“Governments that place the wellbeing of the people at the heart of their efforts achieve progressive development and contribute to the journey of human advancement”

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President & Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai
“We are living in a historic era that is witnessing a turning point for the work of government, and we must unify international efforts to prepare for the future”

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President & Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai
His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates
His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President & Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai
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World Government Summit 2019

The seventh edition of the World Government Summit was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), in February 2019, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai.

The 2019 edition attracted more than 4,000 participants, including global political leaders, international policy-makers, researchers, innovators and academic experts from 140 different countries. An internationally renowned platform dedicated to shaping the future of governments worldwide, the Summit aims to inspire and enable the next generation of governments to shape the future of humanity worldwide.

The World Government Summit 2019 featured nearly 300 thought leaders speaking across more than 200 sessions to share their knowledge and experiences, and present research findings and best practices. In addition to the main program, the sidelines of the World Government Summit form a stage for international cooperation, a meeting place for nations and organizations to come together, for governments to sign agreements, and for visionaries to launch novel initiatives and showcase embryonic technologies.

The World Government Summit has established the UAE as a center for international cooperation, thanks to the vision and guidance of the nation’s leadership, and plays a significant role in formulating global trends. It sets the agenda for leaders and policy-makers to debate how the next generation of governments can harness innovation and technology to solve the challenges facing humanity today and in the future.
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Main Agenda

High-level officials and distinguished international speakers highlighted pivotal issues shaping the world and solutions to global challenges that contribute to building a better future for humankind.
In a riveting address to the Summit that he delivered as a hologram, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Dubai Executive Council, and Chairman of Dubai Future Foundation, focused on the future of cities and the shifts they will soon experience.

Cities are the foundation of global economic progress and throughout history they have been the engine driving human development. The future of humanity, he asserted, is therefore directly linked to the future of cities.

Sheikh Hamdan highlighted seven areas shaping the future of cities that governments must be prepared for:

- Redesigning cities to better meet the needs of citizens in the modern age
- Adopting new modes of transportation to reduce long commutes, which negatively impact happiness and wellbeing
- Using artificial intelligence to make cities smarter and safer
- Transforming cities into food producers as well as consumers and adopting clean energy sources
- Attracting qualified and talented manpower that will play an instrumental role in attracting the flow of capital
- Adapting to the new digital economy, where data is the ‘new oil’
- Embracing an agile approach to governance that leverages emerging technologies to inform policy-making
Papal Message
To Governments
Of The World

His Holiness Pope Francis
Head of the Catholic Church, Sovereign of the Vatican City State

In a televised message to the Summit, His Holiness Pope Francis, Head of the Catholic Church and Sovereign of the Vatican City State, urged government leaders to work together to build a better world, rather than trying to find opportunities to take advantage of individually. He highlighted his recent visit to the UAE, explaining that he witnessed a country that was striving to uphold the principles of tolerance, respect, brotherhood, and freedom through concrete initiatives. Pope Francis expressed his hope that other countries in the world will bloom in a similar manner. It is possible, he noted, but only if nations are willing to grow together with openness and mutual respect.

Sustainable development cannot be achieved without solidarity. In today’s world, it is more important than ever before that decisions are made in cooperation with others, because without others, he concluded, the future does not exist.

“Thinking and acting require a true dialogue with others, because without others there is no future”
A Journey Of Wisdom

Lt Gen HH Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Interior of the
United Arab Emirates

In a moving keynote address, Lieutenant General His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the UAE, emphasized how the guiding principles of wisdom and tolerance have steered Emirati society to achieve stability and prosperity.

Sheikh Saif explained that wisdom plays an instrumental role in the political, economic, and social affairs of a country and ensures the continuity of success. In politics, it must be exercised along with justice and rational thinking. The UAE leaders’ wisdom has led to achieving a balance between building a defense force and developing the country on the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

Economic wisdom lies in successfully navigating difficult times. According to Sheikh Saif, social cohesion, solidarity, and dignity are values deeply rooted in Emirati traditions.

With these tenets of wisdom in mind, he added, the UAE Government’s foremost goal will continue to be to enhance the wellbeing and quality of life of Emirati and global communities.

“We have a responsibility to pursue the journey of wisdom to secure a bright and successful future for our upcoming generations”
Pope Francis In The Emirates: A New Dawn For The Middle East

HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation & Chairman of the Education & Human Resources Council of the United Arab Emirates

The landmark visit of His Holiness Pope Francis, Head of the Catholic Church and Sovereign of the Vatican City State, to the UAE and his historic ‘Human Fraternity Meeting’ with His Eminence Dr. Ahmed Al Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al Azhar Mosque, have been instrumental in encouraging interfaith dialogue and coexistence.

In an address to world leaders, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the UAE, emphasized that these events sent a universal message of tolerance to the world, promoted the values of coexistence, and shined a positive light on religion.

He outlined three initiatives that have been launched in the UAE since the historic meeting, including the Zayed International Fund for Coexistence, which will support international projects and programs that promote peace, tolerance, and harmony among students and teachers in the nation’s schools and universities. He also highlighted the Human Fraternity Award - Dar Zayed, which was jointly awarded to the two religious leaders for their efforts in spreading a culture of peace, as well as the Abrahamic Family House in Abu Dhabi that will be dedicated to interfaith harmony.

“Peace is not limited to believers and non-believers; it encompasses humanity as a whole”
Pakistan’s Road To Reform

HE Imran Khan
Prime Minister of Pakistan

In his first address in the UAE, His Excellency Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan, explained his vision of governance and his country’s efforts to enhance its position on the global economic and trade map through investment and reform.

Khan detailed the road to modernizing Pakistan’s economy and healthcare system, and his desire to rebuild the trust of the Pakistani people in their government.

Drawing parallels between his professional sports career and politics, he revealed that cricket had taught him lessons in leadership, accountability, and determination. Governments should be accountable, strive for meritocracy, and be committed to reform. In order to progress, everyone should be considered equal before the law, which is the foundation of any state.

Khan recounted a recent conversation with His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, who told him businesses must be allowed to make money to encourage investment and drive economic growth. Pakistan has taken this advice to heart, as the country readies for international investment and prepares to foster an environment for business to bolster the nation’s economy and eradicate poverty.

“One big lesson that I learned from sports is that you only lose when you give up”
Choosing The Future We Came From

HH Sheikha Mariam bint Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Chair of the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation

Her Highness Sheikha Mariam bint Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chair of the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation, addressed the World Government Summit, sharing a number of personal stories to demonstrate the principles for life and leadership that she learned from her family. Her Highness spoke of the values and traditions of Bedouin culture, passed on to her by her family and previous generations. She emphasized that the collaborative principles of the majlis, the wisdom and lessons imparted through storytelling, and the innovation, creativity, and the Bedouin spirit of survival, all provide a blueprint for a prosperous future. The Bedouin tradition grants many qualities of leadership, and the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founding Father of the UAE, has given the Emirati people pride in their national identity.

Her Highness then discussed the humanitarian work of the Abu Dhabi–based foundation that she established with her siblings in 2010 to honor their mother’s commitment to service. In conclusion, she stressed the importance of investing in people to support the future of the UAE.

“The values and traditions of our ancestors are not only as applicable today as they were in the past, they are imperative to the future.”
A Prosperous Future For All

HE Amina J Mohammed
Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations

The clock is ticking, and governments must transform in order to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, announced Her Excellency Amina J Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations. Taking to the stage to deliver a report on the global goals, Mohammed warned that while many nations have made progress, it has not been rapid enough to meet the targets by 2030.

Mohammed expressed concerns about what she described as an increasing trajectory of inequality, and called on governments to revolutionize the way they work. Investing in innovation and trailblazers will drive change, but leaders must ensure that transformation benefits all of society. Otherwise, we risk a growing digital divide that will leave many segments behind, especially those living in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

Mohammed added that more must be done to ensure education, training, and safety nets are in place to support those who are sidelined by innovation.

In closing, she stressed that a sustainable and prosperous future is attainable, as long as governments accelerate their efforts, increase their ambition, and deepen the respect within and among nations.

“A more sustainable, secure, and prosperous future for all of us can be ours”
The Future of Multilateralism & The Role Of The United Nations

HE María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés
President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

In her main address to the Summit, the President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, Her Excellency María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, asserted that countries cannot confront today’s challenges on their own.

While there is a disconnect between expectations and institutional and political responses to global challenges, which has fueled distrust in multilateralism, she highlighted that international cooperation remains imperative for building peaceful, equitable, and sustainable societies, and securing a prosperous future for all.

Though the UN has a long list of landmark achievements, Garcés outlined three crucial areas where the organization must enhance its performance in order to adapt to new realities and remain relevant. It must move closer to the people and improve the way it communicates to strengthen public support for its work. The UN also has to privilege the underprivileged by upholding the 2030 Agenda and upscaling its efforts to ensure no one is left behind.

Finally, Garcés emphasized that the UN needs to be more efficient, effective, action-oriented, and results-driven. Governments cannot deliver, she said, unless they are working in partnership with other stakeholders. “Our challenge,” she stated, “is to strengthen multilateralism and ensure it is flexible and innovative.”

“Effective multilateralism is not an option; it is a necessity.”
A Conversation With Christine Lagarde

**HE Christine Lagarde**  
Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund

**Richard Quest**  
Anchor & Correspondent for CNN, Moderator

According to Her Excellency Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the global economy is growing, but it is growing slower than anticipated. There are four ‘clouds,’ she said, that are to blame for this sluggish growth: trade tensions and tariff escalations, financial tightening, uncertainty related to Brexit’s outcome and impacts, and an accelerated slowdown of China’s economy. These clouds feed on each other, creating a downward spiral. Lagarde explained that breaking this cycle and stimulating economic growth will require political determination for the common good by all countries.

When asked how worried she was given the current state of the world, Lagarde cautioned governments to prepare for a potential economic storm. She advised them to avoid protectionism, and instead build up buffers to ensure that if a storm hits, they are strong and solid.

Moderator Richard Quest mentioned that good policy must be accompanied by good governance to implement it. Lagarde agreed, noting that corruption corrodes trust, which is crucial for healthy economic relationships. She noted that IMF research has indicated that corruption and economic growth are inversely proportionate. Therefore, governments must combat corruption and foster transparency for their economies to flourish.
Governments must keep pace with advancing technology, take responsibility for civil infrastructure, and create an entrepreneurship-friendly system to boost innovation and competitiveness, said Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum.

Prof Schwab acknowledged that global growth has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, but there are still those who have been left behind. Faced with pressure from the Fourth Industrial Revolution and a growing dissatisfaction with corruption, a lack of leadership, and environmental concerns, he called on world leaders to re-establish trust. He stressed the need for a new type of globalization – Globalization 4.0 – to build a more sustainable, inclusive future for the world.

His Excellency Mohammad Abdulla Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and the Future of the UAE and Chairman of the World Government Summit Organization, also addressed the Summit, urging governments to find solutions to manage and lead change.

Al Gergawi advised governments to prepare for three major transformations: their declining role, the growing need for imagination and ideas, and faster, more efficient communication. He cautioned that old-fashioned governments cannot shape the future. They must evolve and adapt to drive change, or risk being replaced by the private sector.

“We have to change course. We have to move to a new type of globalization – what we call Globalization 4.0 – which is in line with the modern world”
David Beasley
Executive Director of the World Food Programme

While significant progress has been made to eradicate global hunger and extreme poverty, there is still much work to be done, asserted David Beasley, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP).

