

GlobalABC Annual Assembly 2026 Highlights

Celebrating 10 years of collective action and

accelerating delivery towards 2030



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A decade ago, buildings were a fragmented and under-recognised climate sector. Today, the [Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction \(GlobalABC\)](#) provides a shared global platform linking political leadership, evidence, technical expertise, and implementation tools. The next phase is clear: convert this global architecture into faster country delivery, stronger investment pipelines, and measurable impact.

Why the buildings sector matters

37%

of global CO₂ emissions

≈50%

of global material extraction

11–13%

of global GDP

9%

of the global workforce

10 Years of Collective Impact

COP21 · 2015	COP26 · 2021	COP28 · 2023	Paris · 2024	COP29 · 2024	COP30 · 2025	TODAY
GlobalABC launched with 79 members, including 18 countries. First dedicated Buildings Day.	First Blue Zone Buildings Pavilion at COP 36.	Buildings Breakthrough launched.	First Global Forum; Déclaration de Chaillot adopted.	Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate (ICBC) established.	First ICBC Ministerial and launch of the Belém Call for Action for Sustainable and Affordable Housing.	An established global ecosystem of 430 members including 75 countries, connecting ambition with implementation.

Where We Stand Today

What changed

- ✓ Buildings are now firmly embedded in the global climate agenda, with 163 countries including the sector in their NDCs.
- ✓ Governments, industry, finance and technical experts are increasingly working towards a shared vision for sustainable resilient buildings and construction.

What remains urgent

- Accelerate implementation and translate commitments into measurable action on the ground.
- Scale investment, technical capacity and enabling policies to support country delivery.

✓ Common definitions, methodologies and implementation approaches are creating greater alignment across the sector.

✓ Global collaboration has evolved from raising awareness to supporting coordinated implementation.

• Strengthen data, monitoring and accountability to track progress and inform decision-making.

• With only four years remaining until 2030, collective efforts must deliver faster and at greater scale.

GlobalABC in Numbers

430

Members

Bringing together 75 countries and a diverse network of organizations from the private sector, academia and civil society.

11

Hubs & Action Groups

Hubs & Action Groups Driving technical collaboration and implementation

69

ICBC Members & Observers

Driving technical collaboration, innovation and implementation across priority areas.

34

Climate Action Roadmaps

Developed at national, subnational and local levels to accelerate climate action in the built environment.

20+

High-Level Global Convenings

Including Annual Assemblies, COP Buildings & Cooling Pavilions, the Buildings & Climate Global Forum, the Sustainable Buildings & Construction Summit, ICBC Ministerials and other flagship global events.

Key 2025–2026 highlights

Throughout the year, GlobalABC continued to convene governments, industry, finance and technical experts through global events, flagship publications and new knowledge products that accelerated collaboration and implementation.

Accelerating Government Action through the ICBC

9 new members joined the [Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate \(ICBC\)](#). The first in-person Technical Meeting in Lausanne brought together representatives from more than 25 countries, reinforcing the ICBC's role as the political platform for implementation. At COP30 in Belém, the first ICBC Ministerial marked a major milestone, with Ministers launching the Belém Call for Action for Sustainable and Affordable Housing and endorsing and acknowledging the first package of priority products. Building on this momentum, more than 15 countries requested ICBC Country Dialogues to receive tailored support, while around 20 governments completed the Baseline Survey to help identify national priorities. Preparations are now underway for the Second ICBC Ministerial at COP31 in Antalya. A [global call](#) is also underway inviting governments and partners to submit practical tools, guidance and implementation resources for potential endorsement or acknowledgement by Ministers at COP31,

Simplifying Governance, Strengthening Delivery

To streamline coordination and accelerate implementation, the standalone Buildings Breakthrough governance structure has now been merged into GlobalABC's existing governance processes. Political engagement will continue through the ICBC, while technical work will be delivered through the GlobalABC working groups and partners. The Near-Zero Emission and Resilient Buildings Plan to Accelerate Solutions (PAS) will continue to serve as the common implementation framework, aligning stakeholders and coordinating delivery across priority actions. Progress will be monitored through the [Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction \(GSRBC\)](#), while the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) will provide transparency, accountability and global visibility of implementation efforts. Together, these elements form a simplified governance and delivery architecture that strengthens coordination while ensuring continuity across all ongoing activities.

