



Webinar on report launching: How can international trade policy help tackle plastic pollution?

**17 June 2021
2–3.15 pm (CEST time)**

Programme

(version 4, of 15 June 2021)

This public launch will combine a brief overview of the report, followed by a roundtable exchange among invited discussants and an open discussion. Invited discussants include representatives of governments, WWF, Nestlé, UNEP, UNCTAD and the WTO Secretariat.

Questions for the roundtable discussion include:

- How and where could international cooperation on trade policies best contribute to efforts to reduce plastics pollution?
- In what ways do trade policies present challenges or stand in the way of efforts to reduce plastic pollution?
- How could stronger cooperation on trade policies support, and be reflected in, the proposed global plastic treaty?
- What are the opportunities and challenges related to existing efforts to use trade policies to help reduce plastic pollution, such as the Basel Convention's 'plastic waste' amendments?
- What are the trade opportunities for plastic substitutes and enhanced waste management capacities in developing countries?
- What concretely could governments do in the multilateral trading system to support and complement international efforts to tackle plastic pollution?

Welcome and opening remarks

- **Damaris Carnal**, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the WTO

Report presentation

- **Carolyn Deere Birkbeck**, Director, TESS
- **Maresh Sugathan**, Senior Policy Adviser, TESS

Roundtable discussion

- **David Vivas-Eugui**, Legal Office, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD (moderator)
- **Yuvan Beejadhur**, Senior Advisor to the Director-General, WTO
- **María Daniela García**, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations office and other international organisations, Geneva
- **Eirik Lindebjerg**, Global Plastics Policy Manager, WWF
- **Diana Barrowclough**, Senior Economist, UNCTAD
- **Leticia Carvalho**, Head of Marine and Freshwater, Ecosystem Division, UNEP (invited)
- **Alice Tipping**, Lead, Sustainable Trade and Fisheries Subsidies, International Institute for Sustainable Development
- **Helionor de Anzizu**, Staff Attorney, Centre for International Environmental Law

Open discussion



Speakers:

[Dr. Carolyn Deere Birkbeck](#) is the Director of the Forum on Trade, Environment and the SDGs (TESS), a partnership of UNEP and the Graduate Institute, housed at the [Geneva Trade Platform](#). She is also a Senior Researcher at the Global Governance Centre, where she leads a research project on [transforming the global plastics economy](#), supported by the Swiss Network of International Studies.

[Mahesh Sugathan](#) is a Senior Policy Adviser at the Forum on Trade, Environment and the SDGs (TESS), and an independent trade and sustainability expert. He has been a consultant for a range of international organisations including the World Bank, the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNCTAD, and the ACP Secretariat.