

Sustainable Buildings & Construction Summit



Sustainable Buildings and Construction Summit 2026

 **Dates:** April 20–22, 2026

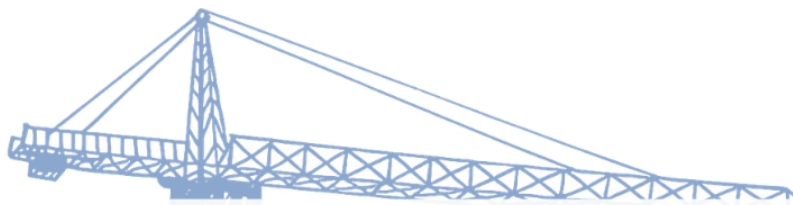
 **Location:** Lausanne, Switzerland

The [Sustainable Buildings and Construction Summit 2026](#) convenes government officials alongside academics, private sector leaders, financiers, and civil society—converging policymakers, researchers, and practitioners. Co-organised by **EPFL and the UNEP-hosted Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC)** secretariat, the Summit builds on the success of the first [Global Forum on Buildings and Climate](#) held in Paris in 2024.

Focusing on emerging markets and developing economies where built environment growth is most significant, the Summit will translate global sustainability commitments into practical solutions. The programme includes an **Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate (ICBC) technical meeting**, cross-disciplinary workshops, academic showcases, and solution-focused roundtables for more than 500 practitioners expected.

The Summit's key deliverables are an outcome paper and a compendium of solutions. To encourage candid dialogue, sessions will not be recorded or livestreamed.

For further information, please contact contact@sustainable-construction.org and global.abc@un.org.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ashok Lall, Internationally Acclaimed Architect and Founder, Ashok B Lall Architects, New Delhi, India 	
	<p>Key considerations for sustainable built environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mariam Issoufou, 2025 UNEP Champion of the Earth for Entrepreneurial Vision Founder & Principal, Mariam Issoufou Architects 	
11:25-12:25	<p>The Affordability Solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Frank Bertelsbeck, Programme Manager, Energy Efficiency, Swiss Development Cooperation Agency, BeCool project - Mr. Felix Akhelo, Kisumu County's Chief Heat Action Officer, Kenya GlobalABC Steering Committee - Mr. Ouk Navann, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia - Ms. Nazakat Azimli, Program Manager, Laudes Foundation <p><i>More speakers to be announced soon</i></p>	<p>This session of the conference will promote and debate sufficiency. A Sufficiency-First approach leads to optimizing demand while ensuring equitable, better living conditions across diverse cultural contexts. It does so through actionable levers to cut material consumption, energy needs, and pressure on natural resources.</p>
12:25-12:30	<p>Overview of Day 1 Workshop Topics and their ambitions</p>	
12:30-13:30	<p>Lunch Time</p>	
13:30-15:30	<p>Cross disciplinary workshops</p>	
	<p>Scaling Resilience Across the Global South: Self-Built Housing as a Pathway to Safer, Climate-Ready Communities</p> <p><i>Room 2</i></p>	<p>This session will present evidence-based research and practice demonstrating how supporting self-built housing and basic services can expand access to climate-adaptive homes, particularly in informal and hard-to-reach communities.</p>
	<p>From Risks to Results: Construction for Disaster Resilience</p> <p><i>Room 4</i></p>	<p>The session will employ case studies to explore practical approaches that have worked, as well as those that have not, to connect resilience, resource efficiency and affordability in both new construction and existing buildings.</p>
	<p>Procurement to accelerate sustainable buildings and construction</p> <p><i>Room 5</i></p>	<p>This interactive workshop translates the Global Framework for Action: Harnessing sustainable and circular public procurement to drive demand for a near-zero and resilient built environment into practical</p>

