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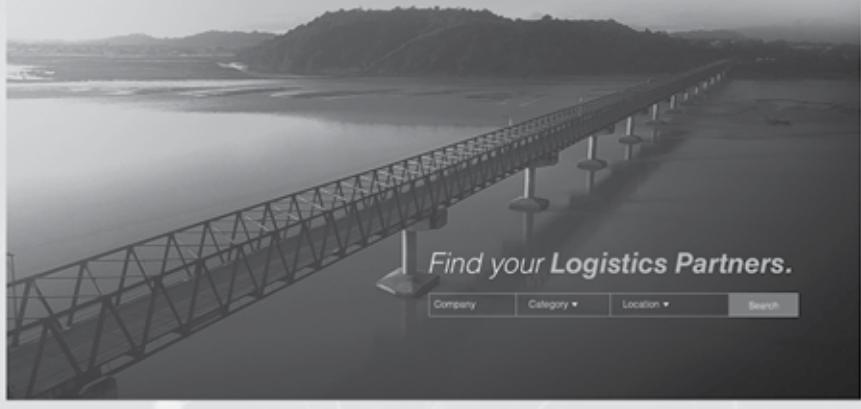
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2021 airfreight volume handled by int'l forwarders in PH jumps 15%

- More flights resuming in 2021 lifted international air freight forwarders' cargo throughput by 15% year-on-year
- Consolidations, breakbulking and direct shipments grew 4%, 34% and 11.9%, respectively
- The increases were despite incomplete submission (only 86%) of volume reports
- Nippon Express Philippines continued to lead CAB's top 30 international air freight forwarders list for the 13th straight year

CARGO volume handled by international air freight forwarders grew 15% year-on-year in 2021 as more flights resumed, preliminary data from the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) showed.

Airfreight handled by international air freight forwarders grew to 400.349 million kilograms (kg) in 2021 from 346.463 million kg in 2020.

Of the total, consolidations accounted for 41.98% or 168.051 million kg, which was 4% up from 162.074 million kg registered in 2020.

Breakbulking had a share of 39.97%

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Full DA automation to curb smuggling of agricultural products

- The Department of Agriculture recommends full automation of trade transactions to help curtail smuggling of agricultural products**
- The DA database is not centralized so there is no way of monitoring imports**

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) recommends full automation of trade transactions to help curtail smuggling of agricultural products.

In a Senate hearing focusing on the smuggling of agricultural products on March 28, senators claimed high-ranking government officials, including unnamed politicians, are allegedly behind the illegal importation of vegetables from China.

DA and Bureau of Customs officials

were questioned for their alleged failure to stop the smuggling, especially of onions, strawberries and carrots.

DA Assistant Secretary for the DA-Wide Field Inspectorate Federico Laciste, Jr. during the hearing tagged “big-time” personalities in the illegal trade, with “highly placed” individuals calling him to drop charges against suspected smugglers.

Queried on the identities of these individuals, Laciste offered to divulge their names in an executive session. He was instead asked to write them down.

One of the DA recommendations to stop smuggling is the full automation of trade transactions and monitoring, including a centralized database to monitor import and export processes and requests for inspection, Laciste said.

Since the DA database is not yet

centralized, there is no way to monitor agricultural imports that have arrived against volume covered by sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances, he explained, adding this is why data on agricultural imports between DA and the BOC do not tally.

BOC assistant commissioner Vincent Philip Maronilla, during the same hearing, asked DA if they base their data on actual import volumes or on actual import permits issued, some of which may not have been used. This, he said, may be where the discrepancy lies. The BOC, he noted, uses data from actual importations.

Maronilla said the BOC has already automated several processes even as the agency’s major project—the Philippine Customs Modernization Program—is being worked on with the World Bank.

“At this point, initial procurement of

the initial stage of the Philippine Customs Modernization Project is already underway. Hopefully, after that, we will be able to start with the procurement process of the Customs Processing System which will replace our current system and will modernize it at par with other international standards together with the World Bank,” Maronilla said.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III said strengthening inter-agency coordination is one of the recommendations of the Senate, noting there is much pinpointing among agencies as to who may be at fault for rampant smuggling.

He said all concerned agencies, particularly the DA and Department of Trade and Industry, should also have police powers and the authority to confiscate smuggled goods without needing prior coordination with BOC.

