

BUILDINGS BREAKTHROUGH: PRIORITY INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS FOR 2024-2025

1. This document outlines the Priority International Actions for 2024 under the Buildings Breakthrough, in response to the recommendations in the [Breakthrough Agenda Report 2023](#) from the International Energy Agency (IEA), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and UN High Level Action Champions (UN HLAC). These priority actions have been developed collaboratively by countries participating in the Buildings Breakthrough and leading initiatives. They seek to build on the range of important wider work underway and planned across the international landscape, including as part of the international response to the Global Stocktake and in support of the mitigation work programme, by strengthening international collaboration in specific areas where in doing so we can accelerate progress towards our shared Buildings Breakthrough Goal:

To facilitate ‘Near-zero emission and resilient buildings to be the new normal by 2030’.

2. Noting that each country will have its own national pathway to decarbonise key sectors and approach to competing for future clean technology market opportunities, and with full recognition of the many excellent wider international activities and partnerships already underway, we commit to prioritise our international efforts to deliver on specific priority international actions and projects as listed below.
3. Progress on these actions in 2024 will be tracked through the next Breakthrough Agenda report from the IEA, IRENA and UN HLAC (Buildings Chapter, in alignment with the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction’s annual Global Status Report of Buildings and Construction-Buildings GSR), discussed through the Buildings Breakthrough dialogues co-led by France and Morocco, reviewed at the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) and Mission Innovation Ministerial (MI) in the context of the CEM-MI-Breakthrough Agenda Partnership Agreement, and reported on at 29th UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) alongside an updated set of Priority International Actions for Buildings in 2025.
4. In order to implement the Breakthrough Agenda commitment launched by 45 World Leaders at COP26, and now backed by 57 governments, set out below are the Priority International Actions being taken forward by individual countries and governments as appropriate to their national priorities:

Priority International Action	How this will be taken forward	Coordinating initiative(s)	Collaborating governments
<p><i>Breakthrough Agenda Report Recommendation: Governments should work together to harmonise and upgrade the definitions and nomenclature for near-zero emission and resilient buildings and their performance. Countries should work towards harmonising whole-life carbon assessments, developing resilience assessments, and aligning certification schemes with near-zero and resilient requirements. Harmonisation should permit the flexibility to accommodate different regional contexts and should be supported by establishing shared international mechanisms, platforms and formats for data sharing of best-in-class near-zero emission and resilient projects.</i></p>			

<p>B1. Standards and Certification:</p> <p>Develop the definitions and assessments for near-zero emission and resilient buildings (NZERB) and identify pathways for implementation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -working to establish a model transparency framework by COP29; -working to establish a model measurement frameworks for aligning whole-life carbon assessments and resilience assessments by COP30; -developing principles to align current standards and certification schemes with NZERBS 	<p>Taking into account various climate zones/contexts, supporting initiatives, partners and countries, intend to collaborate to:</p> <p>By COP 29,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● develop a roadmap for aligning NZERBs principles and related minimum requirements to define a NZERB model transparency framework; ● map existing measurement frameworks to support the establishment of model measurement frameworks for whole-life carbon assessments and for resilience assessments respectively; <p>By COP30,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● develop model measurement frameworks, one for whole-life carbon (outlining all scopes of emissions) assessments and one for resilience assessments respectively; ● facilitate the establishment of a shared platform for data sharing of regional best-in-class projects in line with NZERB principles and criteria 	<p><i>Organisations/initiatives:</i></p> <p>WorldGBC* WBCSD C40 CRREM OECD GBPN <i>Building Net Zero: Mobilising Policy Action</i> GLOBE <i>Global Building Data Initiative (GBDI)</i> RICS</p> <p>GlobalABC coordination support through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Materials Hub sub-working group on Whole Life Cycle Policy Coalition (WLCP.Co) ● Measurement, data and information Hub ● Adaptation Hub ● Market transformation hub <p>* BuildingLife, Advancing Net Zero, WLC Metrics Paper, EU Taxonomy Working Group, via GBC-led initiatives (eg in UK and NL), Resilience guide,INDICATE project, etc.</p>	<p>Armenia Austria Canada Côte-d’Ivoire Germany Japan France Finland Senegal Sweden The Netherlands Türkiye UK USA</p> <p><i>With support from the European Commission</i></p>
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Breakthrough Agenda Report Recommendation: Governments should jointly create and strengthen procurement commitments for near-zero emission and resilient buildings, as well as joining existing (low-carbon material) procurement alliances. Countries should work to establish new joint commitments on deploying clean and efficient heating and cooling technologies.

