



# Review of Maritime Transport 2019

Trade and Development Commission  
26 November 2019



REVIEW  
OF MARITIME  
TRANSPORT

2019

**Shamika N. Sirimanne**  
Director, Division on Technology and Logistics  
UNCTAD

# Slower maritime trade growth in 2018-2019

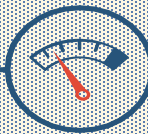
REVIEW  
OF MARITIME  
TRANSPORT  
2019



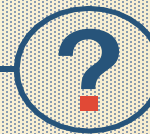
# Maritime transport remains the backbone of international trade and manufacturing supply chains

Over 80% of world merchandise trade by volume was carried by sea in 2018

However, it lost momentum in 2018, owing to:



Softer  
economic  
conditions



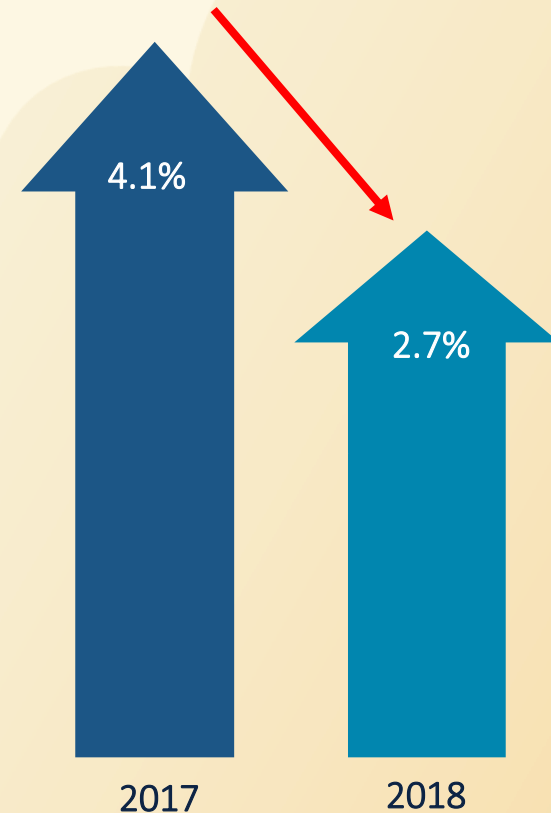
Heightened  
uncertainty



Wide-ranging  
downside  
risks

## International maritime trade growth slowed down in 2018

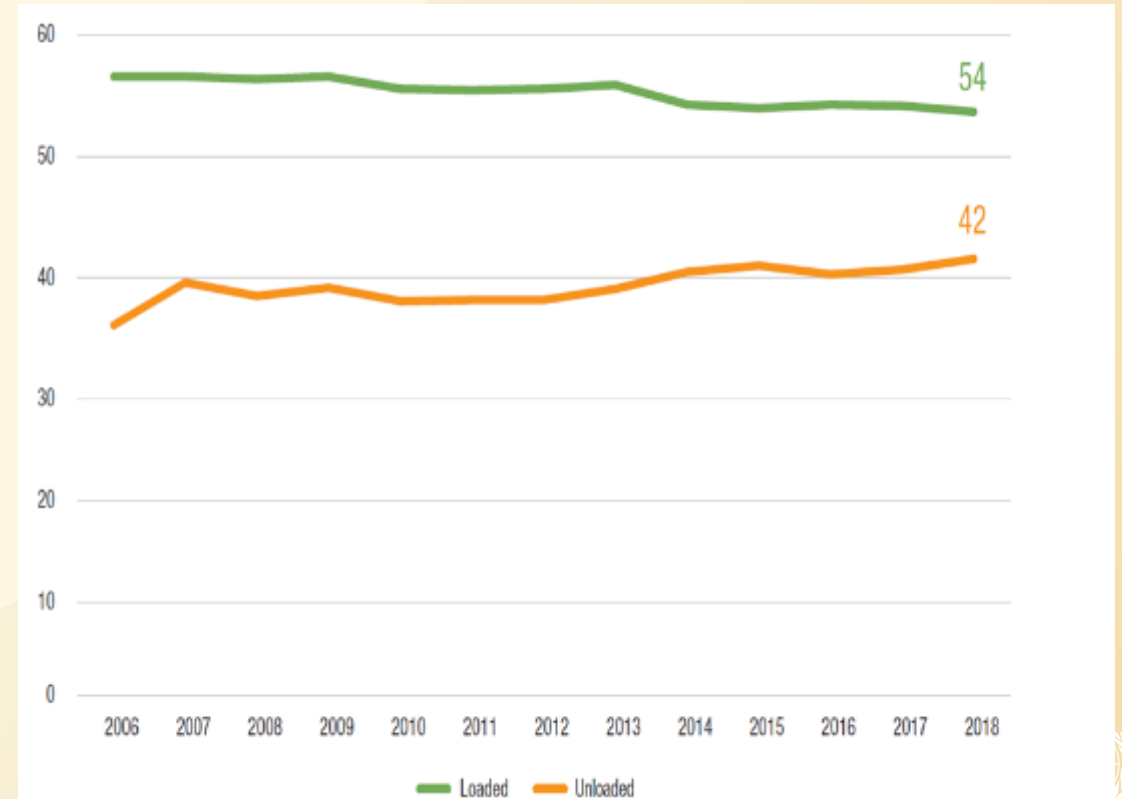
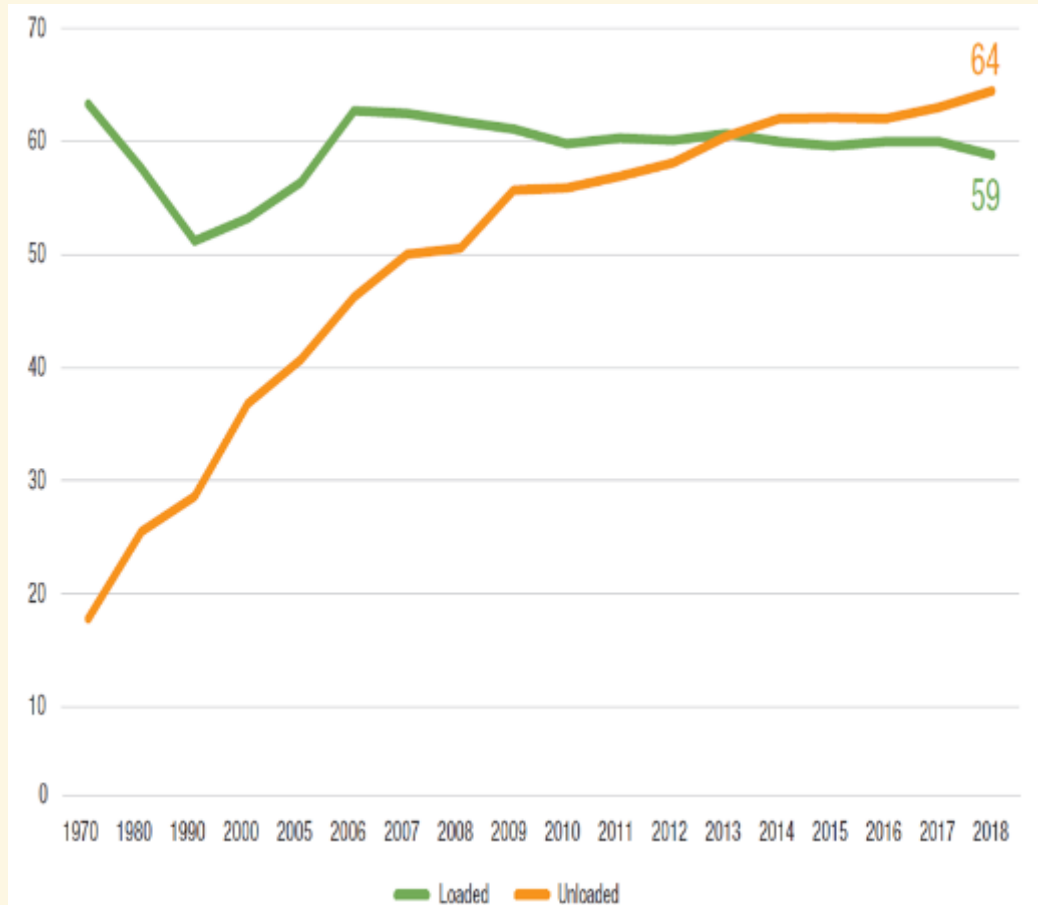
- ✓ International maritime trade volumes grew by 2.7% (2018)
  - Growth at a lower pace
    - Below the historical average of 3% (1970-2017) and 4.1% (2017)
- ✓ Volumes reached 11 billion tons





