

## What role for the WTO in addressing plastics pollution?

Workshop co-organized by China, Sri Lanka and Morocco

25th November 2019. Room S1, WTO

### **10:00 – 10:05 Opening remarks**

H.E. Dr. Xiangchen Zhang, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of **China** to the WTO

### **10:05 – 10:10 Remarks from the WTO Secretariat**

TBC

### **10:10 – 10:35 Presentations from Keynote Speakers**

Recycling of plastics promotes sustainable development of trade

Dr. Nanqing Jiang, Secretary General, **China Plastics Reuse and Recycling Association**

Brainstorming on the WTO potential role in addressing global plastics pollution

Mr. Xiaohui Zhang, Permanent Mission of China to the WTO

### **10:35 – 11:25 Presentations from International Organizations, Industry and Academia**

(maximum of 10 minutes each)

Dr. Jos Verbeek, Manager and Special Representative to the UN and WTO, **World Bank** Group Geneva Office

Dr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary, **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions**

Ms. Kristen Hughes, Director, Global Plastic Action Partnership, Member of the Executive Committee, **World Economic Forum**

Mr. Daniel Weston, General Counsel & Global Head of CSV and Corporate Communications, **Nestlé Nespresso S.A.**

Dr. Carolyn Deere Birkbeck, Senior Researcher, Global Governance Centre, **the Graduate Institute**

### **11:25 – 12:05 Presentations from WTO members**

(maximum of 10 minutes each)

H.E. Mrs. Gothami Silva, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of **Sri Lanka** to the WTO

H.E. Mr. Omar ZNIBER, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of **the Kingdom of Morocco** to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland

H.E. Mr. Stephen de Boer, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of **Canada** to the WTO

Mr. Paolo Garzotti, Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative of **the European Union** to the WTO

### **12:05 – 12:25 Questions & Answers**

### **12:25 – 12:30 Concluding Remarks**

H.E. Dr. Xiangchen Zhang, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of **China** to the WTO

### **12:30 – 14:00 Lunch provided by Permanent Mission of China to the WTO**

Location: The GALLERY

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*In case you do not hold a WTO badge, [please register](#) for the event.*  
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## **Background Note**

The urgency of tackling global plastics pollution in land & at sea is increasingly recognized around the world. According to UNEP, 127 countries have adopted legislation to regulate plastic bags, mostly in the form of restrictions on manufacturing, distribution, use and imports. Among these countries, 61 have adopted manufacturing and/or import bans on plastic bags, and a number of them have also taken steps to reduce other single-use plastics. Similar initiatives have been undertaken at the regional and multilateral levels. The G20, the UN Environment Assembly (the CleanSeas campaign launched by UN in 2017 to turn the tide on plastic & the Resolution adopted by 200 governments at the UN Environment Assembly held in December 2017 urging much more to be done about plastic waste, including legally binding treaties), the World Bank, the Basel Convention and many other IOs are taking action as well. Against this backdrop, how could the WTO, as the core international trade body, contribute national, regional and global efforts to tackle global plastic pollution?

This workshop, co-organized by China, Sri Lanka and Morocco, provides an opportunity for WTO members, together with international organizations, industry representatives, and relevant experts, to raise awareness about plastic pollution, to promote discussion, to share experiences & challenges, including lessons learned and to identify as to what extent the WTO rules support the developing members' efforts in overcoming the challenges at present, and to explore possible further steps from trade perspective at the WTO.

Outcome of the workshop will be shared in the Trade and Environment Committee of the WTO.