

**UNCTAD Multiyear Expert Meeting on Transport,  
Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation**

21-23 November 2018, Geneva

**“Sustainable freight transport in support  
of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable  
Development”**

**Role of International Shipping**

by

Hassiba Benamara  
UNCTAD

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

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## **UNCTAD Multiyear Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation 21-23 November 2018**

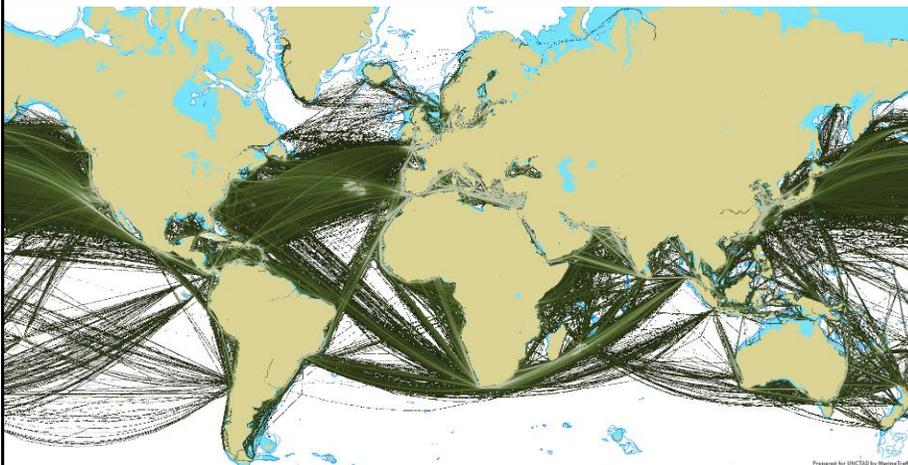
**Sustainable freight transport in support of the 2030 Agenda  
for Sustainable Development**

### **Role of International Shipping**

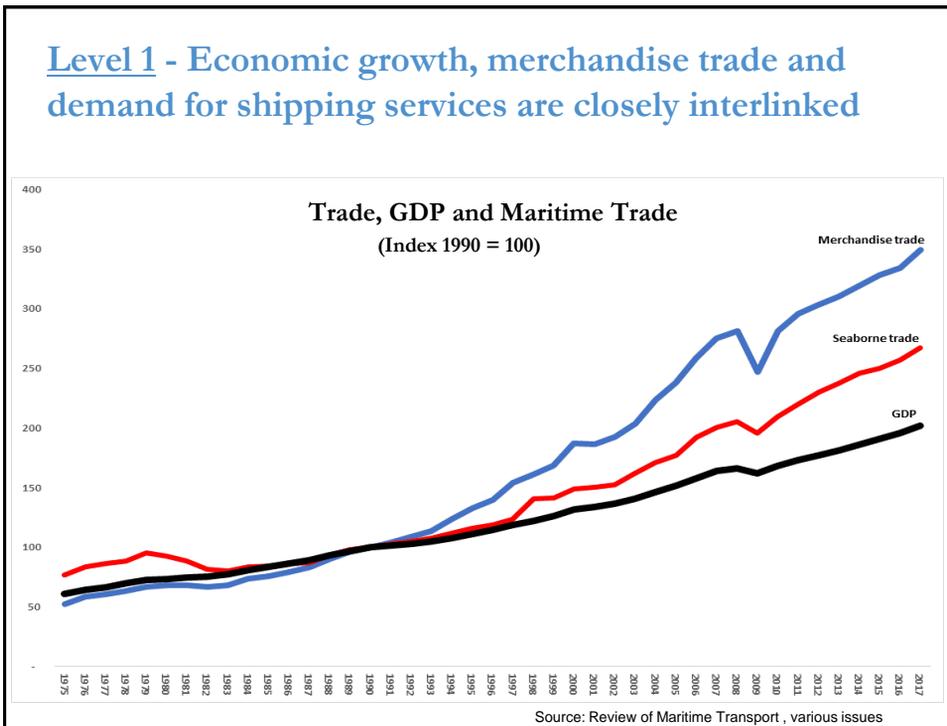
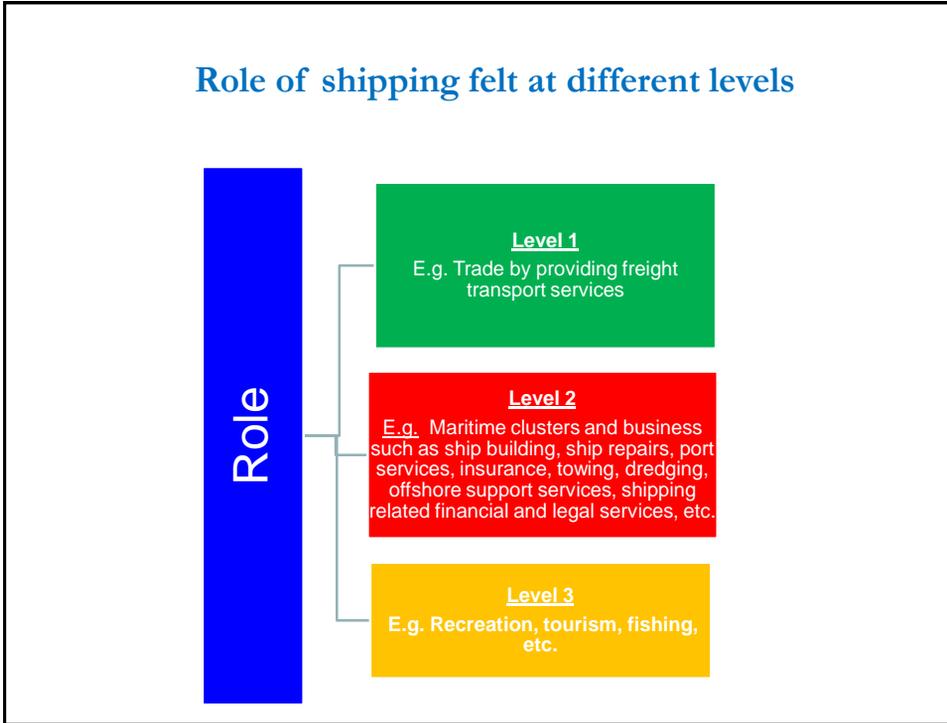
**Hassiba Benamara  
Economic Affairs Officer  
Trade Logistics Branch**

