EXPO 2020 DUBAI
NEXT GEN WORLD MAJLIS
Discover the Next Gen World Majlis

The Next Gen World Majlis invites young people to take an active part in the Expo 2020 Dubai’s global conversations on subjects that matter to humanity and to all of our futures.

Their ideas, dreams and voices are an essential part of the planning, design and outcomes of the Expo’s thematic programmes. The knowledge capital developed through Expo 2020 Dubai would not be complete without the contribution of the young generations.

The Next Gen World Majlis is a series of conversations connected to the World Majlis programme. It is aimed to spark conversations with and amongst young adults on themes that matter for the future. The ideas and questions that emerge will enrich the content of the World Majlis before, during and after Expo 2020 Dubai.
World Expos bring together people, ideas and cultures. They connect us and bring us on a journey to discover the future. Through their themes, exhibitions and activities they spark dialogue, imagination and understanding. They are special places and moments where we can ask big questions about the future and, in so doing, learn more about one another.
The majlis: a gift of the Emirati culture to Expo 2020 and to the World

The majlis is one of the most cherished cultural practices of the UAE that also reflects the essence of our theme of ‘Connecting Minds, Creating the Future’.

In the UAE, the majlis has always been the space where family, friends and leaders have come together to share moments of joy and to plan the future together. Expo 2020 Dubai proudly embraces its timeless values of respectful listening and sharing of knowledge, news and challenges.

Our common humanity finds its best expression in the majlis.

Conversations can be a powerful force in creating the future, yet in our digital age we may have lost the art of conversation.

The founders of the United Arab Emirates met in the desert and, in the shade of their tent, they shared coffee and talked to one another with hope and respect as they envisaged the future of their nation.

The majlis has been inscribed in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and it defines majlis as “sitting places’ where community members gather to discuss local events and issues, exchange news, receive guests, socialise and be entertained.”
The World Majlis is the theme dialogue programme of Expo 2020 Dubai. It is a series of connected conversations before and during Expo 2020 Dubai. It is an original format for open, informed and measured conversations between current and future thought leaders from different backgrounds, perspectives, expertise and generations to talk about important topics that matter to our shared future.

Each World Majlis connects exceptional minds in an open and authentic conversational format. Its aim is to spark new ways to think about current challenges, to open new avenues of thoughts in ways that can only happen by looking at a problem with new eyes and from multiple points of views.
Its outcomes contribute directly to the agenda and knowledge capital of Expo 2020 Dubai and will be reflected in the areas where Expo 2020 Dubai is seeking its greatest impact during the event and after it closes its doors in 2021.

To date, the World Majlis have brought together over 500 thought leaders, government officials, historians, academics, artists and students from the UAE and beyond.

“The conversation that flourished at the World Majlis demonstrates the potential of what we can achieve when we bring our differences together for a common goal.

In this sense, the World Majlis is pushing the boundaries of what a World Expo can be: a driver for positive change, not only for the six months of the expo itself, but throughout our journey to 2020 and beyond.”

HE Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General, Dubai Expo 2020 Bureau
Inspired by the Expo’s theme of ‘Connecting Minds, Creating the Future’ and its subthemes of ‘Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability’, the World Majlis conversations explore the areas where we can place humanity and its wellbeing at the core of the future.

**Humanity at the Core of the Future**

- **Unlocking the potential of a growing world**
  - Jobs of the future
  - The future of education
  - Health and well-being

- **The changing face of our communities**
  - Resilient cities of the future
  - Regenerating the earth

- **Innovation with a heart**
  - Governing future of technologies & realities
  - Human behaviour and ethics in cyberspace
  - Data for good

- **Creating a resilient planet**
  - The future of resources
  - Circular economies
  - Being a responsible citizen of the Anthropocene
CityZen 2030
Gen Z and the Future of Cities

The inaugural Next Gen World Majlis conversation saw 21 students, aged 14 to 17, coming together from 18 public and private schools across the UAE to discuss opportunities and challenges related to the urban areas of tomorrow, and share ideas that could help improve cities for future generations.
The second Next Gen World Majlis session, hosted during the UAE Innovation Month, invited 21 students from across the UAE aged 14 to 17 to discuss how humanity can embrace technology as a tool to drive positive change without impacting on the current quality of life.
At the third Next Gen World Majlis session that took place on the sidelines of the World Tolerance Summit 2019, 15 school students from across the UAE gathered to discuss how we engage with art as a powerful ally in promoting tolerance, understanding and empathy to move us towards action for a better future.
16 school students from across the UAE gathered at this Next Gen World Majlis to discuss how we can best influence the health of the planet’s systems, and in turn support our own wellbeing.
Coinciding with UAE Innovation Month, 13 school students gathered to discuss how we can be more responsible consumers of technology in our new hyperconnected reality and ways to ensure our relationship with technology benefits ourselves, our communities and society.
For more information on the World Majlis, please visit