



United Nations
Global Compact



International
Chamber of Shipping
Shaping the Future of Shipping



INTERNATIONAL
TRANSPORT
WORKERS'
FEDERATION

A JUST TRANSITION FOR THE GLOBAL MARITIME INDUSTRY: TASK FORCE

SUPPORTING A PEOPLE-CENTRED GREEN SHIPPING TRANSITION

We are in a climate emergency. As outlined in the [recent IPCC report](#), the urgency of rapidly cutting emissions across the global economy cannot be overstated. Moving towards a global zero carbon economy will be the [single largest transition in modern times](#) - affecting people and their families. The transition should leave no one behind. As embedded in the Paris Agreement, it is imperative we achieve a well-managed and just transition of the workforce, while creating decent work as we transform into a zero-carbon society. The imperative of a just transition was reaffirmed at COP26 as [30 nations committed to strategies that ensure that workers, businesses and communities](#) are supported as countries transition to greener economies.

The global shipping industry is responsible for the movement of 90% of all global trade, and currently accounts for about 3% of global GHG emissions. To meet the 1.5°C Paris Agreement target, the shipping industry needs to decarbonize by 2050 at the latest. The transition will create a new zero emission value chain of fuel production and distribution (bunkering), as well as new infrastructure to build and to service zero-emission vessels.

The decarbonization of shipping cannot come at the expense of workers and their communities. Health, safety, and decent livelihoods must be protected. Reskilling, upskilling and new green skills will need to be considered, while harnessing opportunities for decent work across the zero-emission fuel supply chain - in particular in the global south.

Against this backdrop, the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) representing shipowners, the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) representing seafarers and port workers, and the United Nations Global Compact are coming together to launch a global-first task force in support of a people-centred green shipping transition. The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) will join as formal partners.

The Task Force will be embedded within the wider [UN Global Compact Think Lab on Just Transition](#). The Think Lab has partnered with the ILO and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). The Task Force will contribute to the overall narrative of the Think Lab, providing sectoral learnings. In turn, the Think Lab will shape the narrative of the Task Force. The task force will focus on:

- New green skills required by the transition
- Opportunities around new decent green job creation
- Policy recommendations
- Identify best practices for businesses across the value chain

The Task Force will lead and coordinate efforts to work with governments, industry, workers and their representatives to ensure a people-centred transition for the maritime industry. For additional information, please contact Ms. Martha Selwyn, UN Global Compact at selwyn@unglobalcompact.org.