

GLOBE ALLIANCE

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT

COP-16 CALL TO ACTION

The GLOBE Alliance calls on the international community to:

- **Recognize and invest in the built environment as a leading strategy for reducing GHG emissions.**
Among all countries, all sectors, and at all investment levels, the building sector holds the greatest and most cost-effective emission reduction potential. Realizing this potential by recognizing energy efficiency and building sector activities as Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and then investing in these actions will be critical to meeting emission reduction targets. Fast-start and long-term finance for clean energy and adaptation must support commercial and residential building efficiency projects, sustainable urban development and transportation, and green and disaster-resilient infrastructure in developing countries.
- **Improve and refine financial mechanisms to encourage greater investment in energy efficiency.**
Parties should improve and strengthen the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and other market-based mechanisms to support efficiency projects and reduce emissions from the building and infrastructure sector. As currently designed, the CDM largely excludes end-use efficiency projects. Even when such projects are eligible, obstacles often exist to realizing efficiency gains. Parties should work together with the private sector to identify and address barriers, facilitate investment in both new and existing buildings, and build a track record of successful implementation. Additionally, national governments should leverage the ability of the private sector to provide significant financing through mechanisms that allow pay-back from future energy savings.
- **Increase capacity building, knowledge sharing, and technology cooperation between developed and developing nations.**
Even with vastly scaled up funding, countries will need the tools and the know-how to implement efficient homes, buildings and sustainable communities in order to make low- or no-carbon development goals a reality. Mutually beneficial partnerships between innovators and beneficiaries will ensure the best, locally-appropriate solutions are employed and spur green innovation at the necessary pace to combat the climate crisis. A focus on workforce training is critical for achieving widespread adoption of best-practices, fostering innovation, and creating the next generation of green jobs. Technology sharing discussions must include strategies to increase capacity for the basic underpinnings of sustainable buildings, such as enforceable codes, as well as more advanced approaches like holistic urban planning that integrates transportation, buildings, and other infrastructure to decouple rapid urban population growth from emissions and other environmental impacts.
- **Commit to equitable and inclusive approaches to resilient, low-carbon infrastructure and development.**
Pursuing green buildings and sustainable communities as part of any development strategy must include underrepresented and vulnerable communities and align with poverty alleviation goals. Part of this approach means utilizing appropriate financing options that avoid putting

REDUCING EMISSIONS BY CHANGING THE WAY THE WORLD BUILDS

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already poor countries into further indebtedness. When planned inclusively so that green communities are available to all citizens, regardless of race, income level, or other social factors— sustainable buildings and cities can improve the quality of life for millions of people by providing safe, affordable, and healthy places to live, work, and go to school. Sustainable building practices also create significant and wide-reaching co-benefits, such as increasing the market for sustainable and certified wood products, thereby supporting the critical need to halt illegal logging and deforestation in rainforest nations.

- **Develop and adopt consistent metrics that facilitate measurable, reportable, and verifiable (MRV) emission reductions from building efficiency and infrastructure projects.**

Adoption of consistent energy performance standards across building types and at the city level will increase transparency, facilitate public and private investment in energy efficiency, and support the development of baselines and benchmarks. Once established, performance standards will aid MRV emission reductions that can assist with building and infrastructure sector NAMA development, CDM participation, data collection, and national building energy performance disclosure policies and programs.

The GLOBE Alliance is a network of over 40 businesses, environmental organizations, and green building councils that advocate for policies and measures that support technical, regulatory, and financial resources for green communities and efficient buildings in developed and developing countries.