

The ITTO Annual Market Discussion

The Shipping Container Crisis

Jan.Hoffmann@UNCTAD.org

Presentation of the Review of Maritime Transport 2021



DEMAND: INTERNATIONAL SEABORNE TRADE

Growth slipped by

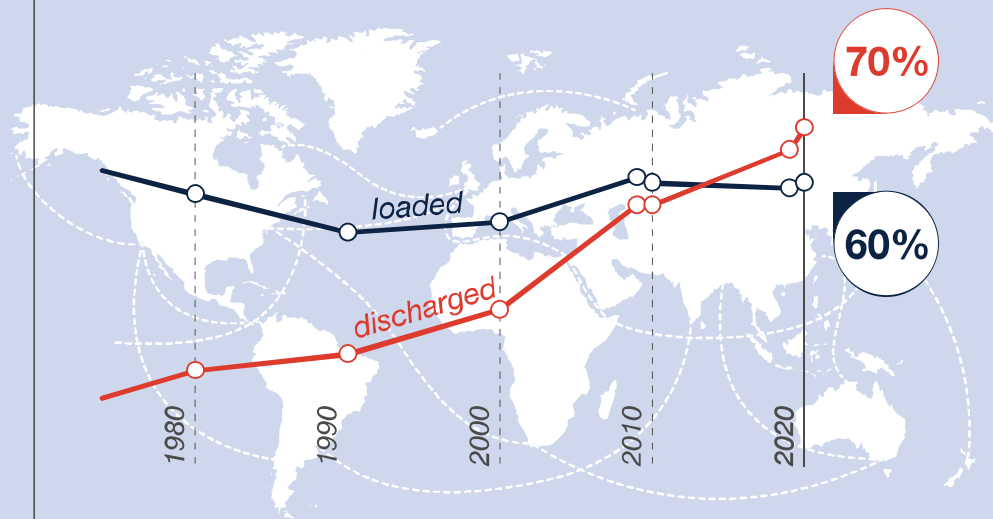
-3.8%

following on a weak
pre-pandemic growth
of 0.5% in 2019

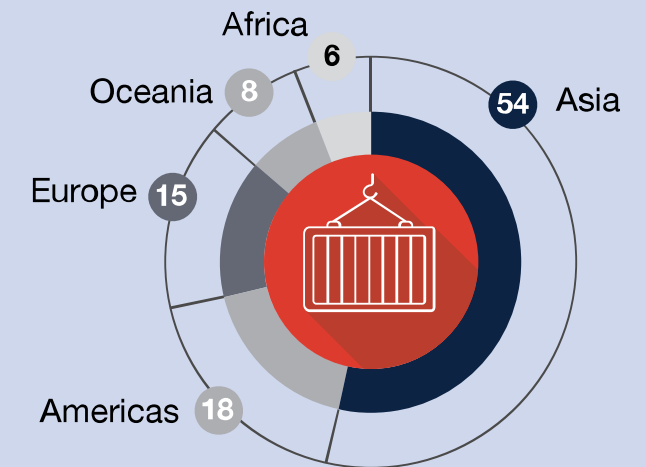
Total volumes reached

10.7 billion tons

Developing countries continue to account for the lion's share of world maritime trade by volume



World maritime trade, percentage share per region

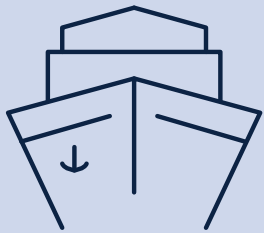


SUPPLY: THE WORLD FLEET

In early 2021,
the world fleet totalled

99,800 ships

of 100 gross tons and above,
equivalent to **2,134,639,907** dwt
of capacity



The global shipping
fleet grew by

+3%

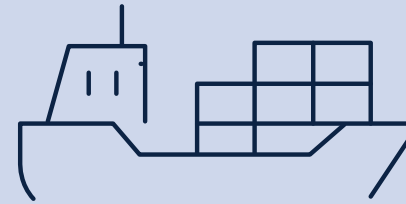
in the 12 months prior
to 1 January 2021



Ships between

5–9 years old

represented the highest
proportion of the fleet
carrying capacity



Ship deliveries
declined by

-12 %

in 2020



MARKETS: MARITIME FREIGHT RATES

Gate-in-gate-out inter-regional freight rates as contracted by major shippers

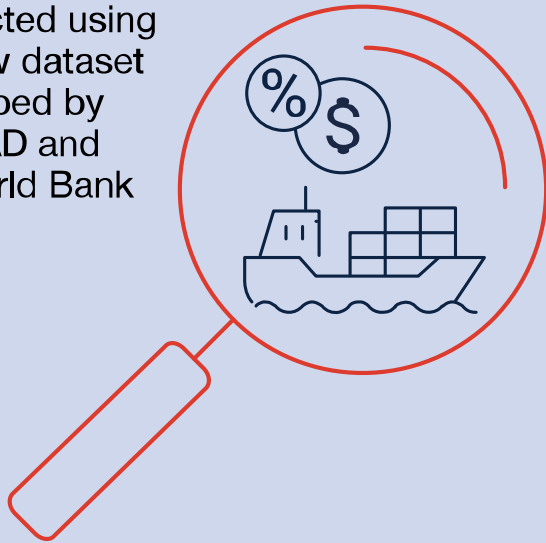
(Source: TIM Consult).

