

SUMMARY REPORT

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL FOR BUILDINGS AND CLIMATE (ICBC)

2025 SECOND TECHNICAL MEETING

ICBC website: [Click here](#)

The 2nd Bi-annual Technical Meeting of the ICBC brought together 80+ participants from 36 member and observer countries, as well as 7 observer organizations, offering an opportunity to review recent progress, and prepare for the upcoming Ministerial meeting at COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

1. Opening

1.1. **Welcome Remarks & Agenda Overview** (*Gulnara Roll, Head of the secretariat of GlobalABC and ICBC, UNEP*)

- As of September 2025, the Council has grown to over 60 members and observers. Under the Troika of Brazil, France, and Kenya, ICBC is establishing itself as a key political platform for aligning national action with global climate goals in the buildings sector.
- This meeting marked a key step in reviewing progress under the Declaration de Chaillot. Close to 20 proposals have been submitted by members for potential endorsement at COP30, of which 7 mature products and proposals were prioritized for the discussion.
- Additional technical meetings have been proposed in the lead up to COP30, so that additional products may be discussed, and members were encouraged to signal support towards these initiatives.

1.2. **Opening Remarks from the Chairs of ICBC** (*Yves-Laurent Sapoval, Ministerial delegate for sustainable cities-Urban Envoy, Ministry of Territories, Ecology and Housing, France - Chair of ICBC; and Ambassador Antônio da Costa e Silva, Chief International Adviser, Ministry of Cities, Brazil - Vice-Chair of ICBC*)

- The Chair and Vice-Chair of ICBC acknowledged the significant work coming through the ICBC members in the form of various proposals and products. Looking ahead to COP30 in Belém, where the focus will be on delivery, the Brazilian Presidency calls for a Global Mutirão against climate

change highlights the need for accelerated action in mitigation, adaptation, and just transitions—areas where the buildings sector plays a critical role.

- Key moments at COP30 will include the Thematic Day on Local Governments, Cities, and Infrastructure (11 November), spotlighting action on SDG 11 and the COP30 Action Agenda's Objective 12 on sustainable and resilient buildings.
- The Buildings and Cooling Pavilion, confirmed in the Blue Zone from 11–20 November, will be co-led by UNEP, GlobalABC, and the Cool Coalition, with support from the Brazilian Ministry of Cities. Delegates were encouraged to coordinate with the GlobalABC Secretariat regarding participation and speaking opportunities.
- Finally, the ICBC's First Ministerial Meeting is planned for COP30, where members and observers will finalize and endorse key products under the Declaration. The Co-Chairs requested members and observers for their active participation working together in this regard.

2. ICBC Process in the Lead-Up to COP30 Ministerial Meeting

2.1 Process Flow: From Technical Discussion to Ministerial Endorsement (*Jonathan Duwyn, Programme Officer, GlobalABC, UNEP*)

- An overview of the ICBC process was presented, highlighting how technical meetings support discussion, collaboration, and consensus-building within the Council's broader decision-making structure.
- The Chaillot Declaration serves as the overarching mandate, with thematic priorities set by the Troika guiding the Council's work over a two-year cycle (2025-27). Additional topics are contributed by ICBC members, GlobalABC Hubs and Action Groups, the Buildings Breakthrough initiative, and other aligned programs.
- The ICBC Bi-annual technical meetings offer a platform to share country experiences, review proposed products, and prepare recommendations for Ministerial consideration. Discussions help determine which products may be put forward for endorsement or acknowledgment—either at the Ministerial or Senior Technical level.
- Endorsed products reflect collective political support and signal voluntary alignment with ICBC objectives. All endorsed outputs are grounded in the Declaration de Chaillot, which calls for urgent climate action in the buildings and construction sector.
- Technical meetings also serve as a mechanism to track progress and ensure commitments are followed by implementation.

2.2 Timeline: Monthly Preparatory Meetings Leading to COP30 (*Divya Nawale, ICBC Coordinator, UNEP*)

- The timeline leading to COP30 was outlined, focusing on finalizing the ICBC product package for endorsement at the first Ministerial.
- While the current Technical Meeting allowed the ICBC members and observers to review the first set of mature products, follow-up technical meetings are proposed for 6 October to finalize the 'Call for Action' and present a draft of the COP30 package. Inputs and comments are requested by 1 October.

