

PRESS RELEASE

10 December 2019



PIANC

The World Association for Waterborne
Transport Infrastructure

PIANC LAUNCHES CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION

On 10th December 2019, during the Round Table on Resilience at COP25^[1] in Madrid, Spain, the President of the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC)^[2] will launch the association's Declaration on Climate Change.

This timely intervention represents PIANC's contribution to the growing debate on how to respond to the changing climate.

In addition to recognising the role of waterborne transport infrastructure owners and operators in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the Declaration focuses on the urgent need to strengthen resilience, and adapt port and waterway infrastructure and operations to the effects of climate change. In particular, it highlights that climate change adaptation action does not need to be complex or costly. There are many simple and relatively inexpensive measures that can be put in place to help strengthen the resilience of critical navigation infrastructure.

Taking prudent early steps such as those highlighted in the Declaration will help ensure that waterborne transport assets and operations are better prepared to withstand future changes and, in circumstances such as extreme weather events where damage or disruption prove unavoidable, to recover quickly and efficiently.

Through the Navigating a Changing Climate initiative ^[3] PIANC is working with other key players in the waterborne transport infrastructure sector to develop, disseminate and share relevant climate change knowledge, experience and information.

This Declaration provides a 'call-to-arms' for the sector to accelerate and scale up action, urgently and decisively, in order to reduce the potentially significant risks that climate change poses to waterborne transport businesses, operations, safety and infrastructure.

Notes for Editors

^[1] The COP (Conference of the Parties) is the key decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at COP meetings, at which the implementation of the Convention is reviewed. COP25, which is taking place from 2nd – 13th December 2019, in Madrid, Spain under the Presidency of the Government of Chile, is intended to take the next crucial steps in the UN climate change process. Following agreement on the implementation guidelines of the Paris Agreement at COP24 in Poland last year, a key objective is to move towards full operationalisation, prior to the anticipated submission of countries' new and updated national climate action plans in 2020. More information at <https://unfccc.int>

^[2] PIANC is a global, non-political and non-profit organisation that brings together international experts on technical, economic and environmental issues relevant to the design, development and maintenance of ports, harbours, waterways, marinas and coastal areas. PIANC's mission is to provide expert guidance, recommendations and technical advice, so as to keep the international waterborne transport community connected and informed. In particular, the association is renowned for its high-quality technical reports on ports and waterborne transport infrastructure. More information at <https://www.pianc.org>

[3] Navigating a Changing Climate is a PIANC-led Global Climate Action initiative, set up under the Marrakech Partnership in the lead-up to COP21 in Paris, where the Paris Climate Change Agreement was signed. The objective of the initiative is to provide support to the owners and operators of waterborne transport infrastructure as they respond to the climate change challenge by reducing greenhouse gas emissions; strengthening resilience and adapting infrastructure and operations; and seeking integrated solutions including Working with Nature. The following eight international associations with interests in waterborne transport infrastructure are partners in the Navigating a Changing Climate initiative:

- International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH)
- International Harbour Masters' Association (IHMA)
- International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA)
- Smart Freight Centre (SFC)
- European Dredging Association (EuDA)
- European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO)
- Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (IMarEST)
- Inland Waterways International (IWI)

In addition, more than 50 other organisations have signed up as supporters of the initiative. More information at <https://navclimate.pianc.org>