



Parallel event

22 October 2025
Concordia 1
11.30 a.m.-1 p.m.



Future ready ports: Digital and energy transition strategies

Description

As strategic nodes of global supply chains, and in a rapidly evolving global economy, ports, which for many countries serve as the economic hubs, risk falling behind if they do not prioritize adjusting to emerging trends in modernization. This event will discuss the future-proofing of ports and explore strategies for enhancing port resilience while adapting to evolving energy and digital landscapes. It will discuss how solutions can account for local contexts to increase resilience.

Ports are major energy consumers and emission sources. They need to transition their energy mix towards more sustainable solutions. New business models and opportunities can support solutions for the green transition and decarbonization.

Also, the digital transformation triggers a new era of smart ports. New digital technologies enhance operational capacity by improving infrastructure, addressing environmental risks, anticipating changes, and boosting competitiveness through faster and more accurate decision-making.

In line with the policy recommendations of UNCTAD's 2024 Review of Maritime Transport, which press for continued port development through digitalization and decarbonization, this event seeks to enable the sharing of best practices, addressing the challenges linked to the energy transition and digital transformation, especially among countries of the global South, to boost knowledge for elaborating sustainable port strategies of the future.



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Questions for discussion

- What challenges do the digital transformation and energy transition create for ports in the global south?
- What investments must ports prioritize to successfully navigate the energy and digitalization transition?
- What role should government policy and international frameworks play in supporting ports' efforts to modernize and decarbonize? Are current regulations facilitating progress?
- What are the best practices and lessons learned from ports that are more advanced in the digital transformation and energy transition?

Programme

Opening remarks: UNCTAD SG/DSG

Followed by a panel with the participation of representatives of port authorities

Interactive discussion

Moderator(s): Mr. Mark Assaf and Ms. Lili Flour, UNCTAD TrainForTrade

Availability of interpretation: English, French, Spanish

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