



## Call for abstracts

The overall **ambition of BEYOND 2020**, the World Sustainable Built Environment conference (WSBE), is to collectively formulate a **transformational plan for the built environment** to support the implementation of the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)**.

The purpose of this transformational plan is to link the built environment to the relevant **UN SDGs**, in order to lay foundations for the development of global and regional implementation strategies by 2030.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all in that they address all the key global challenges which we as humanity face. BEYOND 2020's contribution is **centred around goal number 11 "Sustainable cities and communities"** that we consider the focal point for the delivery and application of a more sustainable built environment. Around goal number 11, we have identified 10 other goals that are similarly relevant for the building sector and contribute to the achievement of sustainable cities and communities ([see overview here](#)).

BEYOND 2020 has the ambition to pave the way for a sustainable built environment globally, but by taking into consideration specific regional perspectives that would allow concrete actions to achieve the UNSDGs by 2030. We believe that it is key to build on the regional strengths, capabilities and conditions, in order to set up commitments and implementation plans that can actually be realized in different parts of the world

### YOUR SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTION

In order to support the development of the BEYOND 2020 transformational plan, the Scientific Committee is looking for contributions that address one of the **conference 20 topics**.

These topics are a combination of:

- Key SDG-related challenge areas for the built environment (linked to one or multiple SDGs)
- Important subjects addressed by the Sustainable Built Environment regional conferences preceding BEYOND 2020 - essential for the understanding of various regional perspectives
- Overarching tools and approaches (policy, business models, management & leadership approaches, governance solutions, education etc.) that can be applied in relation to various SDG challenges and across regions.

We believe that these strategically selected topics will assure the right balance between contributions that address the SDG-related challenges from a global and regional perspective, but also propose concrete innovations, approaches and tools needed to transform the built environment in line with SDG goals by 2030.

Under each topic you will find a short description and guiding questions that provide further explanation regarding the relevance for the built environment.

| NR | TOPIC   TITLE  | TOPIC   DESCRIPTION   |
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| 1  | <b>Social inclusion for liveable societies</b>                           | <p>Inclusive societies provide certain rights to all individuals and groups in society. This is based on mutual respect and solidarity, as well as require equal opportunities, decent living standards and valuable urban health &amp; well-being for all, with diversity being seen as a source of strength. We are looking for new approaches to create socially inclusive societies, which focus on e.g. adequate and affordable housing, participation, solutions against fuel poverty, demographics addressing gender and age perspectives (kids, elderly), access to health care and social services, job opportunities, education and training.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What approaches are needed or have already been adopted to create socially inclusive societies?</li> <li>- How to attain fair access to resources and services?</li> <li>- How to establish adequate, affordable housing and safe as well as healthy environments?</li> </ul>  |
| 2  | <b>Energy systems for the future</b>                                     | <p>We need to shape the post-fossil energy society today. What are the best practices based on the regional setup? Share your activities around energy conservation, renewable and clean energies. Tools, initiatives and system thinking will be shared in this session.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to achieve a clean energy strategy?</li> <li>- What are the main sustainable energy systems of tomorrow?</li> <li>- How to improve the energy efficiency of the existing building stock in different parts of the world?</li> </ul>  |
| 3  | <b>Climate change mitigation and adaptation in the built environment</b> | <p>Humankind is threatened by climate change especially in the cities and fast urbanising coasts where most of the world's population lives. Globally, we are challenged by weather-related disasters that damage our water, energy, transport, buildings and telecommunications infrastructure. These impacts of a changing climate add to existing challenges such as urban sprawl, population growth, pollution, biodiversity loss, refugee communities and settlements. Fast and intelligent climate mitigation and adaptation measures are needed to make the Paris agreement a reality.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the key priorities for the built environment in different parts of the world in climate change mitigation and adaptation?</li> <li>- What are examples of good adaptation and mitigation innovations/success stories for a low carbon-built environment? What are their scalability potentials?</li> <li>- What is the role of temporary and more permanent settlements in planning for the aftermath of extreme threats and disasters?</li> <li>- How to build resilience into all aspects of the built environment whether new or adapted from the existing?</li> </ul> |