# Participation of developing countries in international maritime trade, % share in tonnage

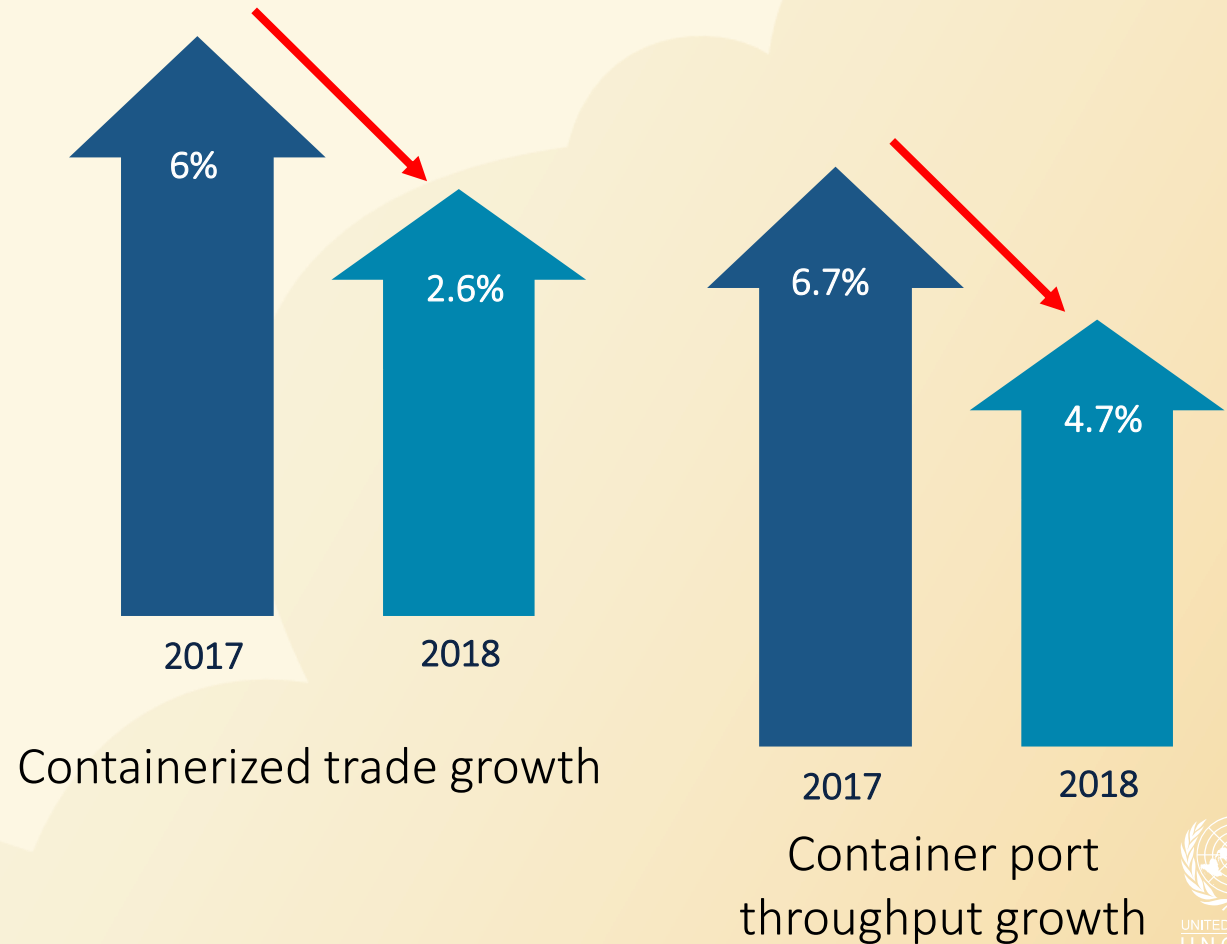
China not included



# A slowdown in containerized trade growth = Lower growth in port traffic



- Global container port throughput handled 793.26 million TEU
  - Additional cargo volumes handled in 2018 (35.3 million TEUs over 2017)



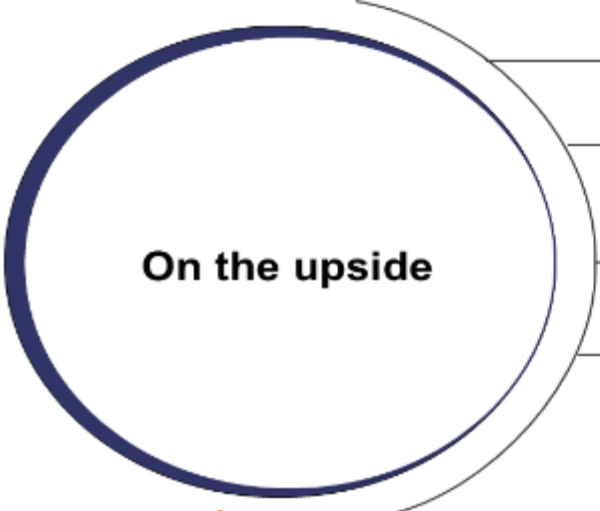
## Trade tensions: A downside risk to maritime trade and a disruption to supply chains



- Less than 2.0% of global maritime trade by volume is subject to tariffs
- Grain, containerized trade and steel products to be affected the most
- Product and supplier substitution and trade diversion

- Some China-based manufacturing moving to new locations in South-East Asia
- Supply chain restructuring implies potential shift in:
  - Routing
  - Shipping networks and configuration
  - Service levels and frequency
  - Port call coverage
  - Connectivity

# Maritime trade projected to grow in 2019-2024 period, amid uncertainty



01

**Belt & Road Initiative**  
Potential to generate trade volumes and improve connectivity

02

**Growth in developing economies**  
New demand patterns and consumption needs

03

**Energy transition and shift in mix**  
Potential new cargoes and shift in trade patterns

04

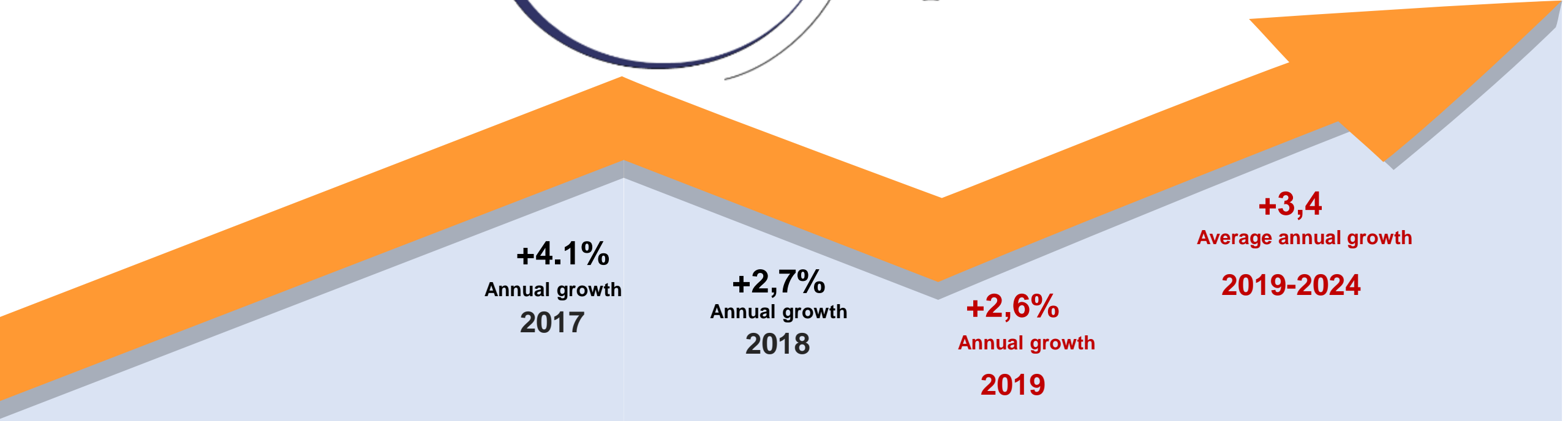
**Trade deals**  
New deals and those in the pipeline

