



# Sustainable Buildings & Construction Summit



## Sustainable Buildings and Construction Summit 2026

 **Dates:** April 20–22, 2026

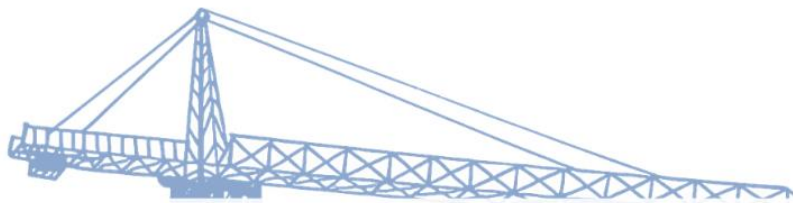
 **Location:** Lausanne, Switzerland

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](mailto:contact@sustainable-construction.org) and [global.abc@un.org](mailto:global.abc@un.org).



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Time (CET)	Session Title	Description
7:30-8:45	<b>Registration and coffee</b>	
8:45-10:00	<b>High-Level Opening</b> <i>Auditorium A</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Amb. Christian Frutiger</b>, Vice Director General, SDC, Switzerland</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Augusto Henrique Alves Rabelo</b>, National Housing Secretary, Ministry of Cities, Brazil</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Banu Aslan</b>, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Türkiye</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Frank Wolke</b>, Head of Division, BMUKN, Germany</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Hongpeng Lei</b>, Chief of the Mitigation Branch, Climate Change Division, UNEP</li> <li>- <b>Prof. Anna Fontcuberta i Morral</b>, President of University, EPFL</li> </ul>	Nearly half of global emissions come from the built environment, split evenly between operational emissions and those embedded in construction materials and infrastructure. As urbanization accelerates and resources become more constrained, the sector is a critical climate battle ground. With 80% of upcoming construction set to take place in emerging and developing economies, decisions made now will have major long-term impacts. Transforming the built environment is therefore essential not only for cutting emissions, but for advancing sustainable development and improving billions of lives.
10:00-10:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
10:30-11:25	<b>Setting the scene: Planetary Boundaries and the Built Environment</b> <i>Auditorium A</i>	
	<p><b>Living within planetary boundaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Prof. Dr. Joyeeta Gupta</b>, Professor of Climate Justice, Sustainability and Global Justice, University of Amsterdam</li> </ul>	This plenary will introduce planetary boundaries and their relevance to the built environment; examine the realities of population growth and the ethical dimensions of North-South expectations; explore opportunities for inclusive, sustainable development; highlight adaptation and resilience as key priorities; and discuss strategies for acting effectively amid political pushbacks.
	<p><b>Building healthy cities in emerging economies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ashok Lall</b>, Internationally Acclaimed Architect and Founder, Ashok B Lall Architects, New Delhi, India</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Key considerations for sustainable built environments</b></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mariam Issoufou</b>, 2025 UNEP Champion of the Earth for Entrepreneurial Vision Founder &amp; Principal, Mariam Issoufou Architects</li> </ul>	
11:25-12:25	<p><b>The Affordability Solution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr. Kinya Seto</b>, CEO, Lixil</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Cédric Borel</b>, A4MT CEO, Global ABC Sustainability Hub Co-Chair, Sufficiency Action Hub leader</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Judy Zakreski</b>, International Code Council SVP, Adaptation Hub leader</li> </ul> <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><b>Overview of Day 1 Workshop Topics and their ambitions</b></p>	
12:30-13:30	<p><b>Lunch Time</b></p>	
13:30-15:30	<p><b>Cross disciplinary workshops</b></p>	
	<p><b>Scaling Resilience Across the Global South: Self-Built Housing as a Pathway to Safer, Climate-Ready Communities</b></p> <p><i>Room 1</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><b>From Risks to Results: Construction for Disaster Resilience</b></p> <p><i>Room 2</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><b>Procurement to accelerate sustainable buildings and construction</b></p> <p><i>Room 3</i></p>	<p>This interactive workshop translates the <b>Global Framework for Action: Harnessing sustainable and circular public procurement to drive demand for a near-zero and resilient built environment</b> into practical implementation pathways for the built environment. Moving beyond "lowest upfront cost," the session explores how prioritizing <b>whole-life carbon, resilience, and circularity</b> stimulates demand for low-carbon materials and innovative practices</p>
	<p><b>Minimum Viable Carbon Accounting Principles That Work for All</b></p> <p><i>Room 4</i></p>	<p>This workshop explores how whole-life carbon (WLC) accounting can be made globally coherent yet locally actionable.</p>

