

UN Global Compact, UNFCCC High level Climate Champions – Meeting Summary in the Framework of the Second UN Sustainable Transport Conference

Panellists from Unilever, IKEA, the International Transport Workers' Federation, Boston Consulting Group, Standard Chartered and Swire Shipping discussed how to advance business action on decarbonization and human rights in global shipping supply chains. The diversity of the panel only strengthened the notion of how vital cross-industry and sectoral collaboration is to drive systemic change.

Key take-aways:

- Regulators need to establish policy frameworks that make zero carbon shipping and fuel production commercially viable and investable
- Businesses need to take actions ahead of legislation even if these actions cost more money - otherwise “shippers won’t use us, society won’t approve of us”
- "Climate justice needs to be labour justice" - a just transition should be founded in social dialogue, meaning that social partners and the workforce need to have a seat at the table.
- Shipping companies are already thinking five to ten years ahead about how to upskill their workforce in a decarbonized future.
- The transition is an opportunity for diversity and inclusion - currently only 1.28% of the seafaring labour supply are women.
- Cargo owners need to get to zero - and “put their money where their mouth is” . There is increasing momentum around ESG-leading cargo owners to do just that.
- We need a holistic approach to supply chain due diligence - integrating costs to people and planet when making decisions.
- A just transition perspective is key to mitigate potential negative social impacts from climate targets - “we need to use both our climate and human rights compass”
- We need to advance system-level thinking around collaboration - human rights and climate come together and we can’t have one without the other.
- Collaboration is urgently required for shipping to transition - and we need to understand how to better collaborate and have more confidence in collaboration - in particular across the supply chain.
- More engagement from the value chain and sending strong demand signals for change will also increase investor confidence to invest in zero emission shipping.