

## WEBINAR

# Buildings in the NDCs: A Practical Guide for 2025 Revisions

## Panelists

### Opening



**Kenichi Kitamura**  
Programme Officer  
UNFCCC

### Presentations



**Shravya K Reddy**  
Climate Change Advisor  
(Consultant)



**Audrey Nugent**  
Global Advocacy & Campaigns  
Director at the World Green  
Building Council (WorldGBC)



**Kennedy Matheka**  
State Department for  
Public Works, Kenya



**Azmeri Ashrafi**  
Ministry of Housing and  
Public Works, Bangladesh



**Danjuma Waniko**  
Green Building Council  
Nigeria



**Ashok Bonam**  
Global Green Growth  
Institute (GGGI)

# Buildings in the NDCs – Practical guidance for policy-makers and practitioners in the 2025 revision

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Step-by-step guide to ambitious, investable,  
actionable, inclusive NDCs for 2025

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# Contents

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## In today's presentation

**Four critical attributes needed for buildings sector content in NDCs**

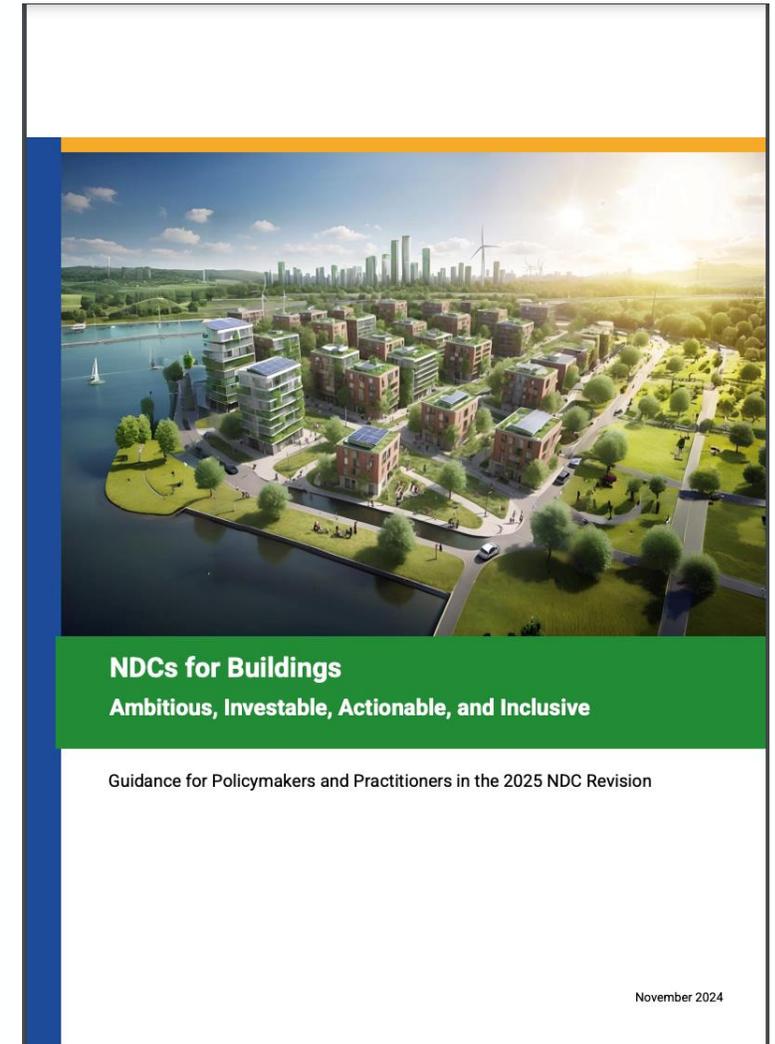
**Five suggested steps to achieve the attributes in strengthened 2025 NDCs**

1. **Identify country circumstances**
2. **Determine types of measures (policy options) based on sector maturity**
3. **Select appropriate combination of measures (policy options) for mitigation and adaptation**
4. **Put in place the necessary enablers**
5. **Check the chosen measures (policy options) to ensure the four attributes are demonstrated**

**Ready-to-use blueprint for NDC section on buildings and construction**

**Examples of NDCs with content on buildings and construction that reflects the four attributes**

**Comments + Questions and Answers**



# Four Critical Attributes



## Ambitious:

- NDCs should aim for **high-impact** goals that significantly **accelerate** climate action and drive substantial progress across a **broader range** of mitigation and adaptation priorities in the sector



