

**Contribution by the UNCTAD secretariat to Part I of the 2017 report of the Secretary-General  
on Oceans and the Law of the Sea:**

For SDS often highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate variability and change, with limited adaptive capacity, addressing the impacts of climate variability and change on ports and coastal transport networks is particularly important. Ports and airports in coastal zones are critical lifelines for trade, food, energy and tourism. These, along with the facilitating transport infrastructure including seaports, airports, coastal access roads, are all threatened by climate change and coastal and beach erosion.

2. Action undertaken to address the effects of climate change on the oceans and to foster climate resilient sustainable development of oceans and seas

- (i) UNCTAD actions to address the effects of climate change on the oceans and to foster climate resilient sustainable development of oceans and seas: focus on climate change impacts and adaptation for seaports and coastal transport infrastructure

UNCTAD has been working, 'ahead of the curve', on the implications of climate change for maritime transportation, since 2008. The

Transport and Trade Facilitation with a focus on [Maritime Transport and the Climate Change Challenge](#)", held in February 2009. Full background documentation relating to these meetings is available on the relevant meetings webpages. The implications of climate change for coastal transport systems were also considered at two [ETP Meetings](#) with a focus on the transport related challenges facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS), namely the third session of the Multi-

- UNCTAD contributes actively to relevant inter-agency work under the auspices of UNICEANS, and the Technical Working Group to support the UN Secretary-General's High Level Advisory Board on Sustainable Transport. To this end, UNCTAD has contributed to several technical (E.5)13.1(a)-h0.7(



(ICAO), industry, IGOs, NGOs, financing institutions, academia, civil society. <http://unctadsftportal.org/unctad/cop22sideevent/>

(iii) Some examples of actions undertaken by the maritime transport sector to address sustainability and climate change

- Many advances have been made possible as a result of the industry initiatives and technological developments. Relevant initiatives include building fuel saving and environment friendly ships, switching to cleaner fuels and increasingly adopting slow steaming, and promoting green ports development.
- Many shipping companies have been investing in and ordering ships that are generally referred to as a new generation of vessels that are eco friendly and at the same time fuel efficient. Example: Maersk triple E vessels, United Arab Shipping Company M.V. Barzan containership.
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stakeholders and knowledge partners since 2012 to advance this agenda through a vast programme of research and technical assistance programmes.

### 3. Further action necessary to address the effects of climate change on the oceans

Bearing in mind the potential for climate-related delays and disruptions across global supply chains, enhancing the climate resilience of transport infrastructure is going to be crucial for the implementation of many of the Sustainable Development Goals targets. This is also recognized implicitly in the Addis Ababa Action Plan for Financing for Development and in the very recent Marrakech Action Proclamation for our Climate and Sustainable Development.

In view of the long service life of transport infrastructure, effective adaptation requires rethinking established approaches and practices early. Moreover, a good understanding of risks and vulnerabilities is required for the development of well-designed adaptation measures that minimize the adverse effects of climatic factors. This, hot1g(t)10.9(o)-3.6g95e-3(h)2.3(8o)7..p factors-11(a)2.83.6( r

initiatives should be promoted and pursued to assist in the development of relevant guidance, tools and potential best practices.