



# Georgia International Maritime Forum

# 2018

Georgia  
International  
Maritime Forum

GIMF2018

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Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia

# INTRODUCTION



During September 12-14, Batumi - the maritime center of Georgia, hosted the Georgian International Maritime Forum (GIMF) for the second time in its history. First announced and introduced in 2016 the idea of GIMF soon became the country's most significant project (event) in maritime field and gained its authenticity promptly on international level as well.

GIMF format offers the possibility for inter action between the regulator and the industry and to open dialogue between shipping personalities and environmentalists. Key players of the shipping industry set the stage for panel discussions, whilst distinguished and high level guests deliver their key-note speeches and presentations. The Forum is not simply a biennial event but it's an ongoing project, with an objective to bring together high level officials and representatives of maritime sector from different regions and countries around the globe.

The main day of the second Georgia International Maritime Forum - September 13, 2018 was officially opened with a speech from the Prime Minister of Georgia Mr. Mamuka Bakhtadze. In his speech the Prime Minister highlighted the importance of the maritime industry for the Georgia's economy declaring it as one of the crucial priorities for the country. He also talked about significant initiatives and plans of the government of Georgia aiming at fostering the development of the maritime industry in Georgia. Following Prime Minister's speech Secretary-General of International Maritime Organization Mr. Kitack LIM talked about the importance of the maritime industry and its development perspectives in the era of the technological advancements. He also highlighted the huge importance of the collective efforts for achieving efficient and sustainable development of the industry, like cutting the emissions. It is noteworthy that Mr. Kitack LIM attended the Georgia International Maritime Forum for the second time. GIMF2018 addressed issues under the umbrella of Sailing Towards the Roaring Twenties in recognition of the global and regional critical goals and target dates set for the coming decade.



# Georgia International Maritime Forum

## GIMF 2018 OUTCOMES

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- ◆ Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Recognition of Seafarers Certificate of Competency between The Republic of Croatia and Georgia has been signed.
- ◆ Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Recognition of Seafarers Certificate of Competency between Federal Republic of Germany and Georgia has been signed.
- ◆ UN Georgia, WISTA Georgia and Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia signed a Memorandum of Understanding pledging to promote the maritime industry amongst women in Georgia with the main purpose of supporting and assisting women in Georgia in terms of employment opportunities in the maritime industry.
- ◆ Protocol of Intent between Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine and the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia on the Initiation of the Negotiations for Sharing of AIS Information has been signed.
- ◆ A Memorandum of Understanding between the Shanghai Maritime University and the Batumi State Maritime Academy has been signed.
- ◆ **BATUMI DECLARATION 2018** was adopted. The declaration **URGEs** the dynamic development of the Georgia International Maritime Forum into a mosaic of gatherings and events in pursuit of the fulfillment of these goals, capped biennially by an event that would present an opportunity for a strategic progress analysis and recommendation for follow up action to address shortcomings and new challenges and opportunities, thereby fostering further international and inter regional cooperation and public private partnership for a successful sailing through the roaring twenties.

# IMO SECRETARY GENERAL - MR. KITACK LIM ON GIMF 2018:



**GIMF2018**

12-14 SEPTEMBER, BATUMI, GEORGIA



“I wish to congratulate you and the Georgian Government on the excellent outcome of the Forum, which was highly successful and well attended by numerous eminent representatives of the global and regional shipping and transport community, as well as by some of the leading international institutions. I firmly believe that the Forum succeeded in raising awareness of the indispensable role that shipping has to promote a green economy, especially in the contest of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.

„Forum Has not only been a great success, but was also impeccably organized and well attended, and a clear demonstration of (Georgian) Government’s notable interest and passion for the maritime world.”

“I wish to commend the Georgian Government for the great success of the Forum, the prestige of which was represented by the momentous and significant signing of the Batumi Declaration.”

# PANEL DISCUSSIONS



## OPENING SESSION: SAILING TOWARDS THE ROARING TWENTIES – CHALLENGES FOR INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING INDUSTRY

The discussion panel (Sailing towards Roaring Twenties - Challenges for International Shipping Industry) was held in the frame of the forum moderated by Mr. Andrew Wrobel with participation of representatives of important organizations. During the panel the issues of the sustainability, challenges, perspectives and protectionism in the maritime industry were discussed.