Strengthening GlobalABC's Technical Community

The technical engine of GlobalABC continues to grow. Passive Action Group became an established Hub, and a new Demand Side Flexibility Action Group was established with the Cool Coalition. Continued coordination through the Technical Coordination Group, bringing together Hub and Action Group leads to strengthen collaboration and avoid duplication. Member-led groups are advancing adaptation, materials, finance, data, sufficiency, market transformation, clean heat, higher education and subnational action.

Convening the Global Community

[Dresden: Annual Assembly 2025](#) More than 160 participants gathered across 25 sessions to celebrate a decade of GlobalABC, strengthen synergies across the Alliance's flagship initiatives, showcase member-led implementation and align priorities towards COP30 and the next phase of collective action.

[Lausanne: Sustainable Buildings & Construction Summit](#) Convened 468 participants from 64 countries, with 15 cross-disciplinary workshops and 60+ speakers and panellists, accelerating collaboration across governments, industry and academia while advancing implementation, finance and technical cooperation for sustainable buildings and construction.

[Belém: COP30 Buildings & Cooling Pavilion](#) Hosted 46 sessions over two weeks in a 100 m² Blue Zone Pavilion, bringing together 235+ speakers from more than 15 countries. The Pavilion showcased member solutions, hosted high-level and technical discussions, and strengthened the visibility of buildings and cooling across the COP30 agenda.

Strengthening Evidence, Visibility & Knowledge

[10th Global Status Report](#) *Building Fast, Falling Short* demonstrates that progress is possible, but the gap to the Paris goals continues to widen. Floor area increased by 20% and energy demand by 11% over the past decade, while green building certifications nearly tripled.

[Knowledge Platform](#) A redesigned platform with improved navigation and granular filtering makes publications, tools, case studies and training materials easier to discover and share in any language.

Growing Global Visibility and Engagement

GlobalABC's communications reach expanded significantly in 2025–2026, with growth across all channels.

[Newsletter](#): 5.4K subscribers (+21.6%) with 35%+ open rates.

[LinkedIn](#): 15.8K followers (+26.6%), 286K+ organic impressions and a 19.3% engagement rate.

[Website](#): 187K active users (+54%) and 261K sessions

Six achievements showcased by the GlobalABC community

The member-led segment demonstrated how GlobalABC's community is translating shared priorities into practical products, policy tools and implementation pathways.



Near-Zero Emission and Resilient Buildings

WorldGBC presented the Near-Zero Emission and Resilient Buildings Framework, launched in April 2026 following 18 months of collaborative development. Coordinated by GlobalABC and developed through extensive consultations with governments and technical experts, the framework sets up a shared vision through common definitions, indicators, related frameworks, and recommendations for adoption, providing countries with a common foundation to accelerate the transition to near-zero emission and resilient buildings.

Adaptation Pathways

The GlobalABC Adaptation Hub introduced 10 stakeholder pathways that assign responsibilities and sequence short-, medium- and long-term actions to strengthen climate resilience across the buildings and construction value chain. Building on extensive consultations and case studies, the next phase will focus on testing the pathways with partners, expanding implementation resources, and integrating measurable adaptation indicators into sector tracking.

Circular Built Environment

The GlobalABC Circular Built Environment Working Group highlighted the 10 Whole Life Cycle Recommendations, the National Circularity Assessment Framework piloted in Bangladesh and Senegal, and new work linking circular construction with the right to adequate housing, demonstrating how circularity can support both climate action and inclusive development.

Digital Building Passports

The GlobalABC Data Hub showcased the rapid expansion of the Digital Building Passport initiative, which has grown from 100 to more than 100,000 registered residential units in just four years. Following successful pilots in India and Colombia, the next phase will expand implementation internationally, strengthen trusted building-level data and support national building baselines and investment decisions.

Sustainable Public Procurement

The One Planet Network and the GlobalABC Materials Hub presented the Global Framework for Action on Sustainable and Circular Public Procurement, supported by country engagement, training for procurement professionals and practical implementation pathways that harness public purchasing power to accelerate market transformation towards zero emission and resilient buildings.

Transforming the Built Environment Through Sustainable Materials

UNEP demonstrated how the Country Implementation Programme is translating global guidance into national action. Working with Bangladesh, Ghana, India and Senegal, the programme supports climate action roadmaps, low-carbon materials, stronger building codes, green building standards, capacity building and practical implementation tools, while feeding lessons learned back into GlobalABC methodologies and guidance.

Looking Ahead: Accelerating Delivery Towards 2030

GlobalABC will continue to convene partners, generate evidence, mobilise expertise and develop implementation tools, while increasingly organising these assets around country demand and sector priorities to accelerate implementation and deliver greater on the ground impact towards the 2030 sector goals.