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- How Ports and Terminal Operators in Southeast Asia Respond to the Changing Global Market Trends
- Future Container Freight Demand in BIMP-EAGA Region
- The Maritime Agenda for the Philippines and the BIMP-EAGA Countries
- Outlook on Container Activities in BIMP-EAGA Region and the Impact on Ports Activities
- Global Trade Patterns in Asia and the Impact on Container Shipping Lines
- Shippers' Perspectives: How Ports and Terminal Operators Can Improve Efficiency
- Opportunities and Challenges in Financing Infrastructure Development Projects in the Philippines and the BIMP-EAGA Region
- The Role of Technology and Solutions in Improving the Dynamic of Ports and Container Terminals Operation
- Avoiding bottlenecks by forecasting the coming terminal operation become pro-active
- Sustainable Port Initiatives and the Impact on Container Shipping Operations
- Improving Connectivity and Competition among BIMP-EAGA's Ports
- Opportunities for New Ports Development in the Philippines and BIMP-EAGA Region

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Nippon Express Phils is top int'l airfreight forwarder in 2021

- Nippon Express is the Philippines' leading international air freight forwarder for 2021, the 13th straight year running it has topped the list**
- In second and third places were Federal Express Pacific Inc. and U-Freight Phils. Inc., respectively**
- The listing is based on preliminary data released by the Civil Aeronautics Board**
- More flights resuming in 2021 lifted international air freight forwarders' total cargo throughput by 15% year-on-year**

FOR the 13th straight year, Nippon Express Philippines Corp. led the top 30 list of international air freight forwarders published by the Civil Aeronautics Board.

The company accounted for 18.65% or 7,673 million kg of the country's total

Pacific Inc., which leaped nine places from 11th previously 6.17% or 24.696 million kg.

U-Freight Phils. Inc. remained in third ranking for 2021, with a share of 4.96% or 19.872 million kg.

Jumping three places to fourth was Kintetsu World Express (Philippines) Inc. It accounted for 4.69% of the total or 18,778 million kg.

In fifth place, just like in 2020, was Schenker Philippines Inc., with 16,126 million kg or a 4.03% share.

The other international airfreight forwarders in the top 10 are:

- DHL Express (Philippines) Corp., with 15,438 million kg (or a 3.86% share), up from 7th in 2020
- Yusen Logistics Philippines, Inc., 15,140 million kg (3.78%), down from 4th
- Kuehne + Nagel Inc., 14,245 million kg (3.56%), up from



volume of 400,349 million kilograms (kg) handled by international air freight forwarders in 2021.

The country's total airfreight throughput for 2021 grew 15% from 346,463 million kg in 2020, according to the preliminary data from the CAB.

In second place was Federal Express

- 13th
- DSV Air & Sea Inc., 13,176 million kg (3.29%) up from 14th
- Trans-Global Consolidators Inc., 11,272 million kg (2.82%), down from 9th

Rounding off the top 30 list are:

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- UPS Delbros Transport Inc., with 11,092 million kg
- CEVA Logistics Phils. Inc., 8,904 million kg
- DHL Global Forwarding Phils. Inc., 8,353 million kg
- Polaris Express Logistics Corp., 7,989 million kg
- Expeditors Philippines Inc., 7,924 million kg
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- Sincerity International Cargo Services Corp., 2,999 million kg
- Explonka Freight Philippines Inc., 2,945 million kg
- Morrison Express Philippines Inc., 2,913 million kg
- Agility International Logistics Inc., 2,833 million kg
- RoyalCargo Inc., 2,757 million kg

Roumina Pablo

DHL online portal allows pre-shipment payment of PH customs charges

- Advanced Duty Collection enables DHL customers to pay all customs clearance-related charges online before their shipments arrive**
- The new platform will automatically notify clients via SMS or email of any customs duties, which they may pay directly online with a credit card, debit card, or GCash account**

DHL Express has launched a dedicated online payment portal that enables customers to pay all customs clearance-related charges before their shipments arrive.

Before a parcel is delivered, DHL Express' Advanced Duty Collection platform will automatically notify clients via SMS or email of any customs duties to settle.

These charges may be paid directly online with a credit card, debit card, or GCash account. When the payment is completed, the customer is offered the option of selecting his preferred mode of delivery.

