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دبي، الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



المجلس العالمي  
WORLD MAJLIS

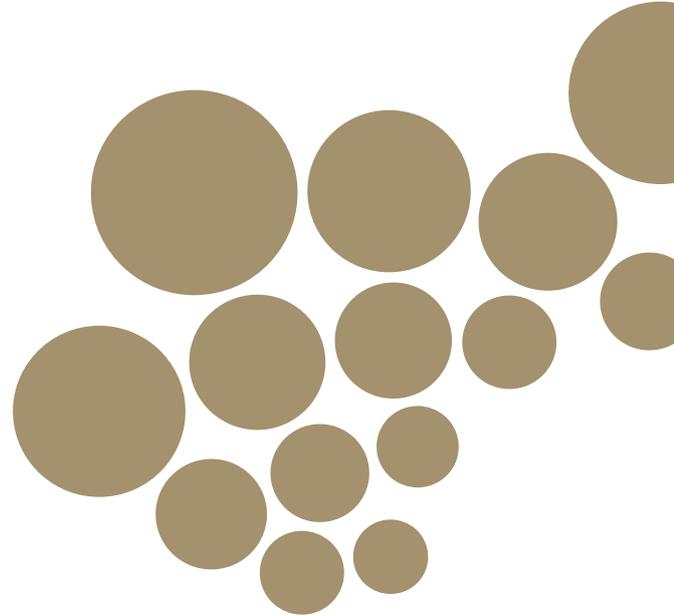
# المجلس العالمي WORLD MAJLIS

## 8 BILLION POSSIBILITIES

In a world headed towards eight billion people, how can human innovation and ingenuity create opportunity to shape the future?

### Summary

New Museum, New York  
23 September 2018





## WORLD EXPO AND GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS

Since the first Great Exhibition held in London in 1851, World Expos have connected people and provided special spaces to spark dialogue amongst those who are curious about the future. With its mix of art and science, imagination and analysis, machines and ideas, nations and people, the Expo is a special place for convening inquisitive minds interested to ask questions about the future and, in so doing, learn more about each other. Expos have always been a mirror of their times.

Inspired by the format and values of the traditional majlis, the World Majlis is an original format for open, informed and measured conversations between diverse thought leaders and change-makers with the objective of helping us to explore and better understand areas of great significance for society from multiple points of view. The goal of these conversations is to generate new perspectives and incubate meaningful connections between people and new ideas.

The World Majlis will take place in the UAE and internationally in the lead-up to and during Expo 2020, with the goal of opening new horizons around the theme and the subthemes. Hosted in culturally significant locations, these conversations are committed to an inclusive and constructive dialogue of the highest quality in an environment that reflects the UAE's tradition of welcome and respect... the Majlis.

## CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

The first international edition of Expo 2020 Dubai's World Majlis programme, held in New York City, explored how to unlock *Opportunity* in a world approaching a population of eight billion people, drawing its topic from the Expo 2020 Dubai Opportunity Pavilion and aligning with one of Expo 2020 Dubai's three subthemes (alongside Mobility and Sustainability).

Topics of discussion on 23 September included how opportunity is created, how it is hindered and ways in which we can all access it, in addition to the role of technology and value systems, and the significance of collective action in driving forward opportunities.

The importance of inspiring action, especially among youth, emerged as a key priority. We can all be agents of change in today's world, with digital platforms enabling billions to connect and share ideas to create true opportunity.



"In all of our humble selves lies an ability to do something incredible. In this context, Expo 2020 Dubai can play a pivotal role in shifting people's perception, and in not seeing visitors simply as visitors, but as game changers and trend setters of the future; with the embodiment of 'Connecting Minds and Creating the Future', we aspire to be instigators of this change."

*HE Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General, Expo 2020 Dubai Bureau.*

"The pavilions at Expo 2020 will provide spaces where people can talk about global issues and share experiences. This knowledge-sharing and collaboration is how we start to take little efforts, extrapolate them and make them work in the real world."

*HE Majid Al Suwaidi, UAE Consul General in New York*



"We will see a better future if we all listen to and collaborate with each other. The idea of the World Majlis and Expo 2020 is to bring different mindsets together in one place, where we are open to discuss, debate, agree and disagree."

