WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

# Business Action Statement to governments ahead of COP30

*From the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) on behalf of the global built environment business community*

**To the Member States of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,**

The buildings and construction sector is a key driver of greenhouse gases, consuming 32% of global energy and contributing to 34% of global CO2 emissions.[i] **But a sustainable built environment is not a distant vision** — built environments that are healthier, more resilient to environmental changes, more affordable to run and maintain, less resource-hungry and wasteful — offer greater long-term value and competitiveness. They support the clean energy transition and are at the heart of innovation, productivity and, importantly, vibrant, sustainable communities.

## Business leaders are already building the transition:

- **There is unprecedented uptake of renewable energy in buildings**, with installed solar PV capacity in the residential and commercial sector estimated to have increased by over 27% to 628GW in 2023, and further growth expected.[ii]
- **Clear national decarbonisation roadmaps**, such as those developed by Green Building Councils as part of the European project #BuildingLife are showing that industry is aligned around scaling what is technically feasible and where to prioritise action.
- **The Africa Decarbonisation Fund I** — new private equity initiative aiming to raise US $150 million to retrofit 30,000 buildings in Southern Africa.[iii] Backed by multilateral climate funds and EU institutions, it's a strong example of how blended finance can scale building sector efficiency in emerging markets and developing economies.

## But we need clear, coordinated government action to scale what works.

The Global Stocktake (GST) — a process to monitor collective progress towards achieving the Paris Agreement — is being positioned by the COP30 Presidency as **a compass to deliver a 'Global Determined Contribution' aligned with the Paris Goal**. With countries updating their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) this year, there is a clear opportunity for global climate leaders to be bold on buildings when updating their national climate action plans and when negotiating pivotal outcomes for the planet in Belém. This requires true recognition of our sector's role in delivering core outcomes of the GST:

- a transition away from fossil fuels
- a tripling of renewable energy capacity
- and a doubling of energy efficiency improvements by 2030

## The COP30 outcome must accelerate the building sector's sustainable transition in line with the Global Stocktake.

The signatories of this Business Action Statement call on COP30 negotiators to:

1. **Ensure finance flows support a new clean economy**

    - Redirecting subsidies to the clean energy transition, reducing energy demand whilst addressing cooling and heating challenges, and aligning the mandates of international financial institutions is needed to double the rate of energy efficiency and triple renewable energy deployment in buildings.
        - Cumulative investments in energy efficiency falls short by US$1.1 trillion, with further gaps in green financing slowing down progress.[iv]
        - The ensuring of finance flows to the transformation of a sustainable built environment can unlock and generate US $1.8 trillion in value by 2030.[v]

2. **Reduce reliance on fossil fuels by scaling energy efficiency and renewables**

    - Achieving a meaningful reduction in fossil fuel use requires accelerating building retrofits, deploying efficient technologies, and integrating renewables across the built environment at scale.
    - International progress on rolling out building energy performance codes in all countries, establishing and enforcing mandatory Minimum Energy Performance requirements and coordination on improved standards on labelling for low carbon materials and appliances underpin such goals.
        - In 2024, global spending on energy efficiency improvements in buildings rose only marginally to US $275 billion. However, each dollar invested in energy efficiency improvements yields US $2–$4 in benefits, including energy savings and enhanced health.[vi]
    - Economy-wide investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency will cut energy bills and boost grid resilience, creating over three times as many jobs per US $1.3 million.[vii]

3. **Drive resilient energy systems through improved grid infrastructure, storage and demand side management**

    - Doubling global investment in grid infrastructure and increasing energy storage capacity is essential to support clean energy integration.
        - Investments in smart grids, demand side management (including grid responsive buildings), and energy storage can significantly increase resilience to extreme weather events, reduce outages, and enable power system cost reduction.
        - Amidst rising electricity use, it is vital to prioritise electricity security through a rapid increase in grid spending. Each year an estimated US $400 billion is spent on grids worldwide compared with around US $1 trillion on generation assets.[viii]

4. **Scale adaptation and resilience in the built environment**

- Adopting resilience measures is crucial to protect vulnerable communities, infrastructure, and assets from increasing climate risks.
    - These policies are critical to prevent avoidable economic damages projected to reach $178 trillion by 2070,[ix] and to realise over $7 trillion in economic benefits through reduced climate-related losses and stronger community protection.[x]

**These actions are not abstract theory. Buildings underpin all aspects of society and as the largest global asset class, ensure economic stability.**

## This is about real people, communities and economics.

From São Paulo to Stockholm, Nairobi to New York, the transition is real — and with the right frameworks and partnerships, it will scale. Our network stands ready to work with governments to deliver our shared ambition.

**Let COP30 be remembered as the summit that changed the rising tide of climate risk.**

**On behalf of the WorldGBC global network and our business community partners across 75+ countries**

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[v] World Economic Forum & Boston Consulting Group, 2024. *Towards Green Building Value Chains: China and Beyond*. [pdf] Available at: https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Towards_Green_Building_Value_Chains_2024.pdf

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[vii] UK Energy Research Centre (2022) *Green job creation, quality and skills: A review of the evidence*. London: UKERC. Available at: https://d2e1qxpsswcpgz.cloudfront.net/uploads/2022/04/UKERC_Green-job-creation-quality-and-skills_A-review-of-the-evidence_Final.pdf

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[ix] Deloitte (2025) *Turning point: Climate and sustainability report*. London: Deloitte. Available at: https://www.deloitte.com/global/en/issues/climate/global-turning-point.html

[x] Global Commission on Adaptation (2019) *A Global Commission Report*. Washington, DC: GCA. Available at: https://gca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/GlobalCommission_Report_FINAL.pdf