

Ministerial Meeting of the Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate (ICBC), COP30

Outcomes of ICBC Progress and Collaboration¹

11 November 2025

Buildings are increasingly vulnerable to climate change and generate more than one-third of global energy use and emissions, making them central to net zero and resilience objectives.

A decade of Buildings sector engagements in UNFCCC COPs

The recent history of the UNFCCC COPs demonstrates the growing importance of spotlighting the 'Built Environment' annually. The Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC) with its UNEP-hosted secretariat has been leading this momentum over the last decade.

GlobalABC was launched under the leadership of France and UNEP at the first 'Buildings Day' at a UNFCCC COP (COP21). Five years later, COP26 featured a 'Built Environment Day' and the GlobalABC established the first ever COP Buildings Pavilion. COP28 further reinforced this momentum with the launch of the Buildings Breakthrough Initiative under the leadership of France and Morocco. At COP29, "the importance of integrating climate action into work on buildings" was formally acknowledged in a COP decision ([Decision -/CMA.6](#)) and the Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate (ICBC) was formally established under the leadership of Brazil, Kenya and France. Under the auspices of COP30, GlobalABC co-convened the Secretariat of the Activation Group for Key Objective 12 on Sustainable and Resilient Buildings and Construction (Axis 4 of the Global Climate Action Agenda).

Global Progress on climate action in the Buildings and Construction Sector

The buildings and construction sector is undergoing a pivotal transformation toward sustainability. While challenges remain, significant progress is being made. Buildings account for 35% of global energy-related CO₂ emissions, which reached 12 Gt CO₂ in 2024 – a one per cent increase from 2023, but international collaboration and policy innovation are driving change. Since 2015, energy intensity has improved by 8.5%, supported by global policy development and efficiency measures. With global floor area projected to grow by 45% by 2050, particularly in developing economies, the sector has a unique opportunity to embed climate resilience and near-zero emissions into future growth.

Policy frameworks are strengthening worldwide. In 2025, 70 parties updated their NDCs, with around 80% including building-sector actions and 26 providing detailed plans. More than 45 NDC 3.0s have been submitted, expanding coverage of buildings. Building energy codes are advancing rapidly: 95 countries now have mandatory codes for all buildings, and 8 countries plus 12 subnational jurisdictions have updated their codes since 2024. Europe is moving toward nearly zero-aligned standards, and voluntary frameworks in Canada and the USA are paving the way for broader adoption. These steps signal growing commitment to decarbonizing the built environment.

¹ This document was developed by the ICBC secretariat on request of the ICBC "Troika", with aim to provide a stock-take of the progress made in the sector, and inform on the latest activities of the ICBC.

Investment and innovation are gaining momentum. Annual investment in energy efficiency, electrification, and renewables reached USD 380 billion in 2024, a 5% increase, and new financing tools are mobilizing private capital for green projects. Industry leadership is evident: 162 companies managing 25,000 buildings valued at \$400 billion have cut 850,000 tonnes of CO₂. Circular economy strategies in ten countries are delivering 15% annual energy savings, and 16 climate action roadmaps have been completed to guide implementation. Low-carbon material supply chains are strengthening through Cement and Concrete Ratings, showcasing emissions reductions among major producers, while cities are adopting sustainable procurement practices to accelerate change.

The sector is not only responding to climate challenges—it is shaping solutions. Initiatives such as the Buildings Breakthrough, Declaration de Chaillot, and Global Cooling Pledge provide clear pathways for scaling ambition. With continued collaboration between governments, industry, and finance, and a focus on retrofitting, electrification, and resilient design, the buildings and construction sector can become a cornerstone of the global transition to a low-carbon future.

Advances in global intergovernmental collaboration

Since COP28, 29 frontrunner countries supported by the European Commission and over 30 global organisations have been collaborating under the **Buildings Breakthrough** towards making near-zero emission, climate-resilient buildings the new normal by 2030. The Buildings Chapter of this year's Breakthrough Agenda report ([IEA, 2025](#)) highlights the vital role of supporting organisations – notably the facilitating partners of the Building Breakthrough's priority actions - in assisting governments to accelerate the transition to sustainable buildings. The World Green Building Council (WorldGBC), alongside partners, is leading efforts to define principles for near-zero emissions and resilient buildings (NZERBs), offering a shared foundation for policy alignment. The One Planet Network launched the Global Framework for Action on Sustainable and Circular Public Procurement to drive demand for NZERBs. GlobalABC and PEEB are providing practical guidance products to help unlock climate finance by integrating financing pathways into national and subnational roadmaps and strengthening banks' institutional capacity to support resilient and energy-efficient buildings. Solar Impulse Foundation developed a Catalogue of Solutions for Buildings to support deployment of proven climate technologies. The International Code Council (ICC) collected targeted training materials and tools to equip institutions and practitioners with the skills needed to deliver NZERB outcomes at scale, made available through GlobalABC's online hub.

The **Declaration de Chaillot**, adopted at the inaugural Buildings and Climate Global Forum in Paris in March 2024, marked a turning point for global collaboration of national governments in decarbonizing and climate-proofing the building and construction sector. Over 60 countries committed to national roadmaps, updated codes, finance mobilisation, low-carbon materials, and multi-level governance. To support delivery against these commitments, the **Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Construction (ICBC)** was established and institutionalized at COP29 in Baku, providing a formal governance structure and country leadership under a troika chaired by France, with Brazil and Kenya as Vice-Chairs. For the first time, the sector's extensive knowledge - policy guidance, technical insights, and case studies - was presented to signatory governments during COP30 in Belém, Brazil. This milestone urges ICBC members to endorse and adopt a suite of strategic products to accelerate delivery on their commitments under the Declaration in their respective countries.