DHL Express said the tool would benefit customers by way of a faster and more efficient delivery. "We anticipate increasing demand for



Retired army commander Manangquil is new PHIVIDEC chief

- President Rodrigo Duterte has appointed Retired Major General Jesus Manangquil, Jr. as administrator and chief executive officer of the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority**
- Manangquil, a former army commander, will serve for a term of three years**

appointed retired Army major general Jesus Manangquil, Jr. as administrator and chief executive officer of the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority (PIA).

Manangquil, who replaces Jose Gabriel La Vina who resigned last November, will serve for a term of three years, PIA said in a statement.

Manangquil was first appointed to PIA in 2020 as a member of its Board of Directors.

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has

import services as cross-border e-commerce expands. The Advanced Duty Collection service is one of our initiatives to make the delivery process more efficient and convenient for our customers," DHL Express Philippines country manager Nigel Lockett said in a statement.

The portal is available on mobile or desktop, enabling customers to arrange their shipments at any time and from any location.

Through the portal, customers may download all required paperwork for their shipment, including the duty and value-added tax invoice, allowing easy reading and understanding of the relevant charges.

Shipments that do not exceed the de minimis value of P10,000 and do not include prohibited or restricted products are free from applicable taxes and charges, DHL said.

Customers can use the DHL Express payment portal by following

three steps:

Customers will receive an SMS or email payment alert from DHL that contains a unique shipment identification number and a unique link to the dedicated and secure online payment portal.

Log in to the portal with unique shipment identification or airwaybill number to check shipment details and pay the import duties or taxes levied by customs using credit card, debit card, or GCash.

Once done, an email confirmation with a link to the shipment's expected release and delivery date will be sent to the customers.

In case customers are unable to complete an online payment before delivery, DHL Express said couriers will still be able to assist in accepting payments.

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Binondo-Intramuros bridge to open between April 5 and 9

- The Binondo-Intramuros Bridge will open first week of April
- It involves construction of a 680 linear meter two-way, four-lane bridge connecting the district of Intramuros with
- Around 30,000 vehicles are expected to use the bridge once open

THE Binondo-Intramuros Bridge connecting Manila's district of Binondo and Intramuros over Pasig River will open first week of April, according to Public Works Undersecretary and Build Build Build Chief Implementer Emil Sadain.

Construction crews are working on the finishing touches on the carriageway, ramps and other components for possible opening between April 5 and 9, in time for the 2022 Holy Week which begins on April 10, Sadain said.

The bridge involves construction of a 680 linear meter two-way, four-lane bridge connecting the district of Intramuros at Solana Street and Riverside Drive with Binondo at Rentas Street/Plaza del Conde Street and Muelle dela Industria. Around 30,000 vehicles are expected to use it once open.

The bridge also has a sidewalk for pedestrians separated by safety railings and a marked lane for bikers to encourage use of non-motorized mode of transport.

Together with the Estrella-Pantaleon Bridge, completed in 2021, the Binondo-In

Return to work by April 1, PEZA urges IT-BPO ecozone locators

- PEZA urged IT-BPO companies to comply with the return-to-office order of the Fiscal Incentives Review Board beginning April 1**
- The ecozone authority says it will abide by FIRB's decision on a 100% onsite work for IT-BPOs by April while citing "a need to review and establish the legal framework for implementing a hybrid work model"**
- PEZA says it hopes to follow India and other countries' practice of providing a specific ratio of WFH and on-site work arrangements**

THE Philippine Economic Zone Authority has urged registered information technology-business process outsourcing (IT-BPO) companies to follow the return-to-office (RTO) order of the Fiscal Incentives Review Board (FIRB) beginning April 1.

PEZA said this is in view of applicable regulations in the definition of export enterprises located in economic zones.

"The allowance of the 90:10 WFH (work-from-home) set-up was just a temporary measure during the pandemic. Now that we're reopening the economy,

we're going back to the regular ratio required of registered business enterprises inside the ecozones," PEZA director general Charito Plaza said in a statement.

FIRB in August last year issued Resolution No. 19-21, which allowed registered IT-business process management (IT-BPM) enterprises to implement until March 31 this year WFH arrangements without jeopardizing their fiscal incentives under Republic Act No. 11534, or the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) Act.

