



2nd Global Supply Chain Forum 2026

RIYADH > 29 November to 1 December

CONCEPT
NOTE

30 November 2026

King Abdulaziz International Conference Centre, GSCF Stage 2

Time 15:00-16:30

8TH TECHNICAL SESSION

Industry Perspectives: Supply Chain Disruptions

Description

Global supply chains are operating in an increasingly complex and uncertain environment. Recent years have demonstrated that disruptions are no longer exceptional events but a recurring feature of the global trading landscape. Geopolitical tensions, weather and climate-related impacts, cyber incidents, labour shortages and other factors causing disruption and growing uncertainty across critical maritime chokepoints have exposed vulnerabilities throughout international supply chains. Recent disruptions have highlighted the interconnected nature of global trade and how quickly localized events can generate global repercussions, affecting economies and a wide range of stakeholders including shippers, transport operators, workers, businesses and consumers alike.

Against this background, the roundtable will provide a platform for discussions on key issues of concern as well as risk management strategies and best practices from the perspective of different key stakeholder groups, including shippers, freight forwarders, transport operators and transport workers. Bringing together leading global industry representatives, the discussion will explore how different stakeholders experience and manage disruption and risks, adapt their operations, and build resilience in an



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environment where uncertainty is increasingly becoming the norm. The session is expected to generate industry-driven insights and recommendations on strengthening supply chain resilience, informing broader discussions at the Forum on how governments, international organizations and the private sector can work together to support more resilient, efficient, sustainable and inclusive global supply chains.

Questions for discussion

- How have shippers, freight forwarders, carriers and transport workers adapted their operations to cope with increasingly frequent disruptions and uncertainty?
- What lessons have been learned from recent crises, and how can these lessons be translated into longer-term resilience strategies?
- How can international cooperation, capacity-building and targeted investment support developing countries in enhancing their preparedness for and response to supply chain disruptions while improving their integration into global and regional value chains?
- What are the key areas for policy action and the main messages for policymakers from the perspective of your industry?

Programme

Opening remarks and moderation: Ms Regina Asariotis, Chief Policy and Legislation Section, UNCTAD

Panel discussion with the participation of:

- Mr Godfried SMIT, Acting Secretary General, Global Shippers Alliance (GSA) (TBC)
- Mr James HOOKHAM, Secretary General and Director, Global Shippers Forum (GSF) (**Confirmed**)
- Ms Anna LARSSON, Vice President Communications, World Shipping Council (WSC) (**Confirmed**)
- Dr Stephane GRABER, Director General, International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) (**Confirmed**)
- Mr Stephen COTTON, General Secretary, International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) (TBC)
- Mr Habib TURKI, Secretary General, International Road Transport Union (IRU) (**Confirmed**)
- Mr François DAVENNE, Director General International Union of Railways (UIC) (TBC)



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Availability of interpretation

Arabic, English, French, Spanish

Contact

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