

Global Maritime Forum

# **A new way forward: Rethinking global seaborne trade**

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**Virtual High-Level Meeting  
7-14 October 2020**



**GLOBAL  
MARITIME  
FORUM**

Unleashing the  
potential of the global  
maritime industry

# Rethinking global seaborne trade

Covid-19 has triggered the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, revealing key vulnerabilities of our global society and economy. The pandemic has also presented a rare opportunity for the public and private sector to work together to build back better.

In just a few months Covid-19 has spread to all corners of the world and upended people's daily lives. The shock to the global economy has been severe, and has led governments to unleash unprecedented stimulus packages to help protect the livelihoods of citizens and the survival of entire sectors. The pandemic has also exposed or indeed exacerbated inequalities, leading to social unrest in some places.

At the same time, the drop in economic activity has led to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, which in many cities has made the blue sky visible for the first time in years. The swift and decisive initial response clearly demonstrates that global society can act in times of crisis, but also shows the drastic measures needed to make headway on climate and environmental action.

The maritime industry has also been impacted by the pandemic. Trade and passenger volumes have dropped, global supply chains have been disrupted, and the critical situation related to crew changes has revealed glaring weaknesses in the system.

While we must continue to deal with the immediate human and economic impact of the pandemic, it is also an opportunity to lay the groundwork for a more resilient, sustainable, and fair global economy.

This will require a better understanding of the impact of the current crisis and what it reveals about underlying trends shaping our world in political, economic and societal terms. Which elements are merely ripples on the surface that will quickly disappear once the pandemic is brought under control? Which elements herald fundamental changes to the global economy and global societies to which we must adapt? And which elements present opportunities to collectively create a sustainable future for our industry and the world?

By bringing together top decision makers, thought leaders and experts from across the maritime spectrum and beyond, the Global Maritime Forum's Virtual High-Level Meeting will be an opportunity to explore these key questions. We will do so by learning from experts, sharing experiences and jointly identifying the steps that will allow us to emerge from the storm and set the course towards building a cleaner, safer, and more resilient maritime industry that the world can rely on in the decades to come.

**Join us on 7-14 October 2020  
to reimagine the future of global  
seaborne trade to increase sustainable  
long-term economic development  
and human wellbeing.**

## Cross-cutting themes

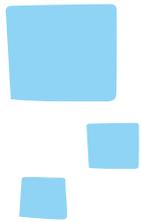
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### The economic and geopolitical impact of the coronavirus pandemic

The immediate economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic has been more severe than the 2008 financial crisis, but questions remain about the long-term impact on economic growth, global supply chains, and the role of governments in a post-Covid-19 economy.

- What will be the long-term economic and geopolitical impact of the coronavirus pandemic and how will this affect the maritime sector?
- What impact will Covid-19 have on globalization vs. regionalization?
- How will the approach to resilience vs. cost in global supply chains change?
- How will Covid-19 change the role of the State in terms of the impact of relief and stimulus packages?



### The global energy transition

To mitigate climate change and achieve the global goals set out in the Paris Agreement, the world must undergo a fundamental energy transition over the coming decades. This transition will inevitably trigger a series of geopolitical, economic and societal shifts, which will have widespread implications for all industries, including the maritime sector.

- What are the key drivers behind the global energy transition?
- How will technological advancement increase the uptake of new energy pathways?
- What will be the geopolitical and economic implications of the energy transition, and what will be the ramifications for the maritime industry?
- How will Covid-19 affect the speed of the transition?