Mr. Reinhard Kligen (Director General for waterways and shipping (BMVI, Federal Republic of Germany) initially expressed his gratitude towards the government of Georgia. He highlighted the importance of the shipping industry for economy mentioning the challenges to achieve sustainable development of the industry. In addition, Mr. Kligen saw the robust regulatory framework as the best tool to combat protectionism in the sphere. In the end, he shared his views about Georgia and its potential to become an important connecting hub of Europe and Asia.

Captain Moin Ahmed (Director General, The international mobile satellite organization) briefly talked about IMSO role and functions. He also talked about sustainability of the industry that is greatly affected by the following factors: knowledge, capacity, efficiency. As he mentioned, the enthusiasm, identification of objectives, commitment and strategic approach are crucial for achieving success in the maritime industry. Mr. Markku Mylly (Executive director, European Maritime Safety Agency) talked about the importance of the sustainability for the society as a whole. As a part of challenges of the industry he mentioned sustainability focus, capacity building for crew/seafarers and employment of technological advancements like data collection and analysis. In the end of his speech he congratulated Georgia on its remarkable results achieved so far for the development of the maritime industry.

# PANEL I



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - ROLE OF PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THE EXAMPLE OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO) AND EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (EBRD)

The panel was moderated by Mr. Lawrence Sherwin (frm. deputy director communications, European Bank for reconstruction and development).

During the panel discussions, Ms. Sue Barrett (Director of transport, EBRD) gave a brief overview of the finance projects across the EBRD region with both public and private sector sponsors, like capacity building training programs to help various stakeholders understand calculations of emissions and methods to reduce them.

She also mentioned the importance of working tightly with IMO for putting comprehensive framework in practice in order to ensure sustainable development. Capt. David C. Barata - (Commanding officer, U.S. coast guard activities Europe) in his presentation talked about USCG activities and technical assistance programs, like organization of seminars. He highlighted the importance of legislation and legal frameworks for achieving sustainable development. He positively assessed the realized activities helping build mutual trust and understanding.



# PANEL II



## ROLE OF BLUE GROWTH, MARITIME CLUSTERS AND MAJOR PROJECTS IN FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The panel was opened by Ms. Tamara Ioseliani, the director of LEPL Maritime Transport Agency. In her opening address, Ms. Tamara talked about future trends of the shipping industry that MTA Offers to the industry, like: digitalization, high standards for maritime cyber security and inter-connectivity. She also highlighted the importance of implementing new and innovative approaches and mentioned some upcoming projects that will favor optimization of port operations. Among these projects are: implementation of a single window for all Georgian shipping related services, as well as creation of Georgian maritime cluster. She particularly stressed the importance of Anaklia Deep Water Port development aiming at converting Georgian into one of the key players in the region.

Mr. Davit Peradze (Director General of Georgian Railway LLC) - gave a presentation Georgian railway: focus area for freight transportation.

He overviewed some major ongoing and completed projects, like creation of association of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan offering single tariff, one stop shop service for customers and so on. In addition, he presented some trends of 2018 like hosting the highest number of container quantity in the history of GR. Mr. Davit also gave some reasons for success: market orienting pricing, improved economic activities, cooperation with partners, scheduled block trains.

In his presentation Mr. Levan Akhvlediani (CEO of Anaklia Development Consortium) gave a brief overview of some indices about Georgia and talked about factors contributing to the success Georgia has achieved so far, like ease of doing business, freedom of economy, tax burdens, free trade agreements and so on. The main focus of Mr. Levan's presentation was Anaklia Deep Water Port project, its importance and future potential it will create for Georgia. The panel was moderated by Mrs. Despina Panayiotou-Theodosiou CEO at Tototheo Maritime and president at WISTA International.