## Investable:

- NDCs must be designed with **climate finance eligibility** in mind, be **well costed**, and have clear **financial strategies** for securing necessary funding from **public or private sources**



## Actionable:

- NDCs should be **practical and achievable** with available resources, and allow for **clear implementation mechanisms** and reliable **measurement** of progress



## Inclusive:

- NDCs must **represent** the interests and priorities of as wide a **spectrum of stakeholders** as possible, and must address the needs of **all sectors of society**

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



## STEP 1:

### Identify country circumstances to determine the balance of climate change priorities

Evidence-gathering through reliable assessments:

- Is the country a high GHG emitter?
- Is the buildings and construction sector a high GHG emitting sector / large source?
- Which sources within the sector account for substantial emissions?
- What are the major climate hazards the sector is at risk from, and what are the risk levels?
- What makes the sector vulnerable to climate change?
- What should the balance be between mitigation and adaptation priorities?
- What is the level of technical and administrative capacity to deliver NDC measures?

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



## STEP 1:

### Identify country circumstances to determine the balance of climate change priorities

#### Simplistic Framework:

- **Early-Stage Market Maturity – *Building Foundations*:** countries beginning decarbonization efforts and have little to no adaptation experience in the sector. Focus is on fundamentals.
- **Mid-Stage Market Maturity – *Expanding and Enhancing*:** countries that have made substantial progress in the sector and are well placed to advance to more sophisticated and complex measures (policy options).
- **Advanced State Market Maturity - *Achieving Net Zero and High Resilience*:** countries that have led on decarbonization, have a well-established and long-standing track record of lowering emissions, and are equipped to accelerate towards net-zero goals, and an integrated approach to mitigation and adaptation, whilst ensuring an equitable and just transition.

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



## STEP 2:

**Determine what types (categories) of measures are relevant to the country's buildings sector, based on level of maturity**

1. Building Energy Codes
2. Efficient Appliances, Building Systems, and Thermal Comfort
3. Building Performance Labelling and Certification
4. Building Retrofits
5. Electrification, Renewable Energy and Grid Integration
6. Construction Methods and Processes
7. Materials and Circularity
8. Urban Planning for Adaptation and Resilience

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



## STEP 3:

### Select an appropriate combination of sectoral measures (policy options) to achieve sector climate change goals

Where to look to find potential measures (policy options) that could be applicable to or adapted to your country?

- Other countries' NDCs that have exemplary content on the buildings and construction sector (e.g., UAE, Türkiye, Colombia etc.).
- The GlobalABC guide's **menu of policy options** under eight broad types (categories) of measures.
- Make sure to choose measures (policy options) that can be internalized in your NDC in a SMART manner (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound).

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



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## 1. Building energy codes

Policy Options		Market Maturity		
		I.	II.	III.
A	Adopt and implement <b>design-based codes</b> for new buildings to provide safe, thermally comfortable, and optimal indoor air quality, while reducing emissions during operation. Tailor the codes to specific climatic zones with focus on passive design strategies.	X		
B	Adopt and implement <b>design-based codes</b> for new buildings to reduce embodied carbon using life-cycle analysis.		X	
C	Adopt and implement <b>design-based codes</b> for new buildings to target adaptation by setting standards that incorporate climate resilience and environmental considerations.		X	
D	Adopt and implement <b>performance-based codes</b> for existing buildings by establishing criteria that focus on enhancing energy efficiency and sustainability.		X	
E	<b>Expand the building code to target net zero carbon</b> while addressing resilience and equity issues over the lifecycle of the building.			X

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs

## 2. Efficient Appliances, Building Systems, and Thermal Comfort Solutions

Policy Options		Market Maturity		
		I.	II.	III.
A	<b>Promote the use of energy efficient appliances</b> by offering incentives, raising awareness, and setting performance standards.	X		
B	<b>Design and implement appliance labelling programme</b> to improve water and energy efficiency, and reduce emissions.	X		
C	Introduce <b>Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS)</b> to phase out poor performing technologies from the market and drive demand for clean efficient technologies. Increase the scope and stringency of the standards over time.		X	
D	<b>Work with the industry to promote manufacturing / import of efficient appliances</b> by setting performance standards and providing incentives for manufacturing of energy-efficient technologies.	X		
E	<b>Enforce policies that support the 'right to repair,'</b> allowing consumers to fix and maintain products, and establish <b>'producer liability,'</b> holding manufacturers accountable for the durability and repairability of their products.			X
F	<b>Create innovative financial mechanisms</b> to support the purchase of efficient appliances to lower the cost of energy-efficient technologies.	X		
G	<b>Integrate low-carbon heating and cooling methods</b> in building design and operations, including passive design cooling.		X	

