

MOST IMMEDIATE

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF MARITIME AFFAIRS

F. No. 6(01)/2017-IMO&IA-Misc

Islamabad, the 3rd April, 2020

1. The Director General (P&S), Ports & Shipping Wing, Karachi.
2. The Chairman, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation, Karachi.
3. The Chairman, Karachi Port Trust, Karachi.
4. The Chairman, Port Qasim Authority, Karachi
5. The Chairman, Gwadar Port Authority, Gwadar.

Subject: UNCTAD'S NOTE ENTITLED "CORONAVIRUS- LET'S KEEP SHIPS MOVING PORT OPEN AND CROSS BORDER TRADE FLOWING."

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of FAX Message from Deputy Permanent Representative High Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Geneva's No. UNCTAD-1/2020, dated 31-03-2020 on the subject for information and further necessary action.

Encls: As above

(Ahmed Jamshed)
Section Officer
Ph. No. 9212520
Fax # 9203530

Copy to :

- i. PS to Secretary, M/o Maritime Affairs, Islamabad
- ii. PS to Additional Secretary, M/o Maritime Affairs, Islamabad

Action by
CE&SS
CNS
DP&A ✓
D/Sh
DP

Most Immediate**Fax Message**

From: Parepun Geneva
 To: Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Islamabad → 9215349
 Rptd to: Foreign Islamabad
 Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad
 No: UNCTAD-1/2020
 Dated: 31 March 2020

Secretary (Maritime Affairs) from Deputy Permanent Representative

Repeated to: Additional Secretary, MoC

Also Rept to: DG(UN), DG (EC & OIC), Director (FSO), MoFA

Subject: **UNCTAD's note entitled "Coronavirus- Let's keep ships moving, ports open and cross border trade flowing."**

The Secretary General of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has published a note entitled, "Coronavirus- Let's keep ships moving, ports open and cross border trade flowing."

2. It may be noted that UNCTAD has issued this note in response to the joint letter by Guy Platten, Secretary General, International Chamber of Shipping and Stephen Cotton, Secretary General, International Transport Workers' Federation to all governments to keep maritime trade moving by allowing commercial ships continued access to ports worldwide and by facilitating the rapid changeover of ships' crews.

3. Following are the salient points:

- As the world battles the coronavirus pandemic, the global maritime transport industry is playing a critical role in the response. In this time of global crisis, it is more important than ever to keep supply chains open and to allow maritime trade and cross-border transport to continue.
- Around 80% of global trade is transported by commercial shipping, which moves the world's food, energy and raw materials, as well as manufactured goods and components. This includes vital medical supplies, which are sorely needed at this time, and items that are necessary for the preservation of many jobs in manufacturing – without which modern society cannot function.
- Shipping and ports hold the world economy together. They connect countries, markets, businesses and people, on a scale not otherwise possible. Landlocked countries need access to food and medical supplies through neighbouring countries' seaports.
- Facing the current pandemic, cross-border movements of relief goods such as food and medical supplies has increased dramatically. Restrictions on trade and cross-border transport may interrupt needed aid and technical support. It could disrupt businesses and have negative social and economic effects on the affected countries.

O/o Additional Secretary
 Ministry of Maritime Affairs
 Government of Pakistan
 Diary No: 1040
 Dated: 01-04-20

O/o Secretary M/o Maritime Affairs
 Government of Pakistan
 Dy. No: 1639
 Dated: 01-04-2020

1/4/2020
 AS

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 at this time
 1/1/20

1/2/20

- Governments should therefore continue to facilitate movement of not only relief goods, but goods in general, to minimize the negative impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- While observing necessary health protocols, ports should treat seafarers as key workers and afford them the same flexibilities currently given to aircrew and health workers in boarding and leaving ships.
- In several ports – especially in hard-hit regions– goods in transit are already affected, and essential medicine and equipment are being held up.
- G20 leaders have an important opportunity to protect the free movement of all goods by affirming the smooth functioning of their shipping, ports and transit industries.
- All available technological trade and transport facilitation solutions should be used to reduce the burden posed by COVID-19 on maritime and cross-border trade. World cannot afford to compound the health and economic challenge posed in these strange times.

5. The complete information note is available at the following link:
<https://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=2311>

(Encl. As above)

With warm regards,

E

(Tahir Hussain Andrabi)



Coronavirus: Let's keep ships moving, ports open and cross-border trade flowing

25 March 2020



Written by
Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of
UNCTAD

As the world battles the coronavirus pandemic, the global maritime transport industry is playing a critical role in the response.

A call by the industry to all governments to keep maritime trade moving by allowing commercial ships continued access to ports worldwide and by facilitating the rapid changeover of ships' crews should not go unheeded.

Around 80% of global trade is transported by commercial shipping, which moves the world's food, energy and raw materials, as well as manufactured goods and components, according to UNCTAD statistics.

This includes vital medical supplies, which are sorely needed at this time, and items that are necessary for the preservation of many jobs in manufacturing – without which modern society cannot function.

In this time of global crisis, it is more important than ever to keep supply chains open and to allow maritime trade and cross-border transport to continue.

This means keeping the world's ports open for ship calls and the movement of ships' crews with as few obstacles as possible.

Transit needs to be facilitated, too. Landlocked countries need access to food and medical supplies through neighbouring countries' seaports.

Shipping and ports hold the world economy together. They connect countries, markets, businesses and people, on a scale not otherwise possible.

A vast array of goods and commodities are transported by sea to meet the demands of industrial and manufacturing sectors, energy needs, as well as business and consumer requirements.

These range from raw materials such as coal and iron ore, oil, gas carried as bulk, to manufactured goods of intermediate and finished products carried in containers.

Facing the current pandemic, cross-border movements of relief goods such as food and medical supplies will increase dramatically.

Restrictions on trade and cross-border transport may interrupt needed aid and technical support. It could disrupt businesses and have negative social and economic effects on the affected countries.

Governments should therefore continue to facilitate movement of not only relief goods, but goods in general, to minimize the negative impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

To ensure that vital goods reach consumers and hospitals in destination countries, responsible agencies should coordinate and cooperate within and among countries so that indispensable goods reach the populations in coastal and landlocked countries alike.

At the extraordinary G20 Leaders Summit on the COVID-19 pandemic, which meets virtually this week, world leaders should embrace the call made by the shipping industry to keep maritime trade moving by allowing continued access to ports worldwide and the rapid changeover of ships' crews.

Support seafarers and port operators, take measured steps

Amidst the current outbreak, seafarers have come under increased checks and scrutiny in various ports.

Many port states have imposed local regulations, travel and quarantine restrictions, precluding free access to seafarers. Some operators have suspended crew changes aboard ships to lessen their social interactions.

While observing necessary health protocols, ports should treat seafarers as key workers and afford them the same flexibilities currently given to aircrew and health workers in boarding and leaving ships, as some 100,000 shipping crew members need to change shift every month.

Port operators also need to be ready given the potential risks to public health and the economy, if their key role in the transit of goods is affected by the spread of the virus.

Port workers are facing the danger of contracting COVID-19, and many ports are not ready if a critical mass of workers become sick.

In several ports – especially in hard-hit regions like Europe – goods in transit are already affected, and essential medicine and equipment are being held up.

Without functioning ports, cargoes including those with life-saving supplies cannot be transported to where they are needed.

As they meet virtually this week, G20 leaders have an important opportunity to protect the free movement of all goods by affirming the smooth functioning of their shipping, ports and transit industries.

All available technological trade and transport facilitation solutions should be used to reduce the burden posed by COVID-19 on maritime and cross-border trade.

We cannot afford to compound the health and economic challenge facing us.



Related links:

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) : News, Analysis and Resources
- Review of Maritime Transport (Series)
- Maritime Transport Statistics
- Seafarer supply, quinquennial, 2015
- Transport and Trade Facilitation Newsletter

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Joint Open Letter to United Nations agencies from the global maritime transport industry

Mar 19, 2020

Download free Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance to help protect the health of seafarers (and passengers) as well as the general public [here](#).

JOINT OPEN LETTER TO UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES FROM THE GLOBAL MARITIME TRANSPORT INDUSTRY

FACILITATING CREW CHANGES TO KEEP WORLD TRADE MOVING THROUGHOUT THE COVID-19 CRISIS

To:

Director General, United Nations International Labour Organization
Secretary-General, United Nations International Maritime Organization
Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Director General, World Health Organization.

As the COVID-19 pandemic takes hold it is vital that all governments keep maritime trade moving by continuing to allow commercial ships access to ports worldwide and by facilitating the movement and rapid changeover of ships' crews.

We are writing on behalf of the International Chamber Shipping (ICS), which represents the world's national shipowners' associations and over 80% of the world's merchant shipping tonnage, and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), which speaks on behalf of approximately two million seafarers who operate the world's internationally-trading commercial ships.

As the COVID-19 pandemic takes hold, it is important for the world's governments to fully understand that around 90% of global trade is transported by commercial shipping, which moves the world's food, energy and raw materials, as well as manufactured goods and components – including vital medical supplies and many products sold in supermarkets, items that are necessary (due to complex supply chains) for the preservation of many jobs in manufacturing – without which modern society simply cannot function.

In this time of global crisis, it is more important than ever to keep supply chains open and maritime trade and transport moving.

In particular, this means keeping the world's ports open for calls by visiting commercial ships, and facilitating crew changes and the movement of ships' crews with as few obstacles as possible.

Every month, around 100,000 seafarers need to be changed over from the ships which they operate in order to comply with relevant international maritime regulations, governing safe working hours and crew welfare, so that they can continue to transport global trade safely.

We therefore wish to emphasise the vital need for the world's professional merchant seafarers to be granted appropriate exemptions from any national travel restrictions, when joining or leaving their ships, in order to keep the world's maritime supply chains functioning.

In view of their vital role during the global pandemic, we suggest that professional seafarers, regardless of nationality, should be treated as any other international 'key workers', such as airline crew and medical personnel. As such, they should be afforded special consideration and, notwithstanding the need to comply with emergency health protocols, treated with pragmatism and understanding when seeking to travel to and from their ships.

We therefore call on your organisations to highlight the critical importance of this issue with the governments of your member states.

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COVID-19

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We request, as a matter of urgency, that this topic be added to the agenda of appropriate high level meetings, and that national authorities in your organisations' member states should be encouraged to engage immediately with their national shipowners' association and national seafarers' union, in order to find rapid solutions to this serious problem which otherwise risks impeding global efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours faithfully,

Guy Platten, Secretary General
International Chamber of Shipping




Stephen Cotton, Secretary General
International Transport Workers' Federation



Download free Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance to help protect the health of seafarers (and passengers) as well as the general public **here**.

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