



2nd Global Supply Chain Forum 2026

RIYADH ➤ 29 November to 1 December

CONCEPT
NOTE

Monday, 30 November 2026
King Abdulaziz International Conference Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
16:30-17:30

ENERGY TRANSITION ROUND TABLE

Energy Transition: the role of ports

From roadmaps to implementation

Description

Volatility in energy trade, prices and supply routes is increasing risks and costs for ports and supply chains. Energy efficiency, renewables, electrification, storage and resilient power systems are therefore important for decarbonization, energy security and operational continuity. UNCTAD addressed these challenges through its Sustainable Smart Ports project in Ghana, Mauritius and Morocco. Aligned with the Forum theme, Towards resilient, sustainable and inclusive supply chains and trade logistics in times of uncertainty, the session will bring together complementary perspectives on implementation, drawing on beneficiary-port experience and expertise in port operations, infrastructure, industry, policy and finance. It will identify the planning, governance, stakeholder coordination, infrastructure, financing and operational arrangements needed to move from roadmaps to implementation.



Questions for discussion

The panellists will address two questions each:

- **Mr. Kailash Dhunnoo:** Which roadmap priorities have advanced since the project concluded? What governance, coordination, financing or technical support is still needed?
- **Ms. Margaret Aidoo Quarcoopome:** Drawing on GPHA's energy-transition journey, which priorities identified through the Sustainable Smart Ports project are now moving towards implementation? How can these priorities be integrated into port planning and investment decisions, and what coordination among the port authority, terminal operators, utilities, regulators and other stakeholders is needed to advance implementation?
- **Dr. Jan Hoffmann:** What governance, regulatory and financing reforms are needed to move ports from energy-transition roadmaps and pilot projects to coordinated, scalable investments? Drawing on the World Bank's work on future fuels in Moroccan ports, how can ports coordinate infrastructure, energy producers, shipping lines and investors while managing uncertainty over future fuel demand and technology choices?

Programme

16:30-16:35 - Opening remarks and session framing: Frida Youssef, Chief, Transport Section, UNCTAD

16:35-17:11 - Moderated panel discussion

With the participation of:

1. Mr. Kailash Dhunnoo, Senior Manager - Technical Services, Mauritius Ports Authority
2. Ms. Margaret Aidoo Quarcoopome, Deputy Corporate Planning Manager, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority
3. Dr. Jan Hoffmann, Global Lead for Maritime Transport and Ports, World Bank

17:11-17:30 - Interactive discussion with the audience and closing takeaways

Moderator: Mr. Mohamed El Zarkani, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Saudi Arabia



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