FIRB in February denied requests by IT-BPMs to extend the WFH arrangement under Resolution 19-21, citing such arrangement is a time-bound temporary measure adopted during the surge of the COVID-19 pandemic and the RTO order is necessary to help the economy bounce back.

"We are supportive of the proposal of the IT & Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP)

to implement a hybrid work scheme for the IT-BPO sector, and we hear the concerns of our investors and their individual workers affected by this order; however, we need to follow

the regulations as mandated by the law," Plaza noted.

IBPAP earlier suggested a hybrid WFH arrangement from April to December 2022 given the "overwhelming preference [of IT-BPM employees] for a balanced, hybrid work arrangement."

Plaza said PEZA will abide by FIRB's decision for a 100% onsite work for IT-BPOs by April "while there is a need to review and establish the legal framework for implementing a hybrid work model."

PEZA also noted that Republic Act No. 7916, or the Special Economic Zones Act of 1995, requires that all registered companies operate within ecozones in order to enjoy tax incentives.

"At present, PEZA cannot change the ratio unless the laws will be amended to incorporate the adaptation of hybrid schemes. In the future, we hope to follow the practice of India and other countries and provide specific ratios for WFH and

onsite work arrangements," Plaza said.

She said PEZA supports the hybrid work scheme "as it's been proven effective in the last [two] years of the pandemic."

"What we can do is to recommend this for the next administration to address. As of now, we have to abide by the existing laws and the decision of the FIRB and help to put back the economy to normal," she added.

With this, Plaza reiterated PEZA's appeal to its locators to adhere to FIRB's decision to avoid any penalties as provided under the law.

Section 2, Rule 22 of the CREATE Law's Implementing Rules and Regulations provides that any violation of the provisions of the act, including other related revenue regulations, orders or issuances of the government, will result in revocation or suspension of the incentives or business closure of registered business enterprises.

Expanded Sta. Teresa port in Mindoro to start operations soon

- The Port of Sta. Teresa in Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro will be turned over to local government in April**
- Operations should start thereafter**
- Port construction has been stalled since 2011**
- Work restarted at the beginning of 2021 and completed in August 2021**

THE expanded Port of Sta. Teresa in Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro will be turned over by the Philippine Ports Authority to the local government unit in April, according to Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade.

Construction at the port has been stalled since 2011. Work was restarted at the beginning of 2021 and completed in August 2021, said Tugade during the inauguration of the port's passenger terminal building on March 24.

The transport chief added the Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro local government should be able to operate the port soon after. The port is expected to boost connectivity with other tourism destinations and ultimately help improve the local economy.

Tugade said he is pushing for approval of a permit for vessels to ply Sta. Teresa, Boracay Island, Caticlan and Coron, Palawan.

Occidental Mindoro lone district Representative Josephine Sato thanked Tugade, Philippine Ports Authority general manager Jay Santiago and Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines director general Jim Sydiongco for helping the local government address problems in transportation infrastructure, such as in the Port of Abra de Ilog and San Jose Airport in Occidental Mindoro.

The Port of Abra de Ilog, the province's main port, is now undergoing expansion, Sato said.

2021 airfreight volume...

Continued from page 1

or 160.016 million kg, surpassing by 34% the 119.778 million kg in 2020.

Direct shipments increased 11.9% to 72.281 million kg from 64.611 million kg.

The increases were recorded despite only 86% of international air freight forwarders having completed volume report submission, as noted by CAB in its preliminary data as of February 11.

Airlines started suspending their domestic and international flights in mid-March 2020 as travel restrictions were imposed locally and internationally to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Only repatriation, sweeper, and cargo flights were allowed during the period to June, when restrictions were eased and limited domestic flights were allowed.

The International Air Transport Association earlier said 2021 was a stellar year for air cargo, with global air freight markets showing that full-year demand for air cargo increased by 6.9% in 2021, compared with 2019 (pre-COVID levels) and 18.7% compared with 2020.

Nippon Express Philippines Corp. continued to lead CAB's top 30 international air freight forwarders list for the 13th straight year with an 18.65% share or 7.673 million kg.

Federal Express Pacific Inc. leaped nine places to second from 11th previously with 6.17% or 24.696 million kg. U-Freight Phils. Inc. remained at third with 4.96% or 19.872 million kg while Kintetsu World Express (Phils.) Inc. jumped three places to fourth with 4.69% or 18.778 million kg.

