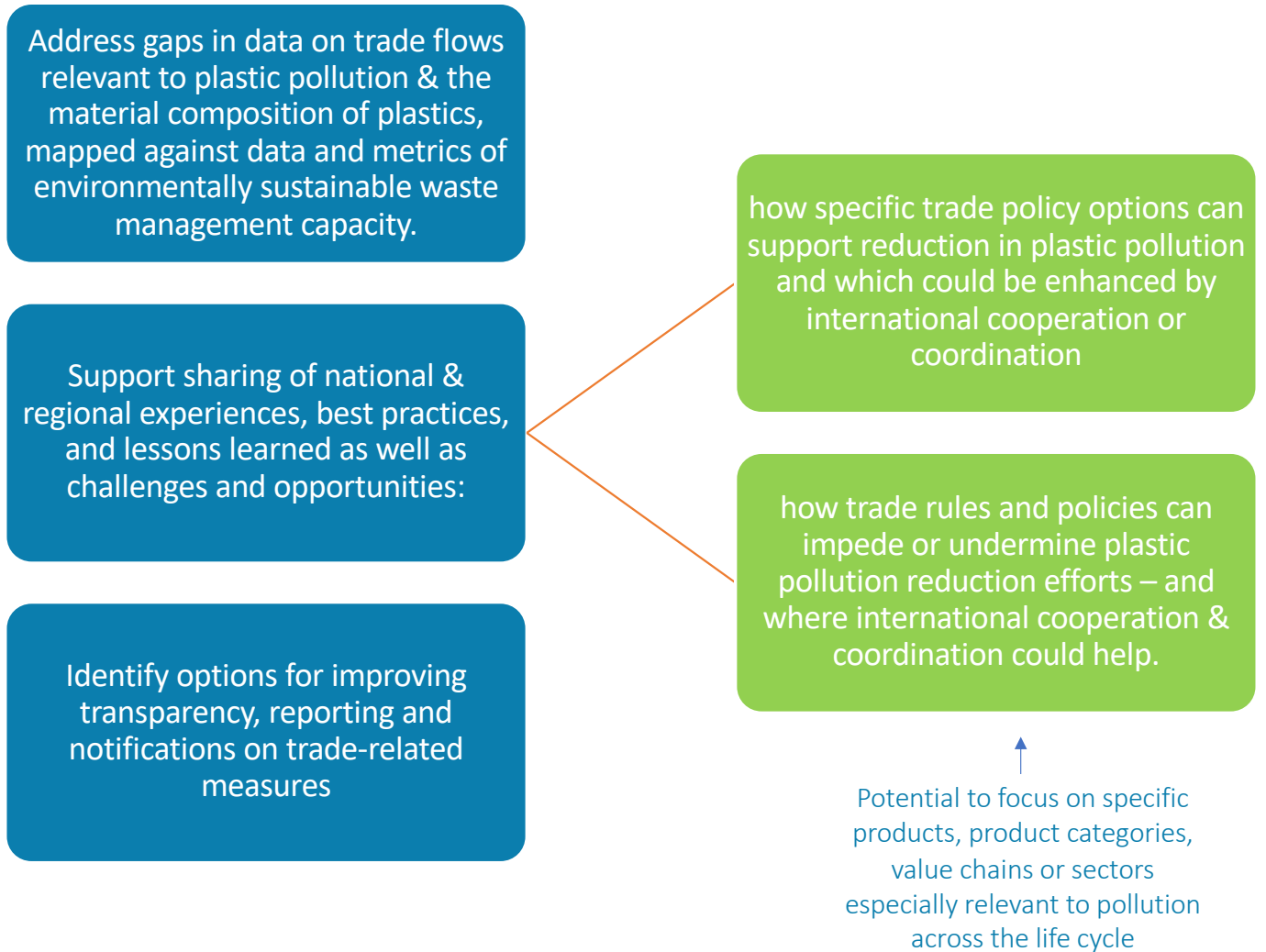
Strengthen WTO Secretariat engagement in efforts to promote system wide cooperation across UN system & IOs on plastic pollution, such as through cooperation on shared data portal

Strengthen capacity building, technical assistance and finance & technology transfer to support the transition, including through Aid for Trade and integrating trade in environmental financing

Identify options for regional cooperation on trade policies that support plastic pollution reduction efforts, including through engagement with regional economic and political organisations

Information-sharing & exchanges in OECD JWPTTE and environmental processes on the IDP, including input on policy options and lessons

Transparency



Workstream on promoting trade to tackle plastic pollution: Sample of possible options

Identify policy options for promoting & facilitating trade in environmentally sustainable and effective non-plastic substitutes & alternatives

Identify concrete policy options for promoting & facilitating trade in environmentally sound waste management & clean up technologies, goods and services appropriate to local development circumstances and needs

Support inclusive international cooperation on the development and implementation of international standards & labelling necessary to reduce plastic pollution and support environmentally sustainable plastics trade.

