

WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE AND EFFECTIVE SUBSTITUTES AND ALTERNATIVES FOR PLASTICS

AGENDA

Workshop on sustainable and effective substitutes and alternatives for plastics

WTO in collaboration with UNCTAD
6 December 2022
Hybrid event – WTO room (Room S1, S3) and online (zoom)
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

The workshop will be structured in three parts: i) opening segment; ii) two work-focused break-out sessions (1h45min divided into two parts each) covering specific topics; and iii) closing plenary where delegations and stakeholders will reconvene. Discussions in the break-out sessions will be facilitated and focus on the guiding questions to each topic (see annex). Delegations and invited stakeholders can choose their preferred break-out session and are asked to participate actively. They are also invited to send written submissions prior to the event to mdp@wto.org.

Delegations and invited stakeholders planning to attend the workshop virtually must register via Zoom by clicking [here](#).

10:00 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 am – 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 ¹	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 materials	11:35 b. Minimum criteria for life cycle analysis, including other considerations such as tradability, non-toxicity, affordability, accessibility, and availability.

12:45 pm 1:00 pm **Plenary** (Room S1 and Zoom):

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

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.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	plastics substitutes	Similar as plastics	Bamboo and rattan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	plastic alternatives	Similar as plastics	Bamboo and rattan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	environmentally sustainable	Nature-based resources	Bamboo and rattan
<input type="checkbox"/>	effective (including cost and functionally effective)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	single use	Single time to be used	bamboo
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	re-usable	durable	Bamboo and rattan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	biodegradable	Nature based products	Bamboo and rattan
<input type="checkbox"/>	erodible		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	recyclable	Made with nature resources	Bamboo and rattan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	recycled content	plants	Bamboo and rattan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	compostable		Bamboo and rattan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	plastic-related emissions	Reduce plastic pollution	Bamboo and rattan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	waste management technologies	No waste and full utilization	bamboo
<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.

Chapter	14	Vegetable plaiting materials; vegetable products not elsewhere specified or included	Remarks
Heading	14.01	Vegetable materials of a kind used primarily for plaiting (for example, bamboos, rattans, reeds, rushes, osier, raffia, cleaned, bleached or dyed cereal straw, and lime bark)	
Subheading	1401.10	Bamboos	Introduced in 1988
	1401.20	Rattans	
Chapter	20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants	
Heading	20.05	Other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, not frozen, other than products of heading 20.06	
Subheading	2005.91	Bamboo shoots	Introduced in 2007

Chapter	44	Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	
Heading	44.02	Wood charcoal (including shell or nut charcoal), whether or not agglomerated	
Subheading	4402.10	Of bamboo	Introduced in 2007
Heading	44.09	Wood (including strips and friezes for parquet flooring, not assembled) continuously shaped (tongued, grooved, rebated, chamfered, V-jointed, beaded, moulded, rounded or the like) along any of its edges, ends or faces, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed.	
Subheading	4409.21	(Non-coniferous) Of bamboo	Introduced in 2007
Heading	44.12	Plywood, veneered panels and similar laminated wood	
Subheading	4412.10	Of bamboo	Introduced in 2007
Heading	44.18	Builders' joinery and carpentry of wood, including cellular wood panels, assembled flooring panels, shingles and shakes	
		- Assembled flooring panels	
Subheading	4418.73	-- Of bamboo or with at least the top layer (wear layer) of bamboo	Introduced in 2017
		- Other	
Subheading	4418.91	-- Of bamboo	Introduced in 2017
Heading	44.19	Tableware and kitchenware, of wood	
		- Of bamboo	
Subheading	4419.11	-- Bread and boards, chopping boards and similar boards	Introduced in 2017
Subheading	4419.12	-- Chopsticks	Introduced in 2017
Subheading	4419.19	-- Other	Introduced in 2017
Heading	44.21	Other articles of wood	
		- Other	
Subheading	4421.91	-- Of bamboo	Introduced in 2017
Chapter	46	Manufactures of straw, of esparto or of other plaiting materials; basketware and wickerwork	
Heading	46.01	Plaits and similar products of plaiting materials, whether or not assembled into strips; plaiting materials, plaits and similar products of plaiting materials, bound together in parallel strands or woven, in sheet form, whether or not being finished articles (for example, mats, matting, screens)	
		- Mats, matting and screens of vegetable materials	
Subheading	4601.21	-- Of bamboo	Introduced in 2007
	4601.22	-- Of rattan	
	4601.90	Plating Plaits & similar products, whether/not assembled into strips; bound together in parallel strands/woven, in sheet form, whether/not being finished articles	
	4601.92	-- Of bamboo	Introduced in 2007
	4601.93	-- Of rattan	
Heading	46.02	Basketwork, wickerwork, and other articles, made directly to shape from plaiting materials or made up from goods of heading 46.01; articles of loofah	
		- Of vegetable materials	
Subheading	4602.11	-- Of bamboo	Introduced in 2007
	4602.22	-- Of rattan	
Chapter	47	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard	

Heading	47.06	Pulps of fibres derived from recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard or other fibrous cellulosic material	
		- Other	
Subheading	4706.30	-- Of bamboo	Introduced in 2007
Chapter	48	Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	
Heading	48.23	Other paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding and webs of cellulose fibres, cut to size or shape; other articles of paper pulp, paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding or webs of cellulose fibres	
		- Trays, dishes, plates, cups and the like, of paper or paperboard	
Subheading	4823.61	-- Of bamboo	Introduced in 2007
Chapter	94	Furniture; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings; lamps and lighting fittings, not elsewhere specified or included; illuminated signs, illuminated name-plates and the like; prefabricated buildings.	
Heading	94.01	Seats (other than those of heading 94.02), whether or not convertible into beds, and parts thereof	
		- Seats of cane, osier, bamboo or similar materials	
Subheading	9401.52	-- Of bamboo	Introduced in 2007
	9401.53	-- Of rattan	Introduced in 2007
Heading	94.03	Other furniture and parts thereof	
		- Furniture of other materials, including cane, osier, bamboo or similar materials	
Subheading	9403.82	-- Of bamboo	Introduced in 2007
	9403.83	-- Of rattan	Introduced in 2007

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.

10000 kinds of bamboo commodities: handicrafts, woven bamboo products of mats, curtains, carpets, basketworks and utensils for daily life, furniture and seats, packing materials, newly developed bamboo products for sports, building, decoration, etc. and singly use products for eating and drinking...keyboard, computer, mouse, and similar product which plastic can make.
Rattan handicrafts, woven rattan mats and baskets, furniture and seats.

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.