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| 4 | <b>Urban metabolism and circularity</b>                   | <p>The built environment is known as a large contributor to global resource consumption and producer of construction waste. Urban metabolism facilitates the description and analysis of the flows of the materials and energy within cities. A circular economy can be achieved through long-lasting design, maintenance, repair, reuse, remanufacturing, refurbishing, recycling, and upcycling. New production and consumption patterns will be necessary to use our natural resources more carefully.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to achieve circularity in the built environment?</li> <li>- What are good practices to reduce construction waste?</li> <li>- What drives the urban metabolism of cities?</li> </ul>   |
| 5 | <b>Health, comfort and well-being for a better life</b>   | <p>Many people around the world spend more than 80% of their time in buildings. Hence, a good indoor environmental quality is crucial to make us feel comfortable and productive at home, work or school. At the same time, urban planning and development play a major role in how we perceive the outdoor environment in terms of air quality, noise levels and recreation spaces.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to achieve better air quality in cities and communities?</li> <li>- What are the lessons learnt from various research projects around the world?</li> <li>- What contributes to a good indoor environmental quality in residential, office/work and education buildings?</li> </ul>  |
| 6 | <b>Housing for all</b>                                    | <p>If current trends in urbanization and income growth persist by 2025 the number of urban households that live in substandard housing – or are so financially stretched by housing costs that they forgo other essentials - will expand unacceptably. This could mean that the global affordable housing gap would affect one in every three urban dwellers by 2025.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How do we unlock and control land supply and encourage brownfield development and change of use for housing?</li> <li>- How do we reduce construction costs and construction quality and meet climate change performance criteria?</li> <li>- How do we improve the adaptation and maintenance of the existing stock?</li> <li>- How do we lower financing costs for renters and buyers and also expand the output from developers and construction firms?</li> </ul> |
| 7 | <b>Resilient transport systems and mobility solutions</b> | <p>Transport networks facilitate the flow of goods and people within and between countries and form the lifeblood of modern society. On the other hand, they are considered as the main sources for air pollution and lead to a large number of fatal accidents globally. Increased mobility demands on a global scale are accelerating these challenges. Approaches towards e-</p>  |

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|    |  | <p>mobility are making progress but offer a few downsides at the same time, e.g. the use of scarce materials for batteries required and the need to rethink infrastructure and city planning. In some parts of the world, the younger generation is exploring new ways of mobility, e.g. beyond ownership of vehicles.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to achieve a safe, affordable and accessible transport infrastructure?</li> <li>- How to design the low-emission transport solutions for a sustainable city?</li> <li>- What are the main innovations for a sustainable mobility sector and how can these be scaled to meet the larger issues?</li> </ul>  |
| 8  | <b>Architectural morphology</b>  | <p>The connection between the form and the design of buildings and structures, and their long-term sustainability is an underdeveloped knowledge field. What is, in fact, the most sustainable building design seen over its lifetime? In order to future proof buildings and structures, more evidence-based design is needed.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What happens to buildings and structures after they are built? What effective methods do we have to study socio-material relationships?</li> <li>- How can adaptability and flexibility be employed, in order to support limit resource flows over time, but also to support participation and empowerment of the user?</li> <li>- How can architectural design become a sustainability parameter?</li> </ul> |
| 9  | <b>Technology and material innovations</b>                                     | <p>Technological innovation is in the centre of sustainable transitions. New and resource efficient material needs to be developed and effectively introduced to the market. The re-introduction of traditional building technologies can also develop local material markets and support broader participation in constructing human settlements.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the technological possibilities for new efficient building materials?</li> <li>- How can transitions to fossil-free construction be promoted and managed?</li> <li>- How can the use of locally-available materials and technologies be promoted and scaled up?</li> <li>- Can the use of the right materials promote human health and prosperity?</li> </ul>                     |
| 10 | <b>Promoting green and blue structures for sustainable living environments</b> | <p>Green spaces and blue structure are important for living environments, local resilience, health and well-being. Parks, playgrounds, roof vegetation, open water and stormwater solutions are examples of incorporating green and blue structures. They can help to ensure that citizens have adequate opportunities for exposure to nature, biodiversity is maintained, ecosystem</p>   |

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|    |  | <p>services are offered, environmental hazards such as air pollution or noise are reduced or impacts of extreme weather events mitigated. We are looking for innovative approaches to increase the quality of urban settings through the integration of green and blue structures in the built environment.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the innovative strategies to include blue structures in planning in design?</li> <li>- How to design for ecosystem services in the built environment?</li> <li>- How to promote green spaces that are easily accessible for all population groups?</li> </ul>  |
| 11 | <b>Transformation and conservation</b>                             | <p>Existing buildings and structures can be a great material and cultural resource when planning for sustainable cities. However, approaches to urbanisation and transformation might come into conflict with the protection of both the formally established heritage and unprotected buildings and structures that signify a collective cultural or societal history.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What importance do history, heritage and culture have for developing sustainable built environments?</li> <li>- How can urban regeneration be aligned with (inclusive meaning?) heritage and participation?</li> <li>- How can cultural representation be understood in sustainable development?</li> </ul>   |
| 12 | <b>Sustainable management of terrestrial and inland ecosystems</b> | <p>Currently, thirteen million hectares of forests are being lost every year while the persistent degradation of drylands has led to the desertification of 3.6 billion hectares. Even though up to 15% of the land is currently under protection, biodiversity is still at risk. Deforestation and desertification – caused by human activities and climate change – pose major challenges to sustainable development and have affected the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in the fight against poverty. New approaches are needed to assure proper land tenure, reverse the loss of biodiversity and assure a sustainable use of land management with a focus on forests.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What types of conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services have been successful?</li> <li>- What are actions to reduce the degradation of natural habitats and loss of biodiversity?</li> <li>- How to mobilize significant resources and expertise at all levels to plan and finance sustainable forest management?</li> <li>- What complementary actions and innovations can be planned and financed to enhance biodiversity and green areas within towns and cities?</li> </ul> |