Statement of the ICBC at COP30

We, the members and observers of the Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate (ICBC), convened under the framework of the Déclaration de Chaillot, hereby recognise the collective progress achieved in advancing decarbonisation and climate resilience of the global buildings and construction sector.

We recognise the launch of the Belém Call for Action on Sustainable and Affordable Housing - a landmark declaration calling on efforts to deliver affordable and sustainable housing to secure a just transition. Residential buildings account for the majority of sector emissions, as they make up three-quarters of the global building stock and dominate energy use (UNEP, 2025). Various forms of housing inadequacy affect more than 2.8 billion people worldwide, of whom nearly 1.12 billion reside in slums and informal settlements (UN-Habitat, 2025). Recognising the scale of this issue, the Call urges Parties and stakeholders to embed climate considerations in housing policy and champions partnership with development finance institutions, multilateral development banks and technical agencies to establish an “Affordable and Sustainable Housing Finance Alliance”. Looking to 2035, it invites ICBC members to align national housing strategies with the Déclaration de Chaillot, prioritise low-carbon, climate-resilient homes, and avoid siting new housing in climate-risk areas without robust protective measures. We call on all nations to join the Belém Call for Action, reinforcing the urgency of collective engagement.

We further recognise the collaborative efforts undertaken by ICBC members, the GlobalABC community, technical partners, and supporting institutions to develop a wide range of endorsed and acknowledged products that reflect the operational objectives of the Chaillot Declaration. In addition to the Belém Call for Action on Sustainable and Affordable Housing, the products for endorsement included:

- the Global Framework for Action for sustainable public procurement in construction, which leverages the power of public investment to drive market transformation toward low-carbon, climate-resilient buildings;
- the Principles for Responsible Timber Construction, promoting the use of properly managed bio-based materials like timber to achieve up to 40% emission reductions in the sector by 2050 and;
- the World Championship for Energy Savings in Commercial Buildings and Social Infrastructures, highlighting the building sector’s critical role in doubling energy intensity improvements by 2030.

We also recognise the importance of capacity-building programs, technical handbooks, and collaborative platforms that enable national governments to operationalize climate commitments within the buildings sector on key issues such as whole-life-carbon management, deploying readily available blended cements technologies, circular construction and adaptation pathways for resilient buildings.

We acknowledge the role of the ICBC as a high-level political platform for coordination, knowledge exchange, and progress tracking for the sector under the Declaration de Chaillot. As ICBC members, we express our continued commitment to supporting the implementation of these products and approaches, and our continued support for UNEP in its role as host for

the ICBC Secretariat. We acknowledge the contributions of our partner organizations and look forward to deepening our collaboration as we move towards implementation.

Together, we move forward with shared purpose—to translate ambition into in-country action, and to ensure that the built environment becomes a cornerstone of climate resilience, equity, and sustainable development for all.

Product / Initiative	Reference Document	Endorsing / Acknowledging Countries <i>(as of 22 December 2025; outreach to more countries for endorsement and participation is ongoing)</i>
Belém Call for Action for Sustainable and Affordable Housing	Click here	Endorsing: Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, European Commission, Fiji, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Somalia, United Kingdom
Global Framework for Action on Sustainable Public Procurement	Click here	Endorsing: Brazil, Colombia (*), Finland, France, Ghana (*), Japan, Kenya, Somalia Acknowledging: Armenia, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, United Kingdom (*) Countries that have endorsed the Global Framework for Action through a parallel process aligned to the ICBC endorsement mechanism
Principles for Responsible Timber Construction	Click here	Endorsing: Brazil, France, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Spain, United Kingdom Acknowledging: Armenia, Finland, Germany, Italy
World Championship for Energy Savings in Buildings	Click here	Endorsing: Armenia, Bangladesh, Brazil, France, Kenya, Luxembourg, Somalia, United Kingdom Acknowledging: Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Türkiye
10 Whole Life Cycle Recommendations	Click here	Acknowledging: Armenia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Türkiye, United Kingdom
Country Action on Blended Cements &	Click here	Acknowledging: Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, New Zealand

SCMs to Reduce Clinker Content		
Extension School – Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) on Sustainability in the Built Environment	Click here	Acknowledging: Armenia, Bangladesh, Brazil, France, Germany, Kenya, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Somalia
Handbook for the Development of Article 6 Projects in Buildings	Click here	Acknowledging: Armenia, Bangladesh, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Somalia
Toolbox & Capacity Development for Public Development Banks on Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Social Infrastructure	Click here	Acknowledging: Brazil, France, Germany, Kenya, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Türkiye
National Governments & Policy Makers Adaptation Pathways	Click here	Acknowledging: Armenia, Bangladesh, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Somalia
Built Environment Market Transformation Action Agenda – Progress Report	Click here	Acknowledging: Armenia, Bangladesh, Brazil, France, Germany, Kenya, Luxembourg, New Zealand
Global Property Linked Finance Initiative – Creating a New Global Asset Class	Click here	Acknowledging: Brazil, France, Germany, Kenya, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Türkiye, Somalia

Sources:

Global Status Report | UNEP - GlobalABC. <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/global-status-report-buildings-and-construction-20242025>

Buildings Breakthrough - GlobalABC. <https://globalabc.org/buildings-breakthrough>

Declaration de Chaillot – GlobalABC - globalabc.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/DECLARATION_DE_CHAILLOT-NP.pdf