**+4.1%**  
Annual growth  
2017

**+2,7%**  
Annual growth  
2018

**+2,6%**  
Annual growth  
2019

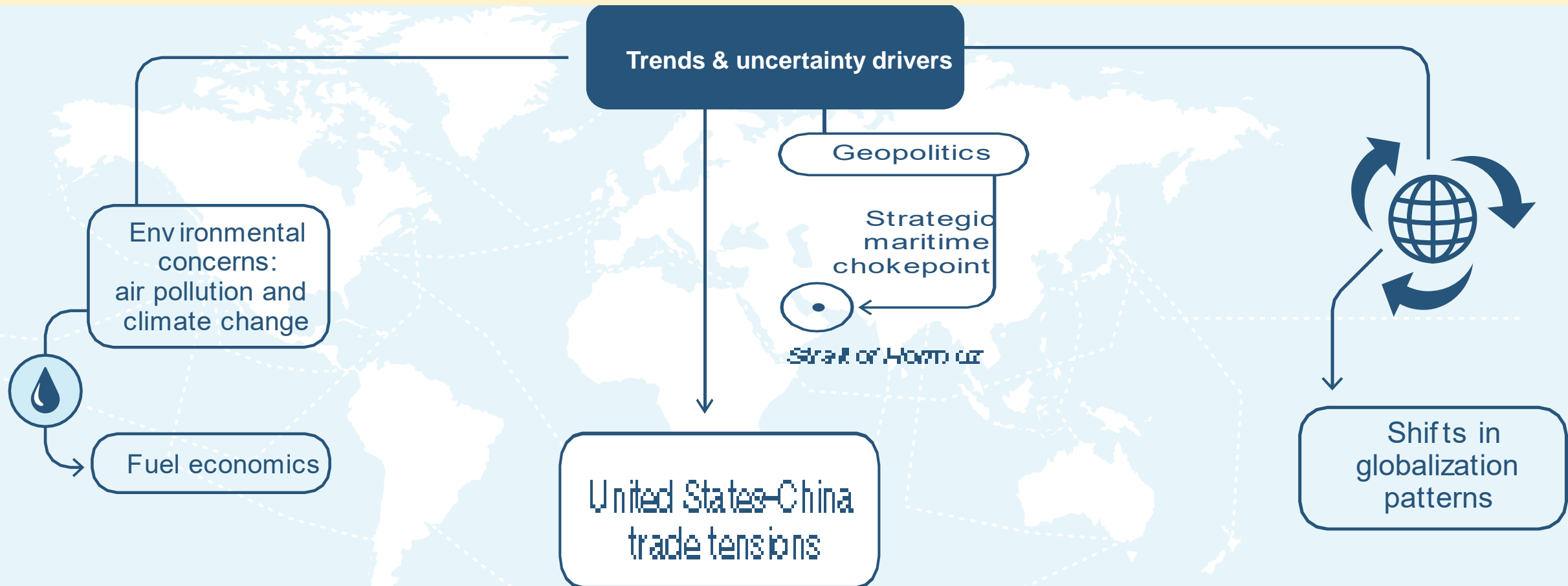
**+3,4**  
Average annual growth  
2019-2024





# Heightened uncertainty ahead

- Accelerated environmental agenda
- 2020 IMO Sulphur cap and fuel economics
- Climate change impacts and adaptation
- Trade policy crosscurrents
- Geopolitics
- Shifts in globalization patterns
- Technological disruptions



# Persistent oversupplied global ship capacity

REVIEW  
OF MARITIME  
TRANSPORT  
2019



# Global fleet: Oversupply of ship carrying capacity despite decline in fleet growth

- Reflecting rising popularity of LNG as a more environmentally friendly fossil fuel, gas carriers recorded the heightened growth rate (7.25%)
- Container fleet continued to growth (+5%)
- Chemical tankers and bulk carriers have shown stable growth, unlike the oil tanker segment, which saw declining growth
- Capacity in chemical tankers up by 4.14% & bulk carriers by 2.87%. Capacity in oil tankers grew at a modest rate (0.98 %).

