



2nd Global Supply Chain Forum 2026

RIYADH ➤ 29 November to 1 December

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Thursday 1 December 2026
King Abdulaziz International Conference Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 11:30 – 13:00

Technical Session 13

Sustainable and Resilient Transport and Logistics: Strengthening Supply Chains and Enhancing Food Security

Description

Transport and logistics constitute a strategic economic sector and a critical enabler of global trade and supply chain connectivity. The sector is increasingly stress-tested as confronted with multiple, overlapping shocks and disruptions that impede operations, disrupt business continuity, raise costs, extend shipping distances and transit times, exacerbate delays, reshape trade patterns, and reconfigure shipping services and port networks. Disruptions arising from a wide range of factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts and tensions, extreme weather events, climate change impacts, and trade policy shifts, have become a recurrent feature of the global operating environment. At the same time, the transport and logistics sector is expected to decarbonize, transition



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to cleaner fuels, accelerate digitalization, safeguard workers' rights and well-being, upskill its workforce, and strengthen the underlying regulatory and cybersecurity frameworks. These challenges have exposed structural vulnerabilities in transport, logistics, and distribution networks, underscoring that supply chain models driven by efficiency and cost optimization objectives may work well under normal and stable conditions, they can be more vulnerable and fragile when operating under stress.

Recent years have underscored the importance of adopting approaches that promote sustainability by default and resilience by design. Such approaches are essential to future-proof transport and logistics systems, enhance the reliability of global trade, and support broader sustainable development objectives, including energy security, food security, and climate resilience.

The implications of vulnerabilities in transport and logistics are particularly evident when considering food systems. Disruptions to transportation, handling and storage of agricultural inputs and food products when produced or traded, impact heavily on food availability, accessibility, and affordability. These disruptions amplify food insecurity, especially in vulnerable and import-dependent economies. Consequently, enhancing the resilience and sustainability of food supply chains through sustainable and resilient transport and logistics is a strategic priority, critical to advancing global food security and broader sustainable development objectives.

Efforts to enhance the sustainability and resilience of supply chains and their underlying transport and logistics services are ongoing. These range from trade facilitation reforms, diversification strategies, shifts in fleet capacity deployment, storage and logistics management practices, digital and technological solutions, data-sharing platforms, as well as cold chain infrastructure and services and traceability technologies. Complementing these efforts are capacity-building and training programmes, and the compilation and dissemination of good practices and experiences.

Against this backdrop, this session will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, practitioners, knowledge and good practice bodies, the private sector, intergovernmental organization, development agencies to take stock of relevant



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solutions and measures that can strengthen the sustainability and resilience of transport and logistics while enhancing global supply continuity and promoting food security. They will examine success factors, identify persistent gaps and challenges, and explore how lessons learned and good practices can be adapted and scaled up to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of global supply chains, with particular attention to food supply chains. The session will also seek to identify the core components of a practical toolkit to support sustainable and resilient transport and logistics systems, enhance supply chain continuity, and contribute to long-term food security.

Questions for discussion

- What was the single most important lesson learned from the disruption(s) your organization experienced, and how has it influenced your approach to sustainability and resilience?
- Which tools, technologies, or practices have delivered the greatest improvements in sustainability and resilience within transport and logistics, particularly in support of global supply chains, including food supply chains?
- What are the most common gaps in organizational preparedness for supply chain disruptions, and what measures would be most effective in addressing these gaps, particularly in the areas of transport and logistics, including food transport and logistics?
- Which practical solutions and good practices for building sustainability and resilience could be scaled up to benefit a larger number of developing countries and regions?
- If UNCTAD were to develop a global toolkit on enhancing sustainability and resilience in global supply chains, including a dedicated module on the sustainability and resilience of food supply chains, what should be its key components? Which stakeholders and experts should contribute to its development?



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Programme

Moderator: Mr. James Hookham, Director, Global Shippers Forum

Moderated panel discussion with the participation of:

- **Ms. Zera Zheng**, Global Head of Supply Chain Resilience and Consulting, Maersk
- **Mr. Marwan Naffi**, Port of Beirut, Chairman and CEO
- **Ms. Kelly Blakeley**, Board Director, Business Continuity Institute (BCI)
- **Ms. Frida Youssef**, Chief, Transport Section, Trade Logistics Branch, UNCTAD

Interactive discussion and main takeaways

Availability of interpretation

To be confirmed

Contact

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