

Methods and Construction: Achieving Climate Resilient Buildings

7 March 2024 16:15- 17:30 CET

Organisers: Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion & Ministry of Energy Transition, France; Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC) - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

Leads : GlobalABC Adaptation Working Group, International Code Council (ICC)



Partners : C40, UNOPS, GCCA, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), ARISE Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies, WBCSD, WGBC, USGBC, UIA, World Bank

Event description

As climate driven hazards become more frequent and intense, resilient buildings are essential to the protection of lives and livelihoods. This session will examine the current approaches to delivering climate resilient buildings, identify current gaps in tools and deployment drivers and determine the actions necessary to make climate resilient buildings the new normal. Specific attention will be placed on building codes and resilience benchmarking as fundamental tools and the mechanisms needed to support their effective deployment. The session aims to coalesce around common principles to drive progress, metrics to help measure and track success, and the steps needed to meet the resilience recommendations identified in the Buildings Breakthrough.

Enhancing Resilience in Action: Examples from Across the Value Chain

This panel aimed to contextualize resilience discussions within the nuanced landscapes of engineered buildings in both the Global North and South, vernacular construction, and informal settlements. We explored how resilience efforts intersect with climate-driven hazards and other risks, fostering a holistic understanding of the challenges ahead.

The intervention focused on UIA's impactful initiatives and projects related to climate-resilient architecture showcasing the following:

- UIA Guidebook and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): UIA highlighted the alignment of the UIA Guidebook with the SDGs and share case studies illustrating sustainable development and resilience in building design.
- UIA Innovation in Architecture Education Award: We featured the significance of the UIA Education Award, showcasing innovative projects in architectural education and their role in enhancing climate resilience.
- Great Green Wall Student Idea Competition: UIA presented examples of the winning projects and creative concepts from the competition, emphasizing their contributions to Climate-Resilience design.
- UIA 2030 Award (2nd Cycle): The collaboration between UIA and UN-Habitat, as demonstrated through the UIA 2030 Award, was discussed while underscoring a shared commitment to advancing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.
- Lessons from the Copenhagen Congress: Key takeaways from the Copenhagen Congress were discussed, emphasizing international collaboration's role in climate-resilient architecture.

The aim was for the attendees to gain insights into UIA's impactful work and how it contributes to the global pursuit of sustainable and climate-resilient architecture.



The Panel Narrative:

MARIANNE ARMSTRONG:

So that is how public authorities can lead successful adaptive actions. Iman, I'm intrigued to know how design professionals can lead the push for resilience in the built environment. I have heard of a few UIA's initiatives aimed at resilient architecture like the UIA Idea Competitions and Awards. Could you elaborate on specific projects or examples that showcase this effort?

IMAN GAWAD:

Absolutely, Marianne. One of our key platforms for promoting resilience is through the Idea Competitions and Awards. These competitions have yielded remarkable insights into how architecture education influences the awareness of resilience and climate change among students and young architects globally. The collaboration between UIA and UN-Habitat, as demonstrated through the UIA 2030 Award, underscores a shared commitment to advancing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda. Additionally, examples from our UIA SDG Guidebook and the lessons learned from events like the Copenhagen Congress 2024 provide tangible evidence of our commitment to fostering resilience within the architecture community..

MARIANNE ARMSTRONG:

How do these projects actively contribute to enhancing resilience within the built environment?

IMAN GAWAD:

Our approach is multifaceted. As an international NGO, the UIA places a strong emphasis on knowledge dissemination and awareness-building. We actively advocate for the integration of resilience into architectural education curricula worldwide through initiatives like the Innovation in Architecture Education «SDG»

program. Furthermore, we've organized competitions such as the one focusing on designing urban settlements resilient to desertification in the African sub-Saharan region, known as the Great Green Wall area. These endeavors empower young architects to envision and implement resilient solutions to pressing challenges.

MARIANNE ARMSTRONG:

Can you speak to the impact of these projects? How do you measure success?

IMAN GAWAD:

While the impact of these initiatives isn't always easily quantifiable in scientific terms, we've observed significant indicators of success. For instance, the unprecedented participation in the Great Green Wall Students Idea Competition from all five UIA regions underscores the global resonance of our efforts. Similarly, the widespread adoption of the SDG Guidebook concept across multiple countries and its translation into seven languages reflect the growing recognition of resilience as a vital aspect of architectural practice.

MARIANNE ARMSTRONG:

How do you assess the resilience of your projects? Are there specific metrics or frameworks you employ?

IMAN GAWAD:

Our assessment primarily revolves around key metrics such as the number of entries from diverse regions, the uptake and implementation of ideas, and the dissemination of knowledge through various channels. While quantifying resilience in the built environment presents challenges, these metrics provide valuable insights into the reach and impact of our initiatives