As of 1 January 2019

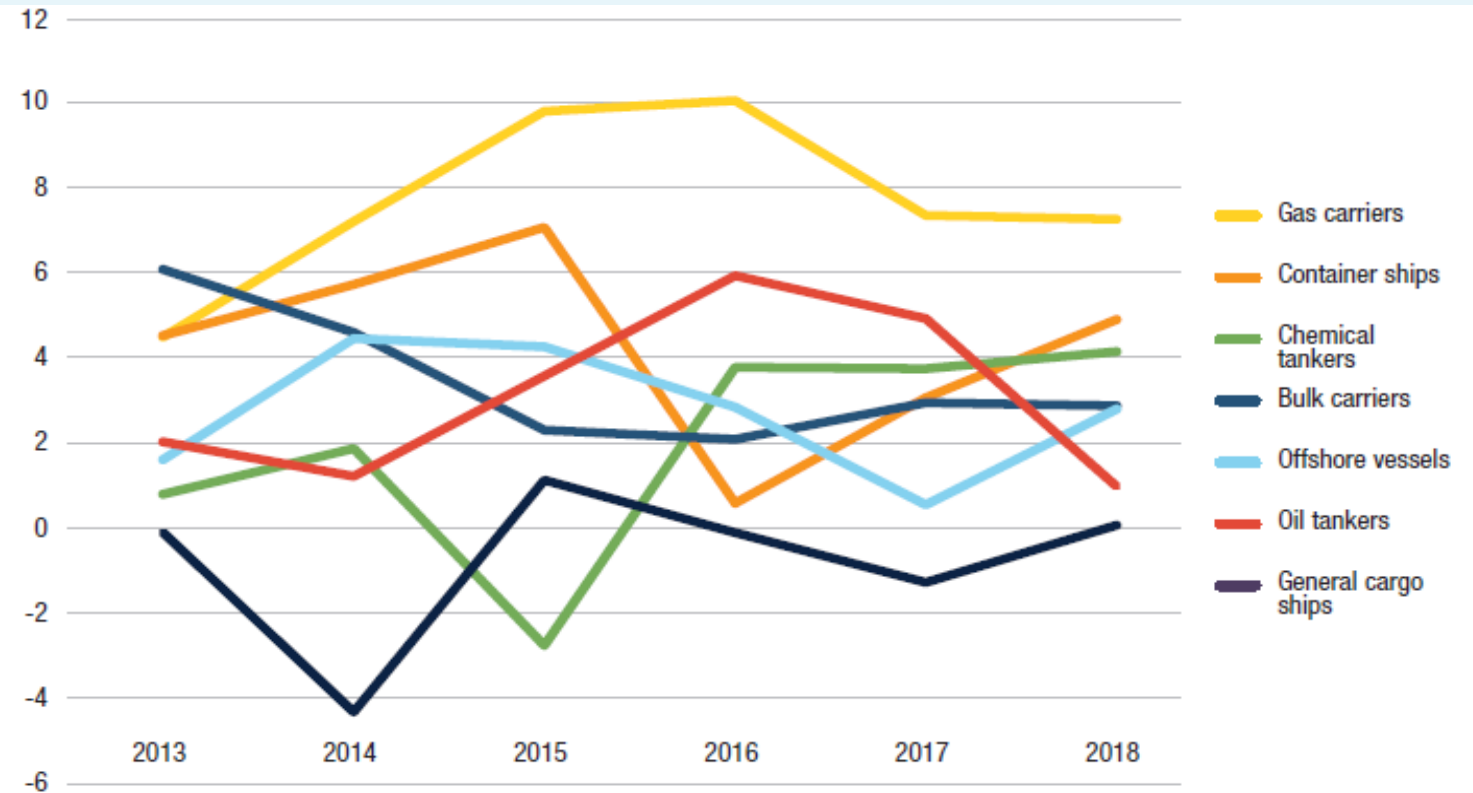
95,402 ships



1,97 billion dwt tons

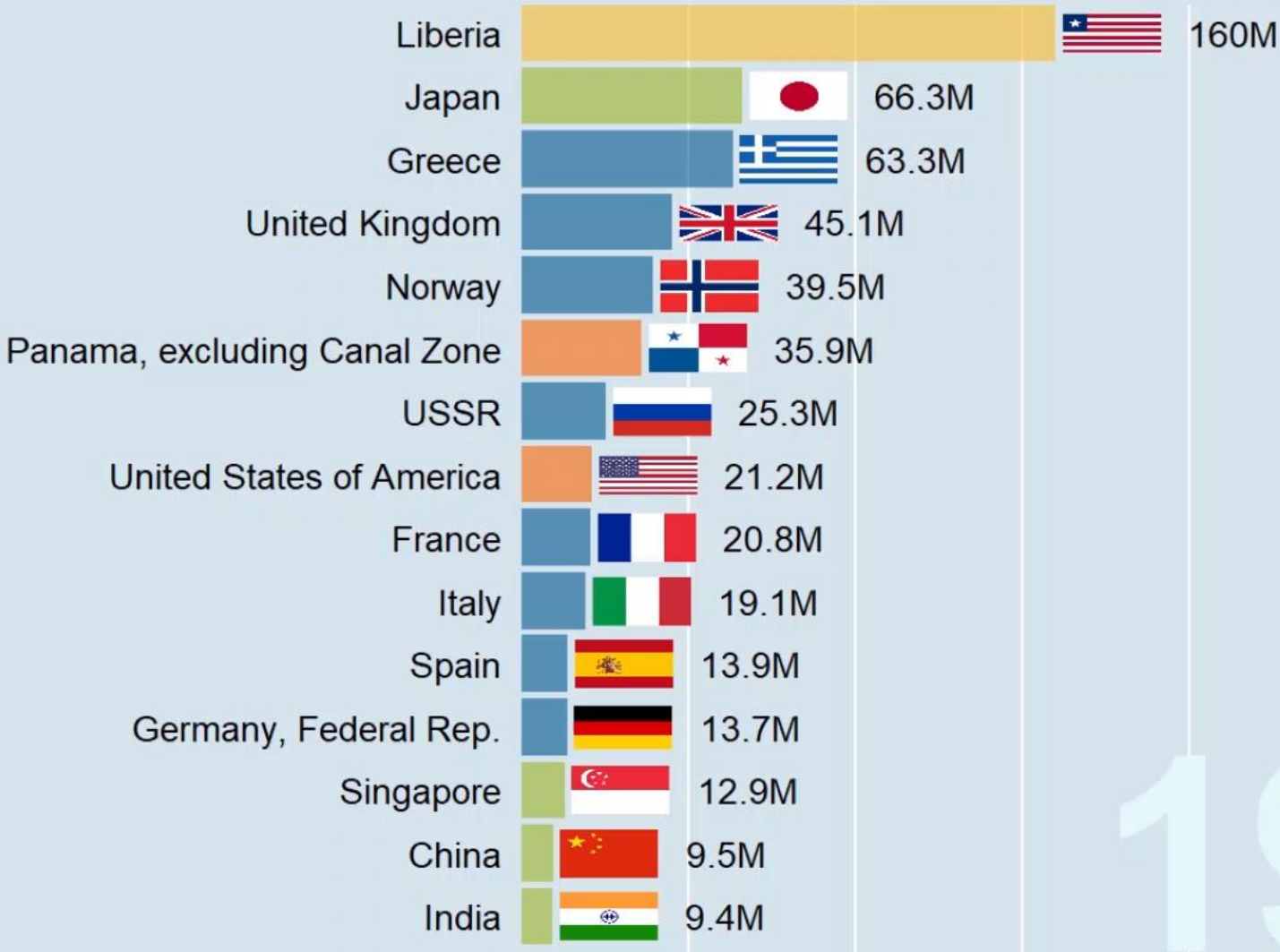
+2.6% annual growth in the global ship carrying capacity

