



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL FOR BUILDINGS AND CLIMATE (ICBC)

## Governance

### Preamble:

**The Chaillot Declaration (art 7.2) provided the following mandate for the Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate to “gather[ing] governments and facilitated by the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, to exchange insights, share achievements, address obstacles, formulate recommendations, discuss follow-ups and assess the implementation of this Declaration and, for the concerned, other intergovernmental initiatives, recommendations and action plans. This intergovernmental council will convene:**

- *Twice a year online, at senior administration level, to inform on the latest news and developments in each country and to exchange information and share experiences on policies and practices;*
- *Yearly, at ministerial level, in conjunction with an international event (World Urban Forum, UNFCCC-COP, UNEA, etc.);*
- *If possible, every 3 years with stakeholders, in a “Buildings and Climate Global Forum”*

**The role of the ICBC is to facilitate and review the implementation of the Chaillot Declaration and, more specifically:**

- **Enhance policy and action alignment** with the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- **Facilitate international cooperation:** The ICBC serves as a council of governments to exchange information, share insights, achievements, and obstacles, and to discuss effective policies and sustainable building practices, energy efficiency, and climate adaptation strategies across countries.
- **Review progress:** policies and actions in decarbonizing and adapting the building sector to climate change, fostering global exchange on best practices.

**ICBC acts through recommendations, common statements, policy briefs and review of progress.**

### Governance Structure:

**The governance structure for the Intergovernmental Council on Buildings and Climate (ICBC) is the following:**

## 1. Members and observers

### Composition:

**Members are national governments that have endorsed the Chaillot Declaration** (named as “Member State”) see annex.

Other national governments participate as **observers** (named as “Observer States”). Observer States participate in meetings, but do not take part in decision- making and governance.

**Member States and Observer States agree to work together to facilitate the implementation of the Chaillot Declaration** and to *“exchange insights, share achievements, address obstacles, [suggest] recommendations, discuss follow-ups and assess the implementation of this Declaration and, for the concerned, other intergovernmental initiatives, recommendations and action plans”*.

Additionally, Non-State Observers can be suggested by Members and approved by the Troika, to cover relevant topics and support and enrich lesson learning and thematic work.

### Representatives:

#### Member States designate:

- **A minister** representing his or her government in the ICBC Ministerial Meetings.
- **A senior official representative** representing the relevant ministry.
- optional: administrative/technical focal points for specific issue

#### Observer States designate:

- **A senior official representative** representing the relevant ministry.

### Responsibilities of Member States and Observer States:

In the lead-up to the Technical Meetings and when appropriate to the Ministerial meeting: Designates from both Member and Observing States:

- Exchange information on domestic ongoing activities which are relevant to decarbonising and strengthening resilience in buildings and constructions (highlighting work across stakeholders) this feeds into reviews of progress compiled by the Secretariat
- Share best practice on successful policies, regulations or initiatives to spur cross-country learning
- Share priorities in order to define in-depth thematic work
- All of the above supports the formulation of recommendations and commissioning of relevant policy briefs (if funding available) and the Workplan

## 2. Chair and Vice-Chairs (“Troika” Leadership)

- **Composition:** The ICBC is led by a **chair** and two **vice-chairs**. These positions are held by representatives from three different national governments, with at least one from a **low-income country**. The chair and vice-chairs form the **Troika**, the Chair position is for one year renewable.
- **Tenure:** The tenure for chair and vice chair are for a period of **three years**.
- **Intermediate period:** For the initial period (2025-2027), France proposes to serve as a chair due to its role in organizing the 2024 Buildings and Climate Global Forum which endorsed the Declaration de Chaillot. After the first tenure (2028), each year one new seat is proposed for election.
- **The elections of the chair and vice-chairs** are conducted at annual Ministerial ICBC meetings.
- **Responsibilities:**
  - Call for meetings and propose the agenda and workplan.
  - Lead the development and organization of the ICBC workplan and its implementation with the secretariat's support.
  - Based on the Members feedback, inputs and priorities, present a set of recommendations, common statements, policy briefs, and reviews of progress.
  - Chair the ICBC meetings and represent ICBC at relevant international meetings, intergovernmental processes and events.
  - Facilitate the organization of the **Buildings and Climate Global Forum**.