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



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## 3. Building performance labelling and certification

Policy Options		Market Maturity		
		I.	II.	III.
A	Adopt and implement <b>design-based certification</b> for new buildings based on calculated emissions from their operations.	X		
B	Adopt and implement <b>intention-based certification</b> for new buildings to target adaptation by setting standards that assess and ensure climate readiness.		X	
C	Adopt and implement <b>performance-based certification</b> for existing buildings. The certification should be based on performance metrics that are objective, verifiable, transparent, and directly relate to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and emission reduction.		X	
D	<b>Expand the scope of certification to include adaptation</b> by integrating it into existing certification processes.		X	
E	<b>Gradually raise minimum building performance standards</b> in order to achieve greater energy efficiency and reduce overall environmental impact.		X	

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs

## 4. Building retrofits

Policy Options		Market Maturity		
		I.	II.	III.
A	<b>Make periodic energy audits mandatory</b> for non-residential buildings based on building type, size and emissions.	X		
B	<b>Promote thermal modernisation of buildings</b> by upgrading insulation, installing energy-efficient windows, and enhancing building envelopes to reduce heat loss and improve energy performance.		X	
C	<b>Increase structural robustness to make buildings resilient</b> through sensible use of advanced materials and robust building codes, conducting regular assessments, and applying robust design standards to withstand environmental stresses.		X	
D	<b>Promote deep energy renovation</b> by performing comprehensive upgrades to building systems, improving insulation, and incorporating renewable energy technologies to significantly reduce energy consumption and enhance overall efficiency.			X
E	<b>Strengthen existing housing stock for thermal comfort, longevity, adaptation and resilience</b> by upgrading insulation, improving structural integrity, and enhancing climate resilience.		X	

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs

## 5. Electrification, renewable energy, and grid-integration

Policy Options		Market Maturity		
		I.	II.	III.
A	<b>Promote decentralised renewable energy systems</b> , such as rooftop photovoltaic (RTPV), wind, and geothermal technologies to enhance energy independence, reduce carbon emissions, and support sustainable development.	X		
B	<b>Promote decentralised energy storage</b> by deploying Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), and thermal energy storage (e.g. solar water heater, phase change materials).		X	
C	<b>Promote the use of heat pumps</b> for space heating, water heating, and cooling by adopting energy-efficient models, integrating them into residential and commercial buildings, and using renewable energy sources to power them.		X	
D	<b>Use smart controls and grid interactive buildings</b> by implementing advanced building management systems, integrating real-time energy monitoring, and optimizing energy consumption through automated adjustments.		X	
E	<b>Promote the use of mixed energy sources</b> for a variety of uses such as combined heat production, municipal heating systems, and hydrogen for transportation fuel.		X	

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs

## 6. Construction methods and processes

Policy Options		Market Maturity		
		I.	II.	III.
A	<b>Reduce waste during construction</b> by optimizing material use and recycling.	x		
B	Create guidelines and policies for adopting <b>environmentally responsible construction practices</b> like preservation of soil and natural features, minimise disturbance to vegetation, reduce consumption of water and energy, noise, dust, and pollution.		x	
C	<b>Use modular construction technologies</b> by using prefabricated components and efficient assembly methods.	x		

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



## 7. Materials and circularity

Policy Options		Market Maturity		
		I.	II.	III.
A	Create policies to prioritise renovation and <b>incentivise adaptive re-use of existing buildings to extend building life.</b>		X	
B	Develop and implement programme for repair, reuse, recycling and safe disposal of building components and materials.		X	
C	<b>Reduce the use of materials that are responsible for high emissions</b> by selecting low-emission alternatives and reusing building and construction materials (especially low-carbon cement and steel).		X	
D	Promote and develop the use of local, vernacular, and environmentally friendly materials by sourcing and innovating within local and regional communities.	X		
E	<b>Use reusable, durable and adaptable construction materials</b> that can withstand changing conditions and evolving needs.		X	
F	<b>Use life cycle assessment</b> to evaluate which building materials (including bio-based and geo-based alternatives) can be used.			X
G	<b>Promote clinker reduction and use of alternative fuels</b> for cement and concrete by adopting greener production methods or procuring greener cement.	X		

