

State-of-play of discussions at the WTO Dialogue on Plastic Pollution

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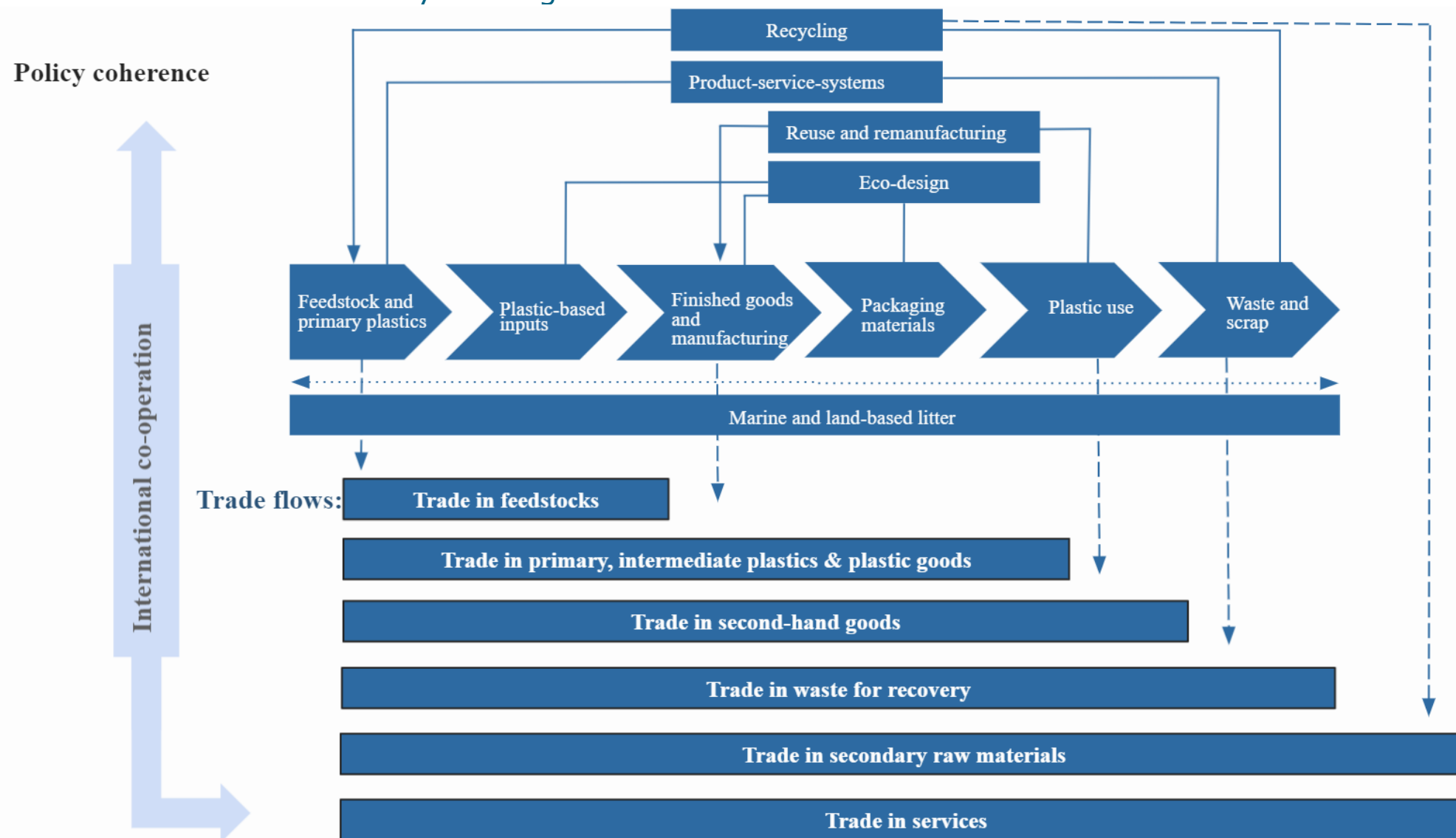
Dialogue on Plastics Pollution (short overview)



- Launched in November 2020
- **Coordinators:** Australia, Barbados, China, Ecuador, Fiji, Morocco
 - (+ the Philippines, UK, Peru and Cabo Verde)
- **Objectives:**
 - To explore how improved trade cooperation could contribute to efforts to reduce plastics pollution and transition to a more circular and environmentally sustainable global plastics economy
 - To complement existing international processes in other fora
- **76 co-sponsors**, representing 85%+ of trade in plastics + **stakeholders**
 - [Fiji], Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu.
- **3 informal working groups:** (i) cross-cutting issues; (ii) promoting trade to tackle plastic pollution; and (iii) circularity and reduction to tackle plastic pollution / + two Surveys

How Trade (and Trade policies) interact with plastic pollution? [INF/TE/IDP/W/3 – Factual Report 1st year]

Flowchart 1 – Plastic Life-Cycle Stages and Trade Flows



What are Trade-related Plastic Measures (TrPMs)?