In the last 30 years, the number of hungry people in the world has been reduced from more than one billion to under 800 million, and extreme poverty rates have decreased to extraordinarily small percentages. While this trend has been encouraging, Beasley revealed that for the first time ever, global hunger is starting to increase once again, and extreme poverty has risen by 55% in just two years.

He explained that the WFP’s initiatives are designed to lend short-term aid after disasters such as floods or earthquakes, but in today’s world where 80% of their expenditures are in conflict zones, the WFP is having to take a new approach. Instead of simply bringing in food, he said, the program is focusing on educating and empowering small farmers and building partnerships with the private sector.

In conclusion, Beasley reminded government leaders that “we are in this together” and that their financial and moral support are crucial to the global fight against hunger and poverty.
HE Jüri Ratas  
Prime Minister of Estonia

His Excellency Jüri Ratas, Prime Minister of Estonia, shared Estonia’s ambitious and successful journey of digitization, explaining that the nation’s increasing use of digital tools has led to higher economic growth, better governance, and a more connected society.

He highlighted the implementation of unique IDs for every person in the country, which allow them access to a host of digital services, such as filing and paying taxes, internet voting, e-prescriptions, e-banking, and the ability to sign documents digitally. This simple process has saved at least five business days each year for working Estonians, amounting to a total efficiency gain of at least 2% GDP annually.

Ratas noted that while cybersecurity poses a challenge, Estonian engineers have countered by building a safe data-exchange layer named X-Road to enable the secure transfer of data. Trust and an open mindset, he asserted, are critical components of a digital environment. Estonia has worked hard to build its digital society on the values of transparency and privacy, and uses blockchain to ensure data integrity.

In conclusion, Ratas called on countries to openly share their digital solutions with others, and invited global citizens to use Estonia’s e-Residency, which allows access to digital services from Estonian companies and the government, and the opportunity to do location-independent business online.

“Digital solutions can make our economies grow faster, our governments more efficient, and our world a better place.”
The success of Estonia’s pioneering digital transformation was highlighted during three sessions led by His Excellency, Rene Tammist, Minister of Entrepreneurship and Information Technology of Estonia, Siim Sikkut, Chief Information Officer of the Government of Estonia, and Marek Helm, General Manager of Nortal.

Estonia was the first country to launch e-Residency, a government-issued digital identity, Sikkut explained, which has empowered and enabled startups and digital nomads. In its first four years the program signed 52,000 new e-residents and 6,500 companies.

Tammist said Estonia’s digital development dates back to 1991 when the country regained independence and sought to reboot the economy. The vision to adopt ICT technologies led to technical infrastructures such as X-Road, the digital backbone that connects the nation’s various public and private sector e-service information systems. Tammist highlighted that with the exception of marriage, divorce, and buying real estate, residents can access all government services online. Citizens can even e-sign documents through their mobile phone, which saves 2% GDP annually.

In his presentation, Helm, who was the Former Director General of the Estonian Tax and Customs Board, outlined nine criteria that led to Estonia’s digital transformation success: data quality, political will, infrastructure, awareness, trust, internet access, laws, change management and government integration.
In a special session, His Excellency Saad Al Hariri, Prime Minister of Lebanon, shared his vision of creating a better future for his country by revitalizing the nation’s economic development and encouraging investment.

Al Hariri explained that the government consulted with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to create a program of reforms, which included transparency, anti-corruption legislation, and a public-private partnership law. These reforms have received widespread support from all political factions, he said, propelling Lebanon into a promising era geared toward investment.

When asked about the progress of the Arab region as a whole, Al Hariri raised the issues of youth unemployment, expressing regret that Lebanese youth were leaving the Arab world.

He also highlighted the status of women, warning that failing to include them in society, business, and politics was a missed opportunity that will negatively impact Lebanon’s GDP.

Despite these issues, Al Hariri is optimistic about the future of Lebanon and the region. He stressed the need for Arab cooperation and urged the region’s leaders to consider creating an economic union similar to Europe.
The Evolution Of Leaders

Tony Robbins
Best-selling Author, Entrepreneur, & Business Strategist

Drawing on over 40 years of professional experience in the field, best-selling author, leadership expert, and business strategist Tony Robbins shared his thoughts about the evolution of leaders.

According to Robbins, many leadership strategies in countries around the world are failing because they are trying to manage people, rather than focusing on improving citizens’ quality of life and happiness. This is not the case in the UAE, he noted, where strong visionary leadership has led to remarkable success.

Robbins defined effective leadership as the ability to influence people and drive lasting, positive change. Leaders should have a clear, defined vision to inspire progress, but must also understand what motivates others.

Management, Robbins explained, is when you are able to get people to do things while you are present. Leadership, on the other hand, involves changing people’s values and standards so they perform at a higher level whether you are there or not.

In closing, Robbins emphasized that a true leader’s job is to get people focused and to help put them in a powerful ‘state’, where they feel confident and empowered. However, before we can do that for others, he advised, we must first put ourselves into a powerful state.

“Leadership is about developing beliefs that empower you and the individuals around you.”
The Evolution Of Leadership & Meaning

Tony Robbins
Best-selling Author, Entrepreneur, & Business Strategist

Renowned for his energetic and motivational seminars, leadership expert and best-selling author Tony Robbins delivered an engaging workshop on the sidelines of the Summit. He led the audience through a series of exercises to help them discover ways to improve their personal management and leadership skills. Sharing knowledge gained from 40 years of experience, running 54 companies over four continents, delivering live seminars, and coaching some of the world’s most successful government leaders, entrepreneurs, and athletes, Robbins urged the audience to consider the UAE as a role model of how governments and businesses can operate.

He believes the UAE to be a country founded in determination that has done more for its people in 50 years than any other government, and it will continue to meet its targets in the coming years.

Robbins explained to delegates that knowledge is only potential power, but execution of that knowledge is real power. In business terms, simplicity is essential, while complexity is the enemy of execution.

In conclusion, Robbins reminded the audience that “success leaves clues”, and if an individual consistently succeeds for months, years, or decades, it is not because of luck. We should learn from their techniques, he said, and keep personal aims and fulfillment in mind.

“Resourcefulness is more important than resources"
The Future Of The Economy In The Age Of 4IR

HE Angel Gurría
Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development

Becky Anderson
Managing Editor & Anchor for CNN Abu Dhabi, Moderator

“We need to participate more in the solutions and share more in the benefits”

The International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development have confirmed an economic slowdown, announced His Excellency Angel Gurría, Secretary General of the OECD, and projected GDP growth has decreased from 4% to 3.5%.

Gurría said instability caused by trade tensions between the United States and China is costing trillions, preventing investment, and creating widespread uncertainty. He also voiced concerns about the fragmentation of Europe and Brexit, alongside that of other countries around the globe.

According to Gurría, much of the instability can be attributed to fragile coalitions that prevent governments from making decisions at a time when visionary, far-reaching decisions are essential.

Technology was another great global divider. Gurría pointed out that 10-14% of the workforce in OECD countries is in danger of being displaced by technology, while half would be disrupted. The challenge is learning how to level the playing field and make technology a great equalizer. Skilling, upskilling, and reskilling is essential to helping those left out by the digital revolution, Gurría concluded.
The Future Of Intellectual Property In The Age Of AI

HE Francis Gurry
Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization

With technology taking a more central role in the global economy in recent years, demand for intellectual property rights has increased, said His Excellency Francis Gurry, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). As artificial intelligence (AI) proliferates, the existing systems that govern these rights will need to be reassessed.

Gurry shared some key insights from a recent report published by the WIPO studying trends in intellectual property and AI, which yielded two important observations. First, most patent applications related to AI are coming from private companies rather than research institutions. Second, people are using the existing intellectual property system extensively for AI.

The current system does have its challenges, however, Gurry asserted. The question of how to ascribe authorship needs to be revisited as AI itself begins to create inventions, music, art, and literature. We will also have to find the middle ground between policies that encourage the free flow of data and those that restrict its use to protect intellectual property. Finally, governments must ensure that policies addressing the intellectual property protection of AI do not exacerbate the huge disparities in technological capacity that already exist across the globe.

“One needs to find the balance between the often-competing interests of producers of intellectual property and consumers of intellectual property; this is something that applies not just within a society, but across the world”
An Urgent Call To Action On Climate Change

Harrison Ford
Actor & Philanthropist

HE Dr Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi
Minister of Climate Change & Environment of the United Arab Emirates

Today, humanity is faced with the greatest moral crisis of our time, asserted actor and philanthropist Harrison Ford and His Excellency Dr Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the UAE. The world is currently in a position where those least responsible for nature’s destruction will suffer its greatest consequences.

In his opening remarks, Dr Al Zeyoudi called for joint action from governments around the world to combat climate change and protect Earth’s precious ocean habitats.

Ford highlighted that humanity’s efforts to conserve our oceans has been immensely inadequate. The destruction of marine plants, animals, and habitats is causing global carbon emissions to increase. Rising water levels are threatening the existence of 75% of the world’s largest cities and entire island nations. Higher ocean temperatures are also fueling the most violent weather the world has ever seen.

This is a global problem that requires a global solution. In closing, Ford advised the audience to strive to better understand the complexities of our oceans, invest more in science, and adopt behaviors to allow oceans to serve humanity better.

“What we do today determines our ability to provide a future for our countries, our communities, our families, and our children.”
Work For A Brighter Future

HE Guy Ryder
Director General of the International Labour Organization

The future of work will be the outcome of human interventions, asserted His Excellency Guy Ryder, Director General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and we must establish a clear, actionable plan so that we do not fail to address the challenges that lay ahead.

The ILO has established a human-centered agenda for development that puts people and their work at the center of policy-making, and it focuses on three primary areas of investment. The first is the investment in people and their capabilities, with an emphasis on lifelong learning and delivery systems to make skilling, upskilling, and reskilling a consistent part of everyone’s working life.

The institutions of work are the second area of investment, Ryder outlined. Labor is not a commodity and there are rules and policies currently in place to protect that position, but as technology changes the nature of labor, new institutions will be necessary to ensure people’s fundamental rights are protected at work.

The third and final area of investment are the productive sectors, which Ryder urged governments to identify and devote resources toward. It is these areas that offer the promise of major employment opportunities in the future.

“The future of work can and must be the outcome of our own actions”
The Rise Of The Dragon: China’s Success In Leading The World Of Technology

HE Wang Zhigang
Special Envoy of President Xi Jingping & Minister of Science & Technology of China

China’s digital economy is continuing to achieve remarkable growth, said His Excellency Wang Zhigang, Minister of Science and Technology of China. Sharing insights into China’s tech prowess, Wang explained that after 40 years of reform and opening up to the world, the country is transitioning from a period of rapid economic progress to a stage of high-quality development.

The Chinese government is committed to seeking new growth by harnessing advancing technologies. Wang highlighted the 2016 National Innovation-driven Development Strategy Outline, which made science and technology the cornerstone of the country’s development approach.

The digital revolution brings many challenges, Wang noted, which will have a profound impact on production methods, social livelihood, ethics, and national security. To overcome these challenges, he urged world leaders to work together to build a responsible innovation and governance-based framework, and create an environment conducive to international cooperation.

In conclusion, Wang asserted that China is eager to cooperate with all countries to seek common innovation and shape development, and to share its wisdom and strength in the global tide of technological innovation.