Still at fifth rank was Schenker Philippines Inc. with 4.03% share or 16.126 million kg. – *Roumina Pablo*

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| CALIDRIS | 0091S | 04/11 | 04/16 | MOL CELEBRATION | 0086E | 04/23 | 05/18 | 05/29 | |
| GSL MERCER | 0014S | 04/18 | 04/23 | MOL CREATION | 0083E | 04/30 | 05/22 | 06/03 | |
| CALIDRIS | 0092S | 04/25 | 04/29 | ONE CONTRIBUTION | 0049E | 05/04 | 05/31 | 06/06 | |
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| FITZ ROY | 0024N | 04/18 | 04/27 | SEASAN YANGTZE | 0020E | 05/01 | 05/13 | SKIP | |
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| LCT DOCS: WED 1700HRS / LCT CNTR: THU 0100HRS | FEEDER VESSEL | VOY. NO. | ETD MNL | ETA KAO | MOTHER VESSEL | VOY. NO. | ETD KAO | ETA LAX | ETA OAK |
| SPIL NIRMALA | 0028N | 04/13 | 04/15 | YM UPSURGENCE | 0051E | 04/19 | 05/04 | SKIP | |
| SPIL NIRMALA | 0029N | 04/19 | 04/21 | YM UNIFORMITY | 0058E | 04/28 | 05/12 | SKIP | |
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| EAST COAST SERVICE 4 (EC4) SERVICE via SINGAPORE | | | | | | | | | |
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| CALIDRIS | 0091S | 04/11 | 04/16 | MONACO BRIDGE | 0018E | 04/25 | 05/19 | 05/25 | 05/27 |
| GSL MERCER | 0014S | 04/18 | 04/23 | YM WELLHEAD | 0034E | 05/03 | 05/28 | 05/31 | 06/05 |
| CALIDRIS | 0092S | 04/25 | 04/29 | YM WELLHEAD | 0034E | 05/03 | 05/28 | 05/31 | 06/03 |
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| LCT DOCS: FRI 0800H * LCT CNTR: FRI 0800H | FEEDER VESSEL | VOY. NO. | ETD MNL | ETA SIN | MOTHER VESSEL | VOY. NO. | ETD SIN | USNYC | SAV JAX ORF |
| CALIDRIS | 0091S | 04/11 | 04/16 | MOL MAESTRO | 0061E | 04/21 | 05/18 | 05/24 | 05/27 |
| GSL MERCER | 0014S | 04/18 | 04/23 | HUMEN BRIDGE | 0083E | 05/06 | 06/01 | SKIP | 06/07 |
| CALIDRIS | 0092S | 04/25 | 04/29 | HUMEN BRIDGE | 0083E | 05/06 | 06/01 | SKIP | 06/07 |
| FAR EAST PENDULUM 1 (FP1) VIA SG SIN | | | | | | | | | |
| LCT DOCS: FRI 0800H * LCT CNTR: FRI 0800H * DELIVERY: MICP | FEEDER VESSEL | VOY. NO. | ETD MNL | ETA SIN | MOTHER VESSEL | VOY. NO. | ETD SIN | RTM | HAM LEH |
| CALIDRIS | 0091S | 04/11 | 04/16 | NYK ORION | 0069W | 04/20 | 05/15 | 05/19 | 05/24 |
| GSL MERCER | 0014S | 04/18 | 04/23 | ONE GRUS | 0215W | 04/30 | 05/22 | 05/25 | 05/31 |
| CALIDRIS | 0092S | 04/25 | 04/29 | ONE HONGKONG | 0075W | 05/05 | 05/23 | 05/26 | 05/29 |
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| CALIDRIS | 0091S | 04/11 | 04/16 | ONE EAGLE | 0023W | 04/22 | 05/14 | 05/17 | 05/20 |
| GSL MERCER | 0014S | 04/18 | 04/23 | ONE GRUS | 0015W | 04/30 | 05/22 | 05/25 | 05/31 |
| CALIDRIS | 0092S | 04/25 | 04/29 | ONE HONGKONG | 0011W | 05/07 | 05/29 | 06/01 | 06/04 |
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| KUO LIN | 0003N | 04/09 | 04/15 | YM WELLBEING | 0019W | 04/29 | 05/08 | 05/11 | 05/13 |
| CNC SATURN | 0012N | 04/29 | 05/05 | SOUTHAMPTON EXPRESS 030W | 05/22 | 05/29 | 06/01 | 06/03 | 06/07 |
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Ukraine war, macro policy shifts cut global growth prospects by 1%

