EXPO 2020 DUBAI
NEXT GEN WORLD MAJLIS
CITYZEN 2030

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Expo 2020 Dubai’s Visitor Centre
Cityzen 2030
Gen Z And The Future Of Cities

By 2030, 60 percent of city populations will be under the age of 18. Many of the best solutions and ideas to address the biggest challenges of our times will come from the next generation of urban citizens.

The Expo 2020 Next Gen World Majlis invites young minds to talk about opportunities and challenges of the future city, focussing specifically on the new ideas that can help create better cities. Through World Majlis conversation, we will explore and share ideas to build happier, stronger and more sustainable communities for our common future.

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UN-HABITAT
Introduction

For thousands of years, some of the greatest ideas and innovations have been developed in cities.

Cities have always been places where the best of human imagination and creativity came together, helping the economy to prosper and society to thrive. In every continent, cities have been centres for connectivity and collaboration.

“What is the future of cities as we move towards 2020 and beyond? One of the aspects that makes the 21st century truly unique is how fast cities are expanding. Today, we live on an urban planet: more than half of humanity lives in cities.

However, as cities grow larger and more populated they generate new opportunities and become more vulnerable at the same time. While cities offer homes, jobs, security, recreation and comfort for millions, many children and teenagers who live in cities do not have access to even the basics of modern life: water, electricity, education and medical care.
People have always been drawn to the energy, magnificence and dreams offered by cities. As symbols of human progress and originality, cities fascinate us with their diversity and openness to new ideas. They capture our imagination with their architecture, human stories and the endless creativity they generate.

Throughout history, cities have charmed us. In the fourteenth century, Marco Polo described the infrastructure and culture of ancient Beijing, while Ibn Battuta was awe-struck by the beauty of architecture in Cairo and the city’s generous treatment of the sick. Countless writers, artists and musicians have found their inspiration in the physical and human aspects of cities.

As we move towards 2030, how can we ensure that cities are great places to live? Can cities help us connect to one another in meaningful ways? What beautiful stories will we tell in the city of the future?

“\nYou take delight not in a city’s seven or seventy wonders, but in the answer it gives to a question of yours.\n”

Italo Calvino, The Invisible City
Mobility Will Shape the Future of Cities

The 21st century is shaped by global movement of people, ideas and goods. Cities are growing at a very fast speed. Each week, 1.3 million people are added to cities around the world.

By 2045, the number of urban dwellers will increase to 6 billion, adding another 2 billion people who will need shelter, jobs, education, water, energy and infrastructure in the city.

On the one hand, cities mobility brings talent and creativity into the cities of the future, helping us generate new ideas and finding solutions to new challenges in the world. On the flip side, the growth and buzz of cities puts enormous pressures on infrastructure, housing and employment. Large urban centres are subject to health issues, extreme poverty, homelessness, unemployment, as well as loneliness and stress.

By 2030, we could have as many as 50 [megacities] anchoring the global system.
Parag Khanna, Connectography

Communities become stronger, happier and more resourceful when neighbours care, when we ensure success for all, when we cultivate the next generation of visionary leaders. More than ever before, today’s cities can bring out the best in humanity, inspiring us to work together to imagine a better future for all. How do we design cities that are beneficial for everyone, where every individual can achieve his or her full potential? How can cities leave a legacy of hope, optimism, happiness and good leadership?
Cities have a large impact on our planet. As they grow ever-bigger, they increase use of fossil fuels in our cars and trucks, heating and cooling of our homes, and generate waste released in our soil and water.

From greenhouse gases to climate change, from waste management to healthcare, from pollution to habitat loss, many of the challenges we face today can be linked to cities and their ever-expanding consumption of food, fuel, water and resources.

How can we make cities the places where the best solutions are found and tested? Thankfully, many cities have plans to function with less resources, to become sustainable using smarter technologies and build healthier neighbourhoods. Moving forward, how can we design cities that leave a positive impact on the planet and the biosphere? What makes a city happier, more beautiful and more livable over time? How can we ensure that cities are stronger and resilient to drastic changes such a climate change and population growth?

“First life, then spaces, then buildings—the other way around never works.”

Jan Gehl
A Cityzen in 2030

To be selected to participate in the Expo 2020 Next Gen World Majlis, students were asked to share their reflections on the future of cities by answering one of the questions below.

Imagine that you live in a city of the future in 2030. You have a home in one of the 50 megacities on the planet (a megacity is an urban area with a population of more than 10 million people).

Choose ONE question below that reflects your vision of this imaginary city in which you live.

- How does your city ensure that every resident is able to reach her or his full potential?
- How does your city use smart technologies and innovative ideas to help build stronger, happier, and more sustainable neighborhoods?
- How does your city encourage meaningful conversations and dialogue between people?
- How does your city help people become more productive, creative and happier?
- What role will you play in making your future city a better place to live?
- How might schools in your city collaborate to create a better future?
- How could your city help to solve some of our biggest challenges facing our planet?
- What does it mean to be a responsible urban citizen in 2030?
For more information on the World Majlis, please visit www.expo2020dubai.com/World-Majlis

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