Ensuring affordable housing is a growing challenge for governments around the world. As cities expand and housing prices increase, more and more people seek affordable living space. At the same time, one quarter of the world’s population lives in slums and informal settlements, and on average public social housing represents less than 15% of all housing types globally. In summary, affordable housing is often inadequate while adequate housing is often unaffordable. Furthermore, at times of climate change and resource scarcity embedding environmental sustainability considerations into housing and buildings and construction decisions is a must and will contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. Energy efficiency measures are often misperceived as adding cost, jeopardizing affordability. Yet, it is the urban poor who need energy efficient and climate-responsive housing most urgently. When considering a building’s life-cycle, energy efficiency decreases operating costs, and with it day to day expenditures. Energy efficiency provides opportunities for new technologies and businesses. Governments, often in charge of affordable housing projects, can lead by example in ensuring affordable housing projects showcase what is possible and set a new standard, pulling others to follow.

The Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC), hosted by UN Environment, and UN Habitat’s Housing Unit are pleased to invite participants to join the debate on how energy efficiency can drive affordability in the buildings and construction sector, with special attention to the housing market.
AGENDA

Moderator:
- Martina Otto, Head of Cities Unit, UN Environment

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| 13:15 - 13:30 | Welcome remarks
- Yves-Laurent Sapoval, Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition, France
- Ligia Noronha, Director, Economy Division, UN Environment
- Rafael Tutus, Director, Programme Division, UN Habitat |
| 13:30 – 14:10 | Panel: Efficiency for Affordability – how energy efficiency can drive affordable housing
- Lucila Rainuzzo, National Director of Land Access, Secretariat of Habitat, Argentina
- Sipliant Takougang, Program Coordinator, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Cameroon
- Mugure Njendu, President, Architectural Association of Kenya
- Elizabeth Chege, Chairperson, Kenya Green Building Society
- Jesus Salcedo, Associate Expert, Housing Unit, UN-Habitat |
| 14:10 – 14:40 | Q&A |
| 14:40 – 14:45 | Closing Remarks |

About the GlobalABC
Founded at COP21 and hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC) is an international initiative focused on:

1. **Raising ambitions to meet the Paris climate goals:** While the sector is a major emitter, it also holds huge potential for improvement. We work to raise ambition levels regarding retrofitting existing buildings and future-proofing investments going into new buildings.

2. **Mobilizing all actors along the value chain:** Faced with a fragmented value chain, all stakeholders – from design to construction, operations and demolition in the private and public sectors – have an important role to play. We encourage policy frameworks that promote uptake of cost-effective solutions and private sector innovation.

With 120 members, including 27 countries, the GlobalABC is the leading global platform connecting governments, private sector and organisations to drive the transformation towards a future-proof world where all buildings – old and new – are zero-emission, efficient and resilient.

The GlobalABC’s five Work Areas focus on education and awareness, public policies, market transformation, finance, and building measurement, data and information. The GlobalABC keeps track of sectoral progress through the annual Global Status Report and highlights NDCs as an effective vehicle for transformation through its Guide for Incorporating Buildings Sector Actions in NDCs.

The GlobalABC also developed a Global Roadmap, which identifies key steps to put the sector on a zero-emission, efficient, and resilient path which is now expanding into Regional Roadmaps for four key regions. GlobalABC Regional Roundtables foster match-making, best-practice exchange, and help forge regional roadmaps in, and for, respective regions. Roundtables drive change by highlighting regionally-appropriate best practices and low carbon energy efficient innovations in the building sector.