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



## 8. Urban planning for adaptation and resilience

Policy Options		Market Maturity		
		I.	II.	III.
A	<b>Integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into urban planning</b> and infrastructure development by incorporating climate scenario planning, long-term strategies, evaluating climate risks, and designing resilient infrastructure.		X	
B	<b>Prepare to deal with extreme events and disasters</b> by developing contingency plans, investing in early warning systems, and implementing adaptive measures for heat waves, floods, water shortages, storms, and air quality issues.	X		
C	<b>Subscribe to nature-based infrastructure and solutions</b> by employing green roofs, urban forests, sponge city and permeability solutions, and wetland restoration to enhance ecological resilience and environmental sustainability.	X		
D	<b>Implement policies to revitalise and redevelop neighbourhoods.</b> Relocate residential areas in climate-affected zones where absolutely necessary.		X	
E	<b>Implement climate change-informed zoning reforms</b> that allow for higher-density developments and mixed-use buildings, which can include affordable housing options.	X		

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



## STEP 4:

### Put in place the necessary enablers to translate the chosen measures into action

Where to look to find potential enablers that could be applicable to or adapted to your country?

- Other countries' NDCs that have exemplary content on the buildings and construction sector (e.g., UAE, Türkiye, Colombia etc.).
- The GlobalABC guide's **menu of enablers** under five broad types (categories) of enablers.
- Make sure to choose enablers that help fill capacity gaps identified through the evidence-gathering in Step 1.

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



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## 1. Finance and Incentives

Enablers		Market Maturity		
		I.	II.	III.
A	<b>Create green financing mechanisms</b> (e.g., green funds) for building owners and developers to invest in energy efficiency, energy-conservation, and energy-smart technologies.	X		
B	<b>Catalyse more concessional finance</b> for business incubation and acceleration for enterprises focused on technology innovation in supply chains for building material, supplies, and appliances.		X	
C	<b>Adopt market mechanisms</b> (such as carbon pricing, and emissions trading) by implementing policies that set financial values on carbon emissions, promoting market-based solutions to reduce greenhouse gases from the built environment.			X
D	<b>Expand access to green finance</b> by offering financial products that support environmental projects (particularly guarantees and green bonds), providing risk mitigation tools, and facilitating investment in sustainable development initiatives. These can also include incentives such as tax credits and consumer rebates.		X	
E	<b>Enhance public funding to support research</b> on integrated design, building materials, construction technology, use patterns and behaviour change to support all technical measures towards decarbonisation.		X	

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



## 2. Awareness and capacity-building

Enablers		Market Maturity		
		I.	II.	III.
A	Invest in built environment-focused climate mitigation and adaptation awareness by funding educational campaigns, community workshops, and public outreach programmes for all. Raise public awareness of building codes, labelling, and certification.	X		
B	<b>Include climate change in engineering and architecture curricula in universities</b> by updating courses and fostering interdisciplinary research. <b>Establish / update curricula</b> for academic and vocational training on climate-friendly processes for the nearly CO <sub>2</sub> -neutral production of building materials.	X		
C	Promote livelihood and training to improve the adoption of new technology and materials to enhance overall construction quality and sustainability. Build capacity of industry professionals, manufacturers, construction workers, and suppliers	X		
D	<b>Enhance financial literacy and capacity building</b> by offering targeted training programmes, providing educational resources, and developing tools to improve understanding of life cycle assessment, financial management and investment in sustainability.	X		
E	<b>Improve access to data on embodied carbon in materials</b> through robust life-cycle databases and readily available information for stakeholders.		X	
F	<b>Establish a sustainable construction oversight body</b> (e.g., a council or association) to identify, oversee and implement the skills and training needs of the built environment, enhancing the quality and reliability of construction practices.	X		

