



CICA – World Construction Association

Annual Conference in Paris, November 4, 2026

***Maison des Travaux Publics, 3 rue de Berri, 75 008 Paris,
Amphithéâtre Auguste Brulé***

BUILDING WHAT MATTERS: ALIGNING DEVELOPMENT AMBITIONS WITH INDUSTRY EXPERTISE

CONCEPT NOTE

The biggest challenge of the coming decades may not be a lack of capability. Our industry possesses extraordinary technical, financial, and operational capacity. The largest challenge may be mobilizing those capabilities toward society's most important unmet needs at the speed and scale required.

By 2050, nearly 70% of the world's population will live in urban areas. Cities are facing unprecedented challenges: rapid population growth, climate change, aging infrastructure, housing shortages, increasing mobility needs, and growing demands for resilient water and energy systems. Ensuring that no territory is left behind also means strengthening connectivity between cities and the wider regions they serve, while ensuring equitable access to quality social infrastructure and essential services for all communities. At the same time, governments are under pressure to deliver infrastructure faster, more efficiently, and with greater transparency and sustainability.

The construction sector has a central role to play in addressing these challenges. Beyond building infrastructure, companies are increasingly expected to contribute throughout the entire project lifecycle—from project preparation and financing to delivery, operations, maintenance, training and asset renewal.





This conference will bring together public authorities, international organizations, development institutions, academia, contractors, engineers, and investors to explore how the construction industry can help shape the landscape of tomorrow.

Topics: *International Development; Contech; Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation; Project Preparation; Lifecycle Infrastructure Management and Maintenance; Decarbonization and Climate Resilience; Inclusive Urban Development; Transparency, Integrity and Anti-Corruption; Public-Private Collaboration; Innovative Procurement and Contracting Models; Professionalization of procurement*

PROGRAM

8:45 – 8:55 | REGISTRATION

09:00 – 09:05 | OPENING

- **Juan Armando VICUÑA**, President, CICA

09:05 – 10:00 | KEYNOTE ADDRESSES – Meeting global Infrastructure & Housing needs: Building Capacity and Leveraging AI

- **Jean-Jacques VERDEAUX**, World Bank, Procurement Manager for Latin America and the Caribbean, Presentation of the Professionalization of the Procurement Function
- **Henri BLAS**, Global Infrastructure Hub, Program Lead, Presentation of the latest trends in infrastructure (confirmed - video or in person)
- **Paloma SILVA**, Sector Lead Specialist Housing, Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB) (video tbc)
- **Saurabh MISHRA**, Founder of Taiyo, Presentation of the OpenConstruct Community
- **Shameer ISSANY**, President, Contech France

10:00 – 11:00 | SESSION 1 – SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE: Delivering Quality and Affordable Housing, Healthcare and Education, Moderated by Fanny Dastuge, Director General, CICA

OBJECTIVES

- Demonstrate the high performance and innovation capacity of the construction industry
- Highlight the needs and challenges in different regions of the world





- Discuss how to improve and optimize the financing, procurement and have a successful delivery of social infrastructure projects to answer the high demand of new social infrastructure and maintenance of the existing assets

SPEAKERS

- **Ruben VELASCO SAINZ**, Head of Innovation at SACYR, Cognitive Hospital Case Study
- **Andrea CHAO**, Partner Bird & Bird, Early Contractor Involvement for social infrastructure
- **Helen STURDY**, New Hospital Program, Pre-construction Strategy, Deputy Director NHS UK, Member NEC4 Contracts Board
- **Augusto GUTIÉRREZ**, Gleeds, Director, Schools & Infrastructure Programs under Government-to-Government contracts in Peru
- **Eng. Zakariya Abdulrahman AL ABDULQADER**, Chairman, Federation of Contractors in Islamic Countries (FOCIC)

11:00 – 11:30 | COFFEE BREAK

11:30 – 12:30 | SESSION 2 – UTILITIES: Building Resilient and Sustainable Water and Energy Services, Moderated by Andine Canton, Policy Officer, CICA