- Intra-African freight rates are 2.4 times higher than intra-Asian freight rates.
- It costs 2.6 times more to import goods from Asia to Africa than what it costs to ship goods from Africa to Asia
- A container from North America to Oceania is 50% higher than from Asia to Oceania

From	To	Average	2018	2019	2020
Africa	Africa	1 862	1 812	1 849	1 924
	Asia	758	748	750	775
	Europe	1 607	1 431	1 643	1 747
	Latin America	1 950	2 010	1 860	1 979
Asia	Africa	1 946	1 800	1 927	2 112
	Asia	768	737	747	821
	Europe	1 848	1 782	1 847	1 916
	Latin America	2 198	2 290	2 075	2 230
	North America	2 580	2 426	2 603	2 711
	Oceania	1 803	1 770	1 790	1 850
Europe	Africa	1 701	1 595	1 650	1 858
	Asia	947	967	870	1 004
	Europe	887	804	881	976
	Latin America	1 232	1 019	1 302	1 376
	North America	1 838	1 518	1 742	2 256
	Oceania	2 002	1 996	1 933	2 077
Latin America	Africa	1 910	1 778	1 951	2 000
	Asia	1 796	1 623	1 963	1 802
	Europe	1 751	1 313	1 977	1 961
	Latin America	1 529	1 349	1 699	1 539
	North America	1 716	1 521	1 882	1 745
North America	Africa	2 994	2 890	3 112	2 981
	Asia	1 129	1 009	1 111	1 269
	Europe	1 097	858	1 109	1 323
	Latin America	1 353	1 254	1 318	1 486
	North America	1 516	1 534	1 429	1 584
	Oceania	2 722	2 538	2 634	2 996

SIMULATED IMPACT OF IMPROVING MARITIME TRANSPORT COST DETERMINANTS

Simulation is conducted using the new dataset developed by UNCTAD and the World Bank



Simulation assumption:

Improving structural determinants



Port infrastructure



Trade facilitating environment



Shipping connectivity

Simulation results:

Reduction in maritime import transport costs

-4.1%

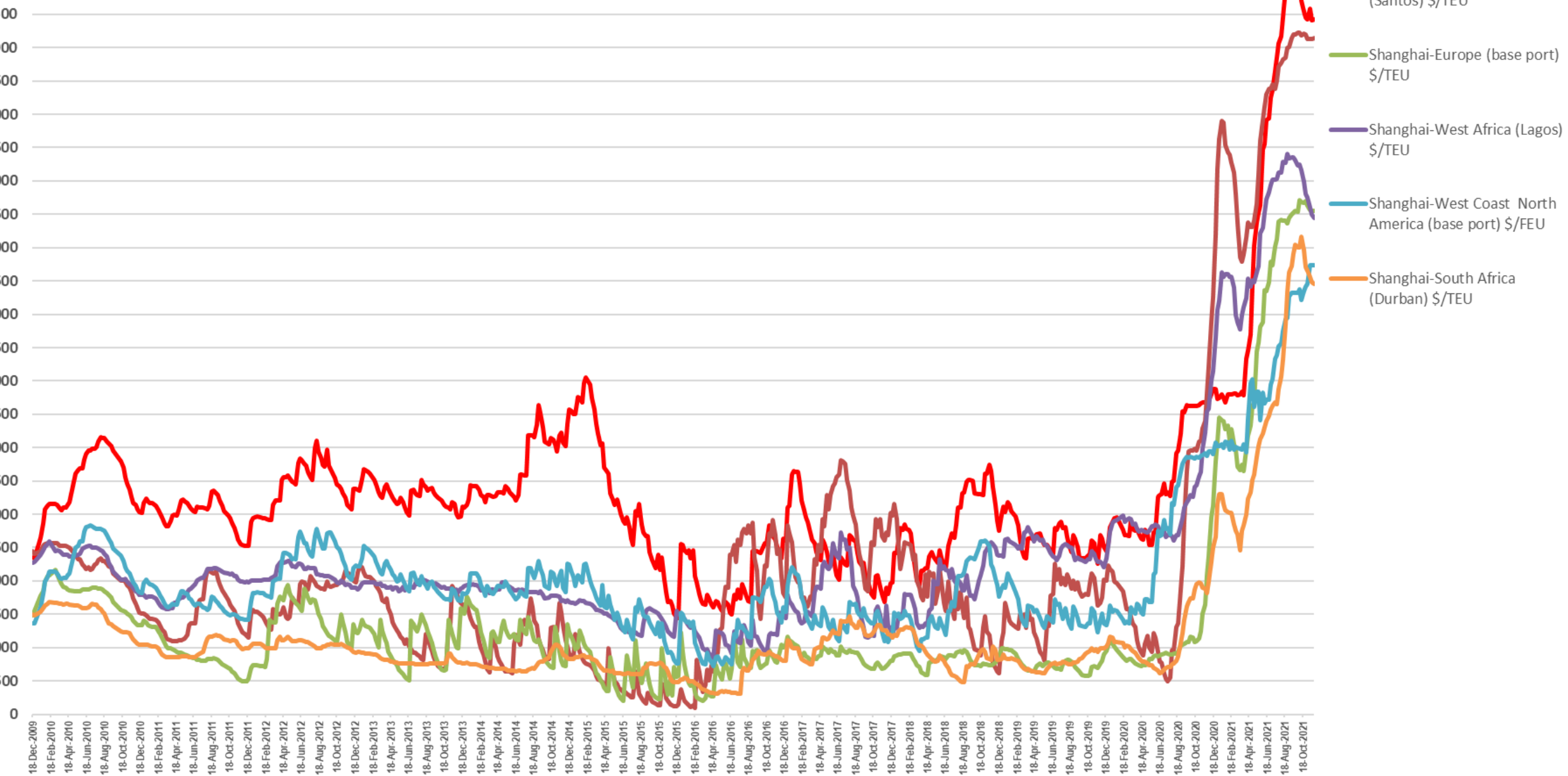
-3.7%

-4.4%

Shanghai Containerized Freight Index (SCFI)

