

Media Briefing

Wednesday 16 December 2020, 15:00 CET

Launch of the 2020 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction

5th annual report on world progress towards a zero-emissions, energy efficient, resilient buildings and construction sector

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will host a **media briefing** with the authors of the 2020 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction (Buildings-GSR) and representatives from the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction.

The Buildings-GSR represents the fifth annual snapshot of the progress of the buildings and construction sector on a global scale, and a review of the status of policies, finance, technologies, and solutions to monitor whether the sector is aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The Buildings-GSR has become a reference document and represents a collaborative document featuring GlobalABC member input and examples from different regions.

In addition to taking stock of progress in the buildings and construction sector in 2019, this report shines a light on the disruptions of COVID-19 and some of the responses in 2020.

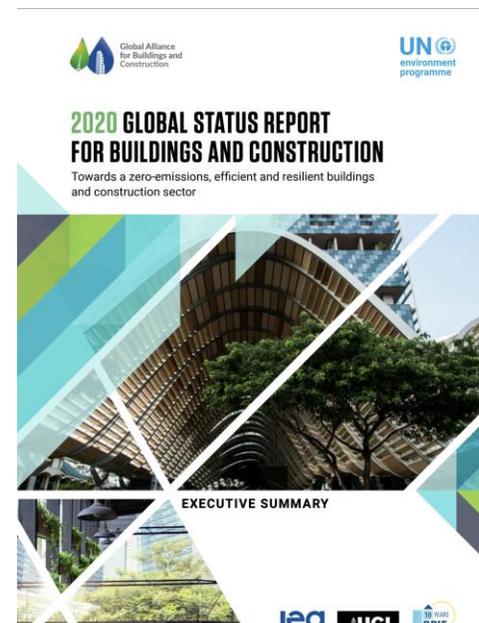
It provides an update on the drivers of CO2 emissions and energy demand globally since 2018, along with examples of policies, technologies, and investments that support low-carbon building stocks. Furthermore, it zooms in on some emerging issues attracting greater attention in the sector: Materials and the circular economy, highlighting the need for closed-loop systems, reduction of virgin materials, and potential of biobased materials; the potential of nature-based solutions for greening cities and buildings while lowering energy and cooling demand; the reciprocal relationship between housing and health and wellbeing; and the urgent need for sustainable cooling solutions for resilience and adaptation.

Briefing and report embargo:

15:00 CET Wednesday 16 December 2020

Speakers:

- **Martina Otto**, Head of the GlobalABC Secretariat, Head of UNEP's Cities Unit



- **Ian Hamilton**, Associate Professor, University College London Energy Institute, Executive Director, Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change
- **Oliver Rapf**, Executive Director, Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE)
- **Sergio Israel Mendoza**, General Director of Environmental, Urban and Tourism Promotion, Mexico's Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)
- **Cedric de Meeus**, Vice-President, Group Public Affairs & Government Relations, LafargeHolcim

Connection details:

<https://bit.ly/BuildingsReport>

Or dial +1 929 205 6099 US (New York), Meeting ID: 893 586 3496

To request for interviews or to receive advanced copies of the reports, press releases and other background documents **under strict embargo** prior to the briefing, please contact:

- **Keisha Rukikaire**, Head of News and Media, UNEP, rukikaire@un.org
- **Terry Collins**, Media Consultant, +1-416-878-8712, tc@tca.tc

Agenda

15.00-15.05 CET	Opening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Martina Otto, Head of the GlobalABC Secretariat, Head of UNEP's Cities Unit
15.05-15.15 CET	Presentation of key messages by the Buildings-GSR authors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ian Hamilton, Associate Professor, University College London Energy Institute, Executive Director, Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change - Oliver Rapf, Executive Director at the Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE)
15.15-15.20 CET	Statement on Mexico's perspective and approach to decarbonizing buildings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sergio Israel Mendoza, General Director of Environmental, Urban and Tourism Promotion, Mexico's Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)</i>
15.20-15.25 CET	Statement from private sector member of the GlobalABC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cedric de Meeus, Vice-President, Group Public Affairs & Government Relations, LafargeHolcim.
15.25-16.00 CET	Questions and Answers with press and attendees

Notes to Editors

About the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC)

The Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC) is the leading global platform for governments, the private sector, civil society and intergovernmental and international organizations to

increase action towards a zero-emission, efficient and resilient buildings and construction sector. The GlobalABC was a key outcome of the 2015 UN climate conference. For more information:

<https://globalabc.org/>

About the UN Environment Programme

UNEP is the leading global voice on the environment. It provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. For more information:

www.unep.org

Speakers Biographies

	<p>Martina Otto, Head of the GlobalABC Secretariat, Head of UNEP's Cities Unit</p> <p>Martina leads UN Environment's work on cities, coordinating the UN Environment wide offer to support cities and promote multi-level policy integration, and is in charge of the cooperation with other UN agencies and partners in the sustainable urban development space. Under her responsibility is also the work on buildings, with the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, food systems, and the contributions to the respective programmes under the 10 Year Framework of Programmes.</p> <p>Martina has worked for UN Environment since 1999 in different substantive and management functions. Her areas of expertise include sustainable energy, transport, buildings, climate change, air quality and sustainable consumption and production.</p>
	<p>Ian Hamilton, Associate Professor, University College London Energy Institute, Executive Director, Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change</p> <p>Dr Ian Hamilton is an Associate Professor at the UCL Energy Institute, University College London, UK. Ian is also the Executive Director of the <i>Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change</i>.</p> <p>Ian's research in the built environment is focused on the nexus of climate, energy and health. This includes building stock energy performance, sustainable building technologies, indoor environment and health impact assessment. Ian leads <i>The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change</i>, a collaboration of 35 leading research institutions around the world working on building and communicating the evidence base on the intersection of health impacts of climate change and its drivers.</p> <p>Ian is the Principal Investigator for the International Energy Agency's <i>Annex 70 - Building Energy Epidemiology</i>, a Co-Investigator on the <i>UKRI Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions</i>, the NERC funded <i>APEX London Air Pollution</i> and <i>ANTICIPATE</i> projects, and Newton funded <i>Capability and Energy Poverty in Mexico</i> project. Ian is the UCL lead for the IEA and UNEP <i>Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction</i> initiative. Ian has an interdisciplinary publication record in leading journals including <i>Energy Policy</i>, <i>Applied Energy</i>, <i>Energy & Building</i>, <i>The Lancet</i>, and <i>BMJ</i>.</p>

	<p>Oliver Rapf, Executive Director, Buildings Performance Institute Europe</p> <p>As Executive Director of BPIE, Oliver has spearheaded strategic planning, administration, program development, fundraising and outreach since joining BPIE during its infancy in 2011. Through his leadership, Oliver has grown BPIE into a financially independent non-profit organization and trusted thought leader on energy performance of buildings in Europe and globally.</p> <p>Before joining BPIE, Oliver worked for the global conservation organization WWF in various roles, including as Head of the Climate Business Engagement unit of WWF International, managing strategy and partnership development with the private sector. Leading an international team, he advised multinational companies on climate change and energy issues.</p> <p>Oliver's experience in buildings efficiency goes back to the late 90s when he was a project leader for several deep renovation projects on behalf of WWF in cooperation with housing companies across Germany. Oliver participated in UNFCCC negotiation processes, and was the leader of the German NGO coalition at international conferences. Oliver has been active as a jury member of environmental and sustainability awards and serves on various advisory boards. In his early career, he worked on regional sustainability strategies and spatial planning.</p>
	<p>Sergio Israel Mendoza, General Director of Environmental, Urban and Tourism Promotion, Mexico's Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)</p> <p>Sergio has nine years of experience in the public sector and two years as a consultant and advisor external. The fields of expertise accumulated in the public sector are mainly focused on issues of strategic planning and programming, land use planning, urban development and urban sustainability. As a consultant, Sergio has carried out work on Evaluation of public policies, as well as the design of public policy strategies with a spatial approach at the national and local level. Sergio holds a Master in Urban Studies from El Colegio de México with a specialty in Regional Economics and Urban.</p>
	<p>Cedric de Meeus, Vice-President, Group Public Affairs & Government Relations, LafargeHolcim</p> <p>Cédric has over 20 years of experience in the management of government relations, with a strong and continuous focus on the sustainability agenda. He specializes in the integration of political and regulatory intelligence in business decision-making processes and the integration of sustainability prerogatives in corporate strategies. The diversity of his experience (ranging from advising Governments to working for global corporate leaders) led him to develop a broad know-how that ranges from subject matter expertise (e.g. the climate change and circular economy agenda) to corporate sustainability management, stakeholder engagement and internal/external communication. Cédric is an environmental engineer by training (MSc, Imperial College, London).</p> <p>Cédric is currently heading the Group Public Affairs & Government Relations function at LafargeHolcim, the leading global construction materials company. He is responsible for developing and driving a proactive global advocacy strategy on policy & regulatory issues that impact assets, products and markets. Cedric is a subject matter expert on the sustainability agenda (ranging from the climate change agenda to ESG tools and sustainable finance) and is closely associated to the development and implementation of</p>

	<p>corporate sustainability strategies.</p> <p>Current mandates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair EU Working Group, International Emissions Trading Association - IETA (2019-present); • President, Construction Products Europe (2019-Present); • President, European Co-processing Association - EUCOPRO (2015-2019); • Steering Committee Member, World Bank/ IFC Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (2019 - Present); • Convenor, Climate Change and Energy Working group, The European Roundtable of Industrialists - ERT (2015-2017); • Co-chair, Climate and Energy Working Group, Cembureau (2015-Present); • Co-organiser, 25th Evian Franco-German Meeting (2016); • CEO Sherpa, World Economic Forum / Climate Leaders Group (2015-Present).
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Biography of the Moderator

	<p>Terry Collins, President, Terry Collins & Associates, International Media Relations</p> <p>Experience: Nine years of newspaper journalism (Toronto, Ottawa); 10 years of public service (Government of Canada, Ottawa; UN Environment Programme, New York); and a private consultancy since 1996 (Toronto-based, global clients).</p> <p>Specialties: International publicity of science, environment and health-related research.</p>
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