

GlobalABC Work Areas

February 2020

The GlobalABC has five Work Areas. They aim to address key barriers to a low-carbon, energy-efficient, and resilient buildings and construction sector. The Work Area's main task is to identify best practices and share them. This outline is subject to regular review and update by each GlobalABC Work Area.

Work Area 1: Awareness and Education

Purpose in one sentence: We support building capacity to promote the transition towards a zero-emission and resilient built environment globally as well as raising awareness of the potential and urgency of transforming the sector.

Strategy and main objectives

This Work Area is tasked with raising awareness among stakeholders, communicating key messages and insights to the GlobalABC members and beyond as well as disseminating promising education and training initiatives and identifying any gaps that need addressing:

- A. Identifying and dissemination novel, promising approaches and solutions towards a zero-emission, efficient, and resilient buildings and construction sector.
- B. Sharing best practices.
- C. Disseminating training and education opportunities, including relevant contributions to the Global Status Report.

Work Area 2: Public Policies

Purpose in one sentence: Unite the numerous, independent and scattered buildings and construction sector's stakeholders, in particular public authorities, through facilitating consistent, effective regulation, especially building codes, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), norms, financial and fiscal incentives.

Strategy and main objectives

- Showcase the buildings and construction sector's stakeholder policies and enable peer-to-peer learning at international level – all GlobalABC countries filling the joint GlobalABC IEA database.
- Mobilise GlobalABC members to facilitate national strategies for low-carbon buildings, implementation of P&M and national alliances: 1 or 2 new national alliance.
- To promote the integration of sustainable buildings in NDCs and showcase it in 3 countries (South America, Africa, Asia).
- Enable city and subnational engagement.
- Engage buildings stakeholders in climate change adaptation policies.
- Call GlobalABC country members to empower a minister in charge of the coordination of the "low carbon building" transition. Meeting gathering in 2020 year such minister could be high-level event of the "sustainable building" year of the UNFCCC.

Work Area 2: sub-work stream public policies at the local and sub-national level

Strategy and main objectives: Recognizing that local and subnational climate action is critical to support national governments in achieving the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement, the GlobalABC launched a Cities and Regions Public Policies Group at the Climate Chance Conference in Agadir, Morocco on 12 September 2017. The aim is to identify action areas to scale successful local and sub-national approaches and foster enhanced cooperation between national and sub-national levels of government on improving energy efficiency and the wide-scale use of renewable energy, as it relates to the building and construction sector.

The increasing engagement of local and regional governments around the globe in tackling climate change and scaling up sustainable energy can be seen, for example, in the Global Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy, where local leaders pledge to reduce and track greenhouse gas emissions and deal with climate resilience, and in sector-specific approaches such as the Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) Building Efficiency Accelerator (BEA).

Seeking synergy with these important efforts, the GlobalABC-Cities and Regions Public Policies Group which has the following goals:

1. Identify common successful approaches that embed policies in community-level climate and energy strategies to enable action in the building and construction sector.
2. Identify effective multi-level governance approaches, in particular those that align local and national level policies.
3. Facilitate aggregating collective local and subnational contributions, including defining a methodology to quantify a baseline and progress.

Work Area 2: sub-work stream on adaptation

Work Area 2 set up a dedicated subgroup on the topic of adaptation. Spurred by Morocco it is coordinated by OID (Observatoire de L'immobilier Durable) and the French Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition (MTES) and brings together ten members of the GlobalABC (countries, intergovernmental, civil society) with contributions from 30 additional members. The group is developing a report to provide guidance to governments on how to include building adaptation actions into their national plans and how to link adaptation and mitigation strategies and actions, throughout the life cycle of buildings. Furthermore, recommendations by type of actor (including investors, developers, insurers), and estimates of the impact of actions and costs are being elaborated.

Work Area 3: Market Transformation

Purpose in one sentence: Engage business and other stakeholders in the decarbonization of the entire building value chain; provide an opportunity to companies to shape the dialogue with national and sub-national policy makers about the enabling framework for private sector action.

Strategy and main objectives: The Work Area engages companies at the global level to raise ambition and share best practice on the decarbonization of the building sector, such as technology innovation, new business and financing models, procurement and value chain collaboration. For this, the WA brings together companies along the full value chain, from material providers, equipment companies to design and construction firms, real estate and finance companies to work together on how they can align their actions. The WA also enables interaction between companies and policy makers to promote an enabling environment. Align different companies' efforts towards a global GHG emission reduction goal.

The building sector is very fragmented – the focus is on alignment among key global players and then developing a communication strategy through the GlobalABC to reach more companies through business networks, trade associations and national audiences. A future engagement plan will be developed to disseminate the SBT guidance more widely once finalized.

The Work Area can leverage input from other Work Areas such as Finance (WA4), data & measurement (WA5) and Public Policy (WA2).

Work Area 4: Finance

Purpose in one sentence: Contribute to narrowing the public and private finance gap for investments in zero-carbon, efficient, and resilient buildings and construction, including property development.

Strategy and main objectives: This Work Area is tasked with key actions that scale-up finance for a zero-carbon, efficient, and resilient buildings and construction sector through:

- Highlighting finance needs for a transition toward a zero-carbon, efficient, and resilient buildings and construction sector.
- Mapping existing financing opportunities for a zero-carbon, efficient, and resilient buildings and construction sector.
- Promoting innovative financing tools for specific activities.
- Enabling reliable information for investors to reduce risk and create value of more efficient buildings.
- Enabling funding for policies to conceive and implement energy efficiency in buildings.

Work Area 5: Building measurement, data and information

Purpose in one sentence: This Work Area works toward a fair and harmonized measurement system basis to close the information gap and to support buildings and construction policy & investment with Measurable, Reportable and Verifiable (MRV) Data.

Strategy and main objectives: The Work Area bases its activities on survey findings which aimed to determine what type of data is captured by the buildings and construction sector, how data varies across regions, and what challenges exist, including data storage, reporting, availability, collection, accessibility and quality. This Work Areas aims for a fair and harmonized measurement system basis through:

- Develop guideline on scope of building passport (living document).
- Gain greater international visibility.
- Assess possible cross-task cooperation on data relevant issues (for example science-based targets).
- Test format or Building Passport.