



Workshop

Sustainable and effective substitutes and alternatives for plastics

6 December 2022

Provisional Programme

Online, and in person, WTO room S1 and S2. Geneva, Switzerland
10 a.m.–1 p.m.

10–10.30 am **Plenary** (Room S1 and Zoom)

- Welcome remarks
- Factual summary of discussions held at the Dialogue covering the
- Workshop topics, WTO
- Presentation: “Plastic pollution: the pressing case of natural and environmentally friendly substitutes to Plastics”, UNCTAD

10.30–12.45 pm **Break-out sessions**

Session 1 (Room S3 and Zoom)		Session 2 (Room S1 and Zoom)	
10:35	a. Working definitions for terms relevant to trade in substitutes and alternatives	10:35	a. Illustrative and extended list of material substitutes and material identification exercise
11:35	b. HS code identification exercise, and trade-related measures enabling substitution of single-use plastic products (SUPP) and other “problematic” goods by sustainable material	11:35	b. Minimum criteria for life cycle analysis, including other considerations such as tradability, non-toxicity, affordability, accessibility, and availability. ¹

¹ **Tentative definitions for terms such as:** plastic; microplastic; plastic substitutes; plastic alternatives; environmentally sustainable; effective (including cost and functionally effective); single-use; reusable; biodegradable; erodible; recyclable; recyclable content; compostable; plastic-related emissions; waste management technologies.

12:45–1 pm **Plenary** (Room S1 and Zoom):

Reports of facilitators, round of short reactions by the plenary and conclusion

// Continued below >> Annex



ANNEX – Questions for written submissions by delegations and stakeholders

Break-out sessions will focus on the guiding questions below. Delegations and invited stakeholders are kindly invited to send written answers to these questions prior to the event to idp@wto.org.

1) Working definitions

Q. What are the concepts for which a "working definition" could help the identification of "environmentally sustainable and effective substitutes and alternatives" (please select all that apply). For each, what are the key elements that should be included in a working definition?

	concept	Key elements	Potential source
<input type="checkbox"/>	plastic		
<input type="checkbox"/>	microplastics		
<input type="checkbox"/>	plastics substitutes		
<input type="checkbox"/>	plastic alternatives		
<input type="checkbox"/>	environmentally sustainable		
<input type="checkbox"/>	effective (including cost and functionally effective)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	single use		
<input type="checkbox"/>	re-usable		
<input type="checkbox"/>	biodegradable		
<input type="checkbox"/>	erodible		
<input type="checkbox"/>	recyclable		
<input type="checkbox"/>	recycled content		
<input type="checkbox"/>	compostable		
<input type="checkbox"/>	plastic-related emissions		
<input type="checkbox"/>	waste management technologies		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other		

2) HS code identification exercise, and trade-related measures enabling substitution of single-use plastic products (SUPP) and other “problematic” goods by sustainable materials.

Q. Please indicate what "environmentally sustainable and effective substitutes and alternatives" are already being traded – even if not perfect/ideal solutions – and their identification codes under the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) – even if those codes currently cover other products.

3) Illustrative and extended list of material substitutes and material identification exercise

Q. Please indicate the key criteria to be considered when identifying environmentally sustainable and effective substitute materials. Please provide examples of such materials as well as relevant HS codes if available.

4) Minimum criteria for life cycle analysis, including other considerations such as tradability, non-toxicity, affordability, accessibility, and availability.

Q. What are the key criteria that should be included in the life cycle analysis (and other considerations such as tradability, non-toxicity, affordability, accessibility, and availability) of plastics, their alternatives, and substitutes.