“Countries around the world need to join hands to build responsible innovation”
In an address to the Summit, leadership expert and author Simon Sinek explained that the goal of leadership is not to win; the goal is to perform better than you did the last time.

Sinek began by explaining the difference between finite and infinite games. In finite games, there are known players, fixed rules, and an agreed-upon objective. Infinite games, on the other hand, have known and unknown players, the rules are fluid, and the objective is to perpetuate the game. Finite players play to win, while infinite players play to keep playing.

Politics, governance, and business are infinite games, but leaders are often focused on beating the competition. When we play infinite games with a finite mindset, trust, cooperation, and innovation decline, and we eventually run out of resources to play the game at all. The goal of an infinite player, however, is to make this year’s systems, culture, and quality of relationships better than they were last year.

According to Sinek, leading in an infinite game requires five key components: a just cause, trusting teams, a worthy rival, the capacity to make a strategic shift, and the courage to lead.
The Future Of Mobility
In The Age Of 4IR

HE Mattar Al Tayer
Director General & Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads & Transport Authority – Dubai

In his address to the Summit, His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority – Dubai (RTA) shared his insights on the future of mobility. He also outlined the key issues for the transport sector, including technological development, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and the future role of governments.

Unlike many other countries where the private sector is driving change, Al Tayer highlighted the UAE Government’s proactive role in anticipating and shaping the future. He presented RTA’s breakthrough initiatives, such as City Gate Airports to streamline check-in formalities, and Smarter Vehicles/Quicker Response, which uses AI to reduce response time for emergencies.

Al Tayer asserted that governments must keep pace with accelerating developments in five key areas: anticipating the future, governance and legislation, improving relations with the private sector, upgrading business systems to cope with future needs, and encouraging research and development.

Al Tayer is optimistic about the future of the transport sector around the world. While the future challenges facing transport are great, he concluded, RTA is prepared to confront them by implementing advancing technologies and building partnerships with the private sector.

“We are under no illusion that the future developments and challenges of transport will be immense, but we are prepared to cope with them.”
The Future Of Global Water Security & Sustainability

HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer
CEO & Managing Director of Dubai Electricity & Water Authority

With more than two billion people lacking access to safe drinking water, water-related crises are one of the world’s top five global threats, announced His Excellency Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, CEO and Managing Director of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA).

According to Al Tayer, water scarcity will affect over 40% of the world’s population by 2030. The solution, he said, is implementing strategies and policies to increase the efficiency of water use, as well as integrated water resource management to ensure its sustainability.

Al Tayer also recommended using available technologies to address this impending scarcity before it is too late. He urged governments and utility companies to implement solutions such as smart metering, which evaluates consumption more accurately, increases consumer awareness about how much water they are using, and helps providers quickly identify leaks.

To conclude his session, Al Tayer emphasized the importance of leadership support when it comes to addressing water resource management, as well as of leveraging technological developments and partnerships with the private sector to develop innovative solutions that improve the efficiency and quality of water services.

"The solution to addressing water security in the region lies in developing and implementing strategies, policies, and integrated water resources management to ensure sustainability."
Her Excellency Epsy Campbell Barr, First Vice President of Costa Rica, highlighted the inspiring story behind her nation’s pioneering work to integrate happiness and quality of life into the heart of its public policies. Costa Rica was one of the three guest countries at the World Government Summit alongside Estonia and Rwanda.

Barr’s address detailed the Latin American country’s journey toward becoming a world leader in environmental sustainability policies. She shared notable examples including the Payment for Environmental Services program, which has succeeded in promoting forest and biodiversity conservation, making Costa Rica the only tropical country in the world to have reversed the effects of deforestation. Barr also spoke about the administration’s plans to become the first country in the world capable of decarbonizing its economy, and shared other national achievements resulting from greater investment in its educational system and a commitment to healthcare.

In conclusion, she stressed the importance of a shared global agenda, for an end to armed conflict, and for greater dialogue, multilateral agreements, and inclusion.
Costa Rica was in the spotlight during four sessions that focused on leadership and efforts to protect the environment, ensure sustainable development, and provide citizens with social security and gender equality.

Her Excellency María del Pilar Garrido Gonzalo, Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica, emphasized that people are the most important investment. As such, Costa Rica is committed to distributing wealth to reduce inequality and eliminate poverty.

Román Macaya Hayes, Executive President and Chairman of the Board of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, detailed the culture of innovation that has led to a nationwide electronic medical records system. He also noted that healthcare is now accessible by 99% of the country.

Her Excellency Lorena Aguilar, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, shared the nation’s efforts to think outside the box. She outlined how it is working to reduce emissions while continuing to grow, and developing action plans on gender, climate change, and biodiversity.

Finally, Felipe Carazo, Executive Director of FUNDECOR, a landscape management company focused on promoting sustainability and biodiversity, detailed Costa Rica’s green economy model, and the achievement of doubling forest cover while increasing GDP per capita.
How To Respond To The New Challenges Of Global Governance

HE Bruno Le Maire
Minister of Economy & Finance of France

In his address to the Summit, France’s Minister of Economy and Finance, His Excellency Bruno Le Maire, called for a new model of capitalism to reduce inequality and ensure no one is left behind.

Le Maire explained that as president of the Group of Seven (G7), France seeks to transform capitalism. To do so, it will focus on three key priorities: introducing a fairer and more efficient global taxation system, creating a level playing field for responsible investments, and tackling inequalities between and within countries.

He highlighted France’s success with its own reforms, which were designed to improve both the competitiveness and the simplicity of the economy in the areas of labor law, taxation, education, and training. Le Maire added that 2019 will be a critical year for his country, with the French Parliament voting on a law to support SMEs, and plans to sell $11 billion of public assets to finance disruptive innovation. According to him, this is clear evidence of France’s drive to move forward.

In conclusion, Le Maire called on leaders across the globe to seize the opportunity of the current challenges we face, to shape a fairer capitalism, and a more efficient economy for the 21st century.

“Let us try all together to seize the opportunity of the current challenges we face, to shape a fairer capitalism, and a more efficient economy for the 21st century”
Rethinking Cities Of Tomorrow: A Human-centric Approach

HE Eng Dawood Al Hajri
Director General of Dubai Municipality

People must be a priority in urban planning, said His Excellency Engineer Dawood Al Hajri, Director General of Dubai Municipality, who shared compelling reasons for city planners to take a human-centric approach. Al Hajri pointed out that while urbanism has become a contributing factor leading to stress and obesity, well-designed cities can actually optimize health. He highlighted cities around the world that have prioritized walkability, such as Oslo and Tokyo, where city centers are car-free zones.

Al Hajri also spoke about the need to foster social cohesion and the importance for city planners to design accessible, liveable, and friendly spaces that promote social bonding. Seoul’s officials, he explained, have focused on creating green spaces around buildings to encourage connectivity among residents, and Barcelona is redesigning neighborhood streets for pedestrians rather than cars.

He stressed the importance of encouraging all segments of society to be actively involved in their city’s progress. Al Hajri highlighted the Dubai Urban Plan 2040, which aims to provide a green, safe, and healthy environment and a high standard of living by leveraging modern technology and artificial intelligence.

“Cities can be a source of happiness when they cater to our needs, allow us to interact with our natural environment, and especially when they are well designed to optimize our health”
According to Her Excellency Noura Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development of the UAE, and Ernesto Ottone Ramírez, Assistant Director General for Culture of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), protecting heritage is similar to protecting human lives.

The two panelists highlighted the joint initiative between the UAE and UNESCO called ‘Revive the Spirit of Mosul.’ Not only does this program aim to rebuild this significant historic site, but it also seeks to restore the unique spirit of the city, said Ramírez, by revitalizing its churches, mosques, and other cultural institutions.

Cultural diplomacy, Al Kaabi and Ramírez agreed, is key to our collective future. Cultivating a shared identity will help create a more humanized world, Ramírez said. Al Kaabi asserted that culture is something that should be accessible to everyone. Learning about a new culture not only enriches one’s knowledge, she said, but it also builds bridges between people with different backgrounds.

Looking to the future, the panelists were hopeful about the role advancing technologies such as artificial intelligence could play in helping to preserve and promote cultural heritage.
Cities around the world are growing quickly and becoming more diverse, leading to creative, cultural, and economic growth. However, governance must ensure prosperity and protect individual freedom, public order, and stability, asserted His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance of the UAE.

Religious tolerance is essential to building great cities, filled with people from hundreds of nations who have an equal right to dignity and respect regardless of origin or beliefs.

Sheikh Nahyan highlighted a statement made by His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence Dr Ahmed Al Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al Azhar Mosque, that religion promotes dignity, peace, and prosperity. Governments must impose and enforce laws that punish intolerance. As the Quran says, it is not necessary to convert everyone to a single belief, rather to “vie with one another in virtue.”

The UAE has a vision of global prosperity, peace, and harmony, as seen in its many festivals and celebrations that connect citizens from different backgrounds. In this Year of Tolerance, Sheikh Nahyan said, the UAE will work with all to help cities become engines of tolerance and change.

“Good human beings respect one another and seek to understand each other’s motives — whatever their cultural differences and personal beliefs may be”
Religious Tolerance
In Cities & Societies

A panel of policy-makers from different parts of the world asserted that religious tolerance is fundamental to creating peaceful societies.

His Excellency Alhaji Muhammadu Sa’ad Abubakar III, Sultan of Sokoto, Nigeria, and President General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, said without peace there cannot be progress in any human endeavor. He underlined three primary areas crucial to obtaining world peace – accepting religious diversity, improving communication, and finding common ground.

According to Dr Josef Boehle, Director of the Peace Charter for Forgiveness and Reconciliation and Research Fellow in Globalization, Religion, and Politics at the University of Birmingham, there must be effective global discourse on designing structures that can facilitate tolerance.

Her Excellency María Elena Agüero, Secretary General of the World Leadership Alliance – Club de Madrid, commended the UAE leadership’s efforts on embracing tolerance. She highlighted the Shared Society Project in Spain, which is based on the belief that societies are most likely to be peaceful when leaders and citizens recognize the value of diversity.
How Governments Can Harness The Science Of Synchronized Randomness

Steven Strogatz
Jacob Gould Schurman Professor of Applied Mathematics &
Stephen H Weiss Presidential Fellow at Cornell University

Governments can harness the science of synchronized randomness
to benefit society, explained Cornell University professor and
mathematician Steven Strogatz.

To explain synchronized randomness, Strogatz gave the example
of the London Millennium Bridge. When it opened in 2000, the
structure began to wobble because the hundreds of pedestrians
walking across it spontaneously synchronized their steps.

He noted that similar synchrony often manifests in workplaces
when a group of people begins to think the same way about
difficult challenges. This creates the often undesirable experience
known as ‘group think’.

He also shared insights into the phenomenon of urban segregation,
citing a study conducted by Thomas Schelling. It revealed that
people were unhappy being a minority in their neighborhood and,
as a result, would move to different communities, unintentionally
creating segregation. Interestingly, the study also found that
people were dissatisfied when there was no diversity.

What these examples illustrate, Strogatz concluded, is that even
a small amount of variety can boost social harmony. He advised
policy-makers to promote greater diversity and alternative
perspectives to mitigate the negative effects of crowd synergy and
group behavior.
Dr Mehmet Oz, Professor David Clark, and Arianna Huffington came together at the Summit to discuss the global decline of mental health and its burden on society.