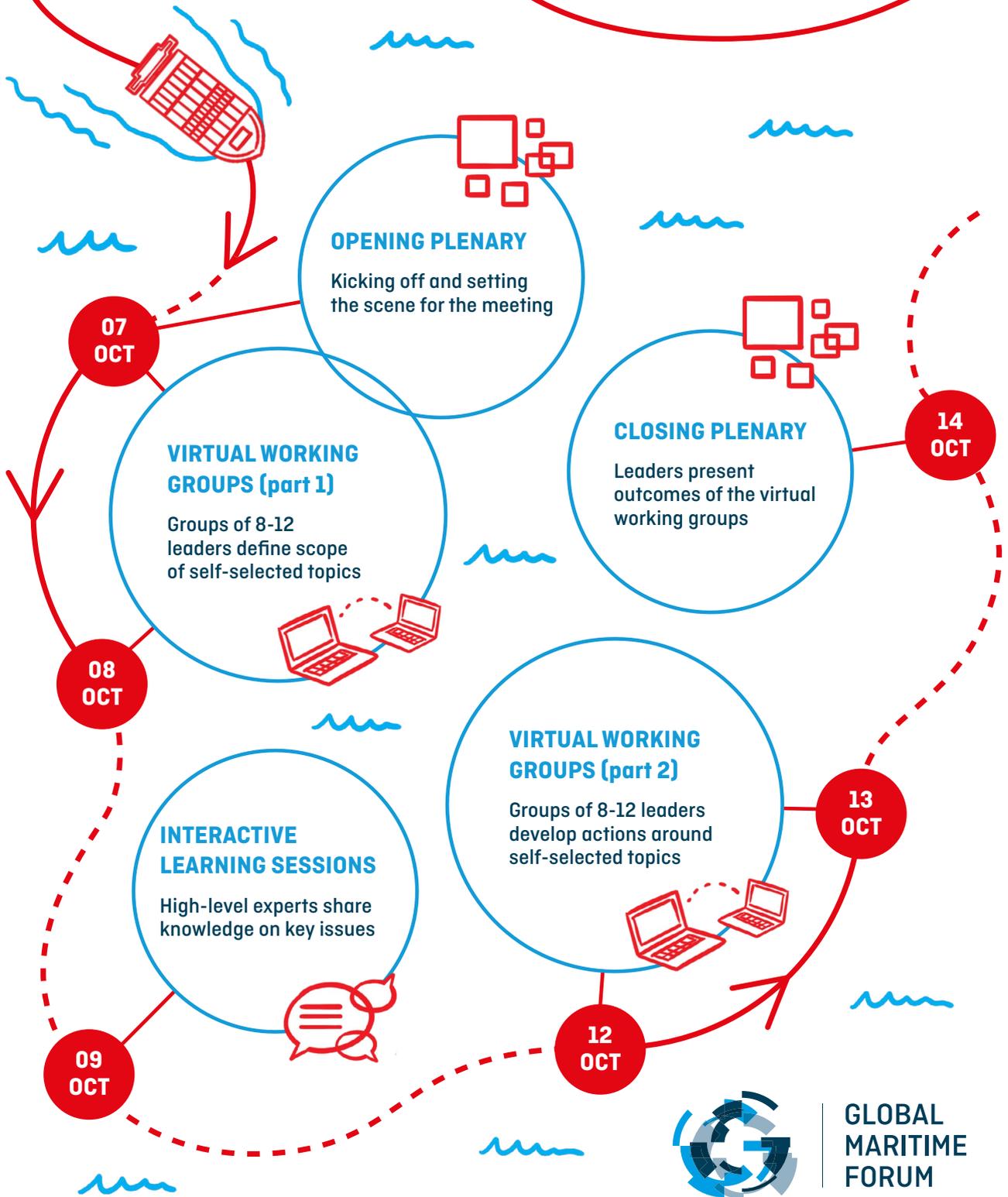
### Building a more resilient maritime logistics chain

The coronavirus pandemic has revealed a number of weaknesses in the maritime value chain: the ability, or lack thereof, to protect seafarer wellbeing, to operate digitally in a world of social distancing, and to avoid disruptions to the flow of essential goods.

- How do we ensure that seafarers are not stuck on vessels, forgotten by policymakers, when the next pandemic strikes?
- Can digitalization be accelerated to create a more resilient maritime supply chain in a world of continued social distancing?
- What has been the impact of Covid-19 on global trade flows, and how can resilience be improved to secure critical supplies in all parts of the world in times of crisis?

# THE JOURNEY AHEAD OF US 7-14 October 2020

Join us in unleashing  
the potential of the global  
maritime industry



GLOBAL  
MARITIME  
FORUM

# One week of engaging and action-oriented discussions

The discussions that take place at Global Maritime Forum meetings have an important role to play in shaping the future of global seaborne trade.

The Virtual High-Level Meeting will be an engaging and interactive meeting, uniting the advantages of digital technologies, and the free-flowing exchange of ideas that characterize all Global Maritime Forum events.

Flexibility in the design enables participants in the Virtual High-Level Meeting to tailor their own journey based on their time commitment and interests. Key elements of the meeting will include:

## Opening plenary



All participants convene virtually to set the agenda for the Virtual High-Level Meeting.

## Virtual working groups



At the core of the Virtual High-Level Meeting are virtual working groups consisting of 8-12 participants who come together around a topic of their choice. The working groups will meet twice over the course of a week, each time for 60-90 minutes. The first working group session will focus on exploring the issue at hand and defining the scope of the discussion, whereas the second session will focus on developing solutions and decide on potential actions. The sessions will be run akin to a virtual board meeting and thus allow for confidential and concrete discussions. The conclusions will be summarized to share key findings across working groups. Joining a working group will be the principal time commitment for participants in the Virtual High-Level Meeting.

## Interactive learning sessions



Interactive panel discussions on key issues will serve to share knowledge and inform discussions in the working groups. Conducted virtually, they will be sessions of approximately 75 minutes, with discussions with high-level experts. Participants are encouraged to join one or more of these sessions, schedule permitting. To ensure flexible access to session content, they will be recorded and made available online alongside session summaries shortly after the closing of each session.

## Closing plenary



Participants come together virtually to present the outcomes of their discussions in the virtual working groups and at the regional in-person meetings.