*HE Mansour Almansour, the head of the National Media Council*



## KEY MESSAGES

- Significant progress has been made to increase access to opportunity – lifting people out of poverty while advancing education and health.
- In a world approaching eight billion people, and which is increasingly shaped by the power of technology, further issues include the mobility of opportunity; the values that we embed in technology and society; and the leadership and political will to implement positive and progressive change.
- The role of youth is central. It is about giving a voice to new generations, enabling them to contribute to and provide solutions for their communities.

## MAJOR QUESTIONS FOR FUTURE WORLD MAJLIS SESSIONS

- How do we help people to discover the meaning in their lives?
- How do we amplify opportunity by making technology an equaliser rather than a divider?
- What are the new drivers of opportunity and criteria of success that define equality in today's world?



“We don't just want visitors to come to Expo and have a great time. We also want them to believe that they have not only a responsibility but also an ability to do something good, something positive.”

*HE Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General, Expo 2020 Dubai Bureau.*

## FROM LATENT POTENTIAL TO SUPERCHARGING THE FUTURE



There is a wealth of untapped potential in disenfranchised people and communities – particularly youth. They can make a difference to their communities while gaining greater access to opportunities. This power can be harnessed by encouraging youth and making them part of broader collaborative and advocacy initiatives.

Environmental advocacy organisations such as Green Hope engage youth on issues such as climate change, global warming, sustainable consumption, gender inequality, clean water and sanitation. This can be done through music, arts, dance, drama, sports and fashion. Participants observed that children want to do something to support their immediate environment. This helps build a stronger community by uniting youth around a strong sense of purpose, responsibility and a desire to make an impact.



*“Our biggest threat today is apathy. We need to inspire empathy and engender agency.”*

*HE Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General, Expo 2020 Dubai Bureau.*



"We have been able to reach out to more than 5,000 marginalised children and youth in 12 countries. Every person has the potential to be a change-maker. These marginalised young people have that potential too – all they need is access to education, a safe environment, and a culture of tolerance and peace."

*Kehkashan Basu, Founder of Green Hope Foundation and Youth Ambassador for the World Future Council*



"The challenge with climate change is that the younger you are, the more you will be impacted by inaction. The key question is how to empower the youth to take action."

*Kevin Chalhoub, Masters in Clean Energy and Atmosphere, Stanford University*

## CO-EXISTING WITH TECHNOLOGY

Technology today is integral to the fabric of our lives. Technological platforms support us in all aspects of how we learn, work, conduct business, find information, and formulate and communicate our ideas. It is ever more important to ensure that these technologies are embedded with the correct value systems and that they operate with transparency, algorithmic fairness and user participation in key decision making.

Digital technologies are reshaping the nature of existing partnership models and many of the ways we organise our economy and society. We are moving from an industrial- to a platform-based model that draws on distributed crowds of people. At the same time, the institutions that we have historically relied on and trusted are changing, with the responsibility being handed over to digital giants that provide our windows to information.

Technology can be a powerful equaliser. Access can open up doors to new skills and the ability to become a micro-entrepreneur by developing the business and technical know-how needed to operate in the digital world – creating new economic opportunities. Such access goes further than digital literacy or owning a mobile phone. But access to technology is not equal, and often the most marginalised people lack the very assets they need to unlock opportunities. We need a new institutional infrastructure that ensures people connect to opportunity in an equal manner.



“We need to take the knowledge that we have accumulated from traditional, human-run institutions and translate it. Nothing is completely new, we just have to ensure that this built knowledge is embedded in new digital platforms.”

*Professor Arun Sundararajan, Robert L. and Dale Atkins Rosen Faculty Fellow, (NYU) Stern School of Business*

“One of the challenges that technology brings is really affecting international relations on a very high level.”

*Tasneem Alghamdi, Columbia University School of Journalism, Global Content Strategist at Google*



While we increasingly rely on technology across all aspects of our lives, we need to ensure that the principles and values embedded in it do not restrict or deny opportunity. As we hand over traditional responsibilities to the digital realm, such as censorship and equal access, there must be a governing system to oversee this process and ensure that these new systems uphold the values we require. We do not need to imagine new values, we only need to embed our existing values into the digital systems that are increasingly governing our lives.