B2. Demand Creation

Scale up existing public and private sector low carbon procurement alliances and commitments for “whole-building” and “piece by piece” procurement; and share best procurement practices, define minimum model technical requirements and establish “lead by example policy” for procurement and whole building NZERB deployment in buildings occupied by government.

Relevant initiatives, partners, and leading governments working through sharing of knowledge and building on existing data intend to support:

By COP 29,

- Develop evidenced-based rationale on the benefits of procuring NZERBs
- Develop a qualitative mapping of existing building and low carbon material procurement alliances, including gap analysis;
- Promote existing commitments on efficient/low carbon clean heating and cooling technologies or establish new joint commitments if required.

By COP30,

- Work on a supporting framework for countries and local authorities to put in place a “lead by example” policy in procuring NZERBs;
- Work on a simplified reporting framework for actors (incl. private sector) to communicate key technical and performance features, and cost of pioneer projects (to reduce innovation risk)
- Share best practice, around data and

Organisations/initiatives:

C40
 WBCSD
 WorldGBC*
 Built by Nature
 BbNFund
 UNIDO IDDI
 GBPN Building Net Zero:
 Mobilising Policy Action
 GLOBE Global Building
 Data Initiative (GBDI)
 Clean Heat Forum

GlobalABC coordination support through:

- Materials Hub

* Advancing Net Zero, BuildingLife, Drastic Project, Built4People Partnership, Nebula

Armenia
 France
 Kenya
 Tunisia
 UK
 USA

	standards, to improve implementation of procurement policies.	Project	
<p>Breakthrough Agenda Report Recommendation: <i>Countries should increase the scale of funding available for near-zero emission and resilient building projects as well as improving the coordination of assistance going forward through the establishment of a matchmaking platform dedicated to the delivery of near-zero and resilient building projects. This platform would act as a single point of contact for emerging and developing countries, with support from donor countries, MDBs, NDBs, private financial institutions and investors, philanthropic organisations, buildings and real estate companies and technical assistance partners.</i></p>			
<p>B3. Finance and Investment:</p> <p>Aim to clarify and amplify the finance sector’s impact on mitigation, adaptation and resilience within the building sector by continuing to scale-up the availability, coordination and effectiveness of finance for near-zero emission and resilient building projects, along with related technical assistance, with a focus on emerging and developing countries.</p>	<p>With a focus on emerging and developing countries, relevant international organisations, financial institutions, Development Banks, partners and initiatives intend to work with collaborating governments:</p> <p>By COP29,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop evidenced-based rationale on the benefits of financing NZERBs; ● Map the current available funding and derisking options (incl. project preparation) dedicated to green & resilient buildings for different regions & markets, and associated regulations, taxonomies, certifications, etc.; ● Define indicators for assessing “development and climate finance” for buildings. <p>By COP30,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluate the present investment share in NZERBs (organised by country/typology), and analyse the effectiveness of current green/climate/blend finance schemes 	<p><i>Organisations/initiatives:</i></p> <p>PEEB IFC WBCSD WorldGBC * IIGCC</p> <p>GlobalABC coordination support through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finance Hub <p>*Sustainable Finance Taskforce, ESG & EU Taxonomy WG</p>	<p>Armenia Egypt France Germany Guinea-Bissau Jordan Mauritania Mongolia UK Zambia</p>