- Tariff & non-tariff measures
- Regulatory frameworks, conformity assessment procedures
- Access to technologies & technology transfer
- Financing & investment
- Technical assistance & capacity building
- Grounded in credible environmental evidence
- Sustainable development considerations (e.g. livelihoods of waste pickers)

Workstream on circularity & reduction to tackle plastic pollution: Sample of possible options

Promote policy coherence through voluntary joint pledges to end export of plastics, such as single-use plastics, that are restricted or banned domestically

Pledge to reduce unnecessary and excessive plastic packaging associated with international trade, starting with packaging related to international distribution, transportation & customs clearance.

Share experiences on the design and implementation of extended producer responsibility systems and cooperate on their trade dimensions

Promote transparency, consultation and coordination on policies, standards (including on the classification of plastics) and requirements on plastics production & consumption to promote safe circularity & tackle plastic pollution, including consideration of challenges arising for developing country exporters

Enhance cooperation & transparency on trade restrictions, bans and phase-outs of trade in unnecessary and harmful plastics and plastic additives, including cooperation on a just transition

Identify approaches to facilitate the functioning of markets that can promote inclusive, safe and non-toxic circularity , including by reducing unnecessary and harmful use; promoting re-use, repair, remanufacturing of plastic products as well as re-use and refill business models; and facilitating markets for non-toxic recycled plastics and recyclable products.

Sample of early milestones in 2022 (1): Aid for Trade

- Agree to work together to **boost capacity building and technical support** to developing countries to design and implement trade policies related to plastic pollution, support capacity building for customs authorities, build trade capacity for non-plastic substitutes, meet sustainability standards & transition to sustainable production, and boost their access to environmentally sustainable waste management technologies.
 - Integrate priorities related to trade-dimensions of plastic pollution and environmentally sustainable plastics trade in the next work programme of the A4T Initiative and the EIF
 - Host thematic events on plastic pollution in the Aid for Trade Global Review (27-29 July)
 - Call for specific technical assistance and training initiatives by the WTO Secretariat on legislative and regulatory aspects of trade and plastic pollution
 - Call for cooperation with among IGOs on this topic (WCO, UNCTAD, BRS, ITC, GEF) and with regional organisations, including integrating trade aspects into wider environmental assistance and funding for plastic pollution
- > IDP process can seek to spur identification by developing countries of specific priorities.

Sample of early milestones in 2022 (2): Amendments to the HS classification

- Agree on the need to work together to address shortcomings of the HS classification in relation to the information governments need to implement policies to tackle plastic pollution.
- Empower national customs authorities to explore options and develop proposals for **amendments to the HS classification** in the 2027 HS amendment cycle
- Share experience on 8-, 10-digit codes in domestic HS classifications that can improve trade-related data & explore cooperation options
- Request WTO-WCO Secretariats to cooperate on specific options, with input from stakeholders and environmental experts on options that are politically feasible and would make a positive contribution to efforts to tackle plastic pollution
- Time is short: only four HS meetings remain for the 2027 amendment process. The next amendments would not be implemented until 2034.

Sample of early milestones in 2022 (3): Voluntary survey of national experiences

- Implementation of a voluntary survey of members to share information on national experiences & best practices, challenges and opportunities on trade, trade policy and plastic pollution, drawing on consultation with relevant national ministries and stakeholders
- This would help:
 - Build a shared repository of knowledge on challenges and opportunities
 - Support efforts to identify specific opportunities and priorities for greater international cooperation on trade policies
 - Form a basis for concrete collaboration
 - Complement & support WTO notification processes
 - Support identification of Aid for Trade, technology transfer, and finance needs
 - Build collaboration at the national level among ministers

The work ahead: TESS contributions

- Public Events
 - Next steps for the plastic pollution treaty (including relevance of trade), April 7
- Research reports
 - *How can international trade policy help tackle plastic pollution? Options & pathways*
 - *Amending the HS to support international efforts to end plastic pollution*
- Policy brief & expert roundtable series to support implementation of IDP Statement
 - *Aid for Trade and plastic pollution (draft presented at March IDP meeting)*
 - *Recommendations for HS amendments*
 - *Information brief on terms and concepts frequently used in relation to plastic pollution*
 - *Options for promoting trade in non-plastic substitutes*
 - *Trade related options to support reduction of unnecessary and harmful plastics*
 - *International standards relevant to plastic and plastic pollution*
- Liaison with IDP stakeholders to support effective participation in IDP process, including through informal consultations before IDP workstream meetings