Trust and access to digital platforms are two sides of the same coin, and raise the question of how we create opportunity without restricting it. The platform that might create and distribute opportunity to people may also later impose restrictions on this opportunity in order to gain the greatest advantage from it.



“We need to take advantage of the best part of technology. Today, we have tools such as facial recognition and fingerprinting to provide identification for children, but to do that we also need the will.”

*Dr Seth Berkley, CEO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance*



## THE POWER OF IDEAS AND LEADERSHIP



Ideas are an integral part of humanity's toolkit and the key to unlocking opportunity – just think of how the internet has transformed life as we know it. Likewise, there are ideas being formulated today that will go on to change our lives for the better.

At a time when the focus is so much about differences – be they national, cultural or religious – we must remember that amazing ideas can come from anyone and be shared freely. Digital connectivity allows us to replicate the traditional ways in which we communicate with each other, and therefore bring about ideas at a global scale.

Today, through various digital platforms, an individual's message can reach millions – enabling ideas to be shared, shaped and put into action. Ideas can bring people together and generate a mutual sense of excitement around common interests. They help to build action, create a sense of purpose and enable us to take an active role in making responsible decisions and driving change.

In order to solve global challenges, from climate change to access to opportunity, a conversation about power is required. If we are to achieve our goals, technology and innovation need to be accompanied by political will and leadership. There needs to be a conscious effort from those in power to make the right decisions and focus on the common aspects of the human experience rather than what divides us.

For example, a recent United Nations study suggests that USD 26 trillion of economic value could be added to the world economy by 2030 if we pursued green power from renewable energy sources. All that's missing is political will and leadership.



“We must teach students how to judge information effectively, and make sure their ideas exist in a diverse environment.”

*Kim Campbell, Prime Minister of Canada (1993), WLA-Club de Madrid Member*

“We are very proud of our partnership with the UAE as we work together to eradicate polio.”

*Joe Cerrell, Managing Director, Global Policy and Advocacy, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*