	<p>and partnerships in accelerating the growth the NZERBs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suggest approaches/strategies to develop bankable NZREB project pipelines to significantly increase the investment share in NZERBs, and improving and coordinating climate finance for near-zero emission and resilient building projects. 		
<p>Breakthrough Agenda Report Recommendation: <i>Countries and companies should work together to identify knowledge gaps that can be overcome via joint working, and align RD&D priorities to shared policy goals. Countries should also facilitate the expansion of existing networks to bring in new expertise and country members, and work through those networks to improve communication of high-quality research and best practice, and deliver training to deploy innovative technologies, construction practices, tools and business models at scale, using government projects to lead the way.</i></p>			
<p>B4. Research and Deployment:</p> <p>Coordinate with countries and companies to jointly identify knowledge gaps, and share RD&D priorities and leverage existing networks, and work through these to gather expertise and additional country members. Initiatives and countries should work on making high-quality research and best practice readily accessible within these networks.</p>	<p>Relevant international organisations, partners and initiatives intend to work with collaborating governments to:</p> <p>By COP29,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify global, regional and local research priorities to meet decarbonisation and resilience gaps; ● Identify and assess critical technologies, key innovations and solutions to meet decarbonisation and resilience gaps; <p>By COP 30,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote widespread knowledge among policy makers and academia regarding key innovations and ongoing research through existing networks; 	<p><i>Organisations/initiatives:</i></p> <p>Solar Impulse Foundation WorldGBC* C40 CEM <i>Mission Innovation</i> GLOBE <i>Global Building Data Initiative (GBDI)</i></p> <p>GlobalABC coordination support through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Higher Education Institutions Network <p>*Built4People partnership, Nebula Project</p>	<p>Armenia Austria Egypt France Germany Japan Mauritania Mongolia Senegal The Netherlands UK</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and boost countries investment in pilot R&D projects and programmes (in line with identified research priorities and leveraging collective resources and expertise); Facilitate public-private implementation pilot projects, to increase experience feedback/lessons learned and lower investment risk. 		
<p>Breakthrough Agenda Report Recommendation: <i>Countries and companies should jointly identify knowledge gaps and define training and capacity-building priorities, strengthening the role of existing networks to share knowledge and provide guidance, tools, and resources to build capacity across all regions. This includes a focus on supporting developing countries with implementing and increasing the stringency of building energy codes. Countries should also work together to assist in curriculum design, implementation of training programmes and accreditation frameworks to enhance the transferability of skills and qualifications, and ultimately promote near-zero and resilient building practices.</i></p>			
<p>B5. Capacity and Skills:</p> <p>Coordinate with countries and companies to jointly identify training and capacity-building priorities (including institutional capacities), and leverage existing networks to share capacity-building resources and tools across all regions, with a focus on the establishment and compliance of building codes (in line with NZERBs principles and requirements). Countries and initiatives should work to include NZERB principles and practices in education institution curricula and training programmes and accreditation frameworks.</p>	<p>Focusing 3 priority skills for NZERBs development (building codes; integrated design; project management & procurement), relevant international organisations, partners and initiatives intend to work with collaborating governments to:</p> <p>by COP29,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> map existing education and skills needs assessments for green & resilient buildings and construction engage NZERBs value chain stakeholders to express key competency and curriculum needs; map existing global support mechanisms for training and capacity-building on building codes/regulations for developing countries. 	<p><i>Organisations/initiatives:</i></p> <p>ICC C40 WorldGBC* WBCSD OECD GBPN <i>Building Net Zero: Mobilising Policy Action & GBPN: Healthy Buildings Healthy Lives GBPN Network GLOBE Global Building Data Initiative (GBDI) RICS</i></p> <p>GlobalABC coordination support through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher 	<p>Armenia Egypt France Ghana Japan Liberia Mauritania UK</p>

	<p>By COP 30,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify gaps and priorities in training and capacity-building; • pinpoint essential actions to tailor existing tools and support, addressing capacity-building gaps and fulfilling competency, skills and curriculum needs 	<p>Education Institutions Network</p>	
<p>B6. Landscape Coordination: Enhance the coordination and transparency of international collaboration on near-zero emission and resilient buildings.</p>	<p>By utilising the Breakthrough Agenda annual cycle to embed a process for regularly reviewing and updating a detailed map of the landscape of international collaboration, using key building and construction sector fora to identify gaps and overlaps and explore solutions and to inform recommendations on new priority actions for strengthened collaboration.</p>	<p>*BuildingLife, BuildUpon GlobalABC in close partnership with Breakthrough Agenda team and other leading initiatives/partners in the sector</p>	<p>Armenia Austria Canada Côte-d'Ivoire Egypt Finland France Germany Ghana Guinea-Bissau Japan Jordan Kenya Liberia Mauritania Mongolia Norway Senegal Sweden The Netherlands Türkiye Tunisia</p>



			UK USA Zambia <i>With support from the European Commission</i>
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