- UNCTAD downgrades its global economic growth projection for 2022 to 2.6% from 3.6%
- The Ukraine war is likely to reinforce a monetary tightening trend in advanced countries after similar moves began in late 2021 in developing countries
- UNbody's assessment of the war's impact on trade and development confirms a deteriorating outlook for world economy underpinned by rising food, fuel and fertilizer prices, global supply chain reconfigurations and mounting trade costs

RUSSIA'S month-old invasion of Ukraine and changes in macroeconomic policies by countries in recent months have prompted the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to downgrade its global economic growth projection for 2022 to 2.6% from 3.6%.

In its "Trade and Development Report 2021 Update" published on 24 March, UNCTAD says while Russia will experience a deep recession this year due to sanctions, significant growth slowdowns are expected in parts of Western Europe and Central, South and Southeast Asia.

The Ukraine war that began when Russia invaded on February 24 may reinforce a monetary tightening trend in advanced countries after similar moves in late 2021 in many developing countries due to inflationary pressures.

"The economic effects of the Ukraine war will compound the ongoing economic slowdown globally and weaken the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic," UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan said.

"Many developing countries have struggled to gain economic traction coming out of the COVID-19 recession

and are now facing strong headwinds from the war. Whether this leads to unrest or not, a profound social anxiety is already spreading."

UNCTAD recommends the following policy actions to protect the global economy:

- Greater concessional and less conditional, multilateral financial support for developing countries to help them withstand financial and economic shocks and increase investment
- Immediate debt relief for Ukraine and renewed talks on a multilateral mechanism for fair and orderly restructuring of developing country sovereign debt in times of financial stress.
- More use of Special Drawing Rights to supplement official reserves and to provide liquidity on a timely basis to avoid severe deflationary adjustments.
- More effective and less ad hoc swap arrangements between central banks to support developing country currencies.
- Sector-specific policies including price controls and subsidies, to tackle the supply-side and mark-up pressures on inflation.

UNCTAD worried that weakening global demand, insufficient policy coordination at the international level and high debt levels due to the pandemic will generate financial shock waves that can push some developing countries into insolvency, recession and arrested development.

UNCTAD's assessment of the impact of war in Ukraine on trade and development confirmed a rapidly worsening outlook for the world economy, underpinned by rising food, fuel and fertilizer prices, heightened financial volatility, sustainable development divestment, complex

global supply chain reconfigurations and mounting trade costs.

The Ukraine war has further driven up global prices of energy and primary commodities, stretching household budgets and raising production costs, while disruptions to trade and the impact of sanctions are likely to have a chilling effect on long-term investment.

UNCTAD said soaring food and fuel prices will immediately hit the most vulnerable in developing countries, leading to hunger and hardship for households who spend the highest share of their income on food. But everyone will ultimately feel the loss of purchasing power and real spending.

Of growing concern are the uncertainties generated by the war in key markets: an environment of volatile capital flows, exchange rate instability and rising borrowing costs, particularly for least developed and middle-income developing countries, with the risk of serious external debt payment difficulties, UNCTAD said.

The report warns that rate hikes in advanced economies, alongside disorderly

movements in global financial markets, could prove a devastating combination for developing economies. It said volatility in commodity, currency and bond markets, as investors seek out safe havens, have already triggered capital flight.

Developing country bond yields have been on the rise since last September. Since the Ukraine crisis began, developing countries' yields have risen further 36 basis points, on average, with countries heavily dependent on food imports experiencing higher increases.

The report points to short-term public debt servicing needs as a growing concern. Developing countries are projected to require US\$310 billion to meet external public debt service requirements in 2022 – equivalent to 9.2% of the outstanding stock of external public debt at the end of 2020.

Countries that appear vulnerable to a sudden stop due to a combination of large rollover pressures and a large debt service to export ratio include Pakistan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Egypt and Angola. Three of these, Pakistan, Egypt and Angola, already have long-term IMF programs in place.



© UNICEF/Anton Skyba for The Globe and Mail | A man photographs an apartment building that was heavily damaged during escalating conflict, in Kyiv, Ukraine. Photo from UNCTAD website.

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