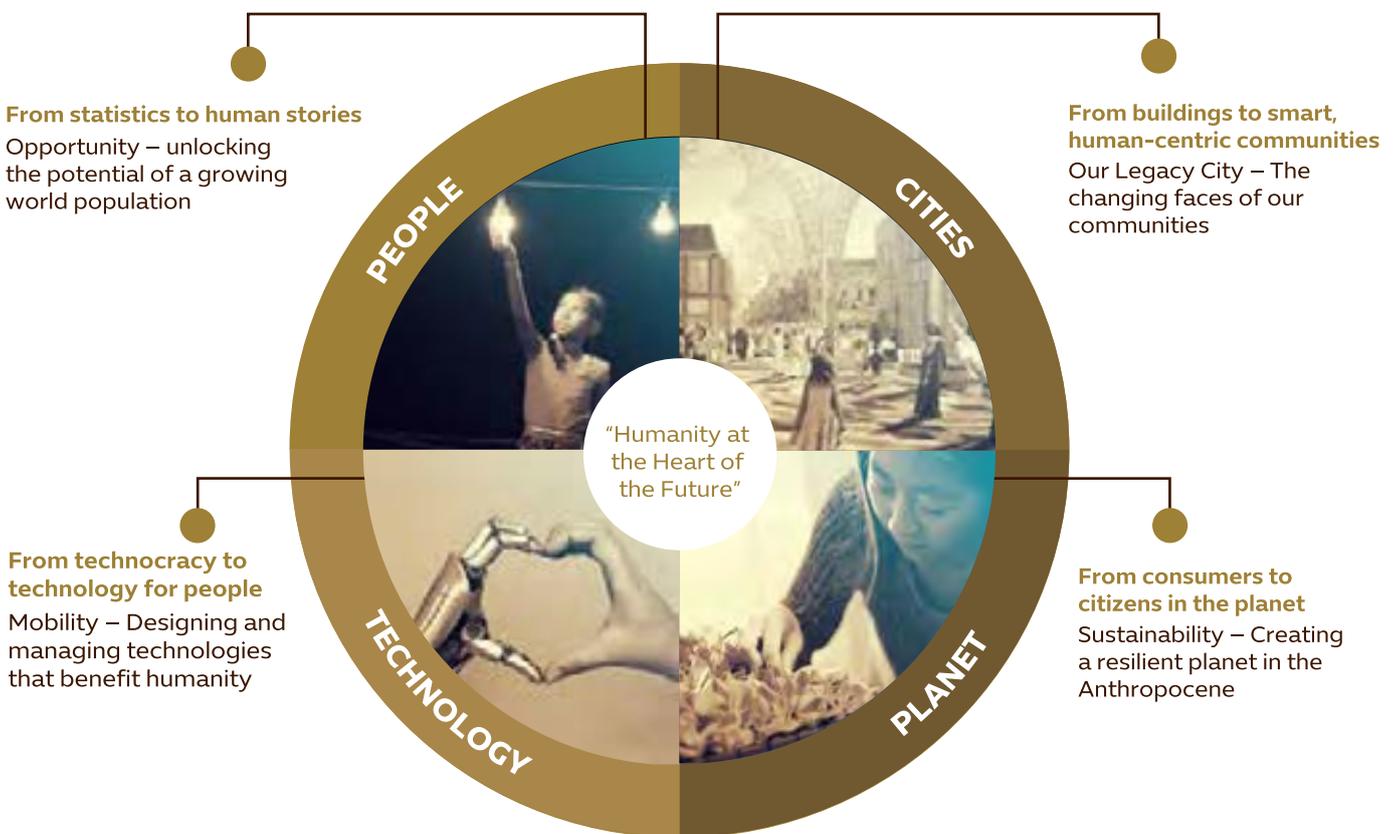


“It is crucial that we help young people discover their true purpose in life, as this will define in them a lifetime of commitment to that cause.”

*Yousuf Caires, Vice President of Expo Live, Expo 2020 Dubai*

## WORLD MAJLIS THEMES

The World Majlis programme focuses on topics that matter to all of us because they can impact our future and that of the next generation. World Majlis conversations are connected by the common thread of placing humanity at the heart of how we design the future. We have identified four areas that resonate with Expo 2020's theme, the UAE vision as well as the major global transformations that we are experiencing today in an unprecedented scale and scope.



## THE WAY FORWARD

Expo 2020 Dubai will integrate the knowledge and outcomes of this World Majlis to inform further conversations before and during the next World Expo.





## Participants

### **HE Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy**

UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General,  
Expo 2020 Dubai Bureau (Host)

### **HE Lana Zaki Nusseibeh**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the UAE to the United Nations (Moderator)

### **HE Majid Al Suwaidi**

UAE Consul General in New York

### **Yousuf Caires**

Vice President of Expo Live, Expo 2020 Dubai

### **His Excellency Mansour Al Mansouri**

Director General, UAE National Media Council

## Students

### **Kim Campbell**

Prime Minister of Canada (1993), WLA-Club  
de Madrid Member

### **AbdAllah Abualreesh Almansoori**

Columbia University

### **Professor Arun Sundararajan**

Robert L. and Dale Atkins Rosen Faculty Fellow,  
(NYU) Stern School of Business

### **Abdulla Alhussam**

Masters in Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy,  
New York University

### **Chris Anderson**

Curator, TED

### **Adil Hussein**

Bachelors in Financial Economics, Columbia University

### **Joe Cerrell**

Managing Director, Global Policy and Advocacy,  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

### **Amal Al Khoori**

Masters in Tourism Management, New York University

### **Jon Banner**

Chief Communications Officer, PepsiCo & President,  
PepsiCo Foundation

### **Fatima Al Hammadi**

Masters in International Education, New York University

### **Kehkashan Basu**

Founder of Green Hope Youth and Youth Ambassador  
for the World Future Council

### **Kevin Chalhoub**

Masters in Clean Energy and Atmosphere, Stanford  
University

### **Patrick Chalhoub**

CEO, Chalhoub Group and member of the board of the  
United Nations Global Compact

### **Lamees Abulkhair**

Masters of Management and Systems, New York University

### **Lubna Alnasser**

Doctorate in Public Health (Epidemiology), Columbia  
University Medical College

### **Dr Seth Berkley**

CEO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

### **Tasneem Alghamdi**

Masters in Journalism, Columbia University