#### **Shipping is the glue that holds the world economy together**

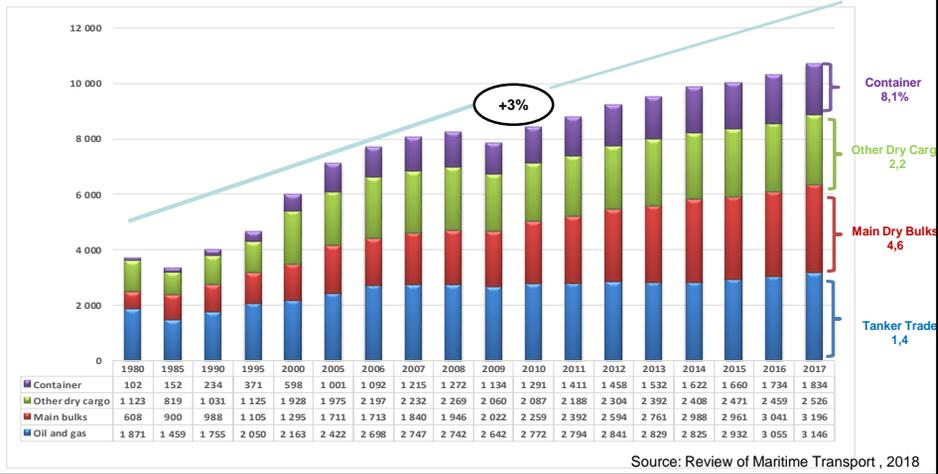
- Connects countries, markets, businesses and people on a scale not otherwise possible
- Caters to the interconnectedness and interdependence of economies
- Moving assets (ships) across borders and fixed assets (ports) within borders



