GlobalABC Newsletter
November 2022

1. News from the Secretariat
2. Upcoming Events
3. GlobalABC Member & Building News
4. Calls, Initiatives and Opportunities
5. GlobalABC Flagship Products

News from the GlobalABC Secretariat

2022 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction
(Buildings-GSR)
Available now!
On 9 November 2022, the GlobalABC released the **2022 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction (Buildings-GSR)**. The Buildings-GSR provides an annual snapshot of the progress of the buildings and construction sector on a global scale and reviews the status of policies, finance, technologies, and solutions to monitor whether the sector is aligned with the Paris Agreement goals. It also provides stakeholders with evidence to persuade policymakers and the overall buildings and construction community to take action.

**What is new in the 2022 edition?**

- Buildings and construction: disruptions and challenges facing the buildings sector in 2022
- Global Building Carbon Tracker: Are we on track towards the Paris Agreement Goals?
- Updates on building codes and building decarbonisation in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Status of investment in building energy efficiency
- Deep dive on:
  - Africa (regional focus)
  - Building materials (topical focus)

**More resources:**

- [Trello board](#): social media resources
- [Press conference slides](#)
- [Web story on Africa's building resilience](#)
- [Short explainer video: Is the Buildings and Construction Sector on Track to decarbonize?](#)

[Download the report](#)

**COP27 Buildings Pavilion**

*Over 50 events were hosted at the Buildings Pavilion!*
The COP27 **Buildings Pavilion** was hosted by GlobalABC/UNEP and co-hosted by We Mean Business Coalition and World Business Council for Sustainable Development, sponsored by 16 entities and in collaboration with BuildingToCOP Coalition, UNFCCC MPGCA, Global Buildings Performance Network, and the Government of France. From 8 to 17 November, over 50 events were hosted at the Buildings Pavilion, covering a wide range of topics – from finance to resilience, building materials, energy, justice and social equity, to name but a few.

The Buildings Pavilion was a hub for all stakeholders in the buildings and construction community to come together and highlight concrete solutions, initiatives and examples of action to accelerate the transformation of the buildings and construction sector.

We were honoured to welcome representatives from civil society, CEOs and business leaders, NGOs, international organisations, cities and national governments from all around the world to demonstrate why it is important to make the transition to a net-zero, resilient and efficient built environment for everyone and everywhere, but also how we can do it.

We thank our members, sponsors and partners for their support and for organising insightful events, and our team on the ground for their tremendous support.

Buildings Pavilion resources:

- **Trello Board**: social media resources & programme
- **Flickr**: photo albums
- **Session recordings**: go to our website calendar and click on the individual events to watch recordings; also available on our YouTube channel

**Learn more**

**A joint call for a Buildings Breakthrough**

*The Buildings Breakthrough is co-led by France and the Kingdom of Morocco under the coordination of the GlobalABC*
On 17 November at the COP27 Buildings Pavilion, and following the Breakthrough Agenda launched at COP26 aiming to strengthen international collaboration on the decarbonisation of high-emitting sectors (Transport, Power, Hydrogen, Steel, Agriculture), France and the Kingdom of Morocco re-confirmed their leadership calling for a Buildings Breakthrough for ‘Near zero emissions and resilient buildings are the new normal by 2030’.

The co-leading countries (France and the Kingdom of Morocco) together with the UK High Level Climate Champion, the UNEP Executive Director, and multiple high-level country and initiative representatives joined forces issuing an official call to all countries to join the Buildings Breakthrough to accelerate the transition to sustainable buildings for everyone everywhere.

To date, 15 countries have joined/are supporting the Buildings Breakthrough: Armenia, Austria, Canada, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany (joining shortly), Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, The Netherlands, Norway, Senegal, Türkiye, and the UK. In addition, 13 initiatives/foundations have announced their support to be listed as leading initiatives.

Additional countries and organisations interested in supporting the Buildings Breakthrough are invited to contact the GlobalABC Secretariat at global.abc@un.org.

At COP27 the BuildingToCOP Coalition keeps the focus on the built environment as a critical solutions provider for a resilient and zero emissions future.

BuildingToCOP Coalition COP27 Press Release

Operational emissions from the built environment increased by 5% last year, compared to 2020 levels, but with more than 200 events and several new climate action initiatives launched at COP27, the sector has shown that it has the climate solutions ready to scale now. The BuildingToCOP Coalition rallied the sector, responsible for almost 40% of global greenhouse gas emissions, around flagship events focused on the key themes of: Finance, Decarbonisation, and Adaptation & Resilience.

Upcoming Events

Check out all the upcoming events on our website calendar!
SBEfin2022 Helsinki Conference
23-25 November 2022 | Online

SBEfin2022 Helsinki Conference on emerging concepts for sustainable built environment presents novel concepts on inclusive and resilient cities, circular neighbourhoods, responsibly sourced materials, construction value chain and calls for new skills and new businesses. The Conference provides Special tracks for focused workshops and tackling relevant challenges. The papers will be reviewed according to the themes where they are submitted. The sessions will, however, be organized based on the topics of the papers so that the discussions in each session have a fluent flow even across scales. It means that e.g. circular neighbourhood and circular product presentations can be placed in the same session.