In decline since 2011 (except in 2017) and below the past decade trend

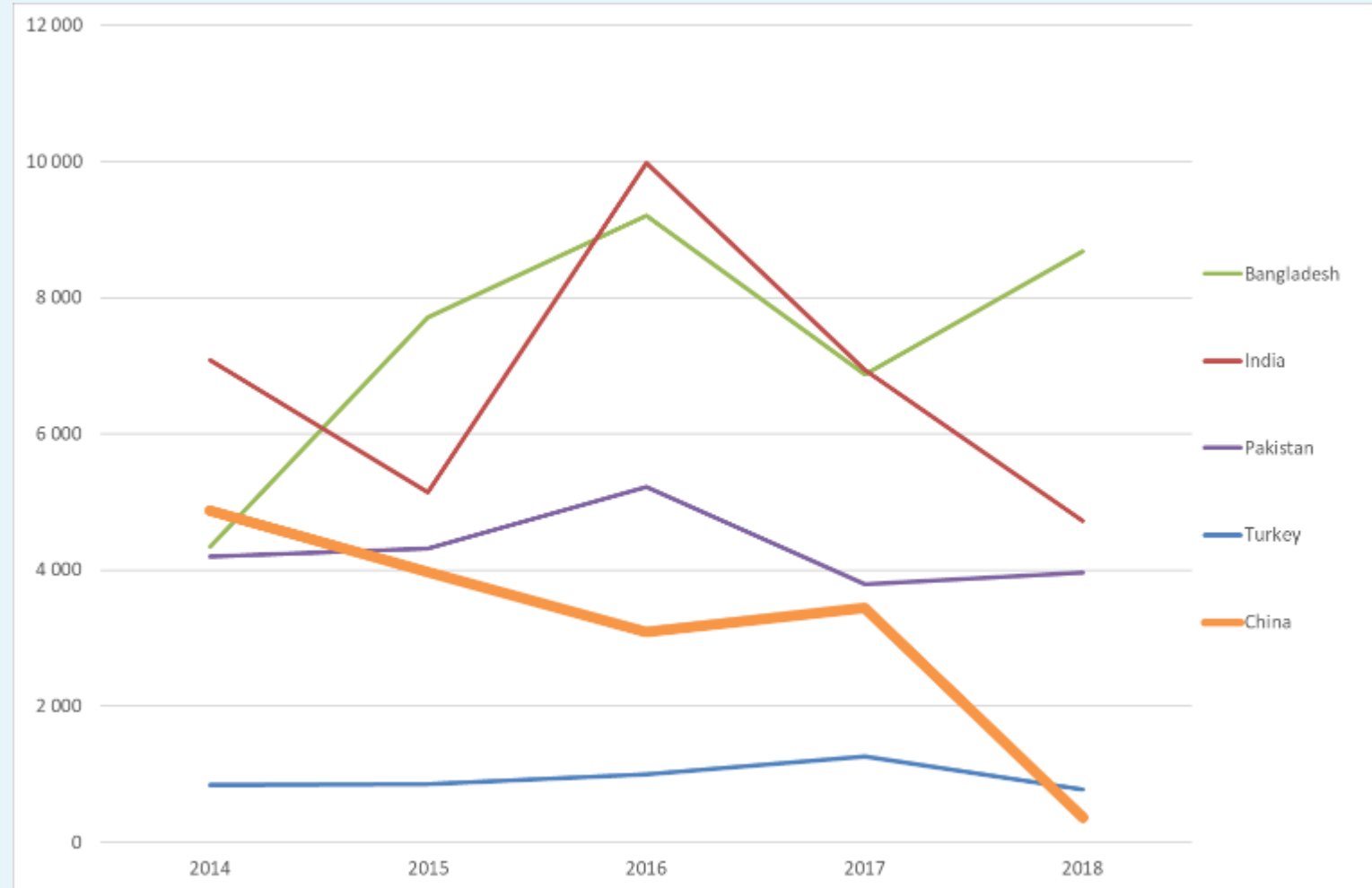
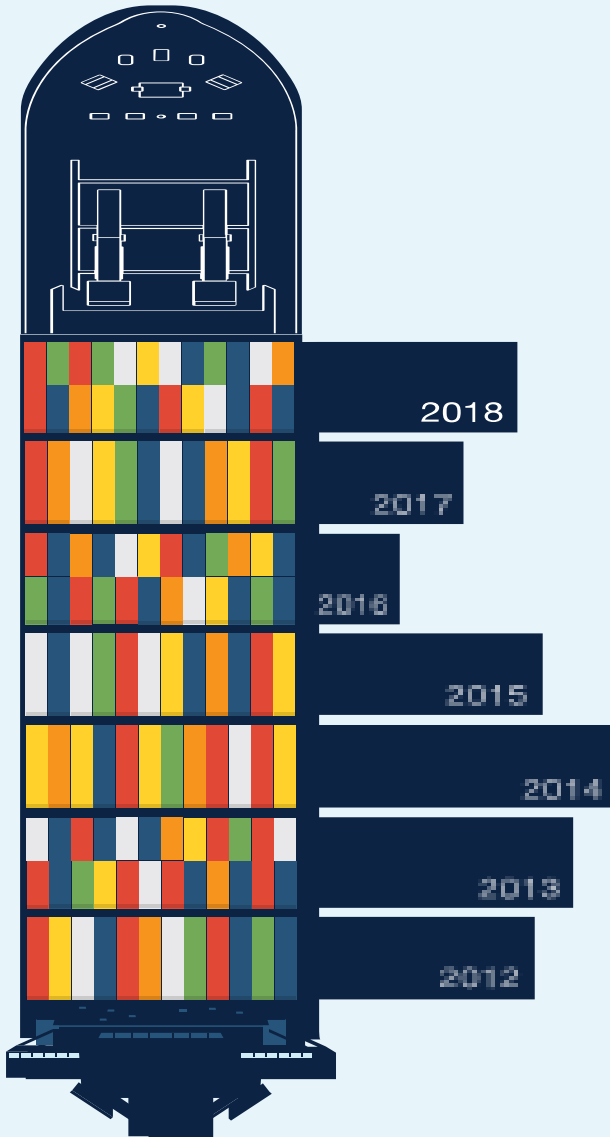