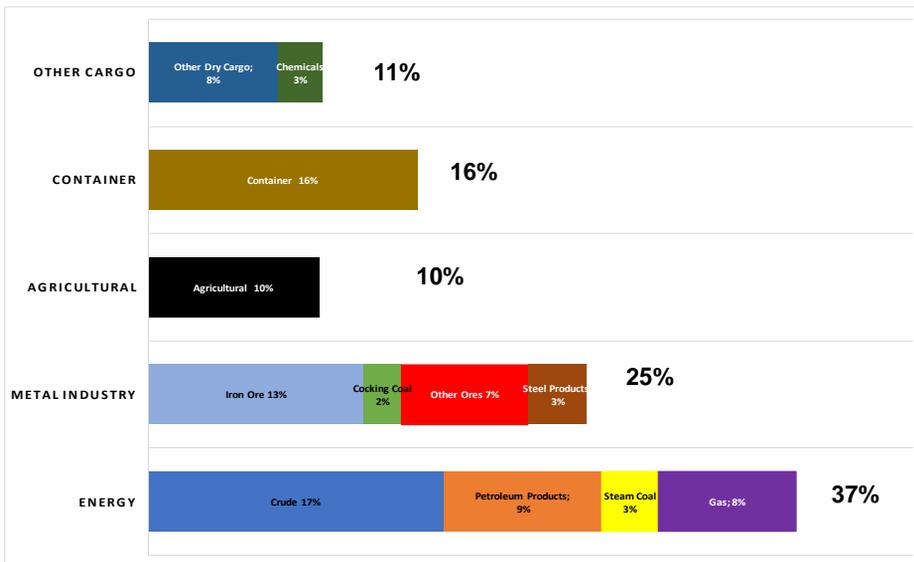
Source: Review of Maritime Transport 2017, various issues



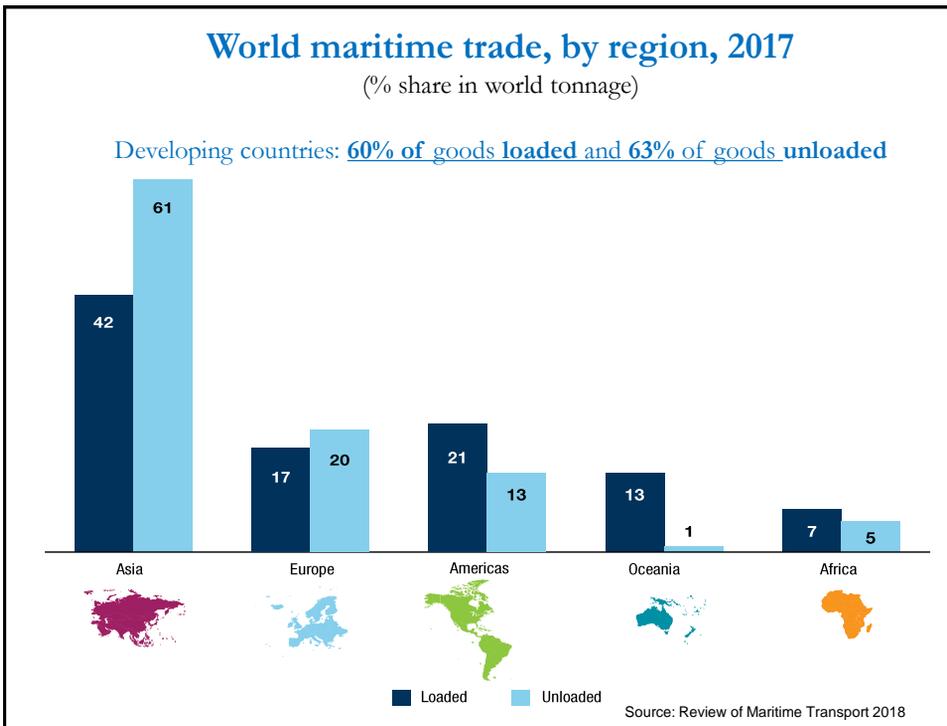
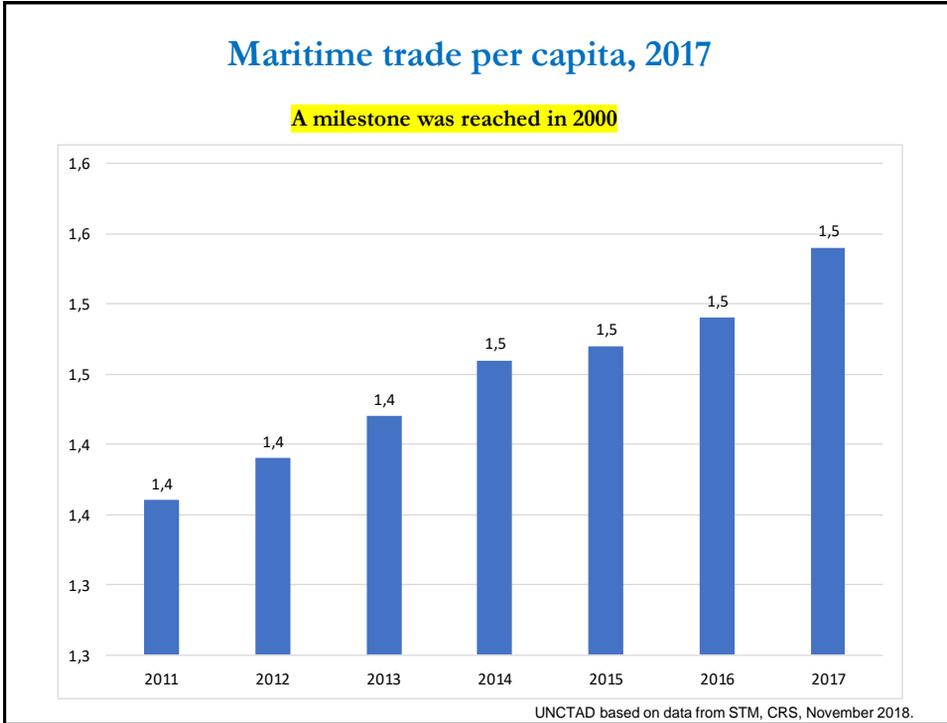
- Maritime trade: **Over 80%** of global merchandise trade by volume
- 10,7 billion tonnes** of cargo moved in 2017 (+4% over 2016), with a fleet of **94,169 ships**
- Containerized trade: 148 million TEUs (1.8 billion tons in 2017)  
 Nexus with globalized production, supply chains, manufactured and consumption goods