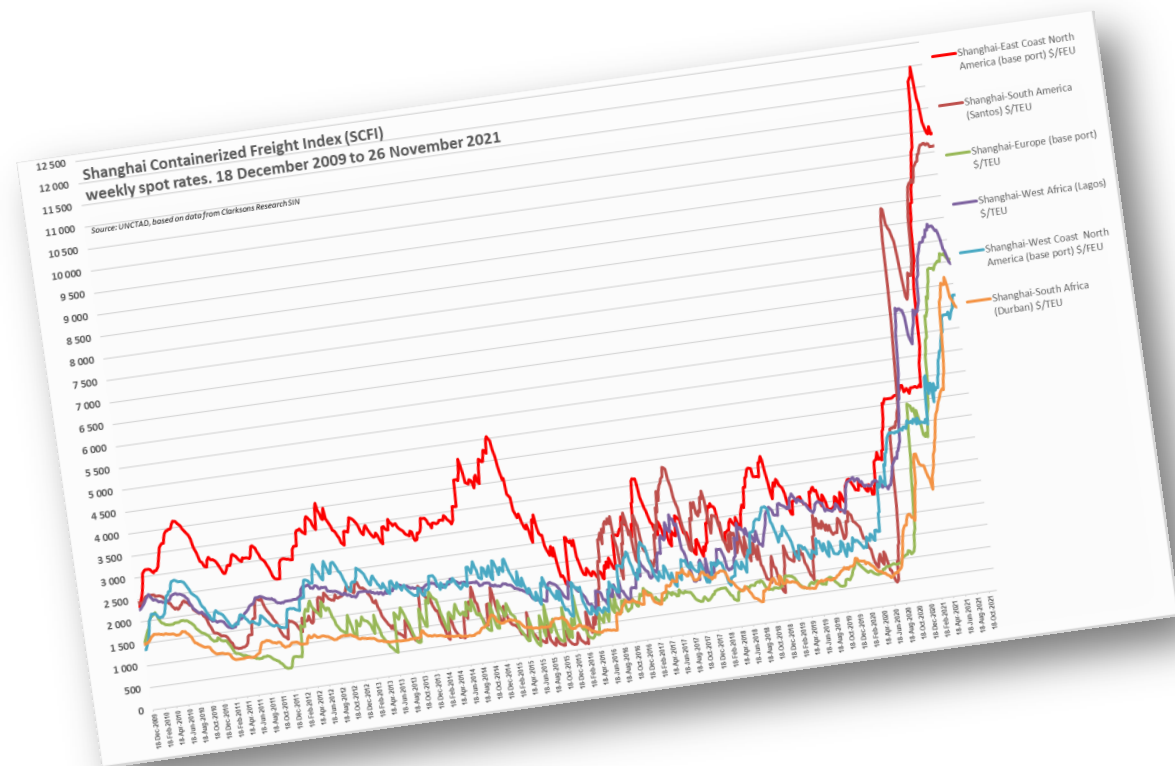
weekly spot rates. 18 December 2009 to 26 November 2021

Source: UNCTAD, based on data from Clarksons Research SIN



6 reasons why freight rates are likely to remain higher than over the previous decade

1. COVID-19
2. Shipping Cycle
3. Consolidation
4. Decarbonization
5. Will we have enough ships?
6. Risk premium?



6 reasons why freight rates are likely to remain higher than over the previous decade

1. COVID-19

2. Shipping Cycle

3. Consolidation

4. Decarbonization

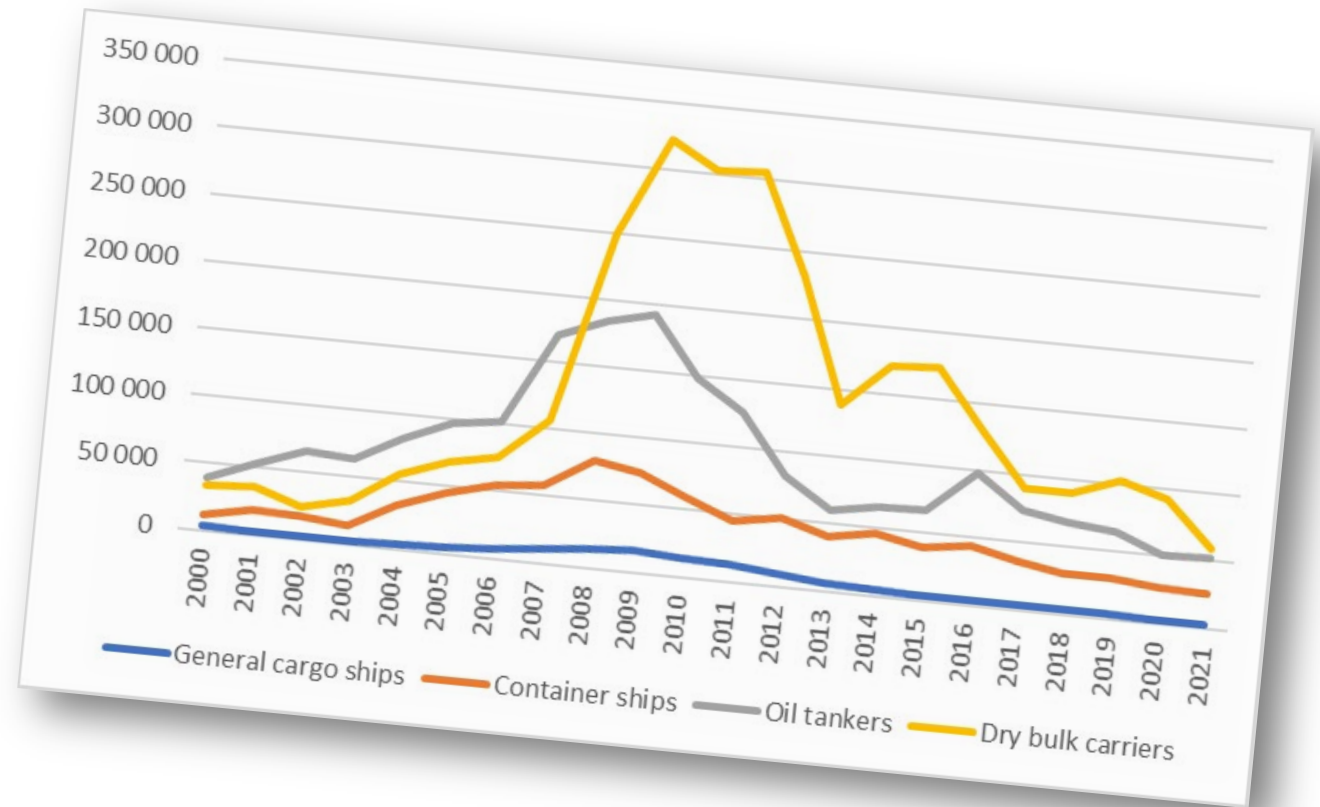
5. Will we have enough ships?

