

# **Sustainable trade and development cooperation in support of the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments implementation**

UNCTAD and BRS Secretariat in cooperation with World Trade Organization (WTO)

05 May 2023, 1:15-2:45 pm – Room C Lunch provided by UNCTAD

International Geneva Conference Centre

Hybrid event

[Registration Link](#)

The 2019 Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments have redefined the global framework for trade control regime in plastic wastes.

In 2021 the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 15), adopted the Bridgetown Covenant which contains a call to “address the discharge of plastic litter and other waste in oceans and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds and ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns” in light with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 14 and 12. The focus of UNCTAD work has been the development of the first ever plastic trade database, the identification of material substitutes to plastics and to support subsidies reform in the polymer sector.

At the World Trade Organization (WTO) Dialogue on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastic Trade, trade officials have been discussing ways in which enhanced trade cooperation can support international efforts to address plastic pollution, in particular under the BRS Conventions. In their [Ministerial Statement](#), Trade Ministers of the 76 co-sponsors called for concrete, pragmatic, and effective outcomes by the 13<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13) scheduled to take place in February 2024, Geneva, Switzerland.

In this context, the WTO, UNCTAD and Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm BRS conventions have been closely cooperating to support such efforts. As delegations ramp up their deliberations towards WTO MC13 and UNCTAD 16 Ministerial Conference, this event will brief participants on some of the relevant discussions and data generated in the multilateral trading system, including better understanding of trade in plastic waste flows along the value chains as well as on waste plastic trade and "hidden material flows" of plastic waste and facilitating access to technologies required to implement the Plastic Waste Amendments.

It will also introduce how these initiatives could assist in current discussions under the International Negotiating Committee to end plastic pollution.

## **Programme**

High-level opening remarks (20 min), followed by interactive Panel (40 min) followed by Q&A with the audience (30 min)

Moderators: Ms. Daniela Garcia (Ecuador) and Mr. Xiaohui Zhang (China), co-coordinators of WTO Dialogue on Plastics

### **1:15 Welcoming remarks**

- Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- Mr. David Vivas Eugui, Senior Legal Officer, UNCTAD
- Ms. Ludivine Tamiotti, Trade and Environment, World Trade Organization

**1:35 Interactive panel**

1. Mr. Rhys Pogonowski, Mission of Australia to World Trade Organization
2. Mr. David Vivas Eugui, Senior Legal Officer, UNCTAD
3. Ms. Paula Ocampo Seferian, Asociacion Colombiana de Industrias Plásticas – Acoplásticos
4. Ms. Tetyana Payosova, Trade Lawyer, Van Bael & Bellis

**2:25 Q&A with audience**

**2:45 End of side-event**