According to Dr Oz, host of The Dr. Oz Show, declining mental health has been linked to a wide variety of physical problems. Around 20% of people over 50 have experienced significant stress, which reduces life expectancy by up to six years.

Prof Clark, Chair of Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford, highlighted that declining psychological health depresses the global GDP by about 4-5%. This is unnecessary, he added, as the treatments exist; they just need to be more widely available.

Huffington, Founder and CEO of Thrive Global, emphasized that burnout is a global epidemic. Millions of people operate under the delusion that success demands that they are always ‘on’ and sleep is optional. This has led to an explosion of mental health issues and chronic disease.

The panelists ended the session on an optimistic note, stating that the solutions to this epidemic already exist – they just need to be implemented.
Bridging The World Through Trade

HE Soraya Hakuziyaranye
Minister of Trade & Industry of Rwanda

HE Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem
Group Chairman & CEO of DP World

John Defterios
Emerging Markets Editor & Anchor for CNN, Moderator

According to Her Excellency Soraya Hakuziyaranye, Minister of Trade and Industry of Rwanda, and His Excellency Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World, the recipe for success in trade is good governance, transparency, fair systems, and tolerance.

Looking first at growing protectionism, bin Sulayem suggested that risk and uncertainty are what fuel the rising fears about threats to free trade. He also mentioned that attitudes toward trade often reflect the changing nature of employment. “When people fear for their jobs, they want to restrict trade,” he explained. “But with nanotechnology, 3D printing, and AI, national wealth no longer resides in labor, but in knowledge.”

Her Excellency Soraya Hakuziyaranye explained that Africa represents a new era for global trade. The African Union has established the architecture for a free trade bloc of 1.2 billion consumers and 55 countries, she said. This will give the continent one voice on the global stage and enhance intra-African trade.

Bin Sulayem agreed, emphasizing the growth opportunities that the continent presents. He advised African governments to engage the private sector to help fund the infrastructure projects the continent needs to usher in this new era of trade.
The Upcoming Revolution In The Telecom Sector

Telecoms has become fundamental to almost every aspect of society, and the sector is at the dawn of another phase of revolution and disruption, said a panel of industry experts. This new era will be driven by 5G, asserted Houlin Zhao, Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union. Advanced technologies like the internet of things, artificial intelligence, and cloud computing cannot be fully realized until 5G is commonplace.

Alongside 5G, data will be the heart of tomorrow’s telecoms. His Excellency Hamad Obaid Al Mansoori, Director General of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the UAE, proposed it will be as important to the future as oil has been in the past. This presents an opportunity for telecoms to reinvent itself yet again, with a focus on research and development and innovation.

For Osman Sultan, CEO of du, such opportunities are imperatives. The biggest threat to companies in the sector is their inability to adapt. To remain competitive, Sultan advised telecoms agencies to consider how they offer and price services, and to strive to be even more customer-centric.
How Do We Fight Radicalism By Creating Hope?

Fares Ali
Founder of Food for Education

Ma’ali Al Asosusi
Founder of the Tamkeen Development Organization

Hisham Al Dahabi
Founder of The Iraqi Safe House for Creativity

Mahmoud Wahid
Founder of Together To Save a Human

HE Saeed Al Eter
Director General of the Public Diplomacy Office of the United Arab Emirates, Assistant Secretary General of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, Moderator

The Arab Hope Makers initiative, launched by the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives in 2017, recognizes heroes whose humanitarian work alleviates suffering and improves the lives of the disadvantaged. Four Arab Hope Makers came together at the Summit to describe how their efforts have spread positivity in their communities and beyond.

Hisham Al Dahabi, Founder of The Iraqi Safe House for Creativity, explained that the terrorist presence in Iraq has obviously been detrimental. However, it has brought in more volunteer groups that are working to provide services that bring happiness to others.

Ma’ali Al Asosusi, Founder of the Tamkeen Development Organization, highlighted the importance of women in humanitarian work. Educating women, who will in turn teach their children, will prevent young people from falling prey to extremist rhetoric.

In Sudan, Fares Ali’s organization, Food for Education, provides meals to children in remote border areas. Ali noted that young people in these regions are vulnerable, as extremist groups attempt to lure them in with promises of food.

Finally, Mahmoud Wahid, Founder of Together To Save a Human, emphasized that advancing society is a shared responsibility. Everyone should ask themselves what they can do to help others, he said.
In a series of sessions under the theme ‘21st Century Urban Life’, Gérard Collomb, Mayor of Lyon, France, Robert Muggah, Research Director of the Igarapé Institute, Elora Hardy, Founder and Creative Director of IBUKU, Prem Ramaswami, Head of Product for Sidewalk Labs, and Saskia Sassen, Professor of Sociology and Member of the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University, examined global cities and the influence they will have on the future of modern living.

Muggah said that the survival of humanity will be determined by cities, as they are what power countries. He stressed the importance of cities setting plans, building and operating sustainably, and working together to strategize for the future.

According to Sassen, the global city’s function is to bring together multiple types of highly specialized information that connects different places around the world.

Collomb highlighted his experience in restructuring a city to be more sustainable and happier for its inhabitants. The strategy, he said, combined historic elements with contemporary architecture, and public transport that operates on carbon-free energy.

In a discussion about sustainability and cities, Ramaswami and Hardy emphasized the importance of extracting resources at a rate that allows them time to replenish themselves.
Design To Transform Government

In a series of three sessions, design experts explained how governments can adopt the tools of their trade to better serve their people.

According to visual data journalist David McCandless, data visualization can lead to better policies. He suggested that the most valuable insights lie in the gaps and comparisons that emerge when we sift through different types of information. By visualizing these, policy-makers make data more accessible to citizens, he said, which enhances civic engagement.

Don Norman, Director of The Design Lab at the University of California, San Diego, also advocated for community involvement, explaining that problems are best solved by those they affect. Noting the challenges aid-based models experience, he advised a more fluid approach that merges aid providers and recipients. This allows operators to change direction if the initial strategy doesn’t work.

Tim Kobe, founder and CEO of Eight Inc, added that design can change how people think, feel, and act. Since government is the expression of a core set of values that people then experience, the focus should be on how to best design that experience, he concluded.
In a series of three sessions titled ‘Well Governments’, the Global Dialogue for Happiness and Wellbeing focused on practical ways governments can implement happiness policies.

Jacques Attali, President of the General Management Committee and Supervisory Board of the Positive Planet Foundation, outlined his foundation’s index for measuring national positivity. It embraces 45 dimensions, from mainstream – demographics, public debt, education – to granular – the role of women, press freedom, global good governance.

Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, shared Wales’ groundbreaking Well-being of Future Generations Act, which requires public bodies to demonstrate that they have considered how their decisions impact future generations. This is a great way to measure a nation’s success, she asserted, echoing Robert Kennedy’s remark that GDP, by comparison, measures everything in life except that which makes it worthwhile.

Tony Burton, Deputy Chief Economic Advisor to the New Zealand Treasury, explained the inspiration behind New Zealand’s wellbeing budget. Its critical difference is that it assesses whether financial and legislative rules actually hinder people working ‘at the front line’. He stressed the value of turning ambition into policy, no matter how difficult the path.
Main Address Of The Guest Country: Rwanda

HE Paul Kagame
President of Rwanda

In the last 25 years, Rwanda has worked to build a new nation based on the values of unity and opportunity for all citizens. His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, asserted that his country has made significant progress in growing its economy and maximizing benefits for its people. He highlighted three things Rwanda’s government had done to drive this development.

First, it was crucial for them to understand that the role of leaders and institutions is to respond to citizens’ expectations. They focused on civic engagement, trust, and guaranteeing the rights of marginalized groups to ensure everyone was involved in shaping Rwanda’s future.

Second, the government invested heavily in human capital, infrastructure, and technology projects to shift the basis of Rwanda’s economy from subsistence to knowledge. Although the means available may not meet the scale of the vision, Kagame explained, the nation did its best to capitalize on its resources and find creative ways to bridge the gaps.

Finally, he identified regional and continental integration as a key priority for Rwanda. “Africa can only fulfill its full potential,” he asserted, “by consolidating its disparate markets to allow people, goods, and services to move easily across the continent.”

“If there is one lesson from Rwanda’s experience, it is optimism. If Rwanda can make it to this point, it means there are no insurmountable challenges.”
In this enlightening panel discussion, representatives from Rwanda gathered to discuss the country’s flourishing agriculture and tourism sectors.

Her Excellency Dr. Gerardine Mukeshimana, Rwanda’s Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, explained that the government is doing everything they can to serve their people now, while also considering the sustainability of land resources for future generations.

Emmanuel Hategeka, Deputy CEO and Chief Operating Officer of the Rwanda Development Board, pointed out that agriculture and tourism are two parts of the same ecosystem. It takes deliberate policy-making and investment to ensure the sustainability of both industries, he said, and that’s exactly what Rwanda is doing.

The role of youth also cannot be ignored, asserted Emmanuel Ndayizigiye, President of the Horticulture in Reality Cooperative Rwanda. His organization works to transform subsistence farming into modern agriculture across Rwanda, creating more than 100 jobs for fresh graduates.

Jes Gruner, who manages Akagera National Park, explained that Rwanda’s conservation efforts have also helped bolster tourism. Looking after their wildlife populations, which are a major draw for tourists, ultimately translates into more revenue for the country.
Transitions to peace may seem insurmountable for countries plagued by civil war, but in two inspiring sessions, the Summit heard stories of success from Colombia and Liberia.

The Honorable Juan Manuel Santos, Nobel Peace Laureate and former President of Colombia, shared his approach toward establishing peace. He outlined how his country ended its 52-year conflict with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

He emphasized the importance of understanding the opposition, and explained that by treating the FARC as a competitor to be beaten rather than an enemy to be destroyed, Santos was able to convince the rebels to broker peace. The only way to establish lasting peace, he advised, is through negotiation. It cannot be forced.

Liberian peace activist and Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee recounted her experiences during the brutal civil war in Liberia. The 14-year conflict finally ended after a powerful, nonviolent female uprising, led by Gbowee, resulted in the signing of a peace agreement and the passing of the strictest rape laws in West Africa.

Women are vital in securing peace, she stressed, and more can be achieved by involving them in a nation’s legislative process, reducing gender inequality, and providing women with education opportunities.
During a series of sessions focused on the future of medical care, experts explored how advanced technologies and precision medicine will revolutionize the current healthcare system.

Momchilo (Momo) Vuyisich, Founder and Chief Science Officer of Viome, explained that a person’s health is determined by their gut microbiome, environment, and eating habits. Science-based personalized diets, he said, will enable individuals to take control of their health, rather than waiting until they become sick to be treated.

Dr Harald Schmidt, Professor of Pharmacology and Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Personalised Medicine at Maastricht University, advocated a more systematic approach to medicine. He urged practitioners to evolve their methods in defining diseases and developing drugs. Drug repurposing could be the answer to treating multiple illnesses, he said, and tailoring treatments down to the cellular level will be the future.

Finally, best-selling author Dr Sara Gottfried asserted that only about 10% of a person’s risk for disease is due to their genes. The remaining 90% is due to their environment, much of which they can control. She advised the audience to uphold the seven pillars of holistic health – eat, move, sleep, think, soothe, connect, and detox – to achieve a state of overall wellbeing.
Dr Erin Marie Saltman
Policy Manager for Europe, the Middle East, & North Africa on Counterterrorism & Countering Violent Extremism at Facebook

Rodrigo Bijou
Information Security Researcher & Consultant

Arjun Kharpal
Senior Correspondent for CNBC, Moderator

Information researcher and consultant Roberto Bijou and Dr Erin Marie Saltman, Policy Manager for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa on Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism at Facebook, discussed technology’s role in war and peace in a series of two sessions.

