



Strengthening capacity to design and implement policies and identify solutions that promote transport connectivity for the achievement of the SDGs

Sustainable Freight Transport

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Harnessing trade and development for LLDCs cannot be achieved without investing in *sustainable and resilient transport infrastructure and services* and promoting an *integrated approach*

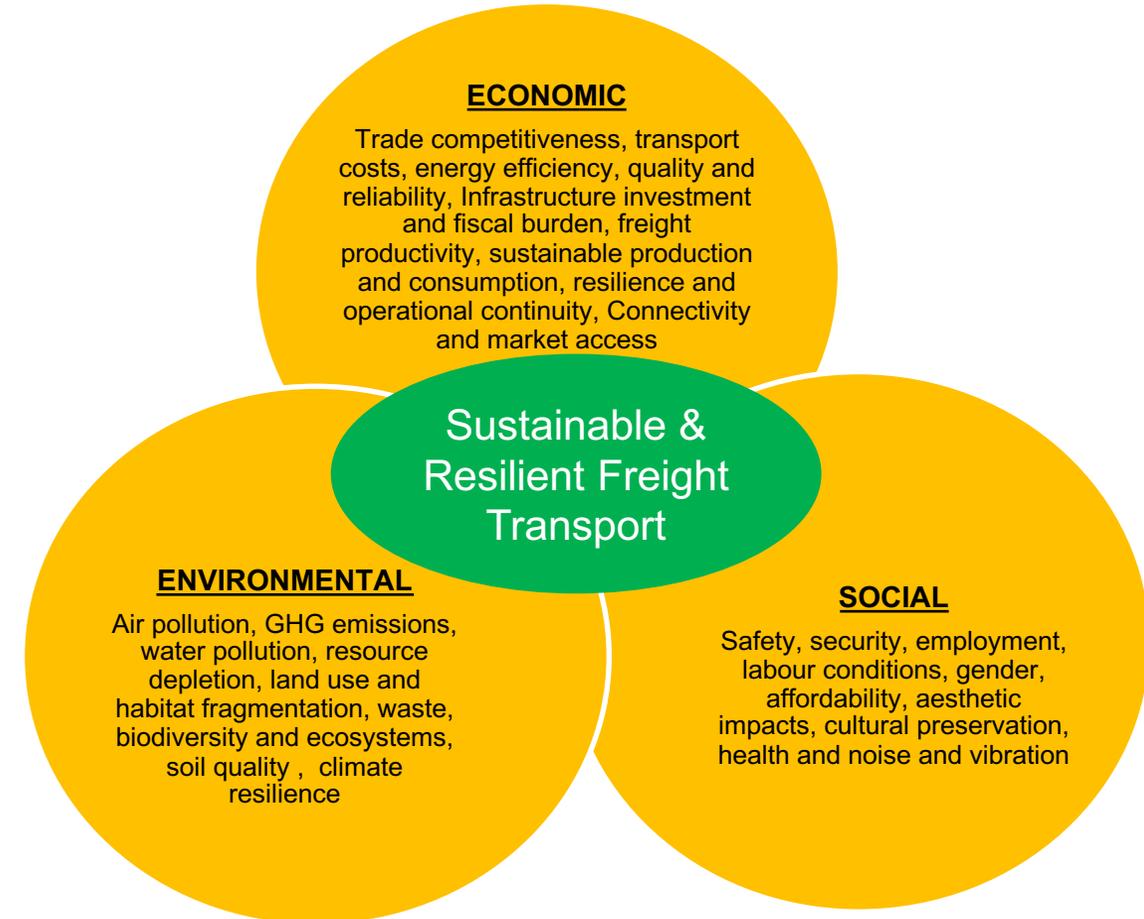
- **Transport infrastructure and services challenges are found at both ends** of the transport chains, i.e. in the transit port/country, and the origin/destination in the landlocked country.
- Challenges are both **physical infrastructure deficits** and lack of adequate **soft infrastructure**, and **logistics services**.
- Often accentuated by **externalities** (e.g. energy and resource depletion, congestion, accidents, GHGs, local air pollution, environmental degradation, and climate change).



The **sustainability imperative** is heightened over recent years amidst rising uncertainty, disruptions (including COVID-19 disruption) and climate risks.

Promoting sustainable and resilient freight transport systems provides an opportunity for developing countries to work towards improving efficiencies in freight transport systems, addressing the transport infrastructure needs, climate adaptation and capacity requirements, enhancing connectivity, improving energy consumption and efficiency, while at the same time reducing the sector's negative externalities and improving social inclusiveness.

Not seizing this opportunity may lead to increased future costs, including in terms of retrofitting existing infrastructure and equipment, shifting to new technologies and changing operating practices.





Why Sustainable Freight Transport (SFT)?

The importance of freight transport as a trade enabler, engine of growth and a driver of social development is widely recognized. However, the associated adverse impacts of freight transport activity on the environment, human health and climate are also cause for concern.

If left unchecked, unsustainable patterns are likely to undermine any progress made to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.



KEY DATA

Global **freight transport volumes** are projected to **grow 4 time by 2050**, driven in particular by economic growth in developing countries.

- Freight transport energy consumption could increase by **60% from 2012 to 2050 under business-as-usual scenario.**

- Freight transport activity currently account for **7% of Global economy-wide GHG emissions** and are expected to grow by a factor of **3.9 by 2050.**

- Freight transport activity accounts for about **35-60% of total logistics cost depending on commodity type and supply chain.**

- Transport-related externalities, road accidents, congestion, air pollution in many developing countries accounts for **6-10% of GDP.**

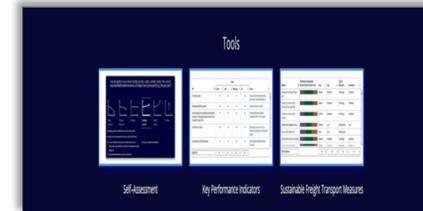


UNCTAD work in Transport, Logistics and Finance [Transport, logistics and trade facilitation | UNCTAD](#)

Through its three pillars of work, UNCTAD is dedicating particular attention in supporting effective integration of developing countries into the global/regional trade and value chains through, efficient, cost-effective, environmentally- and climate-resilient and socially inclusive freight transport systems (infrastructure, services and logistics). Areas of intervention include among other:

- <https://unctad.org/topic/transport-and-trade-logistics>

a. National/subregional sustainable freight transport and logistics strategies and finance (including maritime & corridors)



- i. A Self-Assessment Questionnaire: allows for a qualitative evaluation of the current status and performance of freight transport along the three dimensions of sustainable transport (economic, environmental and social).
- ii. A filterable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) List: features more than 250 indicators related to sustainable freight transport. These can be used to measure performance and progress against the objectives set in the sustainable freight transport strategy.
- iii. A Sustainable Freight Transport Measures Catalogue: includes more than 300 measures that can support the design and implementation of a sustainable freight transport strategy.

[Transport infrastructure and services | UNCTAD](#)

- <https://unctad.org/topic/transport-and-trade-logistics/infrastructure-and-services>
- <https://sft-framework.org/>

b. Climate change impact / adaptation for coastal transport infrastructure



[Climate change adaptation and maritime transport | UNCTAD](#)

- <https://unctad.org/topic/transport-and-trade-logistics/climate-change-and-maritime-transport>
- <https://sidsport-climateadapt.unctad.org/>

Thank you

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