

WORLD PORTS SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM (WPSP) CHARTER

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Mission

The World Ports Sustainability Program aims to demonstrate global leadership of ports in contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. The program wants to empower port community actors worldwide to engage with business, governmental and societal stakeholders in creating sustainable added value for the local communities and wider regions in which their ports are embedded.

Objectives

The World Ports Sustainability Program will

- establish and maintain a global library of best practices;
- provide a portal for projects and initiatives of international port-related organisations that joined the program as partners;
- function as a think-tank and breeding ground for new collaborative projects;
- report regularly about the sustainability performance of the global ports sector.

Declaration

[name organisation] represented by *[...]*

in its capacity as partner of the World Ports Sustainability Program

- endorses the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- commits its organisation to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals where and when possible within its own field of activity, competence and responsibility through existing as well as new projects and initiatives;
- welcomes the initiative of the International Association of Ports and Harbors to set up the World Ports Sustainability Program;
- endorses the mission and objectives of the World Ports Sustainability Program;
- commits its organisation to recognise the work and initiatives of each of the partners in the implementation of the 17 SDGs;
- commits its organisation and, where applicable, encourages its members to sharing best practices as well as relevant information about running and new initiatives as well as publicly available data;
- commits its organisation to provide guidance, support and recognition to its members on the areas covered by the 17 SDGs;
- commits its organisation, where and when possible and relevant, to develop collaborative projects under the World Ports Sustainability Programme;
- engages its organisation to promote the activities of the World Ports Sustainability Program;
- commits its organisation to exchange on a regular basis information, to evaluate the implementation of the above-mentioned initiatives and commitments and to assess ways to strengthen the cooperation between the partners.

Annex

ABOUT THE WORLD PORTS SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

1. Background

On 25 September 2015 the Heads of State and Government of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda is a new plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets at its core.

Ports are nodal points in global supply chains. At the same time, they are embedded in local and regional communities. As a result, ports must respond to worldwide, regional and local challenges, such as climate change, mobility, digitalisation, migration and social integration, whilst adding value to international supply chains.

On 12 May 2017 the International Association of Ports and Harbors decided to set up a World Ports Sustainability Program. Guided by the 17 UN SDGs the program wants to enhance and coordinate future sustainability efforts of port community actors worldwide and foster international cooperation with partners in the supply chain, governments and societal stakeholders. The World Ports Sustainability Program builds on the World Ports Climate Initiative that IAPH started in 2008 and extends it to other areas of sustainable development.

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), the European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO), AIVP – The Worldwide Network of Port Cities and the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC) signed up as Founding Partners of the World Ports Sustainability Program.

2. Scope

Bearing in mind the different roles, responsibilities and competences of ports and port community actors, the World Ports Sustainability Program considers the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals as a single and indivisible orientation for the sustainable development of ports.

The World Ports Sustainability Program will initially implement the UN SDGs along five themes, each of them covering a non-exhaustive list of potential topics.

1) Resilient infrastructure

Port and port-related infrastructure aim at anticipating demands of maritime transport and landside logistics, at being resilient to changes in climate and weather conditions and at developing in harmony with local communities, nature and heritage.

Potential topics: port planning and design, public-private partnerships, financing, digitization and automation, climate resilience, working with nature, ecosystems management

2) Climate and energy

Ports subscribe to the Paris Climate Goal which aims to keep global warming well below 2°C. Building on the output of the World Ports Climate Initiative, port community actors

can collaborate in refining and developing tools to facilitate reduction of CO2 emissions from shipping, port and landside operations. In addition, they can take initiatives to enable energy transition, improve air quality and stimulate circular economy.

Potential topics: energy efficiency, circular economy, bio-based economy, renewable energy, CO2 and infrastructure, clean ship incentives, deployment of alternative transport fuels

3) Community outreach and port-city dialogue

Port community actors can develop synergies to solve collective active problems in and outside the port area, such as hinterland bottlenecks, training and education, IT, marketing and promotion as well as innovation and internationalisation. Similarly, port community actors strive for dialogue with urban stakeholders to offer innovative cross-over services that contribute to the attractiveness and resilience of port cities.

Potential topics: stakeholder management, sustainability reporting, community outreach, city-port relations, employment, education, spatial planning, nature in ports, port culture, externalities of port operations

4) Safety and security

In ports a mixture of regulatory duties and responsibilities exist related to ensuring safety and security of ship and cargo operations within the port as well as the enforcement of applicable laws and regulations in these fields. With the advance of global terrorism and digitalisation, security problems have obtained an entirely new dimension.

Potential topics: cyber-security, protection of critical infrastructure, ISPS, nautical safety, labor safety, responsible care

5) Governance and ethics

Principles of good corporate governance are increasingly being introduced to port authorities, regardless of their ownership. Furthermore, all port community actors should be encouraged to uphold high standards of ethics and transparency.

Potential topics: transparency, integrity, equal rights and opportunities, fair trade, anti-corruption, responsible supply chains

The above themes and corresponding topics may be revised in future.

3. Implementation

Whilst recognizing and respecting the individual identities, membership expectations and traditions of its partners, the World Ports Sustainability Program will communicate its mission and objectives through a dedicated website that houses the global library of best practices, a portal for projects and initiatives of its partners and platform for new projects.

The World Ports Sustainability Program will produce a regular report on the sustainability performance of the global port sector and may organize various types of events and initiatives to further its objectives.

4. Organisation

The American Association of Ports and Harbors (AAPA), the European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO), AIVP – The Worldwide Network of Port Cities, the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC) and the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) form the Founding Partners of the World Ports Sustainability Program.

The World Ports Sustainability Program is open to other international port-related stakeholder organisations on a structural partnership basis. This is subject to approval of the Founding Partners and endorsement of the WSP Declaration.

A Steering Group will be established to oversee the implementation and quality of the program, which at least comprises representatives of the Founding Partners. The full composition and terms of reference will be determined at a first meeting to be called shortly after the launch of the Program.

IAPH leads and coordinates the implementation of the World Ports Sustainability Program. IAPH manages and updates the WSP website, produces a regular sustainability report and organises various types of events and initiatives to further the objectives of the program.

Each WSP partner will continue running own initiatives or projects within the scope of the 17 SDGs and is free to develop new initiatives and projects considering their individual membership, priorities and mission. These will be promoted and, where relevant, results will be disseminated through the WSP web portal and any other useful means.

Each WSP partner will furthermore provide guidance, support and recognition to its members in view of enhancing the implementation of the 17 SDGs.