Cybersecurity is more than just computer hacking, Bijou warned. It’s about manipulating society and driving economies apart. Hackers can take over smart meters and infrastructure, manipulate public opinion, and spread disinformation.

Bijou also advised governments to use tactics such as hiring hackers to find flaws in technologies that underpin the global economy. This can change the dynamics of cyber warfare and transform hacking into a force for global good.

In her session, Dr Saltman explained that Facebook is working to develop policies in the online space that challenge terrorism, ensuring it does not have a presence on their platform.

She urged governments and large companies to create a welcoming environment that promotes understanding. It is not enough just to take down ‘bad’ content, she said. We need to ensure that the voices of hardworking activists and other positive role models who combat extremism are widely shared.
The Art & Science Of Decision-making

Daniel Kahneman
Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences, Professor Emeritus of Psychology & Public Affairs at Princeton University

Mina Al-Oraibi
Editor in Chief of The National, Moderator

In a hard-hitting discussion with The National’s Mina Al-Oraibi, Daniel Kahneman, Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences and Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Public Affairs at Princeton University, examined the decision-making process. He explored to what degree factors like personality are responsible for decision-making and whether human intuition can be trusted.

Kahneman acknowledged that personality can create successful decisions, but asserted its role is minimal. Similarly, the subjective self-confidence that accompanies intuition cannot be trusted. “You can be extremely confident and wrong,” he pointed out. “The correlation between confidence and accuracy really is not high.”

In many domains, Kahneman asserted, removing the confidence factor and replacing human judgment with rules, algorithms, or artificial intelligence actually improves results. Although people are reluctant to accept it, machines will be able to outperform humans in many – if not all – arenas, including decision-making.

It is uncertain to what degree machines should replace humans when it comes to decision-making, Kahneman concluded. However, people must remain in charge of the principles that govern how these devices are programmed.

“Given sufficient data, AI will develop intuitions, and they will be better than human intuition”
Main Agenda

The Future Of Global Trade

Paul Krugman
Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences, Professor Emeritus of Economics & International Affairs at Princeton University

Bettina Warburg
Blockchain Researcher, Entrepreneur, & Educator, Co-founder & Managing Partner of Animal Ventures

Richard Quest
Anchor & Correspondent for CNN, Moderator

While the potential of blockchain for trade is undeniable, for many it remains largely conceptual. Acknowledging that massive change may still be five to ten years in the future, blockchain researcher and educator Bettina Warburg pinpointed the technology’s key strength: reducing uncertainty in value exchanges at great scale. In that sense, it will transform trade significantly, she said, becoming the next global virtual machine everyone can use. Supply chains and business are being augmented, Warburg added, and the decentralized computing platform Ethereum can already process any kind of transaction.

Looking more widely at the challenges and opportunities trade faces, economist Paul Krugman identified four key issues. Positives include globalization’s recent resilience, and the fact that robots have not displaced workers at unprecedented rates, as many feared.

Conversely, tax avoidance is a negative, he said. It distorts the global economy and impacts popular opinion. In addition, while recession is possible, the main concern is the lack of effective responses, in terms of reserves, safety nets, and policy tools. He urged delegates to focus on these areas to safeguard global trade.
Two sessions under the theme “The Future of Learning” explored new approaches to education, the changing landscape of employment, and how to equip the workforce of the future.

In a session titled “How Consciousness Can Transform Education,” clinical psychologist Dr Shefali Tsabary explained the importance of conscious education in creating the game-changing citizens of tomorrow. Allowing children to grow up as free-thinking individuals and encouraging individuality boosted their learning capabilities.

Education should not be one size fits all, Dr Tsabary emphasized. Instead, more attention should be placed on improving individual teacher-student relationships.

In the “Building an Education for the Talented” session, Ryan Roslansky, Senior Vice President of Products and User Experience at LinkedIn, discussed the evolving nature of jobs. He also highlighted data’s role in determining future economic opportunities and sectors.

He said the impact of technological progress was twofold – it would render many jobs obsolete while creating completely new ones. Continuous learning is crucial to coping with an evolving job market, and training must be faster and more practical.

Roslansky advised governments to use data from business and employment-oriented platforms. This can help them forecast global trends and better understand the demands and gaps in the labor market.

Dr Shefali Tsabary
Clinical Psychologist & Best-selling Author

Ryan Roslansky
Senior Vice President of Products & User Experience at LinkedIn

Alex Klokus
Co-founder & CEO of Futurism, Moderator
One of society’s biggest challenges at present is monoculturalism, not multiculturalism, asserted three speakers during a series of sessions examining the interplay of politics and society.

Commenting on cultural identity, Yale law professor and author Amy Chua explained that groups retreat into tribalism when they feel threatened. The problem is when tribalism takes over politics, transforming it into a ‘winner takes all’ contest. Factors fueling this outlook include immigration and demographic changes, plus democracy itself. Under certain conditions, especially when economic inequality tracks deep pre-existing ethnic, religious, and sectarian divides, democracy can become an engine of political tribalism, Chua noted.

James Robinson, co-author of Why Nations Fail, added that economic inequality is a global issue. He cited data from the World Inequality Report 2018, which shows that a huge percentage of the wealth in countries like Brazil and the United States is concentrated among a tiny portion of their citizens. He acknowledged that ‘fairer’ alternatives are easy to imagine, but difficult to implement.

According to Mark Lilla, Professor of Humanities at Columbia University, globalization creates the experience of sameness, rather than difference. This leads to new kinds of identity anxiety and conflict, for which the world needs new structures.
Technology will not only profoundly impact individuals, but also global affairs, foreign policy, and international relations, predicted His Excellency Casper Klynge, Tech Ambassador of Denmark. Moreover, its rapid pace will differentiate it from previous revolutions.

He identified two roles critical for this new era: technology diplomats and big companies. With the latter, the priority is guarding against any misuse of dominant positions. Klynge also believes more countries are considering appointing tech ambassadors like himself to influence diplomatic directions and platforms.

Vern Brownell, President and CEO of D-Wave Systems, said current computers’ growing complexity and power consumption strengthen the case for a future driven by quantum computing instead. He explained that quantum computers run at low temperatures and dissipate almost no energy, which will allow us to continue improving computational capability for all.

Finally, Greg Wyler, Founder and Executive Chairman of OneWeb, highlighted two examples of initiatives that are bridging digital divides. The O3b Network is connecting communities and schools, particularly in Africa, to enhance economic opportunity, gender equality, and telemedicine. Project Connect, on the other hand, aims to map every school in the world and measure their connectivity.
The World’s Next Resources

In a series of three sessions, renowned entrepreneurs discussed new-age tools to address global challenges.

Tricia Wang, Technology Ethnographer, Co-founder, and Principal of Sudden Compass, said collecting more data does not lead to better decision-making. She outlined the concept of thick data, which is the information gleaned from humans in the form of stories and emotions. Both big and thick data are essential to make informed decisions.

During his session, health and technology entrepreneur Naveen Jain pointed out that preventable chronic diseases are driving up healthcare costs. He called on governments to work together and help collect data sets for one million people to cure these diseases.

Finally, Will Marshall, Co-founder and CEO of Planet Labs, explained how his company has more than 300 satellites in orbit, which generate over one million images of Earth each day. There are many applications for this technology, including monitoring environmental and border issues. Planet Labs is also using artificial intelligence to catalogue the items appearing in the images to index what is on Earth over time.
What Is New In News?

Mina Al-Oraibi
Editor in Chief of The National

Gerard Baker
Editor at Large for The Wall Street Journal

Nathaniel Barling
Co-founder, CEO, & Editor in Chief of Knowhere News

Ben Wellington
Research Analyst, Visiting Assistant Professor at the Pratt Institute

Matthew Winkler
Editor in Chief Emeritus of Bloomberg News

Ali Jaber
TV Director of MBC Group, Moderator

In a series of sessions discussing the future of the news business, journalists and researchers examined the question of who we can trust to deliver truthful news.

According to Nathaniel Barling, Editor in Chief of Knowhere News, automating the news business is inevitable and necessary for it to be trustworthy and independent in today’s world. In the right hands, he suggested, artificial intelligence (AI) will make most news more transparent, trustworthy, less partisan, and cheaper to produce.

Mina Al-Oraibi, Editor in Chief of The National, said AI will save journalists time and boosts efficiency. Conversely, The Wall Street Journal Editor at Large Gerard Baker warned that AI and algorithms could actually intensify lack of trust. Audiences would be expected to believe machines could not be wrong, which is not the case. The real opportunity is for humans and machines to work together to create a more comprehensive and accurate reporting narrative, added Matthew Winkler, Editor in Chief Emeritus of Bloomberg News.

Finally, research analyst Ben Wellington addressed open data. Through its universal availability, he said, open data creates dialogues with governments where everyone can participate.
Global Dialogue For Happiness & Wellbeing

Experts from around the world shared their insights, recommendations, and the best approaches for making social happiness and wellbeing central to policy-making in a series of sessions under four themes: Well Governments, Well Minds, Well Life, and Well Cities.
Mappiness: How Space & Time Impact Our Wellbeing

Dr George MacKerron
Chief Technical Officer of Psychological Technologies, Developer of the Mappiness Study

Space and time have a profound impact on our momentary happiness, said Dr George MacKerron, Chief Technical Officer of Psychological Technologies and developer of the Mappiness study.

Mappiness is a smartphone application that documents how users are feeling in a given moment, as well as their GPS location. Using this data, Dr MacKerron explained, he is able to see the events in a person’s life that create peaks and valleys in their happiness. This approach is different from typical happiness studies because his team is looking at momentary happiness rather than overall life satisfaction.

Data from Mappiness has revealed that people are least happy when they are at work, and that they are happier when spending time in nature as opposed to cities. He pointed out that these insights can have important implications for employers and governments alike.

Finally, by studying the impact of winning or losing a football match, Dr MacKerron found that people are willing to endure several valleys of unhappiness just to experience one peak in happiness that they can share with others.

“We don’t have life satisfaction data. What we’ve got is something different – it’s momentary happiness”
Smart Cities: What Comes Next?

John Rossant
Founder & Chairman of the NewCities Foundation

Simply pouring technology into a city cannot be an end in itself, said John Rossant, Founder and Chairman of the NewCities Foundation. Instead, the focus should be on how that technology can be leveraged to predict and respond to the needs of citizens. Rather than making smart cities the goal, he stressed, we should strive for happy cities.

According to Rossant, there are three essential building blocks of happy cities. The first is efficient multi-modal transport options. Today’s urban mobility revolution is seeing cities move away from the current model, which is structured around the automobile, to clean energy options, hyper-connectivity, and autonomous mobility.

The second building block is green space. Integrating public green spaces into urban settings creates common areas where residents can come together and connect. There is a direct positive correlation, Rossant noted, between access to public green spaces and citizens’ wellbeing, social networks, and sense of community.

The final building block of a happy city, Rossant concluded, is strong feedback loops between citizens and the city’s administration. Residents must feel empowered and believe that they can influence change in their neighborhoods.

