

WTO DIALOGUE ON PLASTICS POLLUTION

Mr Dhinesh Thanenthirarajah

Australian Permanent Mission to the World Trade Organisation

Coordinator of the Dialogue on Plastics Pollution alongside Barbados, China, Ecuador, Fiji and Morocco

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13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) Outcomes





MC13 STATEMENT

Series of **principles** and **six actions** for trade to be a key contributor to the solution.

Related to each agreed action, a **factual compilation document** is attached to the Statement, consisting of **trade-related practices** already being adopted to tackle plastics pollution.

DPP: MC13 OUTCOMES

Ministerial Statement containing 6 trade-related actions aimed to:



- i. increase transparency of trade flows of plastics (e.g. of single-use plastics, plastic films and hard-to-recycle plastics) as well as those embedded in traded goods but not captured by trade data (a.k.a. 'hidden flows') – examples in the compilations include:
 - breakdown domestic customs classification to facilitate monitoring, evaluation, reporting and regulation of trade in polymers, chemicals, additives and plastics
 - identify customs and related technological solutions and cooperate with the private sector, on standards, product identifiers and other applications.
- ii. reduce plastics that are harmful to the environment or human health, or unnecessary single-use plastics and plastics packaging – examples in the compilations include:
 - eco-design and labelling requirements, recycling targets and/or recyclability requirements
 - bans on single-use plastics and other goods
 - import and export licences on plastic wastes
- iii. **promote non-plastic substitutes**, **alternatives**, **services** and **technologies** examples in the compilations include:
 - Support measures, including grants and direct payments, preference in public procurement, tax concessions, and non-monetary support to specific non-plastic substitutes (e.g. seaweed, bamboo), alternative plastics (e.g. bio-polypropylene, cornbased resins) and services (e.g. re-use/re-fill systems, environmental impact assessments)
- iw. improve the capacity of developing countries to use trade as a tool to tackle plastic pollution – examples in the compilations include:
 - specific suggestions for the AfT Global Review to help better identify plastic-related projects and needs (e.g. prior categorisation of existing plastic-related programmes; introduction of specific questions; sharing case studies; organizing trainings)
 - specific needs most often identified in the Dialogue: domestic private sector engagement and partnerships; access to technology; civil society engagement; technical assistance on policy implementation

DPP Points of Focus

Workstream on Crosscutting Issues:

- 1. How to support the INC process and its implementation,
- 2. How to enhance transparency of trade flows of plastic,
- 3. How to enhance capacity of developing Members to integrate trade as part of the solution to plastic pollution,

Workstream on Reduction, focus areas are:

- 4. To continue to identify members Trade related Plastics Measures, potentially building domestic inventories and supporting internal coordination,
- 5. To identify potential best practices from Members collective experiences,
- 6. And, to identify opportunities for greater harmonization, alignment or interoperability of Trade related Plastics Measures, starting by focusing on single-use plastics.

Workstream on Promotion, we will focus on:

- 7. How to facilitate access to technologies and services, including for environmentally sound waste management technology,
- 8. Identify opportunities for enhanced trade cooperation on non-plastic substitutes and alternatives, starting with standards.



What are Trade-related Plastic Measures (TrPMs)?



Sustainability requirements

- Bans/restrictions on importation [and exportation] of [recyclable] waste (incl export licenses)
- Import licensing for plastic bag components
- Mininum recycled content
- Requirements applicable to minimum thickness, (re)usability
- Exclusion of certain components
- Design requirements / guidelines
- Labelling requirements



Taxes and other market tools

- Env / chemical taxes (appl. to plastics)
- deposit schemes [incl. EPR schemes]
- [preferential] Tariffs on certain goods (incl. Tariff quotas)
- Packaging fees
- Trade defence tools (e.g. applied to substitutes)



Support measures

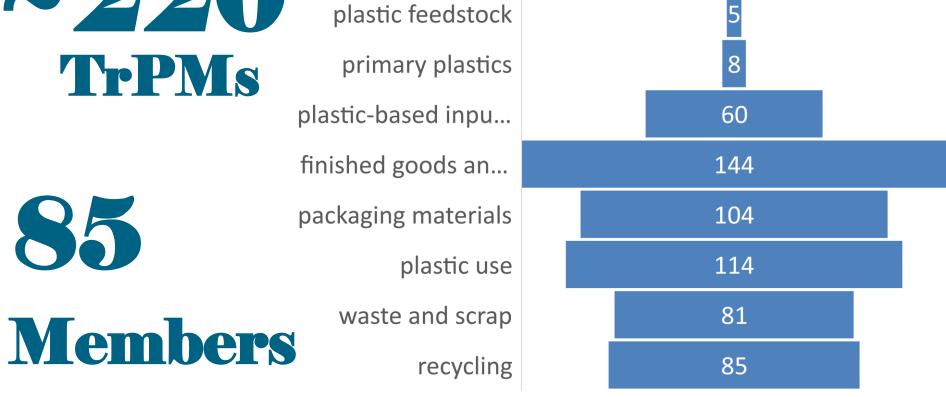
- Preferential tax treatment to alternatives/substitutes
- Direct grants to R&D
- Government procurement requirements/preferential rates for goods with recycled content
- Expenditure on resource utilization of agricultural wastes, incl. recycling of waste plastic films

General numbers and state of play of Dialogue's Survey on trade-related plastics measures (TrPMs)

~22(1 **TrPMs**

85

Stage in value chain life cycle



From all regions and mostly developing and LDCs (75%+, by member or measure)