Decarbonising cooling systems
25 November 2022, 10:00-12:00 CET | Location TBC

With higher decarbonisation and efficiency targets, heating and cooling are key aspects of the transition. We often discuss the role of heating networks and how they can be decarbonised, but cooling systems also have their part to play for the industry but also, with the rising temperatures, more and more for the residential areas. This capacity building session, organised within the frame of Decarb City Pipes 2050, will explore the framework to develop decarbonised cooling systems. It will showcase examples from cities who already started developing cooling networks, and will give a legislative overview of the EU framework regarding cooling.

PCAF Knowledge exchange between financial institutions on decarbonizing building portfolios
1 December 2022 | Online

The PCAF Secretariat is pleased to invite you to a knowledge exchange webinar with financial institutions sharing their experiences in the decarbonization journey of their building portfolios. This webinar aims to showcase exemplary industry practices of financial institutions in different stages of the decarbonization process, following the launch of the PCAF Guidance on financing the net-zero building transition in September 2022. It is organized in the scope of the PCAF project Financing towards net-zero buildings.

World Circular Economy Forum 2022 (WCEF2022)
6-8 December 2022 | Kigali, Rwanda & Online

Hosted in the Global South for the first time, WCEF2022 will be held in Kigali, Rwanda and online. This year’s global collaboration forum presents a unique opportunity for African nations and the world at large to transition toward an inclusive low-carbon and climate resilient economy while tackling key societal challenges. Africa can lead the world towards a new, more resilient economy – the circular economy. With vast natural resources, a young population, strong entrepreneurship and new forms of collaboration, the African continent can offer inspiration to the world. The forum will explore major themes relevant to Africa’s development in which circularity could play a big role, including climate and nature, youth, infrastructure, entrepreneurship and innovation, as well as trade and value chains.
Low-tech and Biomimicry for Buildings
15 December 2022, 11:00-12:30 CET | Online

Changing paradigm beyond short-term measures for this winter: what low-tech and biomimicry concepts can bring to the buildings’ decarbonisation? At least two facts call for a paradigm change in the building sector: the tensions on availability of classic building materials and skilled workforce, and the too-slow decarbonisation rate. The continuation of demolition and reconstruction cycle based on fossil-intensive materials (like concrete) doesn’t put us on a clear decarbonisation pathway. Two different concepts can help to have new approaches: low-tech, and biomimicry. Join this session on low-tech and biomimicry for buildings to work for a profound change!

Would you like to see your organization’s events featured in our next newsletter or on our website? Reach out to us at global.abc@un.org.

GlobalABC Member & Buildings News

Buildings in the News

- Traditional building practices offer sustainable solutions as African cities grow (UNEP)
- Decarbonizing the Built Environment is a Global Ambition (gb&dPRO)
- COP27: UN report shows pathways to carbon-neutrality in “energy intensive” steel, chemicals and cement industries (UNECE)
- Embodied Carbon Draws Increased Attention from the Building Sector (new buildings institute)
- Three experts on the best ways to retrofit housing (RICS)
- As climate warms, a China planner advocates "sponge cities" (AP NEWS)
- Where to get support for BIM or green building certification (Sustainability)
- At COP27, Building Emissions Loom Larger (Bloomberg)
- Climate change: Decarbonising UK public buildings to cost £25-30bn (BBC)
- If we act today, we can halve the emissions of the built environment by 2030 (WBCSD)
- Cool Mud Beats Concrete for Building Homes in a Hotter Africa (Bloomberg)
- 49 Sustainability Organizations For Architects Around the World (Architizer)
- How can cities power up energy efficiency in buildings? (OECD Forum Network)

Publications from the GlobalABC Community

- 2022 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC)
- Sri Lanka Sustainable Housing and Construction Roadmap 2020 – 2050 (Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Sri Lanka)
- OECD Regions and Cities at a Glance 2022 (OECD)
- Growing to Its Potential: The Value of Urban Nature for Communities, Investors, and the Climate (RMI)
- From the Ground Up: A whole-system approach to decarbonizing India’s buildings sector (National Institute of Urban Affairs, India & RMI)
- Whitepaper: The neglected demand side of the green equation (Danfoss)
- African BIM Report 2022 (BIM Africa)
- Adaptation Gap Report 2022 (UNEP)
- Emissions Gap Report 2022 (UNEP)
- Roadmap to Reaching Zero Embodied Carbon in Federal Building
Projects (RMI)
- Africa Climate Week 2022 (ACW 2022) Output Report (UNFCCC)
- Guidance on financing the European building transition to net zero (Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials)
- State of Climate Action 2022 (Bezos Earth Fund, Climate Action Tracker, Climate Analytics, ClimateWorks Foundation, NewClimate Institute, the United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champions, and World Resources Institute)

Calls, Initiatives and Opportunities

- **Job Opening:** Senior Programme Management Officer (P5), Cities Unit, Energy and Climate Branch, Economy Division, UNEP (Deadline: 26 November 2022)
- **Call for evidence:** UK’s Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard (Deadline: 16 December 2022)
- **Call for applications:** Green Solutions Awards 2022-2023 (Deadline: 28 February 2023)
- **Call for ideas:** Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance - 2023 Cycle (Deadline: 26 December 2022)

Learn more

GlobalABC Flagship Products