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Page: 1/3

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

MC13 STATEMENT

Revision

The following communication, dated 19 January 2024, is being circulated at the request of the Dialogue Coordinators.

We, the Ministers representing the following Members of the WTO [], issue this statement:

Recalling that the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO recognizes the role of trade in achieving the objective of sustainable development and the need to protect and preserve the environment and to enhance the means for doing so in a manner consistent with WTO Members respective needs and concerns at different levels of economic development.

Expressing our deep concern about the triple global environmental challenges of biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change and its related disasters, and *recognizing* that these challenges are interlinked, mutually reinforcing, and driven largely by unsustainable patterns of consumption, production and disposal and their related economic and health costs.

Acknowledging the negative impact that plastic pollution has on the environment, particularly in small, vulnerable economies (SVE) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as on all economies, including the blue economy, and on human health while recognizing the important role plastics play in society.

Recognizing the transboundary nature of plastic pollution, plastic waste and plastics trade, making it crucial for Members to cooperate and coordinate their efforts to address the plastic pollution crisis and its adverse effects on the environment and human health, and acknowledging the growing urgent need to tackle this crisis, the need for coordinated action across policy areas and to regularly evaluate and assess approaches consistent with developments in science, technology and knowledge.

Welcoming the timely conclusion of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, to protect human health and the environment, pursuant to the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14: End plastic pollution, recognizing the efforts of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) to complete their work by the end of 2024 and without prejudice to the ongoing negotiations, and noting the resolution's call to continue and step up activities, and adopt voluntary measures, to combat plastic pollution.

Acknowledging the efforts under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions and commending the successful adoption under the Basel Convention, of the Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Wastes, and the decision under the Stockholm Convention to update Annex A with the addition of two chemicals used as plastic additives, fostering international cooperation and progress towards environmentally sound and safe plastic waste management.

Highlighting the importance of the rules-based multilateral trading system and the WTO at its core and of trade-related cooperation as a contribution to global efforts to end plastic pollution, including through developing and implementing relevant trade-related plastics measures and increasing transparency across the life cycle of plastics, in particular to support efforts by developing Members to tackle plastic pollution.

Acknowledging the ongoing international, regional and domestic efforts to address plastic pollution and the contribution by many of these processes and relevant stakeholders to the Dialogue.

Reaffirming the Dialogue's Ministerial Statement (WT/MIN(21)/8/Rev.[X]) issued on 10 December 2021 which committed co-sponsors to work towards "concrete, pragmatic, and effective outcomes" on the trade-related aspects of plastics pollution in order to contribute to the global response to end plastic pollution on the areas of substantive focus further articulated by the Dialogue Plan (INF/TE/IDP/W/5): Cross-cutting issues, including capacity building and technical assistance, international cooperation, and transparency and data; Reduction and circularity to tackle plastic pollution; and Promotion of trade to tackle plastic pollution.

Highlighting the progress of the collective work of the Dialogue since its launch, including:

- The substantive technical work and discussions of the Dialogue, with the support of the expertise from delegations and relevant stakeholders, which has helped advance our collective knowledge of the intersection between trade, trade policies and plastic pollution, under each of the workstreams of the Dialogue, and supported the production of several outputs from the Dialogue such as those reflected in the open, illustrative, non-exhaustive and evolving compilation of suggestions, practices, options, and opportunities attached to this statement, as well as information documents, factual summaries and reports, specialized workshops, surveys and communications.
- The enhanced, close, and constructive cooperation with other international and regional efforts and institutions, such as with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the BRS Conventions, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR), the World Bank Group, the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and a range of stakeholder organizations involved in the work of the Dialogue.

We have accordingly reached the following shared understandings.

We will continue to cooperate on the basis of the following shared principles:

- Focusing on trade-related actions within the rules and mechanisms of the WTO that participating Members could take collectively and individually to support global efforts to end plastic pollution.
- Deepening cooperation and collaboration with other international organizations, secretariats and processes; ensuring coherence and complementarity; avoiding duplication; and ensuring that our work is informed by and supports the ongoing INC negotiations as well as the implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and takes into account relevant technical and scientific developments.
- Deepening cooperation to address challenges facing WTO Members, in particular developing Members, LDCs, SVEs, SIDS and land-locked developing countries (LLDCs), in the trade-related aspects of plastic pollution and sustainable development goals.
- Emphasizing the role of multilateral trade-related cooperation including in promoting transparency and sustainable practices to tackle plastic pollution.

- Continuing open, inclusive, and transparent engagement with all WTO Members, relevant WTO Committees, and all relevant stakeholders.
- Continuing our efforts in further exploring the interlinkages of plastic pollution and trade.

We agree on the importance of international cooperation on the following actions and pursuing such actions, including on a voluntary basis, individually and collectively, in the spirit of international cooperation while recognizing different domestic challenges and priorities for action:

- Improve transparency, monitoring and understanding of trade flows throughout the value chain of plastics, including flows of single-use plastics, plastic films and hard-to-recycle plastics.
- Address trade-related capacity building and technical assistance needs of developing Members, least-developed Members, SVEs and SIDS, including through the implementation of Aid for Trade and facilitate ongoing efforts to better match existing funding opportunities with specific trade-related needs identified by developing Members to tackle plastic pollution.
- Promote cooperative and effective trade-related policies or measures implemented to support efforts to reduce plastics and plastic products that are harmful to the environment or human health, or unnecessary single-use plastics and plastics packaging, associated with international trade that are not essential for medical or sanitary purposes.
- Promote cooperative and effective trade-related policies or measures to address the environmental, social and human health impacts and leakages across the lifecycle of plastics, plastics products and their constituents.
- Promote cooperation on trade that contributes to ending plastic pollution, including trade in environmentally sound, safe, and effective non-plastic substitutes taking into account scientific evidence and knowledge; and environmentally sound, safe and effective plastic alternatives; as well as systems to reuse, repair and refill; and services and technologies including for improving transparency, waste management and clean-up activities, in ways that consider the waste hierarchy and are appropriate to local development circumstances and needs, and in line with Basel Convention Technical Guidelines on Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Wastes.
- Promote trade-related cooperation to contribute to the control of transboundary movement of plastic pollution, including through, for example, the effective implementation by its Parties of the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments and its Plastic Technical Guidelines, where relevant to international cooperation and progress towards environmentally sound and safe plastic waste management.

Related to each of the actions noted above, a factual compilation with actions, policies and measures identified through the Dialogue's discussions and surveys, as being undertaken or proposed by Members to reduce plastic pollution, is attached to this declaration.

This compilation will be updated periodically based on global, regional and domestic efforts and outcomes including means of implementation, as well as on technical and scientific developments.

We will continue to hold dedicated discussions with a view to identify best practices and share experiences regarding all topics identified by the Dialogue. The Dialogue will work to update a forward plan in the months following MC13. We will look for further concrete, pragmatic, and effective outcomes on these actions and understandings at the latest by MC14. In this process, we will reflect the results of the INC negotiations on the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in updating the compilation.
