Guide

Rebuilding the Capital Stack for Trade Turbulence

A Guide for the Office of the CFO

Tariffs, Tension, and the Office of the CFO’s Crossroads

The latest wave of global tariffs is more than a geopolitical headline; it is a liquidity event. As trade routes reroute and costs surge, finance leaders are being called to do more than react. They must redefine how capital flows across the business. That begins with rethinking the capital stack itself.

This guide outlines how the Office of the CFO can move from short-term tactics to a data-driven working capital strategy, powered by GSCF's Connected Capital ecosystem.

The New Risk Equation

Volatility is the New Constant -Tariffs no longer come with long lead times. Policy shifts can go live within weeks, changing cost structures overnight. And while trade policy might fluctuate, the risks are enduring: inflation, supplier instability, and uncertain demand.

Finance's Expanding Role - The Office of the CFO is now expected to act as a strategist, technologist, and operator. Forecasting liquidity, modeling macro scenarios, and securing resilient capital access are now core capabilities, not optional enhancements.

What Traditional Capital Can’t Do Anymore

Limited Flexibility
Bank credit lines are increasingly constrained by internal risk models and global regulatory tightening. Waiting on credit approvals during a tariff crisis delays action when speed is vital.

Working Capital is Trapped
High inventory levels, longer receivables, and stressed suppliers mean liquidity is locked inside the supply chain.

Lagging Visibility
Without real-time analytics and forecasting tools, companies miss early signals of disruption or opportunity.

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The Modern Capital Stack

A modern capital stack blends traditional bank financing with alternative capital, real-time visibility, and risk-adjusted planning tools.

Connected Capital by GSCF Enables:

- A hybrid funding model: combining bank and alternative capital sources to optimize receivables and payables
- Working capital tools to optimize receivables and payables
- Data-driven insights offering visibility into cash positions, supplier health, and exposure scenarios

Our Working Capital as a Service solution supports:

✓ **Alternative Capital**: Access to flexible and fast non-bank funding that complements bank lines

✓ **Supplier and Buyer Finance Ecosystems**: Extend stability down the value chain

✓ **Scalability**: From mid-sized businesses to large global entities

Case Spotlight: Resilience in Action

Company:
Growth corporate electronics manufacturer

Challenge:
Incoming tariffs on components from Asia threatened to increase COGS by 18% and disrupt cash flow

Action:
Partnered with GSCF to implement:

- Early pay programs to stabilize suppliers
- Alternative capital tied to receivables
- Real-time cash forecasting tools

Result:
Avoided margin erosion, improved cash conversion cycle by 22%, and protected supplier performance through the tariff window.

Office of the CFO Checklist: How Resilient Is Your Capital Model?

Tick off the statements that apply to your organization:

[ ] We can access both bank and alternative capital within a week
[ ] We have a real-time view into our working capital positions
[ ] Our suppliers can access early pay options without hurting our liquidity
[ ] Our treasury team runs multi-scenario forecasting weekly
[ ] We understand how geopolitical changes impact our cash flow within 48 hours

If you checked fewer than 3 boxes, it's time to rethink your model.

Your capital stack is not just a defensive tool – it's a growth engine. Companies that can rapidly unlock liquidity through Connected Capital models are better positioned to invest in customer acquisition, M&A, supply chain innovation, and new product development. In today's environment, growth is gated by access to flexible working capital. If your model is static, your strategy will be too.