6. Risk premium?



6 reasons why freight rates are likely to remain higher than over the previous decade

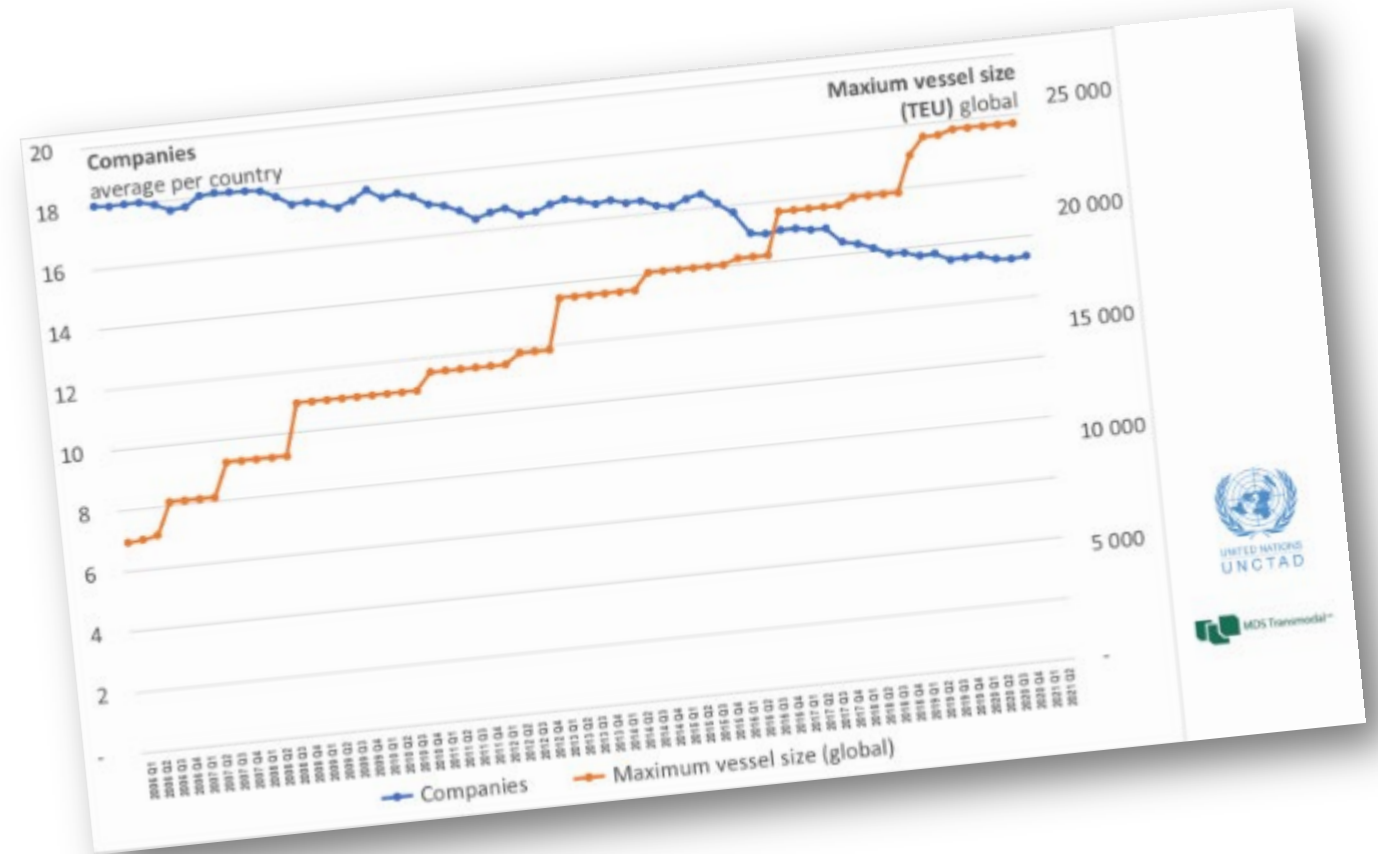
1. COVID-19
2. Shipping Cycle
3. Consolidation
4. Decarbonization
5. Will we have enough ships?
6. Risk premium?