Programme as of 2026-04-10. Subject to change | Page 3

	<p><b>From Fragmentation to Alignment: Enabling System Change in Renovation</b></p> <p><i>Room 5</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p><b>Designing Resilient and Sustainable Cities: Multi-Scale Solutions for Future-Fit Urban Growth</b></p> <p><i>Room 6</i></p>	<p>This session will showcase various solutions, at different scales, that are leading the way in regenerative and sustainable urban planning.</p>
	<p><b>Nurturing the virtuous loop between Nationally Determined Contributions and Sustainable Development Goals</b></p> <p><i>Room to be updated</i></p>	<p>The workshop moves beyond high level frameworks to concentrate on the regulatory, financial, institutional, and coordination mechanisms that enable real world impact.</p>
15:30-16:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
16:00-17:00	<b>Panel and Flash Presentations</b>	
	<i>Auditorium A</i>	
	<p><b>Workshops takeaways – Panel discussion</b></p>	<p>Workshop leads and co-leads present three actions that have come out of each workshop</p>
17:00-17:30	<p><b>Flash presentations</b></p>	<p>Presented by projects, start-ups and students</p>
17:15-18:15	<p><b>Chemicals and Construction through the lens of Circularity</b></p> <p><i>Room 3A</i></p>	<p>This 60-minute session introduces the links between chemicals, construction, and circularity, highlighting why chemical safety is essential for enabling reuse, recycling, and material recovery.</p>
17:15-18:45	<p><b>GlobalABC Technical Coordination Group / SC joint. meeting</b></p> <p><i>By invite only, room 2ABC</i></p>	<p>This Technical Coordination Group meeting, which brings together Hubs &amp; 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.</p>
17:15-18:45	<p><b>Financing and Capacity-building for locally led climate action in the buildings sector</b></p> <p><i>Room 3BC</i></p>	<p>This session, co-led by UNEP, the <b>GlobalABC Subnational Action Group</b> (ICLEI, UNEP and UN-Habitat) and Working Group 2 of <b>Local2030 Coalition</b>, 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.</p>



Time (CET)	Session Title	Description
8:45-9:00	<b>Day 2 Opening: State of the art of Sustainable Construction</b>	
	<i>Auditorium A</i>	
9:00-9:40	- "Sustainable Built Environment Continuing Education"	This session will feature the announcements of the launch of the Sustainable Built Environment Continuing Education
	<b>Accelerating the Transition to Sustainable Construction: Global Insights and Action Levers</b>	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.
9:40-10:30	<b>The Growth Reality: Upfront embodied emissions and urban planning</b>	
	<i>Auditorium A</i>	
	<b>Principles and potential of scaling bio-based construction</b>	<b>Design for decarbonization.</b> Focus on material and construction choices that can fulfil growing demand while decarbonizing.
	- <b>Dr. Michael Ramage</b> , Director, Centre for Natural Material Innovation, University of Cambridge	
<b>Best-in class technologies to enable development and decarbonize construction</b>		
- <b>Prof. Karen Scrivener</b> , EPFL		
- <b>Mr. Hakan Gurdal</b> , Area CEO Africa, Mediterranean, and West Asia, Heidelberg Materials		
10:30-11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
11:00-11:30	<b>Resilience through the built environment</b>	<b>Design for resilience.</b> smarter and green urban planning and design options for resilient urban communities and cities. Examples from Southeast Asia.
	- <b>Ms. Kotchakorn Voraakhom</b> , Landscape Architect, CEO of Porous City Network	

