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Build Change Continues its Leadership for Climate-Resilient Housing Solutions at the Buildings and Climate Global Forum

Paris, March 6, 2024 – Build Change, the global expert on disaster-resilient housing solutions for informal markets, continues its quest to make resilient housing a dominant part of the climate change and built environment agendas at the Buildings and Climate Global Forum, co-organized by UNEP and the Government of France on March 7-8, 2024.

In Paris, Build Change will join hands with international leaders, experts, and policymakers to emphasize the critical role of housing in climate action. Climate-resilient housing should not merely be part of the climate discourse; it should be at the forefront of it.

Build Change is thrilled to support the [Buildings Breakthrough Agenda](#) as a key mechanism to strengthen international collaboration to decarbonize the building sector. With housing accounting for 17% of CO2 emissions globally, we are calling on ministers and government leaders from rapidly growing countries of the Global South to invest more in disaster-resilient housing policies and programs, while urging signatories from the Global North to channel foreign aid toward resilient housing. It is well known that investing \$1 in prevention saves at least 7 times that much in disaster loss and recovery.

Build Change has driven climate action around resilient housing for several years, launching the [Climate Resilient Housing Initiative](#) at COP26 under the banner of the Race to Resilience, and featuring resilient housing in the [Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda](#) at COP27.

At COP28, Build Change released a seminal publication, the third in a trio of pieces illustrating the value of strengthening existing housing: [Saving Embodied Carbon Through Strengthening Existing Housing](#). Informed by cases drawn from Build Change's work in Colombia, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Philippines, and Sint Maarten, the data shows that **improving existing housing significantly avoids carbon emissions in the housing construction value chain, thereby having substantial implications for achieving net zero in the built environment**. Strengthening existing housing presents an opportunity to save 4.8 gigatons of CO2 emissions while addressing the more than 268 million inadequate houses globally.

Build Change's participation, represented in person by Noll Tufani, VP, Programs for Middle East and Africa, and Ariana Karamallis, Global Advocacy and Development Associate, will be marked by a series of engaging sessions and discussions, including:

During the Pre-Event, on Wednesday 6 March:

- Starting at 11:00, Ariana is speaking at the Symposium on Sustainable Buildings by Construction21 France, in a panel on "Resilience to adapt the existing system to climatic hazards"

During the Forum itself, on March 7th:

- Starting at 10:30 in Salle 3, Noll is speaking in the session "Adequate Housing for All: Strategies, Commitments, and Innovations for Fair and Sustainable Housing Systems" on the topic of "Sustainable, Affordable and Resilient Housing for All in Regions Experiencing Rapid Growth"
- At 16:15 in Salle 4, Ariana is speaking in the session "Achieving Climate Resilient Buildings" on the topic of "Enhancing Resilience in Action: Examples from Across the Value Chain"

And on March 8th,

- At 14:55, Noll is delivering a pitch on "Retrofitting existing housing for climate change adaptation and embodied carbon savings"

Build Change's presence in Paris is an opportunity to influence global discussions on climate-resilient housing and promote the organization's vision of a future where all communities have access to safe, resilient, and sustainable housing.

"Build Change is thrilled to be at the first Buildings & Climate Global Forum, and to bring to the forefront of discussions how increasing access to resilient housing, especially in the Global South, can address some of the greatest challenges around climate action - enabling a just transition, reducing embodied carbon, and addressing loss and damage for the world's most climate-vulnerable populations. Through taking a solutions-oriented approach, we can address these challenges now in the housing sector," said Dr. Elizabeth Hausler, Founder & CEO at Build Change.

Build Change invites all interested parties to follow their engagement at #BuildforClimate, as they share insights, updates, and progress toward making climate-resilient housing a reality.

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About Build Change

Build Change is transforming the systems for regulating, financing, building, and improving houses around the world. Our engineers, builders, coders, and policy advocates, are the most disaster-prone countries. Since 2004, we have safeguarded more than \$4.7B in housing infrastructure assets across Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia Pacific, improving the lives of over 1.17 million people and building new or retrofitting more than 220,000 buildings.