## Convening decision makers to create real change

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The Global Maritime Forum is founded on the principle that systems cannot be transformed by any one stakeholder or individual. With that in mind, the Virtual High-Level Meeting will convene top decision makers from all parts of the maritime spectrum together with regulators, policy makers, NGO representatives, intergovernmental institutions and academia from around the world, thus creating new opportunities for multi-stakeholder collaboration and problem-solving to tackle the most important challenges that the maritime sector is facing. The ambition is that discussions at the Virtual High-Level Meeting will give birth to decisions that make a real difference.

## Virtual working group topics

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**Global business opportunities** – how can shipping’s energy transition generate new market opportunities?

**Closing the competitiveness gap** – how can policies and other levers be deployed to build a viable business case for zero emission shipping?

**Making the transition happen** – how can we develop the first commercial at-scale, end-to-end demonstration projects that are needed to get zero emission vessels operating on deep-sea trade routes by 2030?

**Financing the green transition** – how can we unlock the scale of capital needed to support shipping’s decarbonization?

**Supporting the transition** – what actions can be taken across the maritime logistics chain to prepare for the transition to zero emission fuels?

**Building resilient supply chains** – how can digitalization be leveraged to design smarter, stronger and more diverse global supply chains?

**Inclusion and diversity** – what actions can be taken to attract and retain diverse talent?

**Seafarer wellbeing** – what lessons can be learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic and what actions can be taken to safeguard the world’s seafarers and the supply chains they support?

**Building back better** – how can the maritime sector contribute to inclusive growth in the wake of Covid-19?

**New societal demands** – how will increased government involvement in the economy shape the future of maritime shipping?

# Programme overview

	WEDNESDAY 07 October	THURSDAY 08 October	FRIDAY 09 October	MONDAY 12 October	TUESDAY 13 October	WEDNESDAY 14 October
<p><b>OPENING AND CLOSING PLENARY</b> </p> <p>Kicking off the meeting and setting the agenda; presenting outcomes of the meeting. Save the date already now!</p>		VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP (part 1) 00:00-01:30 UTC 07:00-08:30 UTC or 12:00-13:30 UTC	INTERACTIVE LEARNING SESSION: Covid-19 /Resilience 07:00-08:15 UTC		VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP (part 2) 00:00-01:30 UTC 07:00-08:30 UTC or 12:00-13:30 UTC	
<p><b>VIRTUAL WORKING GROUPS (part 1 &amp; 2)</b> </p> <p>Work in groups on a topic of your choice, and in your time zone.</p>	OPENING PLENARY 12:00-13:15 UTC		INTERACTIVE LEARNING SESSION: Energy transition 12:00-13:15 UTC			CLOSING PLENARY 12:00-13:15 UTC
<p><b>INTERACTIVE LEARNING SESSIONS</b> </p> <p>Engage with high-level experts on key issues. Join one or more sessions!</p>	VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP (part 1) 15:00-16:30 UTC		INTERACTIVE LEARNING SESSION: Geopolitics /Trade 15:00-16:15 UTC	VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP (part 2) 15:00-16:30 UTC		



GLOBAL MARITIME FORUM

Rethinking global seaborne trade

# Frequently asked questions

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## When and where will the meeting take place?

The meeting will be hosted virtually by the Global Maritime Forum on 7-14 October 2020.

## By when do I need to register?

A registration link will be shared at a later date. Please indicate your preferred virtual working group topics to the Global Maritime Forum team at [bhp@globalmaritimeforum.org](mailto:bhp@globalmaritimeforum.org) at your earliest convenience.

## Is there a participation fee?

Participation in the meeting is free of charge.

## What is the working language of the meeting?

The official language is English.

## Who do I contact for more information?

Please get in touch with the Global Maritime Forum team at [bhp@globalmaritimeforum.org](mailto:bhp@globalmaritimeforum.org).



## Partners

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The Global Maritime Forum is supported by a visionary group of leading industry partners who share the Forum's ambition of creating a common platform to drive positive change that benefits not only their organizations and the industry, but society as a whole.

### STRATEGIC PARTNERS

GasLog  
Lloyd's Register  
MISC  
Shell  
Stena  
Swiss Re Corporate Solutions  
World Fuel Services

### PARTNERS

Angelicoussis Shipping Group  
Anglo-Eastern  
A.P. Moller-Maersk  
Caravel Group  
Cargill  
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Northern Navigation Group  
North P&I Club  
Onassis Foundation  
Panama Canal Authority  
Petredec  
Pleiades  
PSA International  
Sovcomflot  
Star Bulk  
Stephenson Harwood  
Tsakos Energy Navigation  
Trafigura  
V.Group  
Wan Hai Lines

### PROJECT PARTNERS

Danish Maritime Fund  
Friends of Ocean Action  
World Economic Forum

## About the Global Maritime Forum

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The Global Maritime Forum is an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to shaping the future of global seaborne trade to increase sustainable long-term economic development and human wellbeing.

Learn more at <https://www.globalmaritimeforum.org>

Follow the **Global Maritime Forum** on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

