



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

# 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

Date: 29 October 2024

DFAT.GOV.AU

# 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, corn-based resins) and services (e.g. re-use/re-fill systems, environmental impact assessments)
  - iv. **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.



**Australian Government**

---

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

[DFAT.GOV.AU](https://dfat.gov.au)

# 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
- Minimum 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)

~ **220**  
**TrPMs**

**85**

**Members**

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

## Stage in value chain life cycle