OBJECTIVES

- Mobilize industry expertise to address growing water and energy needs and strengthen resilience against climate and other systemic risks
- Explore integrated, ecosystem-based solutions across the infrastructure lifecycle to accelerate the transition towards sustainable and efficient water and energy services.
- Identify opportunities for stronger investment and public-private cooperation in utility infrastructure

SPEAKERS

- **Hadi GEMAYEL**, Deputy Director, SOMAGEC, Morocco “Waterway »
- **Frédéric SCHRIQUI**, Americas Director at NGE
- **Haïraty ZADA**, Eiffage Energies
- Representative from **EBRD or AFD** (pending confirmation)
- **GIZA** – Energy Infrastructure Projects (confirmed depending on schedule)





12:30 – 14:00 | NETWORKING LUNCH

14:00 – 15:00 | SESSION 3 – MOBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY, Moderated by Ambassador Hatem Tageldin, Secretary General, African Federation of Construction Contractors' Associations (AFCCA)

OBJECTIVES

- Connect people, cities and regions through better infrastructure
- Accelerate the transition towards sustainable and resilient mobility
- Leverage innovation, investment and industry expertise to transform connectivity

SPEAKERS

- **Jose Antonio ARDAVIN**, Head of Division, Latin America and the Caribbean at the OECD, Bi-oceanic corridor in South America
- **Alfredo INGLETI**, FIDIC President
- **Miguel CASO FLOREZ**, Secretary General, PIARC – the World Road Association
- **Mariam BADEYAN**, Chief Legal Officer, AAB Construction
- **Andrea COSTANZI**, Senior Manager, International Contract Management, Webuild
- **Sally EL SAWAH**, Co-Founder Junction SES

15:00 – 15:15 | ANTI-CORRUPTION AND TRANSPARENCY

By John Hawkins, Programme Director, CoST – The Infrastructure Transparency Initiative (CoST)

- Supporting contractors to identify and mitigate integrity risks
- Saving millions, enabling participation and shifting mindsets: Lessons from CoST Thailand

Signing of the MoU between CoST and CICA

15:15 – 15:45 – INNOVATION AWARDS CEREMONY, by Demet DEMIRER, Construction 5.0 Working Group Chair

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Tim Meijster, Innovation Manager Artificial Intelligence, TU Delft, Innovation & Impact Centre





15:45 – 16:00 | CLOSING REMARKS

- Summary of key takeaways and outlook for future cooperation *by Juan Armando VICUÑA, President, CICA*

GLOBAL CONTECH & PROPTech MAP EXHIBITION

The World Construction Association (CICA) has launched the CICA World ConTech & PropTech Map, a new global initiative designed to identify, showcase, and connect the most innovative actors transforming the construction and built environment sectors worldwide.

Officially launched on June 8, 2026, on CICA's website, the Map operates as a year-round living platform, continuously integrating new startups, scaleups, technology providers, research centers, incubators, accelerators, and innovation ecosystems from around the world.

As the global voice of the international construction industry since 1974, CICA created this initiative to strengthen connections between innovation and industry needs while accelerating the digital transformation of construction worldwide. The platform provides international visibility to emerging technologies and facilitates collaboration between innovators, contractors, investors, institutions, and industry leaders through CICA's global network.

The initiative places particular emphasis on technologies supporting the decarbonization of the construction sector, sustainable infrastructure development, and solutions contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Fully aligned with the principles of the Construction 5.0 movement, the Map aims to help industry stakeholders discover innovative solutions capable of shaping a smarter, more resilient, and more sustainable built environment.

Ten selected startups from the Map's applicants will have the opportunity to showcase their solutions during the CICA Conference on November 4, 2026, in Paris. Conference participants will be able to discover and engage with them in the exhibition area.

[Discover more.](#)





About CICA

Founded in 1974, CICA – the World Construction Association, brings together contractors' associations and industry stakeholders from across the world to promote international cooperation, sustainable infrastructure development, innovation, and best practices within the construction sector.

For more information

Please visit: www.cica.net

LinkedIn: [CICA - World Construction Association | LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cica-world-construction-association/)

Contact: Fanny DASTUGUE f.dastugue@cica.net and Andine CANTON a.canton@cica.net