ORDERBOOK (beginning of year data)
Source: UNCTAD, with Clarksons Research data

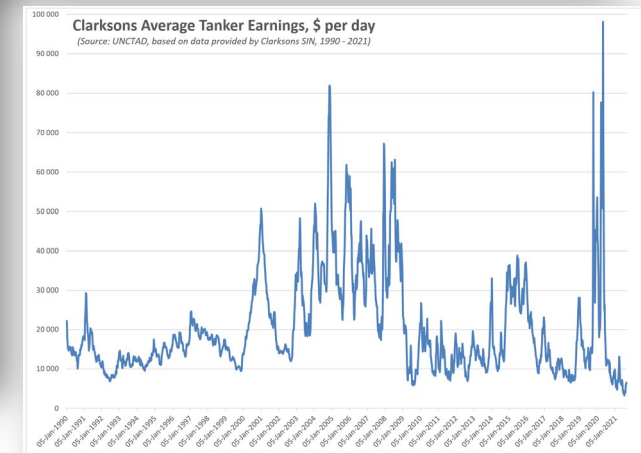
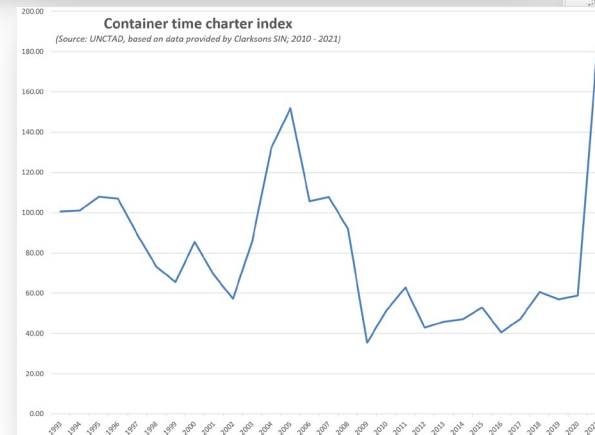
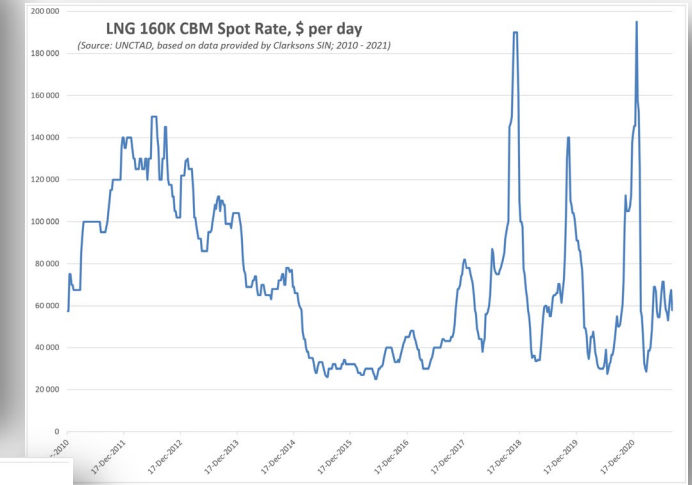
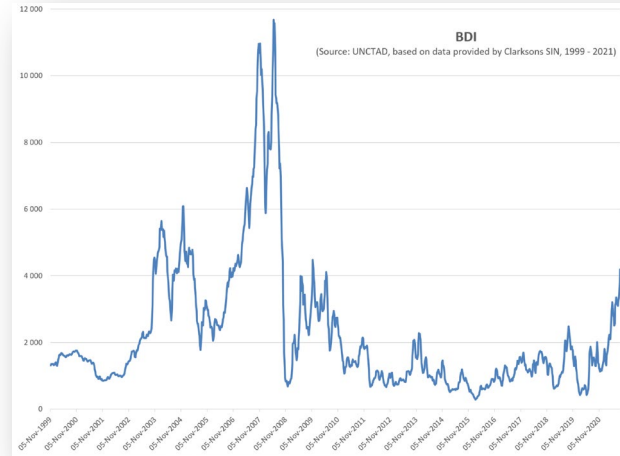
6 reasons why freight rates are likely to remain higher than over the previous decade