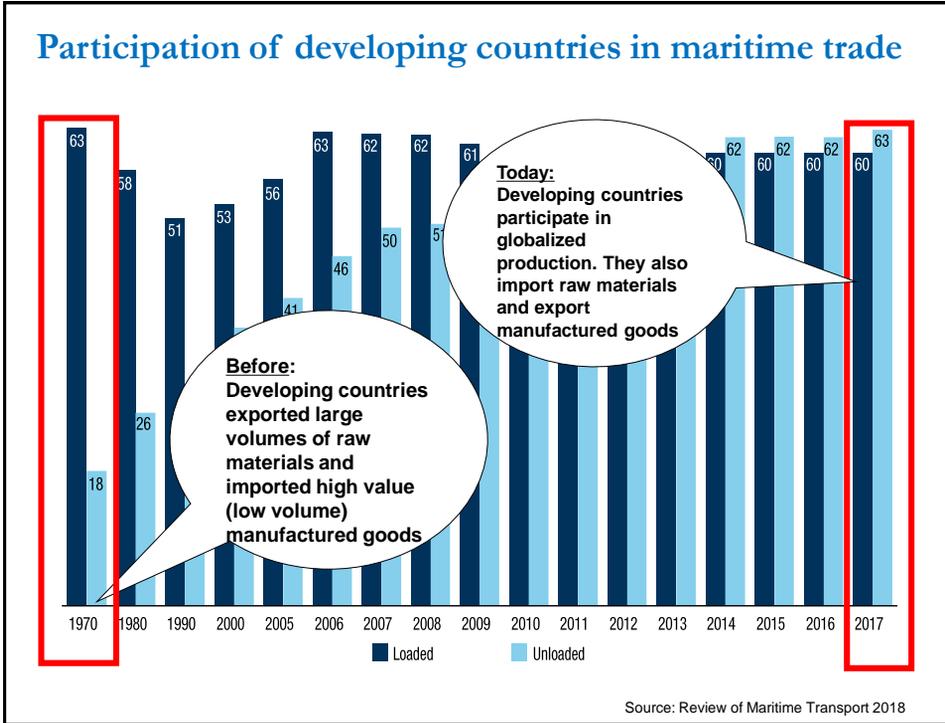


### Structure of world maritime trade, 2017

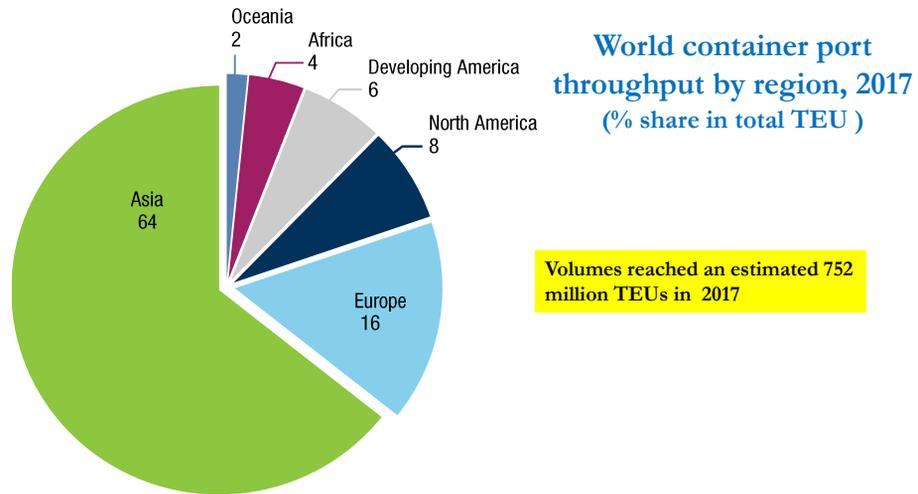


Source: UNCTAD based on RMT 2018 and Clarksons Research Services, SRO, 2018

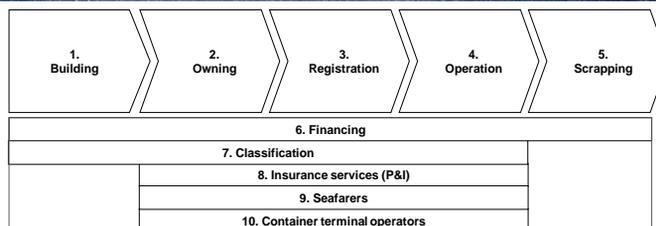
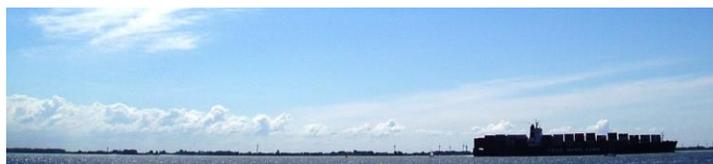




Level 2. Over and above its role of facilitating trade, shipping contributes to maritime transport business such as ports

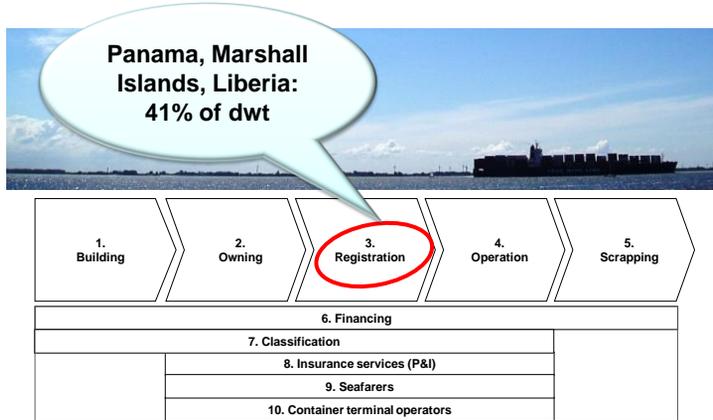


Level 2. Over and above its role of facilitating trade, shipping contributes to **maritime transport business** such as in connection with ships