Sustainability requirements

- Bans/restrictions on importation [and exportation] of [recyclable] waste (incl export licenses)
- Import licensing for plastic bag components (avoid circumv.)
- Minimum recycled content
- Requirements applicable to minimum thickness, (re)usability
- Exclusion of certain components
- Design requirements / guidelines
- Labelling requirements



Taxes and other market tools

- Env / chemical taxes (appl. to plastics)
- deposit schemes [incl. EPR schemes]
- [preferential] Tariffs on certain goods (incl. Tariff quotas)
- Packaging fees
- Trade defence tools (e.g. applied to substitutes)



Support measures

- Preferential tax treatment to alternatives/substitutes
- Direct grants to R&D
- Government procurement requirements/preferential rates for goods with recycled content
- Expenditure on resource utilization of agricultural wastes, incl. recycling of waste plastic films

General numbers and state of play of Dialogue's Survey on trade-related plastics measures (TrPMs)



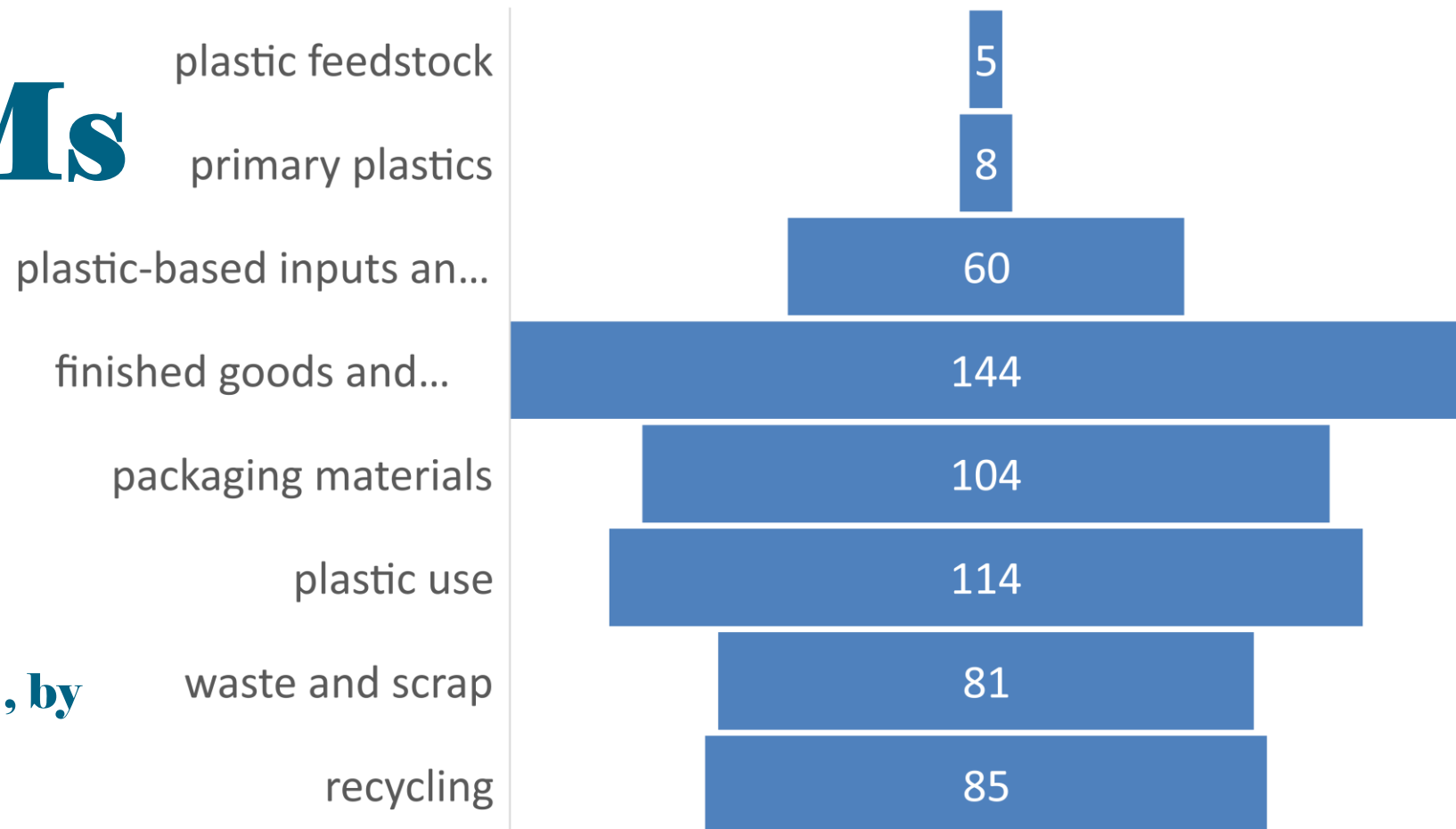
~280
TrPMs

64

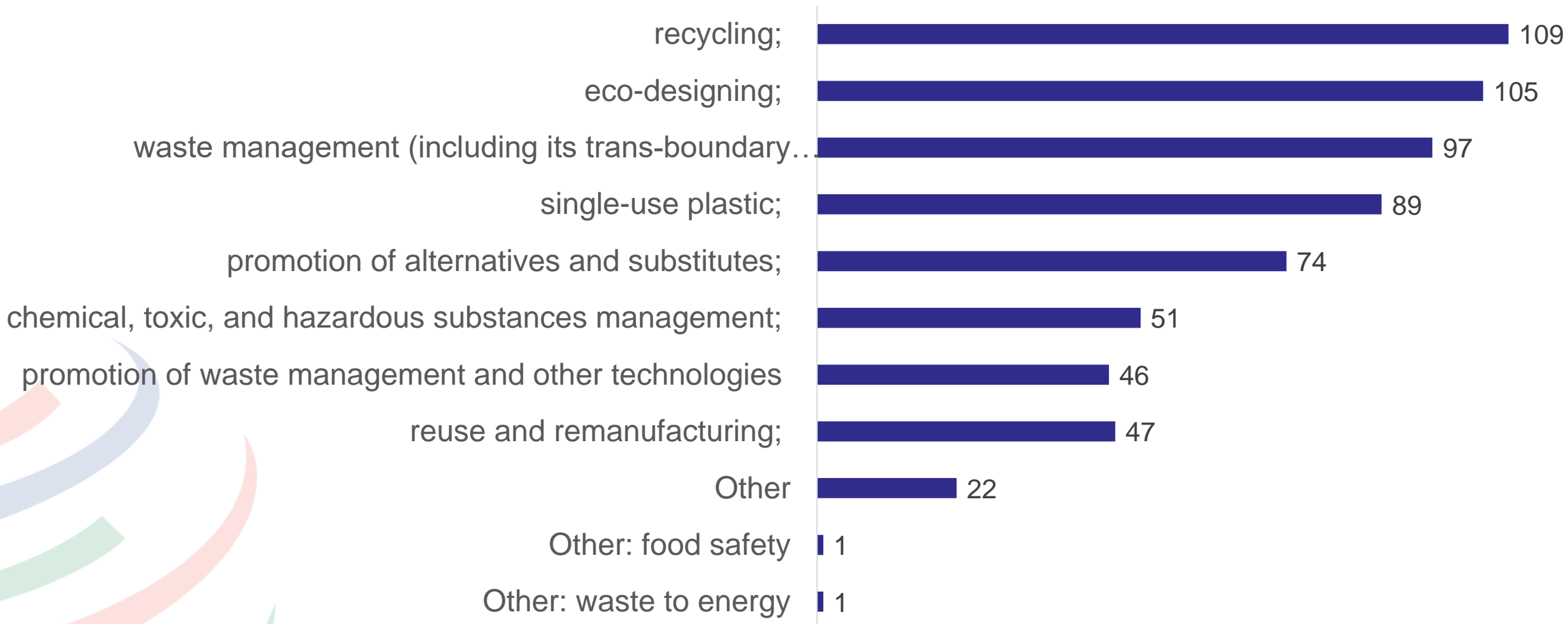
Members

From all regions and mostly developing and LDCs (75%+, by member or measure)

Stage in value chain life cycle



What are TrPMs being adopted for?



What products are [reduction] TrPMs being applied to?

[Factual summary of “reduction discussions” - INF/TE/IDP/RD/125/[Rev.1]]

109 TrPMs on Packaging

26 TrPMs on other “finished goods”

89 TrPMs on Single Use Plastics (SUPs)



- **Construction materials**
- **Ag materials (e.g. rubber hoses, mulch films)**
- **eProducts**
- **Care products (cosmetics, diapers, toiletries...)**
- **Tyres**
- **Fishing nets**
- **Tobacco***

Commonalities

thickness of
material (eg: <
50 microns)



How do Members define
“single-use plastic bags”?

usage (eg:
purpose,
capacity)

Polymer input
(eg: bio or
polymer based)

End of life
properties

WTO rules promote harmonization and use of “international standards”



WTO TBT Committee Decision on Principles for the Development of international Standards

- Transparency
- Openness
- Impartiality and Consensus
- Effectiveness and Relevance
- Coherence
- Development Dimension

2021 Ministerial Statement calls for “concrete, pragmatic, and effective outcomes” at the latest by the WTO 13th Ministerial Conference – Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, during the week of 26 February 2024



THANK YOU