

Mexico as a digital maritime nation

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Data is legal infrastructure. It supports decisions, produces evidence and shapes compliance. The conference examined how to turn Mexico's Maritime Condition into digital capacity through legally reliable operations, protection of people and institutional continuity.

The framework linked Maritime Condition, Oceanic Imaginary and Maritime Centrality to coordinated action by Government, the Private Sector and Civil Society. The State provides legal and institutional capacities; the Nation helps sustain them through a shared identity and purpose. These notions were presented as doctrinal categories, without conferring new legal powers.

Five questions to guide decisions. Using a hypothetical cargo delivery, the author proposed examining who may decide, the authenticity and integrity of data, whether the event can be reconstructed and challenged, who is accountable, and how to retain or transfer control of the document and continue operations. The method helps choose between reform, a contract, a protocol, coordination or better institutional implementation.

Interoperability and evidence. Ship formalities, foreign trade, logistics coordination and transport documents retain distinct legal effects. Each exchange requires a legal basis, a purpose and responsible parties. A digital maritime evidence protocol was proposed to preserve native records, metadata and history, explain the system and allow decisions to be examined and challenged. Data protection and participation by small operators are part of the design.

An agenda for reform and institutional capacity. The author proposed amending Article 262 of the Ley de Navegación y Comercio Marítimos (Maritime Navigation and Commerce Law) to complete the electronic bill of lading's lifecycle, with uniqueness, control and verifiable transfer. Modernising the Ley de Puertos (Ports Law) and its regulations would cover data, continuity, environmental traceability and performance.

For platforms and contracts, the priority is to ensure audit rights, access to evidence, backups, portability and migration. Logistical sovereignty means an effective capacity to choose and maintain continuity. Cybersecurity must cover information technology, which manages data, and operational technology, associated with terminal equipment and ship-port interfaces, with backups and incident response. Artificial intelligence and autonomous navigation require attributable roles, oversight, intervention and correction.

The agenda includes a federated National Maritime and Port Information System and, separately, a National Ocean Information System; interministerial coordination; a Mexican Observatory for Maritime Law and Ocean Governance; a National Programme for Maritime Legal Culture; and budgetary resources tied to verifiable results.

Strategic perspective. The session's supplementary information extends the discussion to the sea's role in economic development and employment. Proposed applications include assessing short-sea shipping alternatives, such as an Ensenada-Los Angeles connection, taking account of the legal and logistical conditions.

Professional application. The horizons for operation, harmonisation and consolidation overlap. They are the author's proposals and do not constitute an approved legislative timetable. The next step is to define an operation, identify its legal gap and select the appropriate instrument, with a responsible party, resources and evaluation.

**Mexico is a maritime nation.
Let us also build its digital capacity.**