“If we put wellbeing at the center, we can really have a new sustainable and positive outcome for cities.”
In an enlightening panel discussion, Gleam Davis, Mayor of Santa Monica, California, and Charles Montgomery, author and Founding Principal of Happy City, examined how some of the mistakes that were made when building cities in the 20th century can be reversed in the 21st century.

Many of the cities built over the last 100 years, Montgomery explained, were bad for human health, psychological wellbeing and social connections, and were not resilient. Now, decision makers are acknowledging the relationship between wellbeing and urban design and are working to reverse some of the mistakes of the past.

In Santa Monica, Davis mentioned that resident wellbeing is being measured through a survey conducted every two years. The administration then uses the data gleaned from these surveys to see where the city can devote its resources to make the biggest impact.

To close the session, Montgomery shared what he believed are the top three innovations that will help make future cities incubators of wellbeing: the understanding that the best mobility plan is a great land use plan, housing is a right, and the belief that great cities are complex places that foster social connection.
Wellness: The $4.2 Trillion Opportunity

Susie Ellis
Chairman and CEO of the Global Wellness Institute

In her address to the Summit, Susie Ellis, Chairman and CEO of the non-profit Global Wellness Institute, announced that the wellness economy was valued at a staggering $4.2 trillion in 2017. The industry has grown nearly twice as fast as the global economy in the two years since.

Ellis defined wellness as the active pursuit of activities and lifestyles to achieve holistic health. While the word is often used interchangeably with happiness and wellbeing, she explained that they are actually different. She described the relationship between these terms as a pyramid with three tiers: Wellness is at the base and includes the tools that people choose to help them attain wellbeing and happiness. The middle tier is wellbeing, which describes the goals that people or institutions are trying to achieve. At the top is the final outcome – happiness.

In conclusion, Ellis said the key to improving health outcomes lies in inspiring people to reach higher levels of vitality and wellbeing, and she invited government and private sector leaders to collaborate with the Global Wellness Institute to further the ideal of wellness for all.

"Wellness is the active pursuit of activities, choices, and lifestyles that lead to a state of holistic health"
Wellness For A Longer Life

Dr Mehmet Oz
Host of The Dr. Oz Show

Mindy Grossman
President & CEO of WW International

Esther Lee
Executive Vice President & Global Chief Marketing Officer of MetLife

Dr Mehmet Oz, host of The Dr. Oz Show, Mindy Grossman, President and CEO of WW International, and Esther Lee, Executive Vice President and Global Chief Marketing Officer of MetLife, came together to discuss data-driven models that are changing the game in the health and wellness industry.

Dr Oz pointed out that big data is revolutionizing the wellness space. Health and lifestyle information is now available directly on our smartphones, and armed with this data people should feel empowered to take control of their own wellness.

Grossman explained that WW International, formerly known as Weight Watchers, has undergone a complete transformation based on a massive qualitative and quantitative study. They have used millions of data points to build an ecosystem of wellness, helping people live healthier lives and keeping them motivated along the way.

According to Lee, MetLife, the largest global insurance provider, is also tapping into new data to better understand their customer’s needs. They have found that what people really want from a company like MetLife isn’t a product at all. They want a company that is going to understand them, be flexible as their needs change, and share expertise - people want a partnership, she stressed.
Kenichiro Mogi
Senior Researcher at Sony Computer Science Laboratories,
Author of The Little Book of Ikigai

While artificial intelligence (AI) may eventually outpace human intelligence, it will not be able to replace human mindfulness and social sensitivity, asserted Kenichiro Mogi, Senior Researcher at Sony Computer Science Laboratories. Mogi, who is a neuroscientist and author of The Little Book of Ikigai, opened his talk by explaining the Japanese concept of ikigai, which refers to one’s reason for getting up in the morning. It can be something simple, he said, like walking the dog, or it can be one’s broader life purpose.

According to Mogi, ikigai is very closely related to mindfulness and the activities of the brain’s default mode network - a network of interacting brain regions that is active when a person is not focused on a particular task. AI is very good at applying rule-based algorithms to solve problems, but the human brain is much better at applying ambiguous, common-sense judgments. As AI outpaces human intellect, Mogi concluded, what will really be important for success in the future is our ability to nurture our personalities and empathize with one another.

"Rather than the intelligence of individuals, we really need to feel and empathize with each other. That’s the key for success in the future"
Launching *The Global Happiness & Wellbeing Policy Report*

Her Excellency Maria Manuel Leitão Marques, Minister of the Presidency and of Administrative Modernization of Portugal, Her Excellency Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi, Minister of State for Happiness and Wellbeing of the UAE, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and Professor John Helliwell, Senior Fellow and Co-director of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research Programme on Social Interactions, Identity, and Well-Being, came together at the Summit to launch the Global Happiness and Wellbeing Policy Report 2019 and share some of its key insights.

The report revealed that in education, Prof Sachs explained, when schools teach cooperation, mindfulness, compassion, and social values, students are happier and better adjusted, and academic performance increases.

Prof Helliwell said that a key issue the report highlighted was the necessity of getting top-to-bottom buy in on initiatives to improve wellbeing. In many cases, it only takes one person to dismantle an entire program, he said, so nurturing a pervasive cooperative spirit is crucial. Marques agreed, adding that public-private partnerships are important for improving happiness.

Wellbeing must also be hardwired into all government systems and policies, Al Roumi emphasized, not just considered an add-on in specific sectors.
Boosting happiness on a global scale requires collaborative efforts between governments and organizations, according to experts and thought leaders in the field. Addressing the findings from the Global Happiness and Wellbeing Policy Report 2019, speakers asserted that happiness must be prioritized and integrated into policy-making. There must also be a greater emphasis on a balanced society, healthcare, and positive education to reduce depression and boost wellbeing. Work-life balance was another key driver leading to job satisfaction, engagement, and ultimately life satisfaction.

Panelists noted that rigid, bureaucratized, and risk-averse structures inhibited happiness policy-making. They advised governments to create a coalition or partnership for happiness in order to enact successful policies.

Speakers shared successful examples of wellbeing frameworks established in Slovenia, New Zealand, France, and Scotland. They also explored the concept of a 'happy city', and the various elements that create happier citizens and communities, such as mobility, good urban design, and the use of technology to improve services.
Climate Change Forum

World leaders and advocates convened to highlight the urgency of finding solutions to the unprecedented challenges faced by humanity due to climate change.
Climate Action In A
Multilateral-skeptic World

In 2018, climate-related disasters displaced two million people and cost $500 billion. According to Her Excellency María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and His Excellency Laurent Fabius, President of the Constitutional Council and ninth Prime Minister of France, society must act quickly and collectively, as the next three years will be decisive.

Multilateralism is key, emphasized Garcés, as climate change not only affects everyone, it connects everyone. The world must cooperate, accelerate indices to five times the current levels, and view climate action and multilateralism as mutually dependent.

Prerequisites are financial resources, more capacity, better governance, and technology transfer. “Climate change needs ownership and commitment from all,” Garcés asserted. “Scientific, judicial, financial, and technology communities, not just governments.”

Implementing 2015’s Paris Agreement remains vital, Fabius advised, despite the changing landscape in the years since. Doors should stay open, he stressed, even for those who turned their back on the agreement. “Paris is not only an agreement,” he concluded. “It is a spirit: to act quicker, better, and together.”
In an enlightening discussion, two industry experts discussed the urgent need for ocean conservation.

William McDonough, Founder of William McDonough + Partners and sustainable development expert, outlined the approach being defined by bodies such as the European Commission and implemented by companies like Walmart and Unilever to reduce marine litter. This categorizes material as ‘reusable, recyclable, compostable, recoverable’. Of these, the last is perhaps the biggest challenge, he said. A plastic bag may be recyclable, but once it’s in the ocean it also needs to be recoverable. McDonough noted that 40% of plastics in the ocean arrive via rivers. This creates one potential focus for global efforts.

Emphasizing the importance of ocean conservation, M Sanjayan, CEO of Conservation International, suggested that twice the amount of effort that’s been put into land conservation should be devoted to protecting the Earth’s waters. He welcomed the target currently being advocated across the conservation community, where a minimum 30% of the ocean is effectively managed and conserved. This will benefit not only oceans and wildlife, but also human development and global economies.
Global Health Forum

Policy-makers, practitioners, and industry experts from various fields of healthcare gathered to address major themes shaping the sector.
The Next Era Of Healthcare

HE Abdulrahman bin Mohammed Al Owais
Minister of Health & Prevention & Minister of State for Federal National Council Affairs of the United Arab Emirates

During the Summit’s Global Health Forum, His Excellency Abdulrahman bin Mohammed Al Owais, Minister of Health and Prevention and Minister of State for Federal National Council Affairs of the UAE, reflected on the future of healthcare. He examined the prospects in terms of technological advancement and readiness to fight global health threats and infections.

The new models of treatments, patient expectations, and disruptive technology such as genomic and regenerative medicine are defining the frameworks for the next era of healthcare. A key transformation has been the move away from physician-driven care to a patient-centered one, said Al Owais. Optimizing population health outcomes through preventive care has become a top priority for governments.

Al Owais described how past pandemics such as the Spanish flu and Hong Kong flu resulted in the death of millions. He called on delegates to be a part of the collective vision in being prepared against future global health threats and implementing preventive strategies.

“We are moving into a new era of health framed by the new models of care, patient expectations, and disruptive technology”
The Future Lens Of Healthcare

Prof Shafi Ahmed
Surgeon at Barts Health NHS Trust, Founder of Barts X Medicine, Chairman of the Global Innovation & New Technologies Conference

Technology holds the key to more affordable, equitable, and accessible healthcare as it enables humans to think exponentially, rather than linearly, proposed Professor Shafi Ahmed, surgeon at Barts Health NHS Trust and Chairman of the Global Innovation and New Technologies Conference.

Identifying three main challenges – rising costs, insufficient professionals, and slow and outdated training – Prof Ahmed explored several solutions. For training, he advocated fast, dynamic approaches, where students solve problems in mentored and funded teams.

More should be done to leverage telemedicine – or the remote delivery of healthcare services over the phone – especially now that artificial intelligence adds even more capability. Smart home devices could also accelerate diagnoses.

Citing a recent “remote operation” utilizing robotics and 5G, he praised avatars as tools for virtual training and collaborative working, ensuring patients receive the best possible care and advice.

The pace at which technology is changing and shaping the world is remarkable, Prof Ahmed concluded, and the medical sector is no exception. Practitioners and policy-makers across the globe must work together to implement emerging technologies and reimagine healthcare for the betterment of humanity.

“Technology is going to allow us to shape healthcare in a way that we could never imagine before”
Infections Of The Future: Preparedness Or Peril?

Prof Dr Peter Seeberger
Managing Director of the Max Planck Institute of Colloids & Interfaces

Despite incredible advances in healthcare, infectious diseases could be a serious global threat in the future if governments do not act now, warned Professor Dr Peter Seeberger, Managing Director of the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces in Germany.

According to Prof Dr Seeberger, vaccination is the least expensive way to protect people from infectious diseases at the level of an entire population – much less expensive than treating people after they are already ill.

Although effective vaccines exist, access and affordability are significant obstacles for large portions of the global population. Prof Dr Seeberger explained that getting vaccines to some rural areas can often compromise the integrity of the medication because it is difficult to keep it at the right temperature.

Developing new vaccines for the antibiotic-resistant diseases that are emerging now is even more challenging, he noted. It takes years and billions of dollars to bring them to market, so we must start now.