<p><b>Mapping Built Up Growth Densification Patterns in African Cities Using Satellite Data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr. Magnus Andersson</b>, Associate Professor Urban Studies, Malmö University</li> </ul>	<p>Present analysis of spatial growth, densification, material use, and CO2 emissions in African cities based on satellite mapping and scenario modelling.</p>
<p><b>11:30-12:25</b> <b>Panel discussion: Growth Reality: Upfront embodied emissions and urban planning</b> <i>Auditorium A</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr. Bin Wang</b>, Vice President, CBMI SINOMA CNBM</li> <li>- <b>Prof. Karen Scrivener</b>, EPFL</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Kennedy Matheka</b>, Deputy Director, Buildings Safety &amp; Climate Resilience, Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing &amp; Urban Development, Kenya</li> <li>- <b>Dr. Magnus Andersson</b>, Associate Professor Urban Studies, Malmö University</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Kotchakorn Voraakhom</b>, Landscape Architect, CEO of Porous City Network</li> </ul> <p><i>More speakers to be announced soon</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>12:25-12:30</b> <b>Overview of Day 2 Workshop Topics and their ambitions</b></p>	
<p><b>12:45-13:15</b> <b>GSRBC activation event for launch in May</b> <i>Room 3BC</i></p>	<p>The upgraded Global Status report on buildings and construction (GSRBC) will deliver a report with greater regional detail and thematic deep dives, complemented by an online platform highlighting key data, infographics, and other content.</p>
<p><b>12:30-13:30</b> <b>Lunch Time</b></p>	
<p><b>13:30-15:30</b> <b>Cross disciplinary workshops</b></p>	
<p><b>Delivering Sustainable and Affordable Housing That Lasts</b> <i>By invite only, room 1</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 range of housing tenures and housing options.</p>

	<p><b>Culture, heritage, and social sustainability: foundations for a sustainable and resilient future</b></p> <p><i>Room 2</i></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>
	<p><b>From Buildings to Infrastructure: Designing Sustainable, Connected Systems</b></p> <p><i>Room 3</i></p>	<p>This workshop explores how to better align buildings and infrastructure systems to deliver inclusive, low-carbon climate-resilient outcomes.</p>
	<p><b>Enabling a Sustainable Built Environment Through Data, Digital Systems and AI</b></p> <p><i>Room 4</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p><b>Circularity: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, Repurpose &amp; Replace</b></p> <p><i>Room 5</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p><b>Scaling Demand-Side Flexibility for Climate Impact</b></p> <p><i>Room 6</i></p>	<p>The workshop will explore how EMDEs and early markets can unlock, monetise and scale demand-side flexibility from buildings.</p>
	<p><b>Building Better for All: Advancing Gender Equity in the Built Environment</b></p> <p><i>Room 7</i></p>	<p>This workshop aims to serve as a stepping stone toward implementable action to strengthen gender equality in the building and construction sector.</p>
15:30-16:00	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>	
16:00-17:00	<p><b>Panel and Flash Presentations</b></p> <p><i>Auditorium A</i></p>	
	<p><b>Workshops takeaways – Panel discussion</b></p>	<p>Workshop leads and co-leads present three actions that have come out of each workshop</p>
17:00-17:30	<p><b>Flash presentations</b></p>	<p>Presented by start-ups, projects, students</p>
17:15-18:15	<p><b>Intergovernmental Council of Buildings and Climate Breakout Sessions</b></p>	
	<p><b>Unlocking retrofit finance at scale: How Property Linked Finance can mobilise investments for sustainable buildings</b></p> <p><i>Room 3BC</i></p>	<p>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</p>

		PLF in their contexts and identify practical steps toward implementation.
17:15-18:15	<p><b>World Championship for Energy Savings – Platform Launch &amp; Championship kick-off meeting</b></p> <p><i>Room 2ABC</i></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 <b>key to ensure a successful award ceremony at COP31</b> .
18:00-19:30	<b>Networking Cocktail Reception</b>	