		implementation pathways for the built environment. Moving beyond "lowest upfront cost," the session explores how prioritizing whole-life carbon, resilience, and circularity stimulates demand for low-carbon materials and innovative practices
	Minimum Viable Carbon Accounting Principles That Work for All <i>Room 3</i>	This workshop explores how whole-life carbon (WLC) accounting can be made globally coherent yet locally actionable.
	From Fragmentation to Alignment: Enabling System Change in Renovation <i>Room 1</i>	The workshop aims to bring people together, discuss and exchange on barriers and success factors in overcoming them. The event is for people that bring examples for barriers and/ or success stories or simply with an interest in joining the discussion.
	Designing Resilient and Sustainable Cities: Multi-Scale Solutions for Future-Fit Urban Growth <i>Room 3A</i>	This session will showcase various solutions, at different scales, that are leading the way in regenerative and sustainable urban planning.
	Nurturing the virtuous loop between Nationally Determined Contributions and Sustainable Development Goals <i>Room CLOUD</i>	The workshop moves beyond high level frameworks to concentrate on the regulatory, financial, institutional, and coordination mechanisms that enable real world impact.
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00-17:00	Panel and Flash Presentations <i>Auditorium A</i>	
	Workshops takeaways – Panel discussion	Workshop leads and co-leads present three actions that have come out of each workshop
17:00-17:10	CLEAR Launch	CLEAR (Coalition for Life Cycle Emissions Alignment and Reporting) Launch <i>A new global initiative designed to accelerate decarbonisation across the built environment by driving global alignment on whole life carbon measurement, reporting, and reduction.</i> Founded by RICS, WBCSD, and GBDI
17:15-17:30	Flash presentations	Presented by projects, start-ups and students
17:15-18:15	Chemicals and Construction through the lens of Circularity	This 60-minute session introduces the links between chemicals, construction, and circularity, highlighting why

	Room 3A	chemical safety is essential for enabling reuse, recycling, and material recovery.
17:15-18:45	GlobalABC Technical Coordination Group / SC joint. meeting <i>By invite only, room 2</i>	This Technical Coordination Group meeting, which brings together Hubs & Action Groups co-leads, aims to facilitate technical exchange and collaboration, identify synergies and avoid duplication, and strengthen alignment with GlobalABC flagships and activities. Members of the GlobalABC Steering Committee are also invited to participate, to support a more implementation-focused exchange and ensure alignment of outputs with GlobalABC priorities.
17:15-18:45	Financing and Capacity-building for locally led climate action in the buildings sector <i>Room 3BC</i>	This session, co-led by UNEP, the GlobalABC Subnational Action Group (ICLEI, UNEP and UN-Habitat) and Working Group 2 of Local2030 Coalition , explores how global commitments to scale up climate and adaptation finance can support cities and regions to embed Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in construction and lower emissions of the buildings sector.
18:00-19:30	Networking Cocktail Reception	

Time (CET)	Session Title	Description
8:45-9:00	Day 2 Opening: State of the art of Sustainable Construction	
	<i>Auditorium A</i>	
9:00-9:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Sustainable Built Environment Continuing Education” 	This session will feature the announcements of the launch of the Sustainable Built Environment Continuing Education
	<p>Accelerating the Transition to Sustainable Construction: Global Insights and Action Levers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amb. Antonio da Costa, International Advisor, Ministry of Cities, Brazil <p><i>More speakers to be announced soon</i></p>	This explores the latest findings from the 2026 Sustainable Construction Barometer, offering a comprehensive overview of global perceptions, challenges, and progress in the shift toward more sustainable building practices.
9:40-11:00	The Growth Reality: Upfront embodied emissions and urban planning	
	<i>Auditorium A</i>	
	<p>Sustainable construction materials and reducing CO2 emissions in building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Karen Scrivener, EPFL - Dr. Michael Ramage, Director, Centre for Natural Material Innovation, University of Cambridge 	The speakers in this session will present new evidence on scaling pathways and principles for low carbon construction materials, examining in particular cement, steel, and timber; will discuss patterns and realities of urban sprawl, and will propose urban planning solutions and design options for smarter, greener, more resilient urban communities and cities.
<p>Sustainable urban development and resilient city planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Kotchakorn Voraakhom, Landscape Architect, CEO of Porous City Network - Dr. Magnus Andersson, Associate Professor Urban Studies, Malmö University 		
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30-12:20	Panel discussion: Growth Reality: Upfront embodied emissions and urban planning	
	<i>Auditorium A</i>	

- **Ms. Kotchakorn Voraakhom**, Landscape Architect, CEO of Porous City Network
- **Dr. Magnus Andersson**, Associate Professor Urban Studies, Malmö University
- **Prof. Aziza Chaouni**, Assistant Professor, and Director of the South-North Lab for Sustainable Construction & Conservation at EPFL
- **Mr. Bin Wang**, Vice President, SINOMA CBMI,
- **Mr. Kennedy Matheka**, Deputy Director, Building Safety and Climate Resilience, Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development, Kenya
- **Alfred Kwame Nuako Berkoh**, Principal Planning Officer, Ministry of Works and Housing of Ghana,
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This dialogue on subnational action will highlights on how those actors are making the best design, construction, material choices and decisions according to their local realities.