# CLOSING SESSION



On the closing session closing remarks were made by Mr. Kitack Lim - Secretary-General of International Maritime Organization - IMO, Mr. Giorgi Kobulia - Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia and Mrs. Tamar Beruchashvili - Embassy of Georgia to the UK and permanent representative of Georgia to IMO. In his closing speech Mr. Kitack Lim congratulated the organizers and the Government of Georgia for organizing such an insightful and important event and thanked for the opportunity to participate in it. He briefly overviewed the issues discussed during the workshops and forums: like conventions, blue growth and so on. He one more time highlighted the importance of capacity building and leveraging partnerships for sustainable growth. In the end, Mr. Secretary-general once again stressed the importance of such networking events which give an excellent opportunity to open and further develop a constructive dialogue between various stakeholders.

Mr. Giorgi Kobulia in his closing remarks thanked the organizers, participants, speakers for an insightful and very productive forum day. He also gave a brief overview of the issues discussed and the presentations delivered. He particularly mentioned the specific decisions and concrete initiatives that Georgia can take to further facilitate sustainable development of the maritime industry that significantly add the value to the forum. The forum day was concluded by adopting Batumi Declaration 2018.





# BATUMI DECLARATION



## 2018

Two thirds of the surface of our planet is covered by water; indeed the blue planet. Our oceans, seas, lakes, and rivers are major sources of life, food, and jobs. Responsible management of these essential global resources is key to sustainable future.

Maritime transport is essential for the development of global trade and sharing of wealth and resources. Safe, secure, efficient and clean maritime transportation is fundamental for the attainment of most of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The coming decade presents formidable challenges and opportunities that can make or break and, sailing through them is a challenge in itself.

WE, PARTICIPANTS of the Georgia International Maritime Forum 2018, held in the port city of Batumi under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Georgia H.E. Mr Mamuka Bakhtadze HAVING GATHERED today at this high level meeting led by Prime Minister Bakhtadze and the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization H.E. Mr Kitack Lim, attended by the officials from international organizations, governments, the industry, shipping and environmental bodies, to discuss the critical need of ensuring healthy oceans, development of a sustainable blue economy, the role of major partnerships and international collaborations and, the action required for the attainment of these goals; WELCOMING the efforts and achievements of the international maritime community since GIMF2016, including activities of national and international dimension; NOTING that sixty per cent of the oceans are outside national jurisdiction, thus imply a shared international responsibility to maintain healthy, productive, safe, and secure oceans;

# BATUMI DECLARATION

## 2018



ACKNOWLEDGING the wisdom behind the theme of World Oceans Day 2018: Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, as well as the theme of World Maritime Day 2018, IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future;

RECALLING that 2018 marks the seventieth anniversary from the adoption of the IMO Convention and the sixtieth anniversary from its entry into force, the critical landmark that led to the adoption of global high standards for safety and security of life at sea and environmentally sound shipping;

WELCOMING initiatives such as that of the European Commission to set up the Facility for Blue Growth in the Black Sea that aims to support maritime cooperation between the Black Sea coastal states for sustainable blue growth in the region and to identify sources and policy approaches for a more sustainable blue economy;

REAFFIRMING that States, in their capacity as flag, port and coastal States, have obligations and responsibilities under applicable international law in respect to maritime safety, security and protection of the marine environment, the development of safe, secure, efficient and environmentally friendly maritime transportation, and facilitation of global trade and connectivity, as well as to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

# BATUMI DECLARATION

## 2018



UNDERSCORE that sustainable maritime transportation has a crosscutting role, as an important enabler for most of the SDGs, fostering world trade, human development, economic growth and prosperity;

RECOGNISE the commitment of the IMO and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to deepen cooperation and establish a partnership, aiming to facilitate sustainable maritime transport, exchange of know-how and experience and work together with the partner governments, has high potential to further promote fair, effective and sustainable maritime industry;

EMPHASISE that ensuring cleaner shipping, cleaner air and clear oceans as the common heritage of humankind is one of the most pressing challenges of the maritime community, and in this regard, WELCOME recently adopted Initial IMO Strategy on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships and entry into force of the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention;

SUPPORT the theme of World Maritime Day 2019 in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the maritime sector, including providing access to specialized training, promoting economic self-reliance and, improving employment opportunities for women at the decision-making levels in the port and maritime sectors;

