

# Theme: Smart shipping, ports, transportation and global connectivity

## Ensuring healthy and productive waters



Maritime transport and related technology developments play a crucial role in the global economy. Maritime transport is the cheapest mode for bulk transportation, and globally transports over 90% of all items and makes up to 70% of total global sales revenue.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the role of seaborne trade as an engine for inclusive and sustainable growth and development.

### Economic development

Globalized production and distribution of goods requires effective logistics. Shippers must focus on balancing costs of inventory holding against costs of transportation.

Maritime transport services create job opportunities in other areas, such as:

- shipping
- insurance
- seafaring
- port operations
- financial services
- vessel registration
- ship building and repairs
- shore based auxiliary support

Recognition of the important role of maritime transportation in developed economies has attracted huge investments in infrastructure and operations. It has also encouraged emerging economies to build the necessary capacity to raise their level of participation.

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## Regulatory frameworks

Countries looking to increase their participation in global transportation must improve their regulatory framework and physical and electronic connectivity. In this context, governments need to understand:

- factors that affect the performance of different types of transportation
- effects of transportation and connectivity on different stages of development
- how different types of transportation interact and what policies are needed to support this

Ratification and adoption of relevant international conventions is essential for growth, as well as responsibly creating sustainable environments for future generations.

## Port efficiency

Ports are important water-land interfaces in the logistics chain. They are also becoming important points for other maritime economic activities, such as:

- fishing
- oil drilling
- cruise vessels
- coastal shipping
- passenger ferries
- international shipping
- mining of marine minerals

- other offshore economic activities

Port efficiency and connectivity can unlock or undermine the economic potential of a country. Today, ports are enhancing efficiency with the overall goal of transforming into transshipment hubs, which will:

- raise port earnings
- attract frequent feeder services
- create opportunities for coastal shipping
- generate cost savings from economies of scale

Other than cargo handling, a well-developed transshipment hub provides incentives to establish industries that intercept cargo for intermediate:

- sorting
- valuing
- labeling
- sampling
- inspecting
- processing
- repackaging

The entire transport sector is therefore an area of great opportunity.



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## Challenges

Opportunities do not come void of challenges. Low shipping connectivity continues to undermine access to global markets. The few, less reliable, direct port calls require efficiency and capacity improvement to attract more shipping traffic.

Other key challenges include:

- crime
- piracy
- terrorism
- illicit trade
- marine pollution
- human trafficking
- cybercrime disruptions
- climate change impacts
- greenhouse gas emissions
- inadequate capacity of resources, such as:
  - human
  - financial
  - technological

## Cooperation

Growing the transport sector and overcoming challenges calls for the public and private sector to cooperate in:

- building resilient infrastructure
- promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization
- fostering innovation in an effective regulatory framework

The business community can further enhance their role in promoting investments in the sector through deliberate linkages between research institutions. Research institutions share knowledge and information to enhance investment:

- safety
- efficiency
- sustainability



## Questions

Panelists will guide discussions on:

- 1.** How can countries attract and maintain sustainable and climate change-proof investments in the underutilized areas of maritime transport? How can we enhance environmental and social corporate responsibility and accountability measures?
- 2.** How can the transportation potential of inland waters be developed to enhance connectivity in uncharted areas?
- 3.** What kinds of incentives are needed to strike a balance between the use of fossil fuels and renewable energy to drive the transport sector?
- 4.** What opportunities are there for ports and shipping lines to enhance global maritime connectivity, and how can they be enhanced?
- 5.** What measures are needed to integrate women, youth and marginalized populations into mainstream maritime transport sectors?
- 6.** How can access to technological milestones and innovations be enhanced to promote energy efficiency in maritime transport?

