

**Innovative transport solutions to accelerate recovery and support
achievement of SDGs and climate action**

Remarks by Ms. Gyorgyi Gurban

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Thank you for this opportunity to reflect on the inspiring discussions of the Panel from the maritime perspective, representing the International Maritime Organization, which is the UN specialized agency and global regulator of the world's merchant shipping industry.

In a direct response to COVID-19, IMO has over the past months been working closely, in partnership with national governments and the shipping industry to make sure that global supply chains do not come to an absolute standstill, and that essential supplies and vital goods continue to reach ports and markets in developed and developing economies.

COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the absolute necessity of partnerships, which will be key also for a long-term sustainable recovery, with more collaboration needed both across the supply chain, between ships and ports, UN Agencies, especially around specific opportunities offered by digitalization and decarbonization.

We are already witnessing new cooperation initiatives from Denmark to Chile, bringing together ship owners, ports, airports, logistics and trucking companies who jointly invest in local renewable hydrogen production that can serve all of the involved transport modes.

New investments in the large-scale deployment of low-carbon fuel infrastructure, for instance in port areas, which are modal hubs, can provide momentum to also speed up decarbonization of other transport sectors.

In relation to LDCs and SIDS, we have seen great potential of building synergies between merchant shipping and smaller terrestrial energy grids, to support local renewable generation, energy security and resilience, with battery/fuel technology.

COVID-19 brings a great opportunity to speed transition to using renewable fuels in transport in a systematic manner and specifically for maritime transport, to move towards a decarbonized future of shipping in line with the IMO GHG Strategy and the 2020 World Maritime Day theme "sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet"

This transition requires however further R&D, with a focus on innovative ship design and alternative fuels and opportunities offered by digitalization.

It also requires huge investment, particularly in renewable energy infrastructure development that the maritime industry will not be able to secure by itself, especially now, with global economy and trade spiraling downward and priority for many shipowners is to stay in business.

New partnerships will be thus needed more than ever to overcome both the R&D and investment gap as well.

We are all in this together - from the side of IMO, we are eager to build further partnerships towards a sustainable future of transport and provide a global platform to promote R&D in zero carbon marine fuels and bring together the wider maritime industry, the UN system, private banks, and development banks and other interested donors to move together in this direction.

Thank you very much.