

**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”**

Introduction remarks

by

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Multi-year Expert Meeting on
TRANSPORT, TRADE LOGISTICS AND TRADE FACILITATION

**SUSTAINABLE FREIGHT TRANSPORT
IN SUPPORT OF THE 2030 AGENDA
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

21–23 NOVEMBER 2018
Palais des Nations

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21 November 2018, Geneva



Introductory remarks:

- Context of the meeting: SDGs in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Some of UNCTAD recent and relevant TA & CB work
- Structure of the meeting
- What we hope to achieve?

Context: 1. Transport and the SDGs

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- Adopted in September 2015
- 17 SDGs and 169 targets
- Transport plays a key role in the realization of many SDGs
- 5 direct targets and 6 indirect targets



Source: SloCat

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Momentum for global actions toward sustainable transport in recent years

Making freight transport more sustainable promotes achievement of multiple international development agendas



- Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- New Urban Agenda
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Decade of Action for Road Safety
- Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs
- Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs
- SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway
- Resolution 69/213 of the General Assembly on the role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development
- Sustainable Mobility for All (SuM4All) initiative

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2. Sustainability in Maritime Transport

The adoption in April 2018 under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of **an initial strategy for the reduction of GHG emissions from ships (by at least 50% by 2050, compared to 2008 - with the goal of phasing them out entirely)**, representing the first global climate framework for shipping, is an important milestone.

The strategy, includes quantitative GHG reduction targets through 2050 and a list of candidate short-, mid-, and long-term policy measures to help achieve these targets.

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3. Maritime Digital Transformation

Recent accelerated growth in technological advances and innovations suggest a significant potential for such technologies to support sustainability-building efforts in maritime transport.

They bring new opportunities and their application could cover all aspects of transport, including operations, processing, planning, infrastructure design, development and maintenance.

However, many questions remain given the uncertainty, risks and vulnerabilities, as well as prerequisites that may be associated with various emerging digital solutions and innovations.

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UNCTAD activities in Trade Logistics

- **Focal point** within the UN system for dealing with **trade and development** related issues in an integrated manner
- **Mandate broad** in transport & trade logistics and pioneered in recognizing the importance of sustainability in trade and transport.
- **Long tradition in [maritime] transport** (e.g. *Review of Maritime Transport*)
- In recent years , **greater integration of sustainability, environmental protection and climate change considerations** into work on transportation.
- **Three pillars of work:** Research & Analysis; Meetings/intergovernmental machinery; Technical Assistance & Capacity-Building



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Some relevant recent work: TA and CB

1. **Multi-funded Trade Facilitation programme:** provide technical assistance towards the implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation.
2. **Climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean:** enhancing the adaptive capacity of small island developing States; UNDA-funded project (2014-2017).
3. **Building capacities of developing countries to shift towards sustainable freight transport;** UNDA-funded project (2014-2018).

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About our meeting today

- The meeting is structured around 6 substantive sessions and one final session for further discussions and closing:

- Session 1:** Recent developments in global climate policy under the International Maritime Organization and implications for international shipping.
- Session 2:** Challenges and opportunities of global climate policy, including potential market-based mechanisms applied to international shipping.
- Session 3 & 4:** Enabling sustainable freight transportation: The perspective of transport and transit transport corridors and the perspective of the small island developing States (SIDS)
- Section 5:** Rise of digitalisation: Values and benefits of Port Community Systems.
- Session 6:** Technological advances and innovation for sustainable maritime transport



What we hope to achieve?

It is hoped that discussions will help address some if not all of the following issues:

1. How best can the **sustainability transition of the transport sector namely maritime transport sector** be accelerated? What is the role of industry, policymakers, investors, users, developing banks and United Nations entities, such as UNCTAD?
2. Challenges and opportunities of **global climate policy**. What are the implications for transport and trade in developing countries?
3. How can maritime transport effectively reap the benefits arising from the ongoing **digital revolution**? How can the maritime sector and trade in developing countries benefit?
4. How can greater standardization, **coherence and harmonization in standards** and methods be enhanced, for the increased interoperability of systems, in the context of the digital revolution?
5. How can **financial resources and investment** be scaled up and diversified? What are the options available to transport including maritime transport?



Thank you for your attention

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