1. COVID-19
2. Shipping Cycle
3. Consolidation
4. Decarbonization
5. Will we have enough ships?
6. Risk premium?



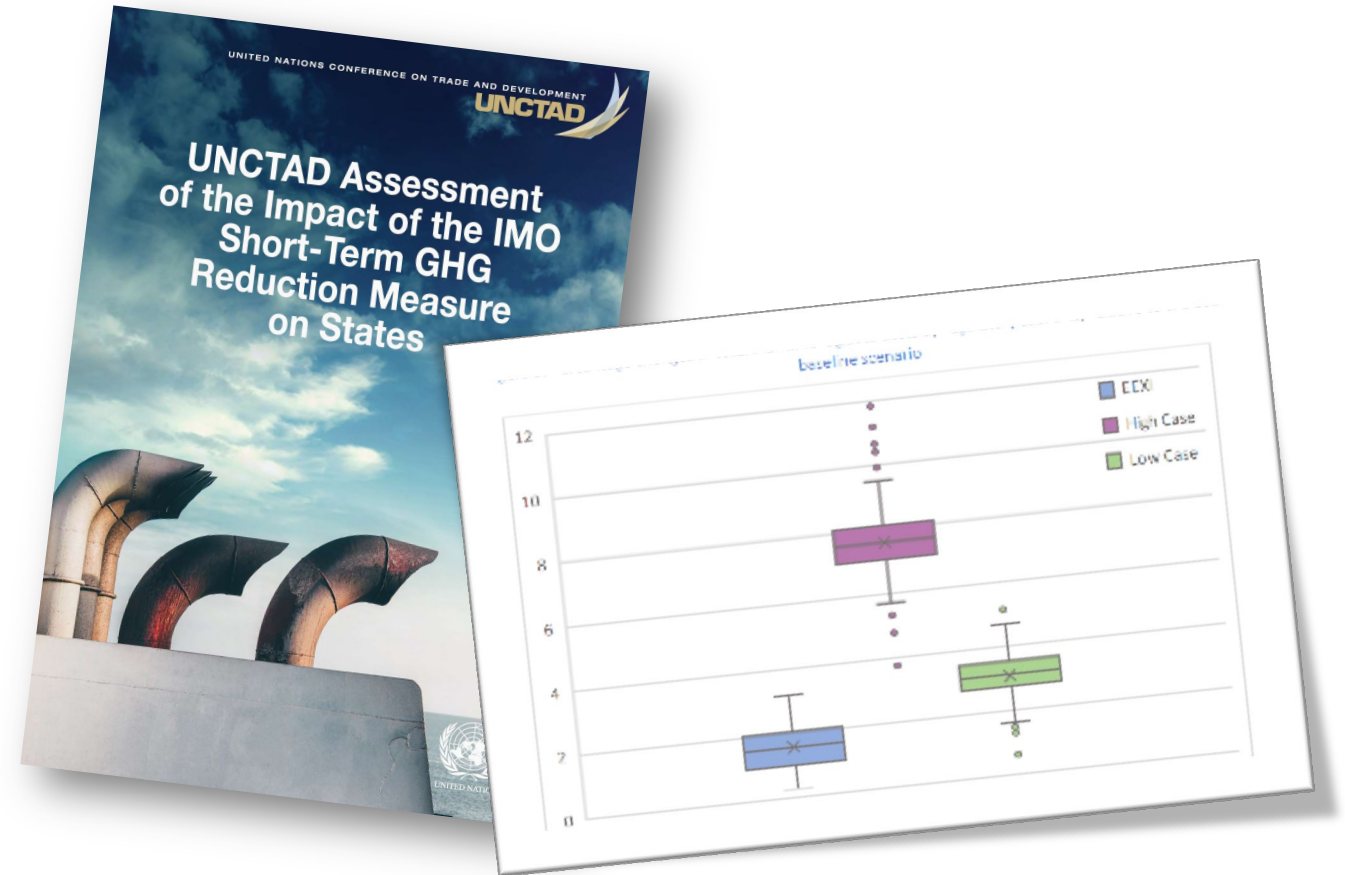
6 reasons why freight rates are likely to remain higher than over the previous decade

1. COVID-19
2. Shipping Cycle
3. Consolidation ?
4. Decarbonization
5. Will we have enough ships?
6. Risk premium?



6 reasons why freight rates are likely to remain higher than over the previous decade

1. COVID-19
2. Shipping Cycle
3. Consolidation
4. Decarbonization
5. Will we have enough ships?
6. Risk premium?



Source: UNCTAD

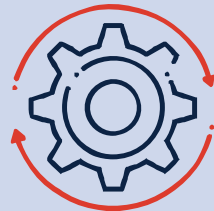
<https://unctad.org/news/vulnerable-countries-need-help-adjust-carbon-cuts-maritime-tra>

CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

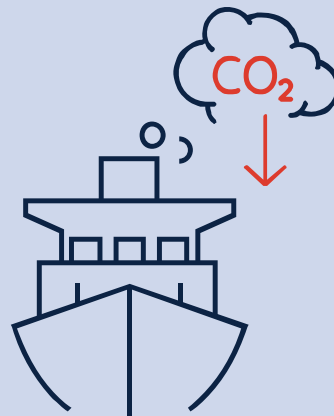
GHG emissions from shipping must be phased out to avoid the costs of not acting in the face of climate change

Decarbonization measures will have a greater impact on some countries than others, notably on SIDS or LDCs, which may need support to mitigate the increased maritime logistics costs

The energy transition in maritime transport implies a major transformation of the industry



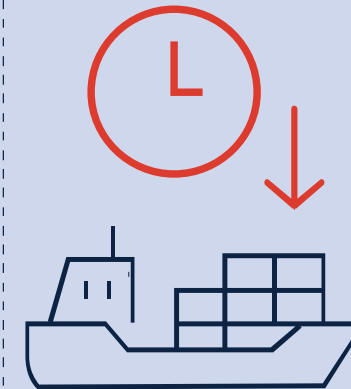
In the process of decarbonizing shipping,



