



## Key Issues

# UN Sustainable Development Goals

There is increasing momentum at the highest political level to take action to protect the world's oceans from environmental degradation. This includes the latest Our Ocean Summit attended by a number of world leaders, which was hosted by the European Union in Malta, in October 2017, at which ICS participated on behalf of the shipping industry.

In June 2017, ICS also represented the shipping industry at a major conference in New York, hosted by the UN General Assembly, on the sustainability of the oceans. This important event considered how the UN can best implement its Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14) concerning the protection of the oceans, which was adopted at the UN Summit of world leaders held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

ICS made the case that the shipping industry is undoubtedly a driver of 'green growth' given its impressive environmental performance. The UN Conference provided an opportunity to present the progress which the shipping industry is making to play its part in reducing environmental impacts on the oceans, especially with regard to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, sulphur emissions and ballast water management. However, the UN Summit in Rio had agreed that there are three pillars to sustainability including the economic and social as well as the environmental.

ICS believes that government regulators should give equal priority to each of the three pillars of sustainable

development, including the economic. This is especially important in view of shipping's role in the continuing spread of global prosperity and the movement of about 90% of trade in goods, energy and raw materials.

The vital need to protect the environment and for ships to comply fully with all new environmental regulations is recognised by ICS. But unless the industry is commercially viable it will not be able to deliver the investments in environmental and social improvements that are sought by regulators on behalf of society at large.

While shipping's regulators have a responsibility to protect the environment and the interests of wider society, they also need to be practical and have an understanding of the impact that their actions can have on the industry's own long term sustainability, especially if the 'compelling need' for potentially expensive proposals has not been properly demonstrated.

The international shipping industry, as represented by ICS, is committed to the delivery of further environmental and social improvements in the interests of sustainable development. But sustainable development requires a shipping industry that is economically sustainable too.

