



Global Supply Chain Forum

Barbados
21–24 May 2024



**UN Global Supply Chain Forum 2024,
key takeaways**



UN Global Supply Chain Forum in numbers



+1000
participants



+120
nationalities



64
sessions



103
partners



+200
speakers



+90
female
speakers



+30
initiatives launched



42,000
views on the
Website



+6,000
views on
YouTube





1. Resilient, green, and sustainable supply chains

The continuous disruptions in global supply chains highlight the critical importance of enhancing resilience and sustainability, particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). Public-private partnerships must strengthen supply chain networks' adaptability by investing in infrastructure, diversifying production, leveraging technology, strengthening collaboration, prioritizing sustainability, and providing targeted support to vulnerable regions.

2. Decarbonization

Maritime shipping is responsible for 80% of the world's global trade and 3% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Climate change is already proving its dire consequences on economies worldwide. Decarbonizing shipping is a viable solution to mitigate the impact of climate change. This transformation poses a financial cost but also creates opportunities. Developing countries can create added-value in green industries, with a people-centered approach.

3. Financing energy transition

Public and private sector agendas are intertwined. To achieve energy transition, the private sector should come on board with resources and innovation. In exchange, the multilateral scene must accommodate a playing field that allows the private sector to grow and safeguard investments. This would translate into stronger partnerships, enhanced transparency, and accountability.





4. Food security and connectivity


Low connectivity can also lead to an increase in import and export prices and, therefore, to food insecurity. Improving outdated infrastructure and enhancing logistics offer solutions for both those issues. Developing countries should work on long-term logistics strategies. Ambitious trade policy agendas and trade facilitation measures can also enhance global food security and ensure the provision of affordable, nutrient-rich foods to small economies' households.

5. Port adaptation and modernization

Ports are sea bridges and lifelines for countries such as SIDS. If a port closes or becomes dysfunctional, it impacts all the sectors of the economy. Capacity-building of port officials, private-public partnerships (PPPs), obtaining new data and knowing how to employ it, and using new digital tools can enhance ports profits, competitiveness and willingness to decarbonize. All ports can implement new methods to becoming greener and more digitized as shown by UN Trade and Development's Port Endeavor Game.

6. Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Small Island Developing States face the brunt of supply chain disruptions. In response to the Bridgetown Covenant and to be better prepared for future disruptions, the Global Supply Chain Forum had a Ministerial dialogue that resulted in the signing of the Ministerial Statement for Enhancing Transport and Logistics in Small Island Developing States.





7. Digital ecosystems

Digital corridors are necessary to interconnect the numerous digital solutions, such as single windows, that have been developed in recent years. Standards for interoperability and data exchange must be developed and applied. A digital ecosystem must also bring on board the need for Micro-Small-Medium Sized-Enterprises (MSMEs).

8. Trade facilitation, WTO TFA and beyond...

Trade facilitation is key for well-functioning supply chains. National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs) are crucial for coordination of trade facilitation reforms and are assuming new roles, such as facilitating humanitarian relief consignments, ensuring food security, and promoting climate-smart solutions while keeping their original function of making trade simpler and cheaper. Additional capacity building and resource mobilization are indispensable for helping NTFCs fulfill these new roles.

9. Gender equality in supply chains

Despite the advancements that the supply chain industry has seen in regards to gender equality, further measures must be taken: empowerment and mentorship programmes, capacity building, more transparent recruitment processes, and a promotion of women-led business. National solutions can be further enhanced by international conventions and finally women should be at the center of policymaking and not be added as an afterthought.





10. Strong political will and Capacity Building

All stakeholders in the Global Forum, NTFCs, representatives from the public and private sectors, underscored that reforms could only be achieved with unwavering political will. Technical cooperation initiatives from various organizations play a vital role in building countries' capacity to address supply chain challenges. From facilitating Customs automation to implementing port reforms, these collaborative efforts empower countries to enhance trade facilitation, bolster resilience, and adopt sustainable practices.

International platform for supply chain collaboration

Having an international discussion platform allows the quest for solutions to continue, to create synergies, and to forge partnerships. The next GSCF in 2026 will allow the international community to measure what progress has been made since the first edition.



Global Supply Chain Forum in numbers

 4,3/5 satisfaction level



What people have been talking about during the Global Supply Chain Forum 2024?

#Resilience #Transport #Connectivity #UNSupplyChain
#Inclusivity #Ports #SIDS #Disaster Risk Reduction
#Green #Decent work #Transition #Shipping #Innovation
#Food security #Trade facilitation #Data #Health

What has the audience said about the first UN Global Supply Chain Forum?

Insightful sessions

Excellent event

Excellent Forum

Sessions were very informative

Was an absolute pleasure being present!

This was a great initiative that was well-executed.

Excellent opportunities to network

The forum was enlightening for me, and the information presented was impactful.

UNCTAD should conduct these sessions in USA, Europe and Africa also.

Brilliant outing and a global pacesetter

See you in 2026! Bigger and better! It was worth it! Many congratulations!!

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