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



## 3. Inclusion, equity, and justice

Enablers		Market Maturity		
		I.	II.	III.
A	<b>Prioritise public participation and ensure inclusive decision making at all levels</b> by engaging diverse stakeholders, facilitating open forums, and incorporating feedback into policy development, by tracking the participants in these processes using data segregated by gender, age, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).	X		
B	<b>Design policies and strategies</b> that provide a <b>wide range of housing options</b> to meet the social, economic, and environmental needs of diverse users, rather than adopting a 'one-size-fits-all' approach. This will include low carbon affordable housing for owners, renters and short-term migrant population.	X		
C	<b>Create dedicated funding channels of green finance for vulnerable communities</b> (for instance, through the allocation of certain quantities of funding for climate-responsive and sustainable building projects in communities at higher risk from climate hazards)			X
D	<b>Embed creation of green local jobs</b> as part of an equitable energy transition process.		X	
E	<b>Make the reduction of energy poverty and the achievement of universal electricity access a central goal</b> in built environment related guidelines and rules, to mainstream these considerations within built environment initiatives and programmes.	X		
F	<b>Promote the integration of indigenous knowledge</b> in building and urban planning practices, especially in areas with distinct cultural heritage or significant Indigenous populations.		X	

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs

## 4. Enforcement and governance

Enablers		Market Maturity		
		I.	II.	III.
A	<b>Increase technical capacity of government officials</b> by offering targeted training programmes and developing skills across key sectors for implementing agencies and decision makers.	X		
B	<b>Address fragmentation of governance</b> by promoting coordination and collaboration among various agencies and stakeholders.		X	
C	<b>Encourage public-private partnerships</b> by fostering collaboration between government entities and private organisations for shared goals.		X	
D	Incorporate and maximise <b>climate-proofing measures into public funding and procurement mechanisms</b> by integrating mitigation and adaptation requirements.			X
E	<b>Align climate strategies</b> with existing projects for greater impact, such as urban planning, affordable housing, and mobility infrastructure.	X		
F	<b>Promote and harness industry leadership</b> by encouraging companies to adopt good best practices and lead by example in sustainable development.		X	

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs

## 5. Digitization and MRV

Enablers		Market Maturity		
		I.	II.	III.
A	Develop and disseminate a strong <b>data library and case studies</b> of materials and construction practices.	X		
B	<b>Ensure wider access to data and information</b> by developing open databases and promoting easy online access for all stakeholders.		X	
C	<b>Improve Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV)</b> and Measurement, Education, Research and Learning (MERL) frameworks by enhancing methodologies and implementing robust systems for accurate assessments.		X	
D	<b>Increase public disclosure of embodied carbon data through regulation, codes, and policies</b> by enforcing transparency requirements and encouraging comprehensive reporting practices.		X	

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



## STEP 5:

### Check if the NDC is Ambitious, Investable, Actionable, and Inclusive

- At a bare minimum, what should the NDC content on buildings demonstrate?
- **The checklists help ask / verify: Does the NDC reflect this?**
- The checklist for ‘Ambitious’ largely relates to the public-facing content presented in the NDC, i.e., the policy options or measures that are chosen as commitments (and helps answer the question, “Does the NDC reflect this?”) – *WHAT measures does the NDC contain?*
- The checklists for ‘investable,’ ‘actionable,’ and ‘inclusive’ point to what the NDC commitments should be informed or shaped by (and help answer the question, “Is the NDC supported by this?”) – *HOW is the NDC going to enable the chosen measures to be successfully accomplished?*
- For each of these attributes, some of the checklist items are ‘Quick Wins,’ some are ‘Moderate Challenges,’ and some are ‘Transformational Change.’ A combination is optimal.

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



## A. Ambitious

- Scalability and replicability
- Net-zero compatible targets
- Circular economy
- Mitigation and adaptation
- Comprehensive coverage
- Cross-sectoral approach

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



## B. Investable

- Finance estimates
- Strong business case
- Cost-effectiveness
- Data and evidence
- Flexibility for finance

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



## C. Actionable

- Targets and timelines
- Assignment of responsibility
- Policy harmonization
- Inter-sectoral coordination
- MRV and M&E

# Five Steps for Developing Updated NDCs



## D. Inclusive

- Consultation and public participation
- Appropriateness
- Affordability
- Gender-responsiveness

## Dedicated section:

- Start by dedicating a section or chapter in the NDC to the built environment / buildings and construction

## Sector overview – with targets:

- Give general introduction to state of buildings in country and outline overall targets for sector