maritime transport costs will increase,



and average shipping speeds will decrease

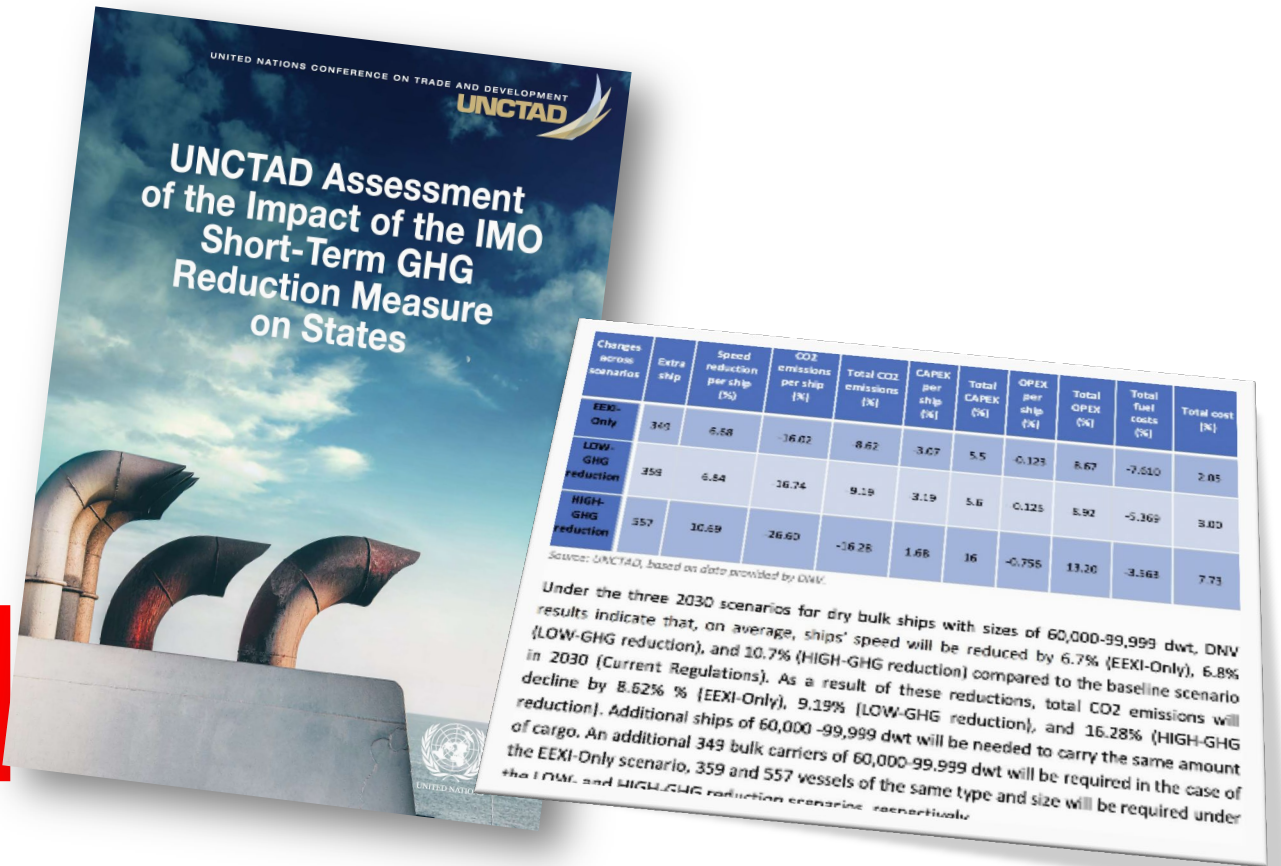


as a result, maritime logistics costs will go up



6 reasons why freight rates are likely to remain higher than over the previous decade

1. COVID-19
2. Shipping Cycle
3. Consolidation
4. Decarbonization
5. Will we have enough ships?
6. Risk premium?

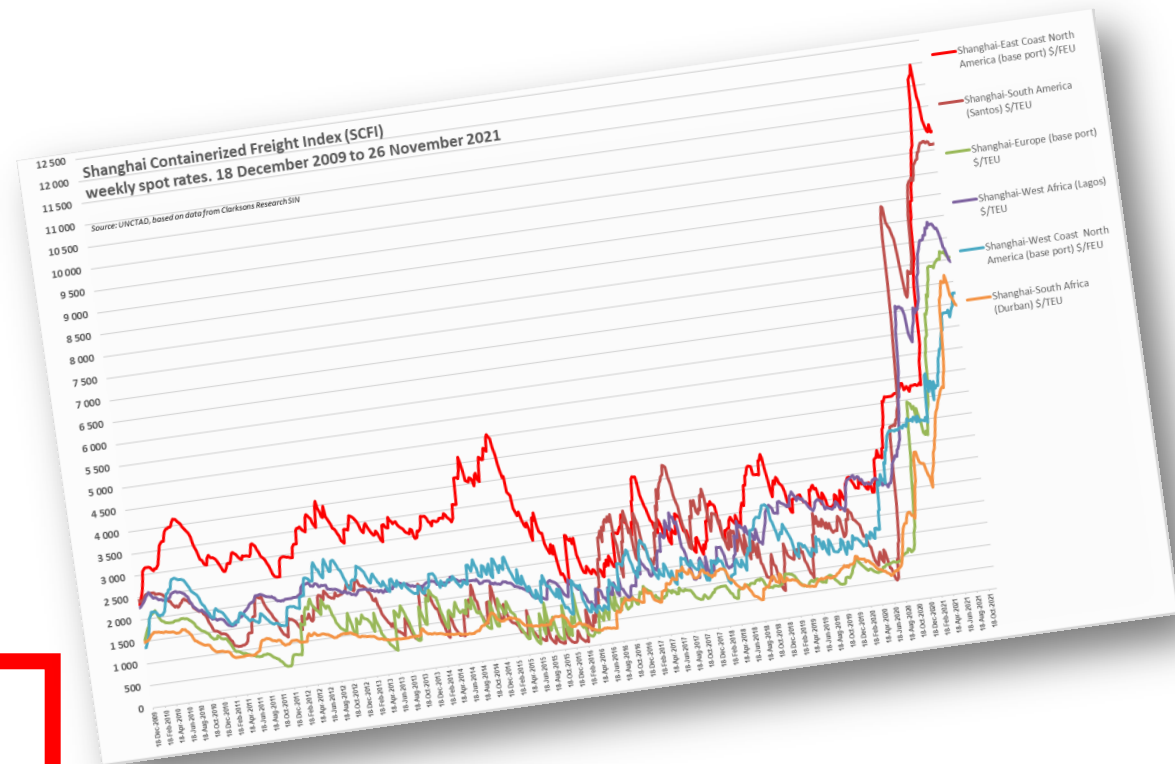


Source: UNCTAD

<https://unctad.org/news/vulnerable-countries-need-help-adjust-carbon-cuts-maritime-tra>