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| 13 | <b>Urban planning and design</b>                                   | <p>Rapid urbanisation is one the largest global challenges. New cities are to be constructed and existing cities are to be transformed for future sustainable societies. Infrastructures, mobility, land use, and resource distribution are among the wide range of topics that are addressed.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can urban and rural development be aligned?</li> <li>- What are the possibilities and downsides of densification?</li> <li>- How can urban design fight segregation and promote even resource distribution?</li> <li>- How can liveable cities be designed with respect to noise, health, recreation and social interaction?</li> </ul>   |
| 14 | <b>Urban transition - from the current state to a future state</b> | <p>Evidence shows that cities have to change and transition to a different state if they are going to be able to cope with large impacts from climate change and natural disasters. Through this transition they also contribute globally to reduce climate change induced problems. This transition will affect all components of the city as well as the current patterns and cultural norms of everyday life.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the priorities within urban transition strategies and how are they implemented at scale?</li> <li>- What are the crucial political, managerial and policy approaches to urban transition strategies?</li> <li>- What can we learn from practice to date in relation to successful strategies to implement urban transition strategies</li> </ul> |
| 15 | <b>Design for hope</b>   | <p>The built environment, humans and natural surroundings, represent needs and desires transferred into architecture. It is perceived differently by people, locally and globally. "Design for hope" looks for new ways to create buildings and places that respect the local context and biodiversity; are strongly rooted in history, landscape and the community; and are sustainable, beautiful and a pleasure to live in.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to challenge the ways of creating and transforming built environments for people and with people?</li> <li>- How to create beautiful built environments that respect the local context and biodiversity?</li> <li>- What are the lessons learnt from practice and research?</li> </ul>  |

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| 16 | <b>New governance approaches for a sustainable built environment</b> | <p>New and advanced types of governance are needed on all levels, in public authorities, private businesses as well as in civil society. We are looking for e.g. innovative approaches to encourage individual and collective responsibility (including central-local relations, multi-agency working, participatory models), new policies and taxation models, convincing showcases of public procurement initiatives, striking and innovatory business models etc. to reach a more sustainable built environment.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What types of governance have been successful in a specific setup?</li> <li>- What are the lessons learnt from the evaluation of certain policies?</li> <li>- What are the ingredients for successful public procurement?</li> </ul> |
| 17 | <b>Life-long learning for all</b>                                    | <p>High-quality learning on all levels needs to be ensured for creating a sustainable built environment: from school to polytechnic/ university, and during work life independently of gender, age, or socio-economic background. We are looking for strategies that facilitate learning throughout life for individuals and societies and are the keystone or organising principle for education policies.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to enable a deeper knowledge of the sustainable built environment?</li> <li>- What is your success story for inclusive and life-long learning in a specific context?</li> <li>- What are the keystones to facilitate learning independently from gender, age, or socio-economic background?</li> </ul>                                   |
| 18 | <b>Sustainable businesses and economic models</b>                    | <p>Alternative economic models and new business models are needed in order to support sustainable transitions in the building sector. We look for contributions that challenge the prevailing idea of economic growth in favour of the promotion of human prosperity and the safety of our planet.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the recent experiences of a sharing economy?</li> <li>- How can insurances and risks awareness push for more sustainable investments?</li> <li>- How can sustainability reporting be a tool for new business models?</li> <li>- How can generosity become a leading value for business?</li> </ul>   |
| 19 | <b>Digitalization for responsive cities</b>                          | <p>Responsive cities evolve from smart cities with citizens in the centre of action. We are looking for new approaches taking digitalization and connected cities to the next level discussing e.g. from the impact on future jobs to safe work environments to citizens who use smart technology to contribute to planning, design and management of their cities.</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p>   |

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|           |                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to keep cities from becoming a playground for digitalised businesses while residents and their quality of life are pushed aside?</li> <li>- How to respond to city-wide challenges more intelligent and inclusive digital solutions?</li> <li>- What are the future approaches for using big and rich-data for insightful analysis and management of cities?</li> </ul>   |
| <b>20</b> | <b>Management and leadership</b> | <p>Sustainable transitions are bound to challenge existing businesses, interest spheres and privileges. Be it in sustainable building projects, inside and between companies or at a societal and international level.</p> <p>To mitigate these challenges, managerial, organizational and processual perspectives can be mobilized. This stream is open for contributions studying management and leadership aspects of transition processes (incl. sustainability or circular elements, strategy for businesses, third sector associations and public organisations).</p> <p><b>Guiding questions but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can partnerships overcome fragmentation and/or create a drive for sustainability?</li> <li>- Which are the sustainability leaders and how is leadership carried out in sustainable and circular transition</li> <li>- How can levels of management contribute and/or constrain sustainable change?</li> </ul> |