Prof Dr Seeberger asserted that governments hold the key to solving the problem. They must decide to invest in vaccine programs to protect the health of future generations.

"Vaccination is the least expensive means to protect people from infectious disease at the level of an entire population"
Cellular Therapeutics: New Options For Addressing Global Health Threats

Dr Robert Hariri
Founder & CEO of Celularity, Co-founder of Human Longevity Inc

Lifespan in society is an equally important indicator of societal success as anything else, according to Dr Robert Hariri, the Founder and CEO of Celularity and Co-founder of Human Longevity Inc. Addressing the audience during an enlightening session on cellular therapy, Dr Hariri explained how the revolutionary medical advancement could lead the fight against infectious diseases, in addition to cardiovascular disease, neurodegenerative and cognitive decline, and immune dysfunction, all factors contributing to premature mortality and morbidity.

Dr Hariri shed light on the placenta, which he described as ‘nature’s stem cell factory’. It is a source of remarkable biological material that could be used for tissue engineering to replenish the reservoir of stem and immune cells within the body. Immune cells and pluripotent cells derived from stem cells had the ability to restore or improve the quality and the quantity of organs and tissues, he added, enhancing biologic functions during disease and aging, and effectively combating cancer and restoring regenerative function.

Dr Hariri also noted that every placental cell could be accepted by another individual without rejection, making it a remarkably valuable tool for this emerging field of cellular medicine.

“We are trying to push the envelope and increase the number of years we live, and we have to maintain high performance during those years”
High-level Dialogue: The Outlook Of Global Health

To keep pace with a period of rapid change impacted by technology, the healthcare sector requires a dynamic, flexible approach. These were some of the remarks given by distinguished guests at the High-level Dialogue: The Outlook of Global Health session, attended by His Excellency Abdulrahman bin Mohammed Al Owais, Minister of Health and Prevention and Minister of State for Federal National Council Affairs of the UAE, the Honorable Christopher Fearne, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health of Malta, His Excellency Ghassan Hasbani, Deputy Prime Minister of Lebanon, and His Excellency Dr Ferozuddin Feroz, the Minister of Public Health of Afghanistan.

Speakers deliberated on critical issues and challenges facing the healthcare sector, emphasizing the importance of innovation and private-public partnerships. Climate change, sustainability, and finance were identified as challenges, while resilient health and robust surveillance systems, diagnostic centers and labs, and an identified funding source were described as necessary tools to mitigate global public health threats. Further discussion addressed technology, with emphasis placed on data belonging to the patient instead of the institution.

In conclusion, the speakers agreed that collaboration, awareness, and prevention were key to maintaining longer, healthier, and more productive lives.
Women In Government Forum

Inspiring female leaders and experts came together to highlight the importance of empowering women and promoting female leadership in government and society.
Women Leading Nations
To The Future

HE Helen Clark
37th Prime Minister of New Zealand, 8th Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

HE Sarah bint Yousif Al Amiri
Minister of State for Advanced Sciences of the United Arab Emirates

Becky Anderson
Managing Editor & Anchor for CNN Abu Dhabi, Moderator

In an inspiring discussion, Her Excellency Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Her Excellency Sarah bint Yousif Al Amiri, Minister of State for Advanced Sciences of the UAE, shared their thoughts on women in leadership.

Clark explained that women in leadership positions should strive to create a platform that allows more women to come after them. It’s important to have women in these top spots, she said, because it proves to young girls that that could be them someday. Having women in leadership positions is the smart thing to do because they bring an entirely different range of perspectives and skills.

Al Amiri recognized the UAE’s government for empowering women and providing opportunities for them across many fields traditionally dominated by men. During her time as minister, Al Amiri explained that one of the most important lessons she’s learned about leadership is how to navigate and adapt to drastic changes.

In conclusion, Clark and Al Amiri agreed that women must be prepared to stand up for themselves, take risks, and seize opportunities to continue moving forward.
WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT FORUM

Women On Public Administration

In this enlightening panel discussion, four leaders from across the globe came together to examine the importance of having women in public administration.

Her Excellency Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi, Minister of State for Happiness and Wellbeing of the UAE, and Gleam Davis, Mayor of Santa Monica, California, both asserted that creating positive, diverse role models for women in government is crucial. It encourages young girls to see themselves in those leadership roles and aspire to one day hold such positions.

Her Excellency Maria Manuel Leitão Marques, Minister of the Presidency and of Administrative Modernization of Portugal, added that it is necessary to create the right conditions to encourage women to pursue careers in the public sector. Promoting work-life balance and shifting the public perception of politics to show that it can make a difference in people’s lives are the two most important factors to attract women to public office.

The panelists agreed that the future outlook for women in government is positive. Women must continue joining the ranks of public administration to create balanced governments and fairer representations of society.
Women Shaping The Future Of Social Policy & Welfare

Her Excellency Mitcy Larue, Minister for Family Affairs of the Seychelles; Her Excellency Bintou Chabi Adam Taro, Minister of Social Affairs and Microfinance of Benin; and Her Excellency Hessa bint Essa Buhumaid, Minister of Community Development of the UAE, came together to examine how their countries are redesigning social welfare systems to serve everyone equally.

In the Seychelles, Larue told the Summit, they are changing the education system to ensure it aligns with the demands of the job market, now and in the future. They are also focusing on empowering women and young girls through training and reskilling programs.

Benin is taking a unique approach, said Taro, by pairing social affairs and microfinance. Instead of providing continual assistance, the idea is to give disadvantaged populations access to small-scale financial services that help them pull themselves out of poverty.

According to Buhumaid, it’s important to differentiate between the various types of social welfare beneficiaries, which is precisely what the UAE is doing. Each group has its own specific needs, she said, and looking at them individually allows the government to tailor more effective solutions to meet those needs.

HE Mitcy Larue  
Minister for Family Affairs of the Seychelles

HE Bintou Chabi Adam Taro  
Minister of Social Affairs & Microfinance of Benin

HE Hessa bint Essa Buhumaid  
Minister of Community Development of the United Arab Emirates

Zeina Yazigi  
News Presenter & Journalist, Moderator
Public-Private Partnerships
For A Common Future

A panel of distinguished female leaders came together to examine how public-private partnerships can support women in business.

Tamara Perko, President of the Management Board of the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development, highlighted certain government mandates in Croatia. These ensure banks offer female entrepreneurs loans with lower collateral and equity participation.

Costa Rica is exploring similar approaches, said Her Excellency María del Pilar Garrido Gonzalo, the country’s Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy, especially in training and education. Recently, they have used econometric modeling to reveal women’s needs, after which administrators went door to door to offer tailored support.

Chiara Corazza, Managing Director of the Women’s Forum for the Economy and Society, outlined how the forum partners with the French government to encourage girls to study science. Her Excellency Arancha González, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, identified the key obstacles to women securing more public tenders. These include difficulties in securing credit and a lack of built-in networks and buyer trust.

Perko concluded by asserting women often bring a more flexible approach. They are not just doing business, but doing it in new ways.
The Future Of Government Communication Forum

Global leaders and industry experts engaged in dialogue, highlighting the impact of technology, the changing nature of communication, and the need for rebuilding trust between the government and media.
The Future Of Government Communications

Her Excellency Jumana Ghunaimat, Minister of State for Media Affairs of Jordan, His Excellency Ali bin Mohammed Al Rumaihi, Minister of Information Affairs of Bahrain, and Hussein Zein, Head of the National Media Authority of Egypt, convened at the Summit to discuss the changing face of the media.

Rapidly advancing technology has made the role of Minister of Information nearly obsolete, Ghunaimat said. The focus should shift toward transparency and rebuilding trust between government and the media. She also highlighted Jordan’s efforts in combating fake news, which they are approaching via preschool education programs and legal deterrents.

Al Rumaihi agreed, citing His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum’s effective use of Twitter to deliver government news directly to citizens – a more influential approach than ministries sending out written press releases.

According to Zein, news conflict is one of the biggest challenges government television channels are facing. To avoid this, the National Media Authority follows up their breaking news with details after they gather accurate information and verify sources.
According to a panel of industry experts, fake news is on the rise, but the public’s fear of it is not unique to the 21st century. Cassandra Kelly, member of the Global Tech Panel of the European External Action Service and co-founder of Pottinger, explained that while many people blame technology for the proliferation of fake news, those same channels can be used to quickly rebut inaccurate information.

Turning their attention to artificial intelligence (AI), the panelists agreed that it can help address individual concerns and should be embraced rather than feared. Greed and lack of forethought, however, could unintentionally cause threats, therefore global investment is needed to enact the best regulation.

AI uses existing resources better to create more output, adding value to communications rather than reducing human jobs, said Juan Carlos Riveiro, co-founder and CEO of Vilynx Inc. However, developers, individuals, companies, and governments must take responsibility for its regulation.

Jaroslaw Krolewski, co-founder and CEO of Synerise, pointed out that AI is about improving citizen experiences. Transparency surrounding how it enhances peoples’ lives will be a major factor in coming years.
The Future Of Crisis Communication

Nancy Jamal
Official Coalition Representative of the Global Coalition Against Daesh

Bernardino León
Director General of the Emirates Diplomatic Academy

Johan Verbeke
Director General of EGMONT – The Royal Institute for International Relations

Noora Al Abbar
Director of Strategic Media Affairs of the Government of Dubai Media Office, Moderator

Crisis communication is an essential pillar of government communication, which has changed over time. During a crisis, there should not be a hierarchy of stakeholders. Instead, there must be a complete focus on solving the problem and anticipating upcoming scenarios.

Nancy Jamal highlighted the Global Coalition Against Daesh, of which she is the Official Coalition Representative. The 79 international partners use communications as part of their campaign to tackle the threat of Daesh, also known as ISIS, she explained. By countering or staying ahead of the terrorists, they work on creating positive international narratives, building messages of hope, and cutting through disinformation.

Johan Verbeke, Director General of EGMONT – The Royal Institute for International Relations, promoted compromise in negotiation and crisis communications. Opponents should feel respected during the process, as they could be a future ally.

Better understanding leads to better anticipation, said Bernardino León, Director General of the Emirates Diplomatic Academy. Messages should display concern for society rather than the speaker.

The panel agreed that silence and ignorance will not work. Coordination and transparency are vital, using only confirmed and accurate information.
The Future Of Education Talks

Speakers shared new approaches to parenting and education, and innovative solutions to transform the learning process.
Consciousness & Parenting

Dr Shefali Tsabary
Clinical Psychologist & Best-selling Author

World-renowned clinical psychologist Dr Shefali Tsabary gave an impassioned speech that focused on the importance of allowing children to be themselves and develop as individuals. Dr Tsabary explained that much of the confusion and anxiety plaguing youth today is caused by pressure from parents who are raising children unconsciously.

When children are pressured to conform or to fit into a particular mold, their creativity is stifled and they lose their spark of innovation. She warned that children who are discouraged from expressing themselves often experience unhappiness in their adult life. True happiness can only come from a deep connection to one’s inner being.

She noted that embracing one’s true self is difficult, as it often invites disapproval from others. However, she encouraged the audience to stay the course for themselves and their children because the prize outweighs the price.

To raise happy, vibrant children, Dr Tsabary urged attendees to adopt conscious parenting. Youngsters should be allowed the freedom to discover their own path, their unique interests, and follow their own script.

