

Organization for SBE Roundtables

22 June 2021

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All SBE event organizers have been invited to provide room in their agendas for a climate change roundtable. The SBE coordinators have changed the name of this conference segment to SBE Roundtables, reflecting the fact that these events are expected to include issues related to sustainable development in construction and real estate as well as climate change.

We have received generally positive responses from most SBE event organizers, but it is clear that some guidance on the organization and content of such events will be useful. This short document attempts to provide such guidance.

Overview

The intent of these round tables is to offer an opportunity to provide a focused view of high-level climate change and sustainability-related issues that may be relevant to the built environment in the region(s). Themes covered should include anticipated climate change impacts in the region and possible counter-actions, Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs) offered by the region or country, sustainability-related issues in the regional built environment.



We recommend that specific topics covered should be organized according to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that have been identified by the organizers of WSBE20 as the most relevant for the SBE series. However, our review of the SDGs indicates that they are much more meaningful at the second level of detail (targets and indicators), rather than the top level, and we suggest that this should be followed. Please refer to the excerpt below of Targets and Indicators for SDG 11.

TARGETS	INDICATORS
<p>11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums</p>	<p>11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing</p>
<p>11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons</p>	<p>11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</p>

Plan B Roundtable

In addition to the above general suggestions, we ask that each regional SBE conference should include one roundtable that is specifically devoted to “Plan B”.¹, an overview document outlining our views on the relationship between pandemics, climate change issues and urban strategies to deal with these. We informally call the document “Plan B” to indicate that it is not a formal government initiative, but is rather an unofficial proposal to address issues within the built environment related to pandemic and climate change impacts. The Plan B file has been continually presented and updated since 2008 by a group of iiSBE members and other colleagues, and previous versions have received strong endorsement from senior UNFCCC officials.

Its purpose is to interrogate political willingness (at city, regional and national levels) about the actions defined in “Plan B”. This will be useful to better understand not only the current levels of political engagement related to the built environment’s mitigation and adaptation strategies for climate change and health impacts, but also to clarify what the perceived impediments to action are, articulate what this specifically means for the research agenda (i.e. what politicians need from the research community and how researchers might better redirect their efforts). The event organisers may choose to focus on one country or contrast how different countries are responding.

We intend also to provide an important longitudinal dimension by having a Plan B roundtable at a global level as a regular feature at each World SBE conference – an interval of 3 years. This will reveal how the political understandings and commitments gradually or radically shift over time.

Suggested Roundtable format

Roundtable events should be part of the main agenda and will require a minimum of one 90-minute session, and for the World event, 1/2 day of time. We suggest that the Roundtable format be taken literally, e.g. the 10-12 active participants (see list below) seated a circular or tables arranged in a square, with spectators seated in remaining areas. For virtual conferences, this model will need to be adapted.

We advise against seating the active participants on a podium, as this creates a gap between the audience and the roundtable members, which impedes a free flow of discussion. To further promote a free interchange of ideas, the two main presenters on climate change and sustainability should be limited to a maximum of 3 to 5 minutes to state their opening arguments.

We suggest that the following participant types should be invited:

- * a moderator
- * a student scribe
- * one expert in regional climate change issues relevant to the built environment
- * one expert in regional sustainability issues in the built environment
- * senior government policy representative(s)

¹ Plan B- Integrated actions for Covid-19 & Climate Change 16Jun21



- * representative(s) of investment organizations
- * representative(s) of design and construction sector
- * representative(s) of real estate sector
- * a representative of the SBE series partners
- * a representative of UN Environment, if available
- * a representative of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GABC)
- * other conference delegates as space permits

We suggest that the two invited experts should be asked to prepare a short paper in advance of the event that provides an outline of issues relevant to his/her area of expertise. We ask that a written summary of key issues and outcomes should be posted on the conference website at the end of the conference, and that the text also be provided directly to SBE partners to allow collation with other SBE regional conferences.

We also propose that all participants in the round table should be asked to complete a simple input form that covers aspects related to the two main issues.

Possible model 1/2 day agenda

The following model agenda is provided as one that could be the basis of a half-day agenda for your individual event.

15 min.	Welcome and introduction to key participants (moderator)
30 min.	Presentation on possible climate change impacts in the region, and proposed counter-actions.
15 min.	Q&A and discussion
30 min.	Presentation on issues related to sustainability in the built environment in the region, and proposed actions.
15 min.	Q&A and discussion
30 min.	Coffee break
20 min.	Contributions by UN Environment and GABC, if possible.
50 min.	Regional delegates provide their views related to their professional expertise, all related to regional issues.
20 min.	Summary of discussion provided by the moderator.
TOTAL 225 min. (1/2 day)	

SBE Roundtable outcomes

Outcomes of all individual Roundtables will be reviewed by the SBE partners and a summary report will be submitted to the organizers of the World SBE23 global conference in Montreal in a form that allows all results to be shown in accordance with the SDG organizational structure.

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