Time (CET)	Session title	Description
8:45-9:40	<b>Rethinking the Blueprint: Sustainable Design Meets Circularity</b> <i>Auditorium A</i>	
	<b>Designing for Disruption: Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure in a Climate-Stressed World</b> - <b>Mr. Will Arnold</b> , Head of Climate Action, Institute of Structural Engineers	By analysing these challenges through the lens of resilience, the session will highlight pathways to integrate sustainable, adaptive, and inclusive design into solutions that safeguard people while delivering long-term quality of life.
	<b>Rethinking the Blueprint: Sustainable Design Meets Circularity</b> - <b>Ms. Pamela Wackett</b> , Director, KPF	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	<b>Low carbon construction and zero emission ambitions and practices – the case of China</b> - <b>Mr. Wei Wang</b> , Representative Ministry of Housing, Urban, and Rural Development - <b>Prof. Wei Xu</b> , Chief Scientist, China Academy of Building Research - <b>Mr. Xiaolong Xu</b> , Chief Engineer, National Center of Technology Innovation for Green and Low-Carbon Building - <b>Mr. Jingshan Wu</b> , Secretary-General, China Association for Building Energy Efficiency - <b>Ms. Yanbing ZHAO</b> , Program Director, Low Carbon Cities Program, The Energy Foundation - <b>Mr. Zhongmin XUE</b> , Vice president, China National Building Material Co. (CNBM) - <b>Dr. Andre Ullal</b> , 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	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
11:00-11:45	<b>From Concept to Construction – how collaboration drives market transformation</b>	A critical discussion to understand that leading businesses can bring visibility to real-world progress and evidence of market readiness and innovation, and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms. Jo da Silva</b>, Global Sustainable Development Director, Arup</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Carmen Diaz</b>, CSO, Holcim</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Joe Speicher</b>, Chief Sustainability Officer, Autodesk</li> </ul>	therefore inspire policy action; and vice-versa ambitious and science-based policy can provide the enabling environment for businesses to go further
11:45-12:45	<p><b>Consolidating Global Perspectives and Local Realities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr</b>, Freetown, Sierra Leone</li> </ul> <p><i>More speakers to be announced soon</i></p>	Climate action takes place at the subnational level. This closing panel will discuss key takeaways from the Summit's discussions and focus on key actions and on-the-ground solutions to enable effective, multi-scale strategies towards sustainable, inclusive built environments.
12:45-13:00	<p><b>Official Closing of the Summit</b></p> <p><i>Auditorium A</i></p>	
13:00-14:00	<p><b>Lunch Time</b></p>	
13:30-15:30	<p><b>Toward a Common Language &amp; Infrastructure for Product Carbon Data: EPDs, PCFs, DPPs, and the Road to Harmonization</b></p> <p><i>Room to be updated</i></p>	Building Transparency and UNIDO/IDDI invite key stakeholders in <b>product-level carbon accounting and reporting</b> to a focused working session at the Sustainable Buildings and Construction Summit.
13:30-15:30	<p><b>Advancing Culture and Heritage in the UNFCCC Global Climate Action Agenda</b></p> <p><i>Room to be updated</i></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.
13:30-14:30	<p><b>Emerging Economies on Implementing Net-Zero: Insights, Lessons, and Action</b></p> <p><i>Room 2ABC</i></p>	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	<p><b>Re-imagining the Materials Transition: Roundtable on Carbon Management and Carbon as a Resource for Building Materials</b></p> <p><i>Room 3A</i></p>	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.
(tbc)	<p><b>GlobalABC Bio Materials Hub session</b></p> <p><i>Room to be updated</i></p>	<i>To be added</i>

14:00-16:00	<b>Intergovernmental Council of Buildings and Climate Breakout Session</b>	
	<b>ICBC technical meeting</b> <i>By invite only, room 5ABC</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.
14:00-16:30	<b>Side events: Annual Meetings (by invitation) and lab visits</b>	
15:30-17:30	<b>Advancing on a Global Implementation Programme on Chemicals in Buildings and Construction</b> <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).
16:00-17:00	<b>Intergovernmental Council of Buildings and Climate Breakout Session</b>	
	<b>Policies for Blended Cements and SCMs in Cement Production</b> <i>Room 3A</i>	The discussion will build upon the <a href="#">ICBC country pledge on blended cements and SCMs in clinker production</a> , inviting governments to support the scale up of these materials to reduce clinker content and GHG emissions.