EMPHASISE FURTHER that these goals cannot be achieved without concerted action by all stakeholders engaged in the maritime sector at national, regional and international levels, and thus WELCOME the fostering of the concept of maritime clusters;

# BATUMI DECLARATION 2018



WELCOME the Georgia International Maritime Forum as a biannual project providing attractive platform to take stock of achievements and reflect on major maritime issues through innovative approaches and effective communication with all stakeholders;

ACKNOWLEDGE the successful organization of series of important thematic gatherings and events on the margins of the GIMF2018 and thus, SUPPORT to maintain this tradition for the future;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE the friendly working atmosphere and efforts of Georgia as the host country to promote collaboration between countries, regions and continents and between the public and private stakeholders;

ENCOURAGE a continuous active dialogue on blue growth, healthy marine ecosystems and sustainable shipping and other critical issues;

STRESS the critical importance of technical cooperation activities and sharing of expertise and experiences at all levels;

URGE the dynamic development of the Georgia International Maritime Forum into a mosaic of gatherings and events in pursuit of the fulfillment of these goals, capped biennially by an event that would present an opportunity for a strategic progress analysis and recommendation for follow up action to address shortcomings and new challenges and opportunities, thereby fostering further international and inter regional cooperation and public private partnership for a successful sailing through the roaring twenties.

This BATUMI DECLARATION was adopted by acclamation at the Georgia International Maritime Forum 2018 this thirteenth day of September 2018.

# DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



MR. MAMUKA BAKHTADZE  
Prime Minister of Georgia



MR. GIORGI KOBULIA  
Minister of Economy and  
Sustainable Development of  
Georgia



MR. KITACK LIM  
Secretary-General International  
Maritime Organization



MR. TORNIKE RIZHVADZE  
Chairman of the Government,  
Adjara Autonomous Republic,  
Georgia



MR. VOLODYMYR OMELIAN  
Minister of Infrastructure of  
Ukraine



MR. ANDREW TAN  
Chief Executive, Maritime and Port  
Authority of Singapore (MPA)



MRS. NATASA PILIDES  
Shipping Deputy Minister to the  
President of Cyprus



MS. VIOLETA BULC  
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MR. KARMENU VELLA  
EU-Commissioner for Environment,  
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries



MR. JOSÉ MAURA  
Director International Oil  
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MR. ALTAI EFENDIEV  
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MR. MICHAEL B. CHRISTIDES  
Secretary General of the BSEC



MR. FREDERICK J. KENNEY  
Director, Legal and External  
Affairs at the International  
Maritime Organization (IMO)



MR. LEVAN AKHVLEDIANI  
CEO of the Anaklia Development  
Consortium



MS. TAMAR BERUCHASHVILI  
The Ambassador of Georgia  
extraordinary and plenipotentiary  
to the United Kingdom of Great  
Britain and Northern Ireland



MR. MARKKU MYLLY  
Executive Director, European  
Maritime Safety Agency



MR. MARK O'NEIL  
President, Columbia  
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MR. MOIN AHMED  
Director General, The International  
Mobile Satellite Organization  
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MR. ALKAN ALICIK

Managing Director MSC Georgia  
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Secretary General of the Ministry of  
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of the Hellenic republic



MR. YONGXING JING

Chairman, Shanghai Maritime  
University (SMU), Chairman of  
MTCC Asia



MR. DAVID C. BARATA

Commanding Officer, U.S. Coast  
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Director-General for Waterways  
and Shipping (BMVI), Federal  
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MR. MICHAEL STOCKER

Director of Ocean Conservation  
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MR. YOUNGSO KIM  
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Cooperation Division, International  
Maritime Organization



CAPT. VASSILIOS TERZIS  
Managing Director, Owner,  
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State secretary (Deputy Minister)  
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MR. YURIY LAVRENYUK  
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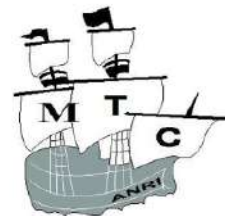


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**GIMF 2020**

SEPTEMBER, BATUMI, GEORGIA

LEPL MARITIME TRANSPORT AGENCY  
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA

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