What Now?
From Ambition to Action

Global Maritime Forum
Annual Summit

Athens
17-19 October 2023
What Now? From Ambition to Action

The world is going through profound changes that will impact all parts of human existence, including the political, economic, social, technological, environmental and legal domains.

The multitude of changes and their interconnectedness create an unprecedented level of uncertainty, especially when compared to more stable historical periods of economic globalisation.

This is especially true for the maritime industry, which provides the fundamental transport services that allow the global economy to function and ensure that goods, food, and energy are supplied to a growing population.

Faced with the scale and complexity of the unfolding changes – whether it is geopolitical conflict, environmental degradation, the transformation of the energy system, the rise of AI or new social movements – it is a normal human reaction to want to minimise risks and adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

This is the exact opposite of what we need to do to ensure that the maritime industry continues to serve the needs of global trade in a way that is sustainable over the long term and creates new opportunities.

But what are the adequate responses to the ongoing changes we face and how do we seize the opportunities that any period of upheaval brings?

It is still too early to say, but the participants at the Global Maritime Forum Annual Summit in New York in 2022 developed 12 guiding principles that could inform such responses.

“The Global Maritime Forum Annual Summit will take place shortly after the IMO revises its greenhouse gas emissions strategy. The summit will provide an important opportunity to respond to MEPC 80 and determine how the maritime industry can best continue its decarbonisation journey. I look forward to hosting what I am sure will be fruitful and inspiring discussions in Athens.”

Jan Dieleman, President, Cargill Ocean Transportation and Chair of the Global Maritime Forum

“It has been reported that there is a very limited amount of the carbon budget left to achieve the 1.5 °C target. It is imperative the maritime community acts now to keep our cumulative amount of emissions as small as possible and stay on track to reach our eventual net-zero target. I look forward to discussing this issue at the Global Maritime Forum Annual Summit in Athens in October.”

Toshiaki Tanaka, Executive Vice President, COO, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines
Guiding Principles

1. Think holistically
2. Drive change with transparency and data
3. Be brave!
4. Act! Done is better than perfect
5. Care for your people
6. Listen with an open mind
7. Embrace change think out of the box
8. Set short term goals and long term objectives
9. Engage your stakeholders
10. Minimize waste
11. Collaborate
12. Share knowledge to achieve common goals
Interconnected change drivers

At the 2023 Global Maritime Forum Annual Summit in Athens, stakeholders from across the full maritime value chain and beyond will come together to identify the key challenges and opportunities that are shaping the future of global seaborne trade.

This includes taking ambitious action on shipping decarbonisation, improving human sustainability and well-being both onshore and at sea, and responding to the changing geopolitical and economic realities of global trade.

Participants will seek to explore the complex and profound changes affecting the industry and seek to identify trade-offs and blind spots that should be taken into account when striving to increase the industry’s contribution to sustainable long-term economic development and human well-being.

The journey is not going to be easy. But if all of us put our collective genius to work, we have a unique opportunity to navigate the ocean of opportunity to the benefit of the maritime industry and the world it serves.

Join us in Athens in October 2023 to help shape the future of global seaborne trade.

Taking action together

All of this work will be done with one unifying purpose: individually and collectively showing the leadership and action that will allow us to act and move closer to our collective goals and ambitions despite the complexity of the issues we face. This is important as a solution in one domain – such as adopting new and more expensive zero-emission fuels – is likely to impact other domains – for instance, by creating new safety risks or making maritime transport services more costly to those least able to afford it.

The KEY QUESTIONS:

- What change drivers are impacting the shipping sector and its interactions with other global systems?
- What are the key risks and opportunities emerging from the interconnectedness of such changes?
- How do we work together to identify the blind spots that might derail collective action?
Since 2018, the Global Maritime Forum Annual Summit has inspired unique participants representing unique organisations from different countries.

The Global Maritime Forum’s Annual Summit brings together around 200 C-suite leaders from across the maritime spectrum who have the will to address the most pressing issues facing the industry. Invitees are selected to ensure an adequate representation of the entire maritime spectrum and give each segment, geography and stakeholder group an equal say in the proceedings.

The Annual Summit primarily consists of workshop-style discussions that encourage participants to work in groups to seek collaborative responses to various challenges we face. The working sessions are supplemented by briefings with leading experts who will inspire and challenge the conversations, as well as a few keynote sessions and panel discussions featuring top government officials and business leaders.

The purpose of the Annual Summit is not merely to discuss industry issues but to catalyse collective initiatives that can increase sustainable long-term economic development and human well-being. The Annual Summit is thus highly collaborative, and all participants are expected to share, inspire and learn.

“(...) allows me to connect with a network of like-minded people whose support re-energises me so that I can return to my community and my organisation and carry out the courageous changes that need to be done for a more sustainable industry.”

Semiramis Paliou,
Director and Chief Executive Officer, Diana Shipping Inc
Programme overview

TUESDAY, 17 OCTOBER
16:45  Arrival and networking
17:15  Opening event
19:00  Welcome reception
Kindly supported by the Onassis Foundation

WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER
09:30  Arrival and networking
10:00  Plenary and learning sessions
13:00  Lunch
14:00  Working sessions
17:30  Plenary
18:30  Transport for dinner
18:45  Drinks and Summit dinner
The Summit dinner is kindly hosted by the Baltic Exchange

THURSDAY, 19 OCTOBER
09:30  Arrival and networking
10:00  Working sessions
13:00  Lunch
14:00  Closing plenary

The programme is subject to minor changes.
Day 0
ONASSIS STEGI
Opening event and reception
Set collective goals
Share a meal

Day 1
NIARCHOS CULTURAL CENTRE
Register and reconnect
Create opportunities
Think holistically
Share knowledge
Listen with an open mind

Day 2
Reflect with your peers
Win as much as you can
Drive collaborative change
Develop pathways to impact
Closing

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DATES AND VENUE

17 OCTOBER 2023
Onassis Stegi
Leof. Andrea Siggrou 107
Athens, Greece

18-19 OCTOBER 2023
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC)
Leof. Andrea Siggrou 364
Athens, Greece

Participation in the Global Maritime Forum’s Annual Summit is by invitation only. All working sessions are conducted under the Chatham House Rule.

ACCOMMODATION
We encourage you to stay in one of the official hotels. Rooms can be requested when registering for the Annual Summit.

TRANSPORTATION
A shuttle transfer will be arranged from the official hotels to the Annual Summit venue and further to the Summit dinner venue.

FURTHER INFORMATION
To learn more, please visit www.globalmaritimeforum.org or contact us at summit@globalmaritimeforum.org

PRESS
Selected sessions of the Global Maritime Forum’s Annual Summit will be open to the press. Press-related inquiries should be directed to the Global Maritime Forum’s Head of Communications, Rasmus Nord Jørgensen, at rnj@globalmaritimeforum.org
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FUNDERS

ClimateWorks Foundation
Mission Possible Partnership
Nordic Innovation
Quadrature Climate Foundation
About the Global Maritime Forum

The Global Maritime Forum is an international not-for-profit organisation dedicated to shaping the future of global seaborne trade to increase sustainable long-term economic development and human wellbeing.

Learn more at www.globalmaritimeforum.org

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