DIALOGUE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PLASTICS TRADE

PROGRAMME – ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION WORKSHOP

THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER 2025, FROM 10:00 TO 13:00 (ROOM S3 AND ZOOM)

Concept

The WTO 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14), taking place from 26 to 29 March 2026 in Cameroon, will be a key opportunity to discuss and advance issues at the intersection between trade, environment and development.

The Dialogue on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP) has, from its start, incorporated development issues among its core topics of discussion.[1] In the context of its focused discussions towards "further concrete, pragmatic and effective outcomes" by MC14, this special workshop will focus on the particular challenges and opportunities that the marine environment, agriculture or other areas may face in Asia and the Pacific region, in addressing plastic pollution through enhanced trade cooperation.

A Survey was sent prior to the workshop to WTO Members and DPP Stakeholders with guiding questions to inform the technical discussions (see annex).

Structure

The workshop will be structured in three parts:

i) opening segment (15 min);
ii) technical discussions (2h30) covering three specific topics;
iii) closing segment (15 min) with reflections

Discussions in the technical segment will be facilitated and focus on the survey questions to each topic (see annex). "Fire-starter" presentations from regional experts will provide initial context for discussions. Delegations and invited stakeholders are asked to participate actively.

Proposed programme

Moderators: Mr. Dhinesh Thanenthirarajah, Australia, and Mr. LiYu Zhou, China.

10:00- 10:15 **Opening segment**: *Welcome remarks and scene-setting presentations* ▪ H.E. Ms. LI Yongjie, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the WTO, China ▪ H.E. Mr. James BAXTER, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the WTO, Australia *Scene-setting presentation by the WTO Secretariat of received contributions and discussions held at the DPP covering the Workshop topics*
10:15– 12:45 pm – **Technical discussions on Survey/Guiding questions** 10:15 – 11:05 –Trade-related TA/CB needs of Asia-Pacific developing economies

[1] For instance, the DPP conducted a Survey to identify specific trade-related needs in addressing plastic pollution, as well as available Aid for Trade (AfT) initiatives and ways to improve their transparency in AfT Global Reviews. The results, showcased in a Factual Report (INF/TE/IDP/W/12), provided the basis for future DPP work on the topic, including as part of the six actions listed in the MC13 Ministerial Statement (WT/MIN(24)/14).

Fire-starters

- Mr. Richardo Colmar, Minister Counsellor/ Deputy Permanent Representative, Vanuatu
- Mr. Jiua Wilisoni, First Secretary, Fiji
- Mr. Feng Wang, UNEP *(online)*- Compilation of best practices and case studies based on the regional, and national experiences in ASEAN countries to reduce Plastics Pollution.

Followed by discussion

11:05 – 11:55 – Opportunities for greater cooperation on Trade-related Plastic Measures (TrPMs) adopted in Asia and the Pacific

Fire-starters

- Mr. Ruben Bibas, Economist, OECD *(online)* - *Regional Plastics Outlook for Southeast and East Asia (2025)*
- Mr. Pattarapol Kamolsilp, Counsellor, Thailand
- Ms. Stefanie Breitien, Managing Director, PCX Solutions (*online*)

Followed by discussion.

11: 55 – 12:45 - Key technologies, including for environmentally sound waste management, non-plastic substitutes and alternatives, for Asia and the Pacific

Fire-starters

- Mr. Henrique Pacini, economist, UNCTAD – SMEP programme: substitutes for single-use plastics in the region
- Mr. Akhmad Bayhaqi, Senior Analyst, APEC Secretariat, Policy Support Unit *(online*) - *Non-Binding Guidelines on Services that Support the Clean-up of Marine Debris (2023) and the bio-circular and Green Declaration*.
- Mr. James Baker, Senior Circular Economy Specialist, Asian Development Bank (*online*): *Financing Plastic Circularity in Asia and the Pacific: How to Overcome Market and Policy Challenges and Create Impact | Asian Development Bank*
- Ms. Sangeeta Agasty, Regional Director, INBAR South Asia *(online)*

Followed by discussion.

12:45 – 13:00 – **Closing segment**: Reflections/key takeaways by DPP coordinators

- Mr. Wilisoni JIUTA, First Secretary, Fiji

ANNEX I – Questions for written submissions by delegations and stakeholders

Technical discussions will focus on the guiding questions below. Delegations and invited stakeholders are kindly invited to reply to the questionnaire via the links below or send written answers to these questions prior to the event to dpp@wto.org. Responses may focus on areas such as the marine environment, agriculture or other areas.

DPP Asia and the Pacific Atelier_EN - Formstack - English
DPP Asia and the Pacific Atelier_FR - Formstack - French
DPP Asia and the Pacific Atelier_ES - Formstack - Spanish

1) Trade-related technical assistance (TA) / capacity building (CB) needs of Asia and the Pacific developing economies

Q. What are the specific trade-related TA and CB needs of Asia and the Pacific economies in addressing plastic pollution? Your responses may also focus on areas of regional relevance, such as marine environment or agriculture, or adopt a broader scope. How can enhanced trade cooperation and MC14 outcomes help address them?

2) Opportunities for greater cooperation on Trade-related Plastic Measures (TrPMs) adopted in Asia and the Pacific

Q. Are there opportunities for greater regional or local harmonization, alignment or interoperability of trade-related measures applied to harmful plastics and plastic products, or unnecessary single-use plastics (SUPs) and plastics packaging (e.g. restrictions on SUP bags)? Please identify what could be done and what MC14 outcome would be helpful.

3) Key technologies, including for environmentally sound waste management, non-plastic substitutes and alternatives for Asia and the Pacific

Q. What key technologies and services, including for environmentally sound waste management technology, non-plastic substitutes and alternatives, could be prioritized for enhanced and facilitated access for Asia and the Pacific developing economies? What are the main trade-related obstacles facing such technologies?

Q. Are there technologies to which Asia and the Pacific economies would have access to and/or a potential "green comparative advantage" in exploiting and developing productive capacity on (e.g. sugar cane bagasse, coconut husks and other crop waste and byproducts materials; marine-based resources; bamboo, jute, and other "natural" fibre and products)? What are the main trade-related obstacles facing such technologies?

Optional: Please complete the DPP Aid for Trade Global Review and Needs Assessment Survey below
For delegations:
AfT global review and needs assessment survey - Formstack – English.
AfT global review and needs assessment survey (Fr) - Formstack – French.
AfT global review and needs assessment survey (Es) - Formstack – Spanish.

For stakeholders:
AfT global review and needs assessment survey (stakeholders) - Formstack (En)