12:20-12:30	Overview of Day 2 Workshop Topics and their ambitions	
12:30-13:30	Lunch Time	
13:00-13:25	<p>Launching the Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction in May 2026: opportunities and tools for engagement</p> <p><i>Room 3BC</i></p>	<p>In this session, the GSBRC team will present the launch, and dissemination plans for the report and will provide opportunities and tools for GlobalABC members and other supporters to engage in dissemination and outreach activities.</p>
13:30-15:30	Cross disciplinary workshops	
	<p>Delivering Sustainable and Affordable Housing That Lasts</p> <p><i>By invite only, room 4</i></p>	<p>This workshop organized as part of the Lausanne Buildings and Construction Summit, is aimed at how this could be done and it takes a granular approach - through the lens of the "Housing Continuum", or a <i>range of housing tenures and housing options</i>.</p>
	<p>Culture, heritage, and social sustainability: foundations for a sustainable and resilient future</p>	<p>This co-creating workshop-led by experts in cultural heritage, social sustainability, and community-led design-encourage radical new conversations around sustainability.</p>

	<i>Room CLOUD</i>	
	From Buildings to Infrastructure: Designing Sustainable, Connected Systems <i>Room 5</i>	This workshop explores how to better align buildings and infrastructure systems to deliver inclusive, low-carbon climate-resilient outcomes.
	Enabling a Sustainable Built Environment Through Data, Digital Systems and AI <i>Room 2</i>	This workshop examines how data, digital systems and artificial intelligence can be applied in practical and responsible ways to advance sustainability outcomes across the built environment.
	Circularity: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, Repurpose & Replace <i>Room 1</i>	This interactive workshop will explore why the principles of Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, Repurpose, and Replace are essential to lowering the environmental impact of buildings.
	Scaling Demand-Side Flexibility for Climate Impact <i>Room 3BC</i>	The workshop will explore how EMDEs and early markets can unlock, monetise and scale demand-side flexibility from buildings.
	Building Better for All: Advancing Gender Equity in the Built Environment <i>Room 3A</i>	This workshop aims to serve as a stepping stone toward implementable action to strengthen gender equality in the building and construction sector.
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00-17:00	Panel and Flash Presentations <i>Auditorium A</i>	
	Workshops takeaways – Panel discussion	Workshop leads and co-leads present three actions that have come out of each workshop
17:00-17:30	Flash presentations	Presented by start-ups, projects, students
17:15-18:15	Intergovernmental Council of Buildings and Climate Breakout Sessions	
	Unlocking retrofit finance at scale: How Property Linked Finance can mobilise investments for sustainable buildings <i>Room 3BC</i>	This session is designed to explore how Property Linked Finance (PLF) can help unlock capital for scaling building retrofits by addressing key financing barriers such as affordability, short loan tenors, and investor risk. Through real-world examples, live polling, and interactive discussions, participants will assess the applicability of PLF in their contexts and identify practical steps toward implementation.

17:15-18:15	<p>World Championship for Energy Savings – Platform Launch & Championship kick-off meeting</p> <p><i>Room 2</i></p>	<p>The session will also provide an overview of the ongoing work in endorsing countries, showcasing how these approaches can be replicated by additional ICBC members as they move forward in establishing their own national WCES initiatives. Presenting the platform and its timeline to endorsing countries will be key to ensure a successful award ceremony at COP31.</p>
18:00-19:30	<p>Networking Cocktail Reception</p>	