6 reasons why freight rates are likely to remain higher than over the previous decade

1. COVID-19
2. Shipping Cycle
3. Consolidation
4. Decarbonization
5. Will we have enough ships?
6. Risk premium?

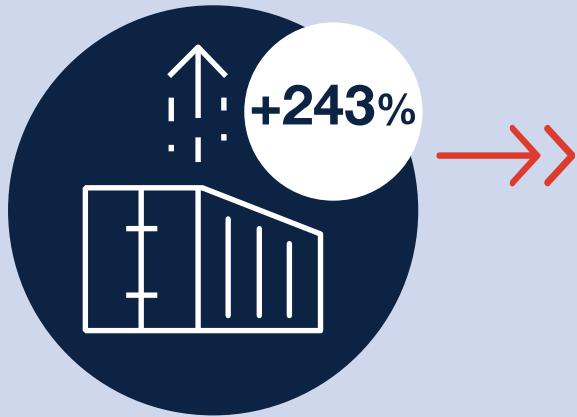


SIMULATED IMPACT OF CONTAINER FREIGHT RATE SURGES

Hardest hit will be SIDS

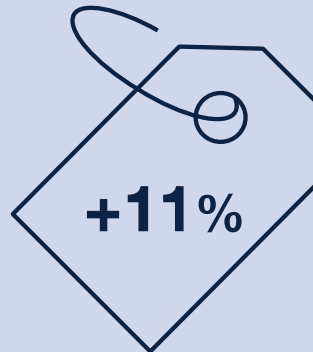
Simulation assumption:

Sustained increase in container freight rates

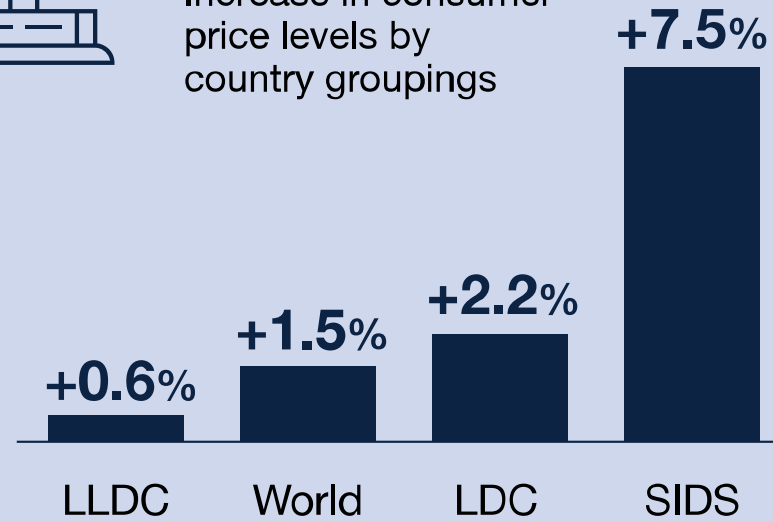


Simulation results:

Increase in global import price levels



Increase in consumer price levels by country groupings



THANK YOU



The ITTO Annual Market Discussion



Acknowledgements

The *Review of Maritime Transport 2021* was prepared by UNCTAD under the overall guidance of Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD, and under the coordination of Jan Hoffmann, Head of the Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics. Regina Asariotis, Gonzalo Ayala, Mark Assaf, Celine Bacrot, Hassiba Benamara, Dominique Chantrel, Amélie Cournoyer, Marco Fugazza, Poul Hansen, Jan Hoffmann, Tomasz Kulaga, Anila Premti, Luisa Rodríguez, Benny Salo, Kamal Tahiri, Hidenobu Tokuda, Pamela Ugaz and Frida Youssef were contributing authors.

The report benefitted from reviews and contributions by officials from the International Maritime Organization, the International Labour Organization partners of the TrainForTrade Port Management Programme and the five regional commissions of the United Nations (ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, and ESCWA): Julian Abril Garcia, Peter Adams, Mario Apostolov, Yarob Badr, Jan de Boer, Aicha Cherif, Ismael Cobos Delgado, Yann Duval, Martina Fontanet Solé, Fouad Ghorra, Fredrik Haag, Robert Lisinge, Dorota Lost-Sieminska, Ricardo Sanchez, Lynn Tan, Lukasz Wyrowski and Brandt Wagner.

Comments and suggestions from the following reviewers are gratefully acknowledged: Hashim Abbas Syed, Roar Adland, Stefanos Alexopoulos, Jason Angelopoulos, Tracy Chatman, Trevor Crowe, Neil Davidson, Juan Manuel Díez Orejas, Mahin Faghfour, Mike Garrat, Nadia Hasham, Joe Hiney, Julian Hoffmann Anton, Onno Hoffmeister, Roel Janssens, Lars Jensen, Björn Klippel, Eleni Kontou, Juan Manuel, Antonis Michail, Turloch Mooney, Richard Morton, Plamen Natzkoff, Jean-Paul Rodrigue, Peter Sand, Torbjorn Rydbergh, Alastair Stevenson, Stelios Stratidakis, Christa Sys, Antonella Teodoro and Ruosi Zhang. Experts from the International Chamber of Shipping reviewed chapter 2.

Comments received from UNCTAD divisions as part of the internal peer review process, as well as comments from the Office of the Secretary-General, are acknowledged with appreciation.

The *Review* was edited by Peter Stalker. Administrative, editing, and proofreading support was provided by Wendy Juan. Magali Studer designed the publication, and Juan Carlos Korol did the formatting.

Special thanks are also due to Vladislav Shuvalov for reviewing the publication in full.