## Baseline description:

- Outline current policy landscape of climate change mitigation and adaptation in buildings

## Progress on previous NDC:

- Provide an account of what progress was made on the country's first (2019 / 2020 / 2021) NDC

# Blueprint

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## Highlight successes:

- List case studies / good practices in country

## New policy measures:

- New Policy Options (Measures) to Close the Gap Towards the More Ambitious 2035 Target

Measure	Interim (Mid-Term) Target (for 2030)	Terminal (End-Term) Target (for 2035)	Institution / Agency Responsible for Implementation	Other Coordinating Institutions or Agencies	Reporting Mode	Estimated Finance Needed	Quick Win	Moderate Challenge	Transformational Change
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**Questions?**

**Comments?**

**Feedback?**

# Thank you!

**On behalf of GlobalABC:**

**Shravya Reddy**

**Dr. Saket Sarraf**

**Ruchi Kapoor**

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# WorldGBC NDC Scorecard for Sustainable Building

Audrey Nugent, WorldGBC

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OnBuildings**

# WorldGBC Scorecard for Sustainable

- The World Green Building Council is co-developing an 'NDC Scorecard for Sustainable Buildings' to support the evaluation and strengthening of national-level policy on the built environment.
- The tool is currently being developed with five pilot Green Building Councils (GBCs) – Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Nigeria and the Philippines – alongside local stakeholders including governments, to ensure nations are being bold on buildings in their NDC submissions and national policies
- Forms part of our wider campaign to #BeBoldOnBuildings

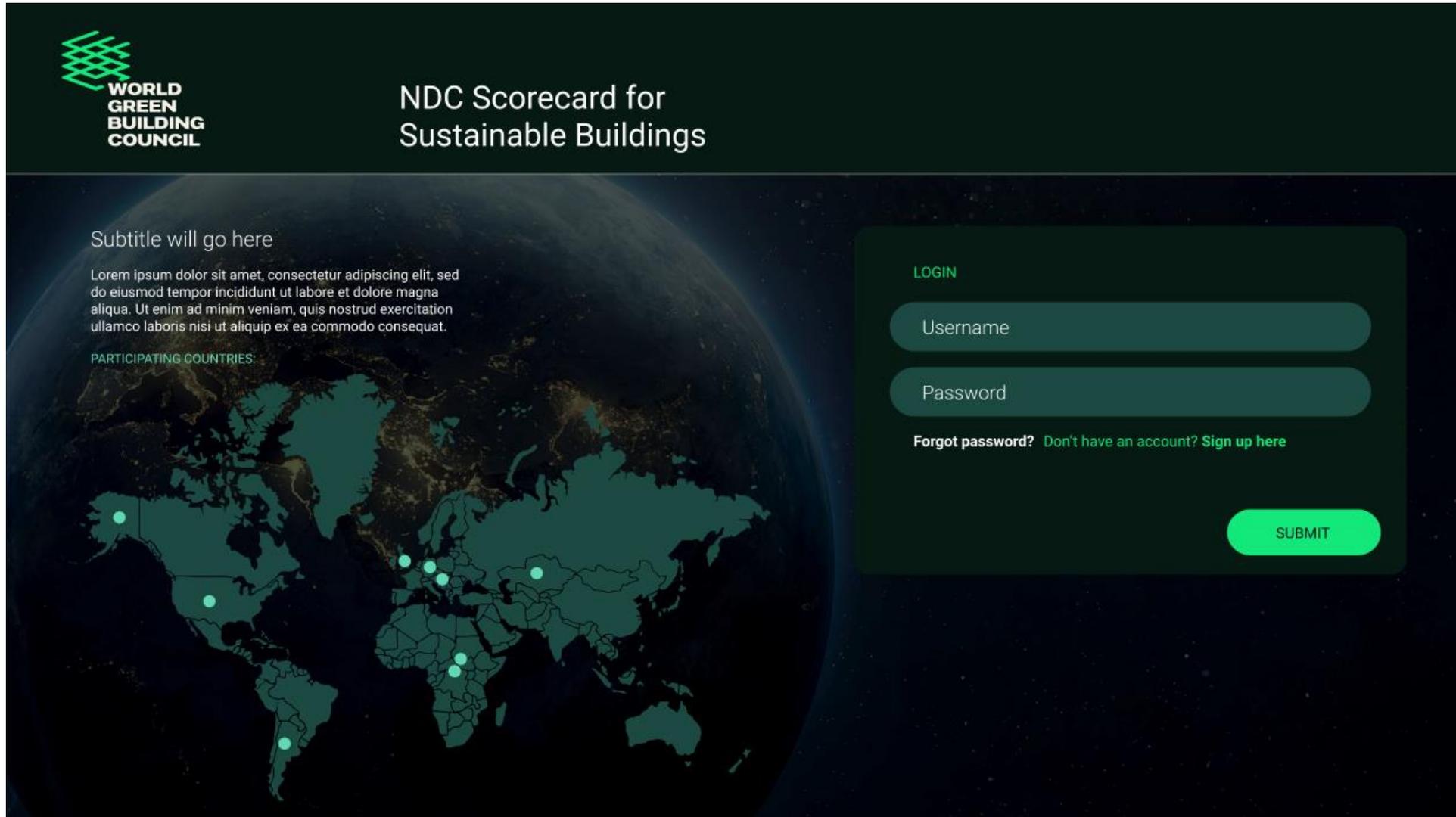
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# What will the scorecard do?