# 40 Years of Flags of Registration

Top 15 national fleets, deadweight tonnage (dwt) from 1980 to 2019.



# Ship demolition: Making ship recycling more environmentally friendly and safer



- Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, & Turkey leading countries in 2018
- China significantly reduced its imports of ships for demolition

# Increased importance of environmental sustainability and technology

REVIEW  
OF MARITIME  
TRANSPORT

2019



# A larger role played by technology and services

## Autonomous ships may soon become a reality



- Changes in skills' requirements for jobs
- Potential increase in shore-based jobs and reductions in the number of crew on board vessels
- Requirement for seafarers to have new/different skills and knowledge (safety, efficiency)
- Women may enjoy increased opportunities to pursue a maritime career.

# IMO 2020: a costly transition fraught with uncertainty

The new



**0.50%** limit

on sulphur in ships' fuel oil (down from 3.50%)  
will be in force globally from 1 January 2020.





# Greater interlinkages between oceans, climate change and sustainable development

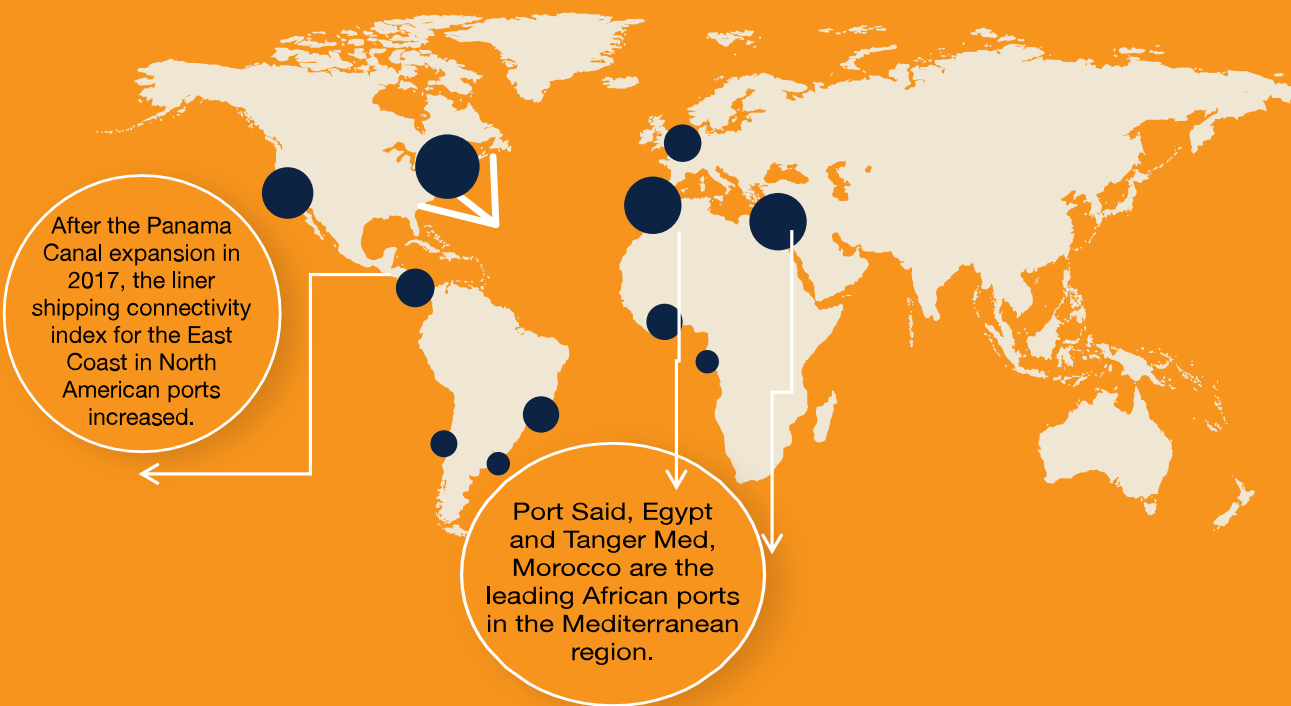
- Reducing global emissions from shipping
  - 4<sup>th</sup> IMO Greenhouse Gas emissions study (2020)
  - IMO strategy on the reduction of GHG from ships
- Climate-risk assessment, adaptation and resilience building of coastal transport infrastructure
  - An emerging policy concern



**An emerging need:  
Growing demand for performance  
monitoring, tracking, reporting and  
benchmarking**

**REVIEW  
OF MARITIME  
TRANSPORT**  
**2019**

## LINER SHIPPING CONNECTIVITY



- 5 of the top 10 most connected economies are in Asia, 4 are in Europe and 1 is in North America.
- Since 2006, the most connected country – China – has improved its index by 51%.
- The average index increased by 24%.
- The lowest index value recorded in 2019 was below the lowest index value recorded in 2006.
- Growing connectivity divide: least connected countries including several SIDS, saw very little improvement over 2006-2019.
- Countries' geographical position is a given, but connectivity is not.
- Port and shipping operations can improve shipping connectivity by leveraging, for example, digitalization and next generation technologies for efficiency and productivity gains.

