

Global supply chains: Charting the course in a sea of disruptions

UNCTAD's 60th anniversary high-level pre-event
with the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Geneva, Palais des Nations, 7 June 2024

CONCEPT NOTE

Description

In light of the current state of global supply chain disruptions and the impact on global trade and development, and following-up on the momentum generated by UNCTAD's first global supply chain forum organized in Barbados in May 2024, this high-level side-event is organized in conjunction with UNCTAD60 with a view to outline strategic directions leading up to the second Global Supply Chain Forum in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2026.

The objective of the event is to identify key policy issues through a high-level panel discussion. These issues are determinant for the future of efficient and sustainable transport and trade logistics and global supply chains. The event will also explore how the multilateral system, with UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in a leading role can help contributing to achieving these objectives within the framework of global development goals.

Opportunities / Benefits

The event will be an opportunity to bring together the global trade community in the framework of UNCTAD60 in follow-up to UNCTAD's first global supply chain forum, to chart the global policy agenda for trade logistics and supply chains and set-out a road map in the lead up to and preparation of UNCTAD's second global supply chain forum which will be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during 2026.

Roles / responsibilities of the parties

The event will be hosted as a side event in conjunction with UNCTAD60 with the support of the Government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

It is expected to attract a global high-level audience from amongst the UNCTAD60 delegates. The event is expected to last one and a half hours.

Tentative list of speakers

The event is envisaged as a Davos-style panel discussion with five high-level speakers which includes:

- **H.E. Ms. Rebeca Grynspan**, Secretary-General of UNCTAD
- **Dr Rumaih AL-Rumaih**, Vice Minister of Transport and Logistic Services, and the Acting President of Transport General Authority (TGA)
- **Dr. Young Tae Kim**, Secretary-General of the International Transport Forum (ITF) at the OECD
- **H.E. Mr. Matthew Wilson**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Barbados to the UN, WTO and other offices in Geneva
- **H.E Mr. Muhammadou M.O. Kah**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the UN, WTO and other offices in Geneva
- **Mr. Steven Pope**, Group Head Trade Facilitation (Go Trade), DHL Group, and Chair of ICC's Global Trade & Investment Commission

Proposed Moderator

- **Ms. Shamika Sirimanne**, Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD

