



**JPAC Public Forum on the Role of Ports in Fighting Climate Change  
“Moving the needle toward industry decarbonization”  
1 December 2022 Halifax, Canada.**

**Summary Record**

**ITEM 1: Land Acknowledgment by Louie Porta and Welcoming Remarks by Richard Paul**

JPAC Chair Louie Porta began the meeting by acknowledging the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw nation and the seven districts of the Mi'kmaq people; Kipuktuk, which traditionally means Big Harbor, a traditional Gathering Place for thousands of years, where families came together to harvest, share their culture, and be together. He then introduced Mr. Richard Paul for welcoming remarks.

Mr. Paul welcomed everyone to the Mi'kmaw territory. He expressed the hope that the Public Forum would bring together different perspectives aimed at creating a sustainable future. As a representative of the Membertou community, he underlined the progress the community has made, becoming one of Canada's most economically thriving Indigenous communities. He highlighted their most recent project, which is electrifying their fishing vessels to reduce emissions through their commercial operations.

**ITEM 2: Opening Remarks by Louie Porta, JPAC Chair**

Mr. Porta thanked all the attendees and the organizers who had made the meeting possible. He expressed that he and his colleagues from Canada, Mexico, and the United States were pleased to be hosting the Forum in Halifax. He then presented the agenda and introduced Daniel Taillant, Executive Director of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

**ITEM 3: Welcoming Remarks by Jorge Daniel Taillant**

Mr. Taillant said that the CEC is a place where experiences can be shared and where governments can come together alongside civil society and Indigenous leaders to advance action. He highlighted the importance of ports in reducing emissions, and how shipping corridors can be part of the solution for addressing climate change. In conclusion, Mr. Taillant also thanked everyone for participating in the Public Forum.

**ITEM 4: Federal Address by Andy Fillmore**

Mr. Fillmore, the Parliamentary Secretary to Canada's Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry, stated that cities have the responsibility to exercise their power and lead the way in fighting against climate change, and that ports share that power. Furthermore, the way ports are built and operated will determine if Canada meets its environmental goals. He highlighted two key areas of focus for the Government of Canada:

- The development of green hydrogen, one of the most promising opportunities for decarbonizing ports.
- International collaboration for the development of green shipping corridors. At COP 26, the government of Canada joined 22 other countries in signing the Clydebank Declaration, which seeks to establish at least six green shipping corridors by the middle of the decade.

#### **ITEM 5: Provincial Address by Timothy Halman**

Mr. Halman, Nova Scotia's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, emphasized the critical role that ports can play as the world shifts from fossil fuels to green hydrogen and electrification.

He highlighted the importance of creating opportunities for everyone, and that decarbonizing port operations is essential for Nova Scotia. He also shared that the provincial government was going to release a new climate risk assessment and climate plan for Nova Scotia, which will provide further actions and details on risks and solutions they must all embrace moving forward.

#### **ITEM 6: The Role of Ports in Climate Mitigation**

##### **Moderator:**

- **Octaviana V. Trujillo**, JPAC Chair

##### **Invited Speakers:**

- **Antonio Santos**, Federal Climate Policy Director, Pacific Environment
- **Daniel Dagenais**, Vice President, Port Performance and Sustainable Development, Port of Montreal
- **Orlando Cabrera-Rivera**, Head of Unit for Environmental Quality, Commission for Environmental Cooperation

During this panel, the speakers discussed the many social and environmental facets of port activities and their potential role in climate mitigation. The panelists mentioned the work they have been doing to reduce emissions, protect biodiversity, and reduce local impacts on local communities, and highlighted the importance of collaboration and working alongside the private and public sectors. The speakers also emphasized:

- Public policies that look after the environment and communities affected by the ports should be developed.
- The importance of governance structures and mechanisms when developing rules, policies and guidelines.
- The importance for governments to stop funding the bunkering of fossil fuels and set targets aligned with the Paris Agreement.
- Clients, shippers and major retailer companies can support the decarbonization of the supply chain by acting on the demand and requesting net zero products.

- One of the challenges for reducing emissions at ports is the availability of infrastructure for bunkering zero emission fuels.
- Private-public funding mechanisms are essential to increase the speed of port electrification, and for developing zero emission fuels infrastructures.
- Investments in air quality monitoring are necessary.
- Ports must be viewed and managed more holistically, including all related freight operations.
- The need to develop domestic green shipping corridors to support international commitments.

### **ITEM 7: Green Shipping Corridors as a Tool for Industry Decarbonization**

#### **Moderator:**

- **Louie Porta**

#### **Speakers:**

- **Salomon Diaz**, Coordinator for the Decarbonization of Ports, WWF – Mexico
- **Michael Berube**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Sustainable Transportation, US Department of Energy
- **Brennan Sydor**, Energy and Sustainability Consultant, Arup
- **Brent Dancey**, Director of Marine Climate Action, Oceans North

During this panel, speakers discussed how green shipping corridors can act as a tool to decarbonize the maritime transportation sector, as well as the role of ports and the status of current initiatives. The panelists highlighted how port decarbonization would bring benefits to mitigate climate change and improve the health of nearby communities. Some key takeaways from the panel discussion included the importance of:

- Establishing partnerships across the supply chain.
- Engaging with different stakeholders and working alongside communities.
- Establishing regional goals and domestic commitments to decarbonize ports.
- Taking action since the technology exists.
- Investing in monitoring systems to reduce port emissions and improve air quality.
- Considering the impact of the transition on labour force.
- Considering all maritime transportation sources of pollution (e.g., ballast water, invasive species, underwater noise, etc.) when talking about green shipping corridors.
- Recognizing the crucial role that governments play in decarbonizing ports by developing policies, laws and regulations, such as zero/low carbon fuel standards, helping first movers reduce risks and investing in infrastructure.

### **ITEM 8: Zero Emission Fuels and Infrastructure**

#### **Moderator:**

- **Robert W. Varney**, JPAC member

**Speakers:**

- **Allan Gray**, President and CEO, Halifax Port Authority
- **Xiaoli Mao**, Senior Researcher, International Council on Clean Transportation
- **José Álvarez Rosas**, Environmental and Energy Sector Consultant
- **Lee Kindberg**, PhD, Head of Environment & Sustainability North America, Maersk
- **Jeff Grant**, Vice President, Transportation Solutions, HTEC

During this session, guest speakers discussed options for zero-emission fuels, their status, and potential ways to increase their uptake. The panelists mentioned the work they have been doing and highlighted the important role of governments to support the development of zero emission fuels. They also stressed that:

- Collaboration and partnerships across the value chain will be needed to support the development and uptake of low and zero emission fuels and supporting infrastructures.
- Demand for net zero products and signals from key actors have been some of the drivers behind industry taking action toward reducing their emissions. Early funding is also key.
- The future of sustainable fuels will include a combination of different fuel options depending on the networks, route and type of vessels.
- Regulations already exist around some green fuels in different countries; it is necessary to review those regulations and not overly complicate their application at a global scale.
- One of the main challenges in decarbonizing the maritime transportation industry is the availability of zero emission fuels. A new ecosystem supporting fuel supply needs to be developed.
- The role of the government is to become a facilitator, to apply transparent and practical regulations that will incentivize the use of new fuels and technologies. If regulations are not mandatory, then incentives should be applied.
- Global metrics should be developed to ensure the consistency of targets and goals for green shipping corridors.
- When fuels are being developed, it is essential to make sure the developers adhere to the standard and consider the life cycle of the fuels.

**ITEM 9: Report from the National and Governmental Advisory Committee Representatives on the Role of Ports in Fighting Climate Change, by Andy Carey and Marina Brock**

Mr. Andy Carey, NAC Chair, shared information on development efforts in the border region between the United States and Mexico:

- The demands for the water supply are increasing and are having ever more significant impacts, economically and environmentally.
- Collaborative work between Mexico and the United States can help resolve some long-standing challenges around the San Diego–Tijuana River regarding groundwater management.

## ITEM 10: Environmental and Social Justice Dimensions of Ports

### Moderator:

- **Esteban Escamilla Prado**, JPAC member

### Speakers:

- **Sabaa Khan**, Director General, Quebec and Atlantic Canada, David Suzuki Foundation
- **Heather Kryczka**, Staff Attorney, Environment, Equity & Justice Center, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- **Heather Tomley**, Managing Director of Planning and Environmental Affairs, Port of Long Beach
- **Andrew Rhodes Espinoza**, Ocean Coordinator, Undersecretariat for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Secretariat of External Affairs of Mexico

During this session, invited speakers discussed how ports and local stakeholders can work together to increase the well-being and prosperity of their communities. The invited panelists started by mentioning their essential work on local environmental justice projects, and the importance of adapting laws around this topic. They highlighted the following:

- The right to a healthy environment must be recognized.
- Educate and mobilize the public on the topic of environmental justice.
- Consider the local impact of port operations and associated freight activities, and put port facilities at a safe distance from where people live and go to work.
- Access to information (e.g., location of facilities).
- Respect Indigenous Peoples' right to free, prior, and informed consent.
- Provide appropriate space and mechanisms to properly engage local, Indigenous and environmental justice communities.
- Address global and local public health and regional air quality impacts; reinforce environmental health protection standards.

## ITEM 11: Overview of SEM Process and Dialogue by Paolo Solano

Mr. Paolo Solano, CEC Director of Legal Affairs and Submissions on Enforcement Matters (SEM), introduced the SEM process and the key elements that must be included in a submission, and then provided an overview of current active submissions.

## ITEM 12: Public Engagement

During this session, JPAC members opened the floor for members of the public, participating in-person or virtually, to provide input on the Public Forum's theme. Some of the comments are as follows:

- Indigenous voices must be at the table.
- The importance of considering the cumulative effect of port operations.
- Port expansion should be mindful of surrounding communities.
- Green leases are another tool to support the decarbonization of ports.



- The importance of addressing the concept of green corridors ecologically.
- Stronger regulations are required.
- Heavy Fuel Oils (HFO) need to be banned immediately.
- It is essential to consider all the species affected by maritime corridors.

**ITEM 13: Closing Session by JPAC members**

JPAC members thanked the public for their participation. They emphasized the importance of dialogue with all stakeholders in generating new ideas and moving toward a more sustainable future. They noted that it is vital to involve local and Indigenous communities in this issue and to foster cooperation among the three countries.