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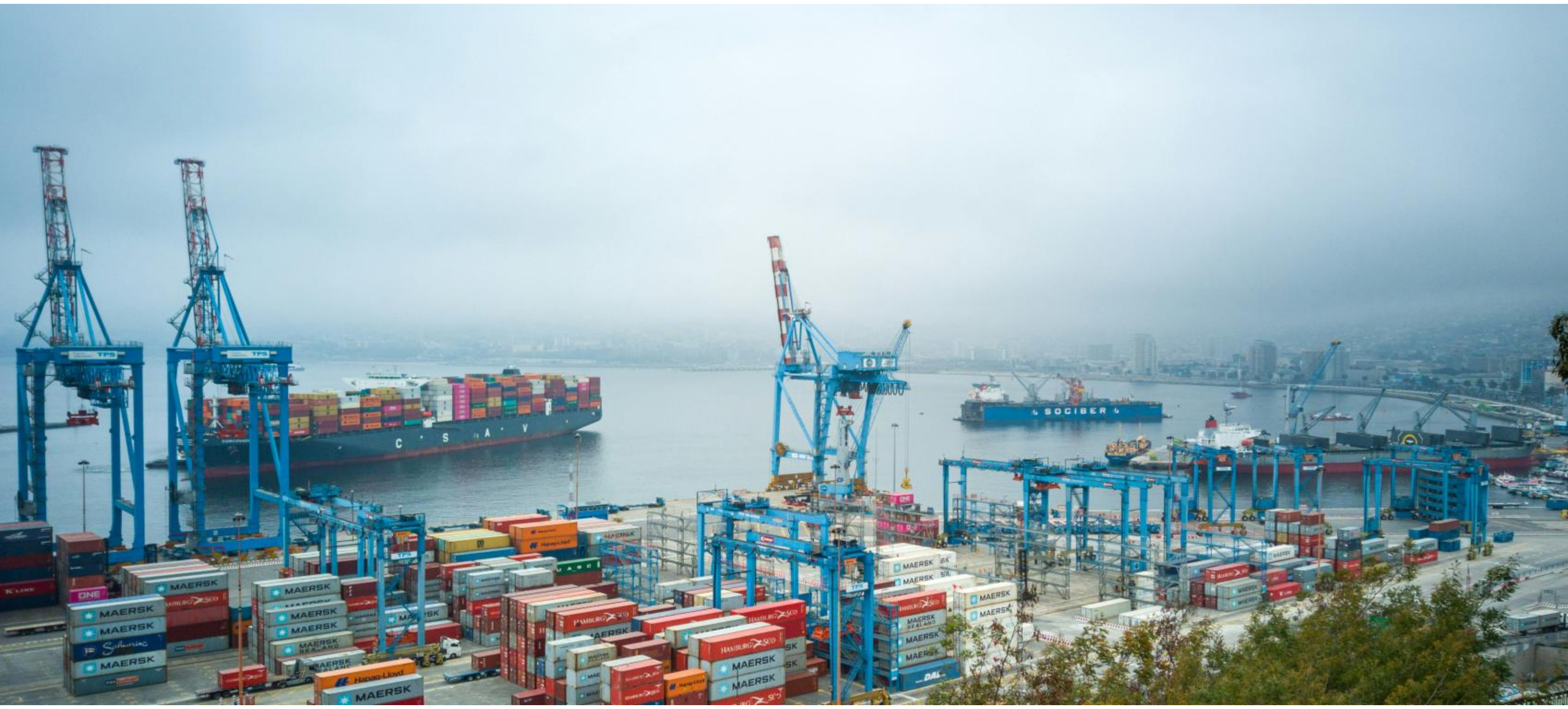
Office of the CFO Mandates: Liquidity and Growth

Tariff-driven disruption, inflationary pressure, and supplier uncertainty can throttle growth and liquidity. But with the right capital architecture, companies don't just survive, they can move faster. GSCF's Connected Capital helps with:

- **Speed to Capital:** Gain faster access to liquidity, eliminating delays and accelerating execution
- **Simplifying Complexity:** Support for complex structures, currencies and cross-border jurisdictions to scale globally
- **Diversifying Risk:** Broaden exposure coverage and reduce credit concentration risk with
- off-balance sheet liquidity solutions

The most successful finance leaders today are those who can translate volatility into velocity. With connected capital and predictive visibility, growth becomes sustainable and liquidity becomes strategic.



Bottom Line: Tariffs are a test. Not just of supply chains or trade strategy, but of how resilient your capital model truly is. With Connected Capital, GSCF is helping the Office of the CFO lead not just through volatility, but ahead of it.