# PORT TURNAROUND TIMES

## World Port Waiting Time, 2018



- Reducing port waiting time may involve a portfolio of measures, including call optimization solutions, trade and transport facilitation, and improved cargo handling services.

In conclusion

REVIEW  
OF MARITIME  
TRANSPORT  

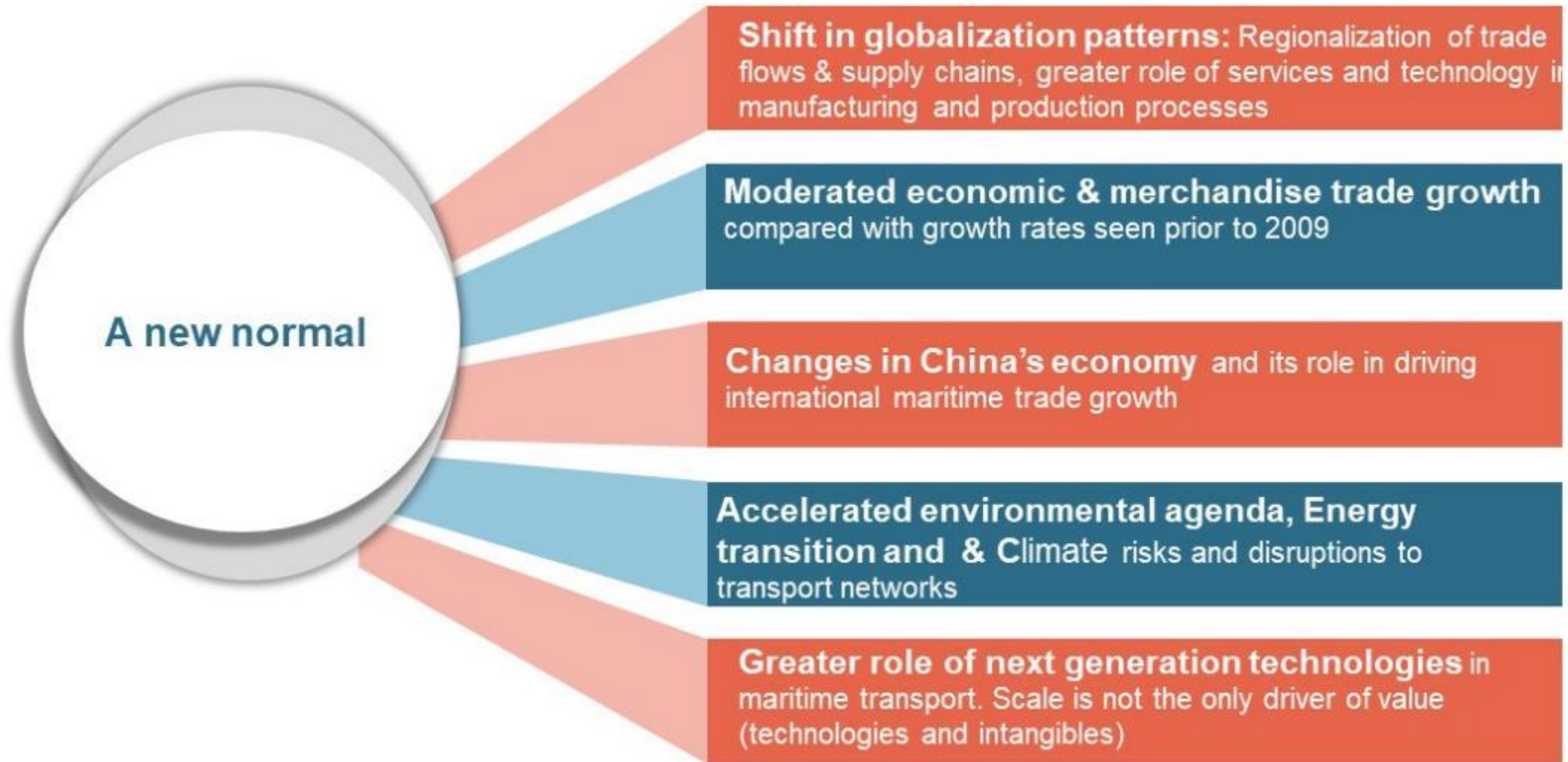
---

2019



# The maritime transport landscape is changing and shifting towards a new normal

The effects of the changing course permeate all aspects of shipping: demand (maritime trade), supply (ships and ports), markets (rates) and the relevant regulatory and legal frameworks





- UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport:

- <http://unctad.org/rmt>

- [rmt@unctad.org](mailto:rmt@unctad.org)

- Maritime Statistics:

- <http://stats.unctad.org/Maritime>

- [Maritime transport profiles](#)



- UNCTAD Trade Logistics Branch

- Twitter: [http://twitter.com/UNCTAD\\_TLB](http://twitter.com/UNCTAD_TLB)

- News: <http://unctad.org/TransportNews>

- Web: <http://unctad.org/TLB>