- Provide a summary of best practice policy measures – ranked according to their impact – that cuts across a number of categories (general, carbon, resilience etc) that should be in
  - Revised NDCs
  - National Policy Frameworks, Plans and Regulation
- Enable stakeholder to assess and compare their countries' NDCs, and reveal where further action is necessary to increase the ambition and effectiveness of their NDCs and national policies so they are putting the sector on a trajectory for 1.5°C.
- Enable stakeholders to conduct a gap analysis to reveal what actions a country needs to take to ensure that their NDCs, national policies and implementation are all aligned so that commitments are being put into practice.



# A Digital Tool launching this April - NDC Scorecard



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# A Sneak Peek – DRAFT WIP NDC Scorecard

WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

HELLO <UNSERNAME> LOG OUT

## NDC Scorecard for Sustainable Buildings 2025

POLICY PRINCIPLES

General Carbon Resilience **Circularity** Water Biodiversity Health Equity and access

1 Overview of all principles

STATUS ✓ YES ✗ NO — IN PROGRESS

MEASURE	NDC	NATIONAL CLIMATE STRATEGY	NATIONAL BUILDING POLICY	NATIONAL BUILDING REGULATION	CITY BUILDING CODE	ACTIONS REQUIRED
Sustainable materials: Sustainably sourced, durable, reusable, recycled or up cycled materials	✗ Change ▾	✓ Change ▾	— Change ▾	✗ Change ▾	✓ Change ▾	User can add notes here. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore
Prioritise existing assets for retrofit and renovation and hold accountable to higher sustainability performance standards	✓ Change ▾	— Change ▾	✗ Change ▾	— Change ▾	— Change ▾	
Design building for reuse, adaptability, disassembly and deconstruction	✗ Change ▾	✓ Change ▾	— Change ▾	✗ Change ▾	✓ Change ▾	

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# Get Involved

- Get in touch about our upcoming regional workshops in Americas (Chile), Europe , Africa (Mauritius), Europe (Brussels), MENA(TBC) and Asia (Singapore)
- Use the NDC digital tool when it launches in April to assess how your NDC aligns with best practice policy measures
- Join our campaign to #BeBoldOnBuildings



**Jan/Feb**

**March**

**April**

**May**

**July**

**September**

**Nov**



Feb deadline for NDCs (we expect most will be late and submitted towards the end of the year!)

Scorecard Consultation

Test and launch BETA scorecard  
Americas Regional Meeting and NDC Scorecard Workshop (Chile)

Join our campaign #BeBoldOnBuildings

Africa and MENA regional workshops and NDC Meeting

Digital Scorecard and 5 Action Plans finalised in pilot GBCs

Capacity building, Be Bold On Buildings campaigning and working with additional GBCs to complete the NDC Scorecard and create an action plan for their country

Asia regional meeting and NDC Workshop

COP30

Join us

**#BeBoldOnBuildings**

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**Clarissa Lehne**  
NDC Partnership



**Felipe Faria**  
Green Building Council  
Brazil



**Liliana Campos-Arriaga**  
Partnership for Energy Efficiency in  
Buildings (PEEB), Mexico