- A final technical meeting is also being proposed for 24 October to confirm the agenda and formalize the endorsement package.
- The ICBC Ministerial will take place on 11 November at COP30. More details to follow on exact date, time and venue. In parallel, the Secretariat will circulate endorsement forms, feedback requests, and Ministerial invitations.
- This timeline is designed to ensure a coordinated and consensus-driven outcome at COP30.

3. ICBC Products and Proposals for COP30 and beyond

3.1. ICBC Thematic Priority: Belém Call for Action on Affordable and Climate-Resilient Housing (*Yves-Laurent Sapoval, Ministerial delegate for sustainable cities-Urban Envoy, Ministry of Territories, Ecology and Housing, France - Chair of ICBC; and Ambassador Antônio da Costa e Silva, Chief International Adviser, Ministry of Cities, Brazil - Vice-Chair of ICBC*)

- The **Belem Call for Action on Affordable and Climate-Resilient Housing** was presented by the Troika as one of the main products of ICBC to be launched at the Ministerial at COP30 with key statement on Housing, reinforcing the link between climate, housing, and affordability:
 - Affordability + sustainability go together
 - Requiring integrated solutions: finance | construction | land use | regulation | inclusion.
- The draft Call for Action has been shared with ICBC members and observers. Grounded in Articles 2.6 and 3 of the Chaillot Declaration, the document highlights the global housing crisis and the urgent need to decarbonize the sector.
- The Call for Action emphasizes integrated action across finance, land use, regulation, construction, and inclusion. Key asks include integrating climate into housing policy, doubling ODA for sustainable housing by 2030; and aligning national policies with the Chaillot Declaration by 2035.
- Members and Observers were invited to submit comments on the document by 1 October. Endorsement process to follow.

3.2 Global Framework for Action on Sustainable Public Procurement (*Maimouna Ndiaye, Technical Assistant in the Mitigation Management and Carbon Market Division in charge of mitigation in the buildings sector, Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition, Senegal - ICBC Senior Representative*)

- The Framework for Sustainable Public Procurement in the Built Environment was introduced as a key output of the Buildings Breakthrough Priority Action B2: Demand Creation. Led by the One Planet Network (UNEP) and the GlobalABC Materials Hub, it supports implementation of the Chaillot Declaration (Articles 5.2.4 and 6.4) by promoting climate-aligned, circular, and low-carbon building materials through public procurement.
- Given the significant share of emissions and spending driven by public procurement, aligning these processes with climate goals is essential. The Framework offers five Common Principles and a menu of actionable strategies for governments to lead by example, mainstream sustainable practices, and foster market transformation.
- ICBC members were invited to endorse the Framework and apply its principles at national and subnational levels. Endorsement enables countries to access global best practices, technical support, and peer collaboration.

3.3 Principles for Responsible Timber Construction (*Kennedy Matheka, Deputy Director, Buildings Safety, Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing & Urban Development, Kenya - Vice-Chair of ICBC*)

- The Principles for Responsible Timber Construction were presented as a key initiative supporting the implementation of the Chaillot Declaration (para. 5.2.4). Developed in collaboration with the FCLP, GlobalABC, FAO, and others, the Principles provide a global framework to scale sustainable timber use in construction while aligning with major international commitments.
- Timber and other bio-based materials are vital for decarbonizing buildings, but safeguards are needed to prevent deforestation and social harm. The Principles define responsible practices, helping to build trust, attract sustainable finance, and guide policy alignment with climate, biodiversity, and development goals. Widespread adoption could significantly reduce emissions, safeguard forests, and support sustainable forest-based economies.
- ICBC members were invited to endorse the Principles as a global reference to integrate sustainable timber into national policies, procurement, and investment strategies.

3.4 10 Whole Life Cycle Recommendations for the Buildings Breakthrough (*Melanie Jans-Singh, International Innovation Lead, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, United Kingdom - ICBC Senior Representative; Harri Hakaste, Senior Architect, Ministry of the Environment, Finland - ICBC Senior Representative*)

- Developed by the GlobalABC Materials Hub and partners in 2024, the 10 Whole Life Cycle (WLC) Recommendations support implementation of the Chaillot Declaration and the Buildings Breakthrough's goal of near-zero emission, resilient buildings by 2030.
- The Recommendations, created through two working groups—Whole Life Cycle Policy Coalition and Circular Built Environment—offer guidance to governments on integrating WLC and circularity into national and local policies. They aim to highlight existing tools, identify gaps, diversify perspectives, and promote environmentally and socially responsible practices.
- ICBC member countries were invited to endorse the Recommendations, share best practices, and apply them to advance national implementation of the Chaillot Declaration and Buildings Breakthrough commitments.