## 3. Meetings

These meetings are reserved for Member States and Observer States. Some meetings are open to Non-States Observers when appropriate.

**The annual ICBC Ministerial Meeting**, preferably in conjunction with an international event (World Urban Forum, UNFCCC-COP, UNEA, etc.):

- Elects the chair and vice-chairs
- Deliberates on and adopts the ICBC workplan, including thematic priorities
- Endorse ICBC recommendations and common statements.

**Senior official representatives from both Member States and Observer States** participate in **bi-annual ICBC technical meetings** to:

- Exchange information on domestic ongoing activities which are relevant to decarbonising and strengthening resilience in buildings and constructions (highlighting work across stakeholders);
- Share best practice on successful policies, regulations or initiatives to spur cross-country learning
- Reach consensus and share progress (when appropriate) on the in-depth thematic work

- Discuss recommendations to be submitted for formulation at the Ministerial Meetings and reach consensus on commissioning policy briefs (if funding available)
- these meetings also serve as preparatory meetings for the Ministerial

#### 4. Decision making

Members reach consensus on common statements, recommendations, policy briefs or reviews of progress.

Decisions are made by the Members, whenever possible, through consensus.

These common decisions are non-legally binding.

In case of non-consensus, a list of “non-endorsers” can be attached to the decision.

Observer States as defined above, as well as Non-State Observers, do not participate in the decision-making process.

#### 5. Thematic Task force

On the basis of the selected thematic work, and if not covered by the existing initiatives, the ICBC can set up a thematic Task forces working group constituted with experts, policy analysts, and researchers, to focus on specific themes to support implementation of the workplan.

#### 6. Workplan

The Work plan defines the tasks and priorities of the Council. A separate document details the work plan. The content of the work plan is defined with inputs from the Member States and Observing States, it is approved at Ministerial Meetings and its delivery is facilitated by the Secretariat.

#### 7. Global Forum for Buildings and Climate

- **Role:** An inclusive forum that gathers stakeholders, governments, NGOs, and the private sector every three years to discuss progress, innovations, and challenges in decarbonizing and adapting buildings to climate change.
- **Objectives:**
  - Foster global dialogue on best practices in the building sector.
  - Promote innovations in construction, materials, and resilience planning.
  - Assess long-term trends and challenges affecting the sector globally.
  - host an ICBC ministerial meeting
- **Decision-Making Process:** Non-binding outcomes and shared strategies discussed at the forum inform the future direction of activities of the ICBC.

#### 8. Secretariat

The secretariat functions are delivered by the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction secretariat hosted by UNEP, subject to available funding. Its role lies in three main responsibilities.

**a) Ensuring the day-to-day management of the ICBC's operations such as:**

- Providing administrative and logistical support to the chair and vice-chairs, organization of ICBC meetings, including of its Working Groups.
- Drafting ICBC documents and reports.
  
- Managing communication and coordination across Member States and stakeholders.
- Organizing meetings, forums, and conferences.
- Assisting the Chair as the liaison between the ICBC and international bodies, such as the UNFCCC

**b) Providing information to the ICBC on:**

- The activity of the GlobalABC
- The implementation of the Buildings Breakthrough
- The Global Status Report tracking the progress of decarbonization and climate adaptation targets in the buildings sector.
- Relevant initiatives for the decarbonization and resilience of the building sector.

**c) Following formal demands and subject to appropriate funding, supporting the implementation of the work plan and technical work of the ICBC (policy briefs, recommendations and common statements, review of progress).**

## **9. Language**

- **Online Meetings:** Conducted in **English**, with translation into other UN official languages, when resources permit.
- **Documentation:** All ICBC documents and meeting materials are available in at least **English**.