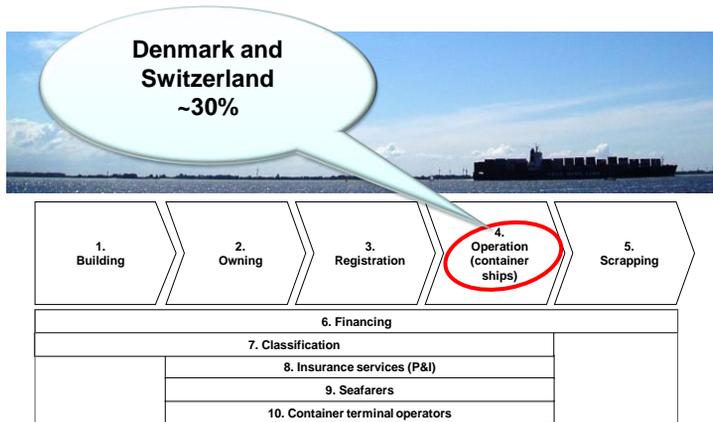




## Ship registration



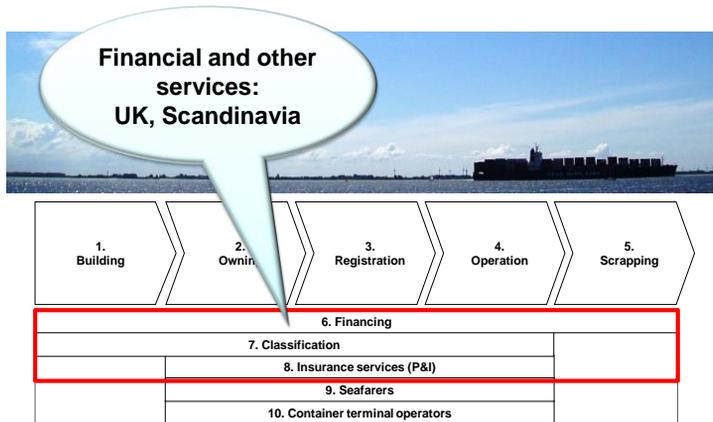
## Ship operations



## Ship demolition

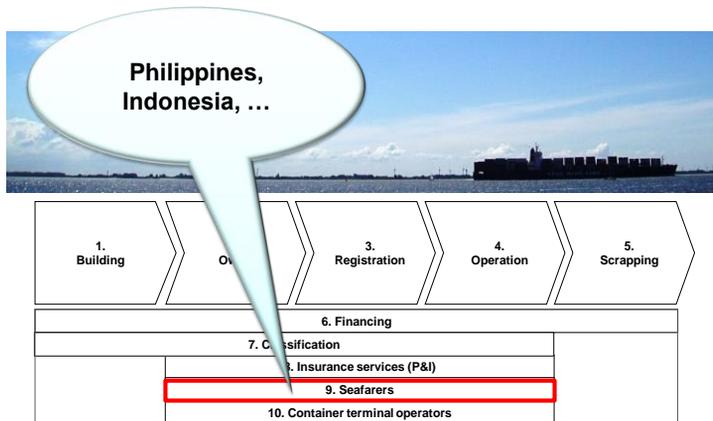


## Financial, Insurance and Classification Services



## Seafaring

Over 1 million seafarers



## Port terminal operations



### Level 3. Enables other sectors by acting as factor of production

- Oceans Economy Concept. Above and below water activities
- For example, cruise shipping and fisheries.
- SIDS/LOS

Source: Review of Maritime Transport 2018

### In sum

- Shipping is a critical and strategic sector with different types of impacts:
  1. **Backbone of international trade**, links supply chains, etc.
  2. **Engine of growth** that creates wider economic benefits (maritime business and clusters)
  3. **Enabler** (*input factor*) of other sectors such as fisheries, offshore, tourism.
- Developing countries **are important players both as users and suppliers** of maritime transport services and are likely to intensify their contribution
- Demand for shipping services **is set to grow** driven by population growth and economic activity
- However, increased shipping activity driven by economic growth and the need to carry more trade **raises concerns in connection with the sector's negative externalities** and their potential **to intensify if BAU is maintained** (e.g. environmental degradation, air emissions, etc.).
- Need to address unsustainable shipping patterns and decouple shipping from its externalities. This calls for **mainstreaming sustainability principles**.



**Thank you for your attention**