Organising GlobalABC's Assets Around Country Demand

Government Leadership

Identifying country demand: Through the ICBC, governments identify priority needs, provide political direction and drive collective ambition.

GlobalABC Ecosystem

Mobilising expertise: GlobalABC mobilises its Hubs, Action Groups, members and partners to respond to country demand with technical expertise, implementation tools and partnerships.

ICBC Country Dialogues

Organising implementation: Country Dialogues connect governments with the GlobalABC ecosystem to coordinate implementation pathways, finance-ready programmes and technical support.

Evidence & Accountability

Driving continuous improvement: Progress, lessons learned and implementation gaps are monitored through the Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction, the Global Climate Action Agenda and related monitoring frameworks, helping shape future priorities and action.

Strategic Priorities

Accelerating Country Delivery

Scale ICBC Country Dialogues and connect more governments with GlobalABC expertise, priority products and implementation partners.

Scaling Implementation

Support countries in early preparation of finance-ready pipelines, strengthening building policies, scaling sustainable public procurement, advancing low-carbon materials, and improving data, monitoring and accountability.

Strengthening the GlobalABC Delivery Ecosystem

Continue strengthening collaboration across the GlobalABC ecosystem by mobilising expertise, developing implementation tools and expanding coordinated support for countries.

Growing the GlobalABC Community

Expand collaboration through Hubs, Action Groups, the Knowledge Platform, events and member engagement, while continuing to showcase community achievements.

Member Opportunities & Key reminders

COP31: Get Involved

Contribute to the Second ICBC Ministerial, submit proposals for the Buildings & Cooling Pavilion, participate in the International Sustainable Buildings Competition, and showcase your work through the COP31 Product Call.

Call for Experts

Support upcoming ICBC Country Dialogues by contributing expertise across priority technical areas identified by participating governments.

Gender and Buildings

The Gender and Buildings workstream is developing training materials and publications with PEEB and is seeking case studies on gender-responsive projects from across the GlobalABC community.

GlobalABC Knowledge Platform

Share publications, tools, case studies and training materials, in any language, to expand the Alliance's global knowledge base.

Strengthening Our Collective Impact

We need your partnership to strengthen the secretariat's capacity and support the next phase of GlobalABC's growth, enabling us to respond to increasing country demand and deliver greater impact.

Share Your Achievements

Help amplify your work by sharing your latest projects, publications and success stories so they can be showcased through GlobalABC communications, events and publications.

Thank you to all GlobalABC members, partners, Hub and Action Group co-leads, Steering Committee members and contributors for a decade of collaboration and collective action. We also extend our sincere thanks to all speakers for helping make the 2026 GlobalABC Annual Assembly a success. We look forward to continuing our work together towards COP31 and accelerating implementation on the road to 2030.

Resources Shared

<u>Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction 2025–2026</u>	<u>GlobalABC Annual Report 2025</u>	<u>Déclaration de Chaillot</u>
<u>Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate (ICBC)</u>	<u>Climate Action Roadmaps for Buildings and Construction</u>	<u>GlobalABC Hubs and Action Groups</u>
<u>Global Framework for Action</u>	<u>NZERB Plan to Accelerate Solutions</u> <u>Near-Zero Emission and Resilient Buildings: Shared Definitions, Indicators, Frameworks and Policy Guidance for Implementation</u>	<u>Adaptation Pathways</u>
<u>Scaling Circular Construction to Realize the Right to Adequate Housing for All: Policy Pathways</u>	<u>Transforming the Built Environment Through Sustainable Materials</u>	<u>Belém Call for Action</u>
<u>CAPSA digital building passport</u>	<u>GlobalABC Members</u>	<u>Current Steering Committee (2025–2027)</u>

<u>GlobalABC Team</u>	<u>GlobalABC Newsletter Archive</u>	<u>GlobalABC Events</u>
<u>GlobalABC Media Pack</u>	<u>GlobalABC News and Stories</u>	<u>Sustainable Buildings and Construction Summit 2026</u>
<u>GlobalABC Annual Assemblies</u>	<u>Buildings and Cooling Pavilion</u>	<u>COP31 International Sustainable Buildings Competition</u>
<u>GlobalABC Knowledge Platform</u>	<u>GlobalABC at COP31</u>	<u>2025-2026 Strategic Framework</u>

Contact






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UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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