Time (CET)	Session title	Description
8:45-9:40	Rethinking the Blueprint: Sustainable Design Meets Circularity <i>Auditorium A</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Will Arnold, Head of Climate Action, Institute of Structural Engineers - Ms. Pamela Wackett, Director, KPF - Mr. Kinya Seto, Director, Representative Executive Officer, President, and Chief Executive Officer, LIXIL Corporation 	The speakers in this session will share from their broad experiences to illustrate what is possible with a sustainable and circular design mindset but also challenges they have faced in moving beyond the norm to reshape how we value, design, regenerate, and strengthen the resilience of the places we inhabit.
9:40-10:30	Low carbon construction and zero emission ambitions and practices- the case of China <i>Auditorium A</i>	
9:40-10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Wei Wang, Representative Ministry of Housing, Urban, and Rural Development - Prof. Wei Xu, Chief Scientist, China Academy of Building Research - Mr. Xiaolong Xu, Chief Engineer, National Center of Technology Innovation for Green and Low-Carbon Building - Mr. Jingshan Wu, Secretary-General, China Association for Building Energy Efficiency - Ms. Yanbing ZHAO, Program Director, Low Carbon Cities Program, The Energy Foundation - Mr. Zhongmin XUE, Vice president, China National Building Material Co. (CNBM) - Dr. Andre Ullal, Project Manager ZEB China 	This session will bring together perspectives from policy, private sector, and academia to learn more about the low carbon construction and zero emission ambitions and practices of China.
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00-11:45	From Concept to Construction – how collaboration drives market transformation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Antonio Carrillo, VP Sustainability, Holcim - Mr. Kazuma Koyama, CSR and Global Environment Center Senior Manager, Daikin 	The discussion will underscore the decisive influence of early-stage project choices – when the potential to shape outcomes is greatest – and explore how collaboration, procurement practices, and aligned incentives can unlock the wider uptake of low-carbon solutions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Marta Bouchard, Sustainability Solutions Director, Autodesk - Dr. T. Arul, Sustainability Committee Chairperson, Credai Chennai - Mr. Nazrul Islam, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Bangladesh 	
11:45-12:45	<p>Consolidating Global Perspectives and Local Realities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Carols Bohorquez, Engineer, Planification Department, Medellin - Ms. Manelle Ait Sahila, Deputy Head of Energy, AFD, Chair of the PEEB SC - Mr. Hubert Zan, Manager-Energy Efficiency Regulation, Ghana Energy Commission - Ms. Stephanie Phillips, Senior Manager, Circular Economy & Deconstruction Program, City of San Antonio, Texas, USA - Mr. Shreekumar Maharjan, Senior Divisional Engineer, Lalitpur Metropolitan City <p><i>More speakers to be announced soon</i></p>	<p>The session examines integrated strategies for sustainable land use, renewable energy deployment, and climate-smart infrastructure that decarbonise construction, retrofit existing assets, and foster resilient, inclusive urban futures through local voices and actors on the ground.</p>
12:45-13:00	<p>Official Closing of the Summit</p> <p><i>Auditorium A</i></p>	
13:00-14:00	<p>Lunch Time</p>	
14:00-16:30	<p>Side events: Annual Meetings (by invitation) and lab visits</p>	
13:30-15:30	<p>Toward a Common Language & Infrastructure for Product Carbon Data: EPDs, PCFs, DPPs, and the Road to Harmonization</p> <p><i>Room 4</i></p>	<p>Building Transparency and UNIDO/IDDI invite key stakeholders in product-level carbon accounting and reporting to a focused working session at the Sustainable Buildings and Construction Summit.</p>
13:30-14:30	<p>Advancing Culture and Heritage in the UNFCCC Global Climate Action Agenda</p> <p><i>Room 1</i></p>	<p>The event increased awareness of heritage decarbonization solutions and the advancements made to integrate cultural heritage into UNFCCC frameworks and actions (e.g. COP and GCAA), expanded dissemination of the Heritage Now! campaign and toolkit pre-launch, and broadened the coalition of organizations signatory to HN! and participating in the implementation of PAS.</p>

13:30-14:30	Emerging Economies on Implementing Net-Zero: Insights, Lessons, and Action <i>Room 2</i>	This session showcases that approach in action, giving the floor to GBPN’s experts from China to share frontline insights on implementing net-zero buildings in an emerging economy context.
14:00-15:30	Re-imagining the Materials Transition: Roundtable on Carbon Management and Carbon as a Resource for Building Materials <i>Room 3A</i>	Operating under Chatham House rules, this roundtable will explore how industry and research can accelerate innovation and value chain creation around carbon as a feedstock in construction.
14:00-15:30	BeCool India Experience: Regulations and technologies for Passive Cooling in Developing Countries <i>Room to be updated</i>	This session will present strategies, derived from learnings of UNEP-SDC BeCool India Project, to accelerate extreme heat adaption and thermal comfort through passive cooling.
14:00-15:30	GlobalABC Bio Materials Hub session <i>Room to be updated</i>	This session combines an open exchange between members with a focused discussion on the Building for Forests Acceleration Plan, as a shared framework to help coordinate and scale efforts.
15:00-16:30	Advancing on a Global Implementation Programme on Chemicals in Buildings and Construction <i>Room 3BC</i>	This 90-minute workshop will advance the development of the Construction Sector Implementation Programme under the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC).
14:00-16:00	Intergovernmental Council of Buildings and Climate Breakout Session	
	ICBC technical meeting <i>By invite only, room 5</i>	This ICBC in-person technical meeting will bring together the country-wise designated Senior Representatives for the very first time. It will provide a dedicated platform to exchange experiences and best practices between the ICBC members and observer.
16:00-17:00	Policies for Blended Cements and SCMs in Cement Production <i>Room 3A</i>	The discussion will build upon the ICBC country pledge on blended cements and SCMs in clinker production , inviting governments to support the scale up of these materials to reduce clinker content and GHG emissions.