The role of trade measures in the future instrument: challenges and opportunities

Summary Remarks at INC-2 Side Event
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Trade Across the Plastics Life Cycle

- **Upstream**
  - Extraction
  - Natural resources
  - Feedstock (hydrocarbons)
  - Oil & Gas Extraction, bio-based (agriculture)
  - Processing: Polymerisation, chemicals

- **Downstream**
  - Disposal: Incineration & landfilling
  - Waste management
  - Repair, refurbish
  - Collection

- **Midstream**
  - Design & production
  - Use, consumption
  - Reuse
  - Trade
  - Trade
  - Trade

- **Distribution**
  - Recycling of materials & components
Trade Flows Across the Life Cycle of Plastics (2021)

Note: Feedstocks, precursors, and additives are inputs used in plastic production and processing. The values noted in this figure are for the total amount of trade, recognizing that not all of the trade of all of the products included in those values will be destined for use in plastics. Empty plastic packaging is included in the value for final manufactured plastic goods.
Poor transparency trade flows across plastics life cycle

Missing data on:

- plastic packaging integral to packaged products
- share of embedded plastics in products
- packaging used for transportation & distribution

Limited detail, poor differentiation on:

- primary plastics by polymer & feedstock
- chemical additives
- single-use plastics of high environmental concern
- material composition of plastic products & waste
- plastic wastes
Ending Plastic Pollution Requires Trade-related Interventions

...across the life cycle

...using a systems change approach to transform global value chains

Reduce
Eliminate
Restrict
Design & Manufacture
Substitute
Reuse & Reuse Systems
Repair
Recycle
Safe Disposal
Safe Management

...and cooperation on a variety of trade & trade-related policy tools

Bans
Restriction Measures
Regulatory Cooperation
Fees or Taxes
Standards
Trade Promotion
Trade Facilitation
Customs
Subsidies reform
Government procurement
Transparency & reporting
Non-party trade measures
Sample of Pathways for Trade-related Cooperation on Plastic Pollution

MEAS

- Global Plastics Treaty
- Basel & Stockholm Conventions

‘System-wide’ engagement & contributions from UN family, international organizations & processes

- WTO Dialogue on Plastics Pollution
- UNCTAD
- UNEP
- World Customs Organization
- International Organization on Standardization
- Interpol & UN Office on Drugs & Crime
- International Maritime Organization
- World Bank, regional development banks, Global Environment Facility
- Regional organisations and processes
- OECD
Sample of Potential Trade-related Elements in Plastics Treaty

• Reducing overall supply of primary plastic polymers to sustainable levels.
  • Binding obligations to control the production, import and export of primary plastic polymers & trade with non-parties

• Eliminating & restricting unnecessary, avoidable, problematic plastics harmful to health & environment
  • Binding obligations that restrict, prohibit or control the production, import and export of certain primary plastics polymers, precursors, chemical additives, plastic products and wastes & trade with non-parties

• Regulating plastic products placed on the market
  • Global rules – only plastic products adhering to agreed criteria produced, imported, exported and put on the market

• Promoting sustainable production & consumption, & safe circularity
  • International cooperation on criteria, targets & standards to drive systems change across global value chains

• Promoting transparency in production and trade
  • Of data on quantities of plastics, materials, chemical and products
  • Of material composition of products and materials that cross borders
  • Traceability and labelling across plastics value chains
Thank you!
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