3.5 World Championship for Energy Savings in Commercial Buildings and Social Infrastructures (*Yves-Laurent Sapoval, Ministerial delegate for sustainable cities-Urban Envoy, Ministry of Territories, Ecology and Housing, France - Chair of ICBC; Régis Meyer, Climate and Energy Officer, Ministry of Territories, Ecology and Housing, France - Support to the Chair of ICBC*)

- The WCES was introduced as an actionable initiative to support ICBC countries in reducing building operational emissions through low-cost, behavior-based measures. Aligned with the Chaillot Declaration, Buildings Breakthrough, and GlobalABC Sufficiency Hub, the initiative targets large public and commercial buildings. WCES provides a framework for national energy-saving competitions and serves as a tool for data collection, knowledge-sharing, and regulatory development.
- ICBC countries were invited to engage with WCES at three levels:
 - **Recognition** – Acknowledge the value of energy-saving championships in mobilizing building owners and informing policy.

- **Hosting international championship** – Support a national-level championship, with coordination by a designated public or private entity and joining the WCES international committee.
- **Exploring Policy**– Use insights and data from the initiative to inform future regulatory and investment pathways.

4. Other ICBC Products and Proposals for COP30 and beyond

4.1 ICBC Country Action on Blended Lower Carbon Cements and SCMs to reduce Clinker Content and GHG emissions (*Anne DeKeukelaere, Executive Director, Center for Worldwide Sustainable Construction, EPFL; Facilitator of the Cement Breakthrough*)

- This proposal, led by the Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA) and aligned with the Cement Breakthrough, supports implementation of Article 5.2.4 of the Chaillot Declaration by accelerating the use of blended low-carbon cements and SCMs to reduce clinker content and embodied emissions in concrete.
- The proposal calls for unilateral country action in three areas: updating standards and codes, leveraging public procurement, and enabling access to SCMs.
- ICBC Country Actions suggested including:
 - support review and update of standards to latest best practice
 - procure on major government projects where possible
 - enable access and remove barriers to sourcing
- Information sessions taking place **Tuesday Sept 23rd** [please refer QR code shared in the slides]
 - Hong Kong 2pm (CEST 8am)
 - New York 2pm (CEST 8pm)

4.2 Extension School- Certificate of Advanced Studies on Sustainability in the Built Environment (*Anne DeKeukelaere, Executive Director, Center for Worldwide Sustainable Construction, EPFL; Facilitator of the Cement Breakthrough*)

- Led by EPFL (Switzerland) and ENPC (France), with support from Global South universities and UNEP/GlobalABC, the program equips professionals—especially from the Global South—with tools to implement low-carbon, climate-resilient construction solutions.
- The program supports ICBC and Chaillot Declaration goals by building capacity where 80% of future construction will occur. It is delivered globally, combining online learning with in-person sessions, and operates on a solidarity-based model—tuition from Global North participants sponsors Global South candidates.
- ICBC members are invited to:
 - Nominate at least 10 qualified public-sector candidates annually from the Global South to participate in the program.
 - Establish recognition systems for certified professionals to support their continued career development.
 - Promote the program nationally and appoint one ICBC representative to the CAS advisory committee.
- The first cohort will begin in September 2026, with a goal of expanding reach and content through 2030.

5. Closing and next steps (*Jonathan Duwyn, Programme Officer, Buildings Lead, UNEP; Kennedy Matheka, Deputy Director, Buildings Safety, Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing & Urban Development, Kenya - Vice-Chair of ICBC*)

- With thanks to all ICBC members and observers for active participation in the meeting, the Secretariat and Vice-Chair affirmed that we move forward on the road to COP30 with preparations underway for the first ICBC Ministerial Meeting.
- This Ministerial will serve as a critical moment to reflect on the progress made under the Chaillot Declaration, highlight the leadership of ICBC members, and bring political visibility to the commitments already advanced.
- To ensure a successful and inclusive Ministerial, members are proposed the following next steps:
 - Kindly send comments and inputs to the Call for Action by Oct 1st.
 - Requesting active participation for the Ministerial. Formal Invitation letters to be sent shortly.
 - Additional meetings proposed for Oct 6th and 24th.
- In the coming weeks, we will also share a draft package of endorsements and acknowledgments for your review and feedback.
- We thank you once again for your dedication and collaboration and look forward to working together to make the ICBC Ministerial at COP30 a powerful demonstration of ambition, action, and unity.