“There is a price to pay to stop following, but the prize of not following is the potential to discover who it is you are”
John Hardy
Co-founder of the Green School

John Hardy, Co-founder of the Green School, shared insights into the remarkable impact of his pioneering school in Bali. There, students learn about sustainability, alongside a traditional curriculum, with the aim of inspiring the green leaders of tomorrow.

Hardy began by recounting his arrival to the Indonesian island, which he described as ‘a paradise like no other’. His life would later be transformed when he watched the 2006 American documentary An Inconvenient Truth. The documentary inspired him and his wife Cynthia to build a school to prepare his children for an uncertain future.

Hardy shared some extraordinary stories of Green School students starting fashion labels to raise money to help Indian children buy school uniforms or creating a fleet of bio buses powered by cooking oil. The school, he said, serves as a beacon for people with educational dreams, creates happiness, and allows children to thrive. All these elements create environmental pioneers that drive change to benefit humanity.

“When you take children out of the educational box, they thrive. When you give children a voice, they lead”
Collective Learning: A Win-win!

Nicolas Sadirac
Co-founder & General Manager of 42

A private, non-profit, and tuition-free computer programming school launched by a former hacker has had remarkable success with its unconventional methods. Nicolas Sadirac, Co-founder and General Manager of Ecole 42, shared the story behind his Paris-based school, which has no teachers or curriculum, and grants no formal qualifications. According to Sadirac, the school’s 4,000 children, who create what he calls ‘collective intelligence’, work together in groups without supervision or discipline. The absence of both has had a profound effect on the school’s rankings and graduates, with more than 30% of Ecole 42 students going on to establish their own successful companies.

According to Sadirac, fostering creativity and encouraging a love of learning can be achieved by making education fun, instead of forcing it on students. Removing supervision and placing trust in students to make group decisions is another important method, as it encourages students to find a solution together. ‘Gamifying’ the learning process and creating groups with diversity have also proven effective.

The unconventional methods of Ecole 42 were developed for IT students, though Sadirac hopes to develop the methodology to apply to other industries.
Global stakeholders convened to reflect on the progress made toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and showcase successful strategies and advances in sustainability around the world.
In her opening address at the SDGs In Action @ WGS forum, Her Excellency Amina J Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, defined five key areas of action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The first is to reinforce the commitment to share experiences, tools, and reports on progress.

Next is to do more to establish effective, inclusive, and accountable public institutions. This means institutions must be built on strong, transformational leadership at all levels.

The third includes strengthening the commitment of national and local-level leadership. Heads of state and governments are essential in driving SDG implementation.

There is also a need to boost support for multi-stakeholder partnerships, harnessing the contributions from civil society organizations and the private sector.

The final fundamental area is to capitalize on the potential of innovation and the power of a restive youth. In conclusion, Mohammed urged all stakeholders to work together to ensure that the promises of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development become a reality.

“The SDGs are a beacon of hope. Properly addressed, they will be the transformation that is required for development to take hold and benefit all, ensuring progress for people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnerships that leave no one behind”
Wellbeing & The SDGs

Prof Jeffrey Sachs
Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary General on the Sustainable Development Goals, Director of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires planning, international cooperation, and a spirit of charity and justice, said Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary General on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prof Sachs defined sustainable development as the integration of economic wellbeing, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. He asserted that sustainable development is absolutely essential because while the global economy is richer than ever, there are still one billion people living in extreme poverty.

Prof Sachs outlined three main components necessary for achieving the SDGs. The first is planning. He advised governments to define where they want to be by 2030 and formulate strategies to get there.

The second is international cooperation. Agenda 2030 is not a single-country agenda. Countries and regions must work together to reach sustainable development.

Finally, we must cultivate a spirit of charity and justice. Prof Sachs pointed out that if the world’s richest people donated all but $1 billion of their wealth, that would free up $8 trillion. This is more than enough, he concluded, to provide quality education, food, healthcare, and more to everyone in the world.

“This agenda is inherently a regional and global agenda, not a single-country agenda. We need the regions to work together”
Main Announcement Of The SDGs Initiatives

HE Abdulla Nasser Lootah
Director General of the Federal Competitiveness & Statistics Authority of the United Arab Emirates

According to His Excellency Abdulla Nasser Lootah, the world remains unequal despite unprecedented technological advancement.

Great strides have been made in artificial intelligence, gene editing, computing, and space tourism. However, political, social, and environmental challenges from climate change, poverty, unemployment, and gender inequality were still serious global concerns.

Lootah referenced a United Nations report revealing that one in ten people live below the poverty line, climate change displaces more people than ever, and diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are still incurable. He called for long-term vision and collaboration between governments, leaders, and all sectors to develop solutions.

He said the UAE put sustainable development at the heart of the country’s vision for the future. The latest report on the Sustainable Development Goals showed the great progress the country has made toward their achievement, and Lootah urged others to do the same.

In closing, he encouraged nations to work together to make a difference and ensure nobody is left behind.

"Together we can work to make a difference in humanity’s most pressing challenges. Together we can ensure that truly no one is left behind"
Successful Practices On The SDGs In Partnership With The Organisation For Economic Co-operation & Development

Representatives from Lebanon, Spain, and Argentina convened at the Summit to assess how the Sustainable Development Goals can be viewed as growth drivers, rather than just targets.

In Spain, the SDGs are proving highly beneficial, acting as internal mobilizing tools and policy actions across economic, political, and environmental spheres. Cristina Gallach, Spain’s High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda, highlighted two key achievements: creating a government agenda for change and mobilizing the private sector and civil society.

His Excellency Ghassan Hasbani, Deputy Prime Minister of Lebanon, explained how his country’s high refugee population creates major infrastructural, societal, and financial burdens. This has motivated the country to view the SDGs as necessary, not additional, components. He acknowledged that translating pledges into reality is always challenging, but transparency and efficiency are critical to this process.

For Argentina, Comptroller General Alberto Gowland detailed similar steps his country is taking to internalize the SDGs. He described how the goals are now embedded in the annual planning processes of government ministries.
Enablers For Achieving Agenda 2030

Agenda 2030 is the most ambitious and complex international agenda ever enacted, agreed a panel of public and private sector representatives, and sharing enablers is therefore vital.

His Excellency Richard Raši, Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Informatization of Slovakia, asserted that policy must be integrated at all levels – national, regional, and local. Then it is to be followed up by participation and partnership.

Her Excellency María del Pilar Garrido Gonzalo, Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica, proposed sound governance and tailor-made, evidence-based policy as important enablers.

Jack Dangermond, Co-founder and President of Esri, stressed the value of sharing and comparing data. His organization is helping create a federated information system that will link 60 countries by the end of 2019.

His Excellency Professor Enrico Giovannini, former Minister of Labour and Social Policy of Italy, highlighted the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development, a body that unites 220 organizations working to spread a culture of sustainability. Italy also provides SDG e-learning courses for teachers and organizes the annual Festival of Sustainable Development, which hosted 700 events over 17 days in 2018.

HE Richard Raši
Deputy Prime Minister for Investments & Informatization of Slovakia

HE María del Pilar Garrido Gonzalo
Minister of National Planning & Economic Policy of Costa Rica

HE Prof Enrico Giovannini
Professor of Economic Statistics at the University of Rome “Tor Vergata”, Former Minister of Labour & Social Policy of Italy

Jack Dangermond
Co-founder & President of Esri

Nivine Afiouni
Executive Producer for Sky News Arabia, Moderator
Government leaders, heads of international organizations, and industry experts convened to discuss practical ways to implement policies and frameworks to tackle today’s challenges and deliver a more hopeful future.
Wellbeing: GDP & Beyond

While economic indicators can influence happiness, governments must look beyond GDP in order to positively impact wellbeing, agreed His Excellency Angel Gurría, Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, His Excellency Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, and Her Excellency Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi, Minister of State for Happiness and Wellbeing of the UAE.

Al Roumi began the panel discussion by highlighting that although GDP has been on the rise over the past few decades, quality of life indicators such as mental health and employment have dropped. The future of government, she stressed, must be pivoted on wellbeing, not just GDP.

Gurría emphasized that there is no formula for happiness because there is no single question that can determine a person or country’s overall level of wellbeing. It is a multidimensional issue that must be approached from many different angles, of which GDP is only one.

Steiner concurred, and pointed out that the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) do address risk factors for unhappiness. If achieved, the SDGs translate into more equitable, sustainable, and thriving societies.
A panel of influential leaders came together at the Summit for a high-level discussion on the implementation of the SDGs. His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary General of the United Nations, asserted that high-level leaders must have a clear vision of the priorities, resources, and technologies available to them. This allows them to develop policies that promote the SDGs.

The UN can play a role in achieving the SDGs, said Her Excellency María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. However, there must be social and political ownership of the agenda at all levels – from the average citizen on the street to those occupying the highest government offices. His Excellency Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, agreed, adding that leaders must make a personal commitment to realizing these goals.

His Excellency Mahmoud Mohieldin, the World Bank’s Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, United Nations Relations, and Partnerships, advised governments to base their budgets on the SDGs. This ensures accountability and encourages national dialogue about sustainable development.

Finally, the Honorable Henry Puna, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, stressed that localizing the goals is key to garnering public support for the SDGs.
Youth must be equipped with transferable skills that will allow them to be flexible, adaptable, and resilient in today’s rapidly evolving world. In an enlightening panel discussion, Her Excellency Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), His Excellency Angel Gurría, Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Dr Tariq Al Gurg, CEO of Dubai Cares, and Kamran Elahian, Founder and Chairman of Global Innovation Catalyst, all agreed that educating and empowering young people across the globe must be a top priority.

Fore and Elahian both stressed that existing school systems need to shift their focus away from memorizing facts and figures. The goal should instead be to teach transferable skills such as communication, entrepreneurship, and how to use the internet.

Dr Al Gurg emphasized the importance of investing in youth even before they enter primary school, urging governments to implement early childhood education programs.

Gurría agreed with the overwhelming evidence that supports early childhood education, but he also noted that overcoming poverty is key for youth to succeed. Growing up in poverty, he said, has a significant impact on a person’s performance in school.
Managing risk is a core function of government, and governments must be able to do it right, five panelists concurred.

His Excellency Angel Gurría, Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, recommended using evidence to constantly review, revise, and reform policies, and to adopt a whole-of-government approach.

UAE Minister of State for Food Security Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Al Meheiri explained that the UAE’s strategy adopts a cross-sectional approach. It entails leveraging the private sector and establishing a risk-monitoring assessment scheme.

Dr Daniel Kaniewski, Deputy Administrator for Global Resilience of the Federal Emergency Management Agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security, urged governments to empower citizens and acknowledge that sometimes the private sector is better equipped to provide solutions.

Major General Adnan Ahmad Fadi Olwan, Vice Chairman of Jordan’s National Center for Security and Crises Management, advocated coordination. In Jordan, efforts are centralized, with a crisis manager working at the strategic level and an operational commander on the ground.

Finally, Her Excellency Dr Hala Helmy El Said, Minister of Planning, Monitoring, and Administrative Reform of Egypt, urged governments to enact implementation and follow-up measures to ensure strategies are being acted upon.
The Future Of Digital Cooperation In Partnership With The United Nations

Digital technologies readily cross national boundaries, but the issues they raise around privacy, competition, and regulation do not. This imbalance was the topic at hand in an illuminating panel discussion at the Summit.

Fadi Chehade, Chairman of Chehade & Company, pointed out that while regulatory initiatives like the Internet Governance Forum and Europe’s General Data Protection Regulation do exist, the challenge lies in uniting them. Amandeep Singh Gill, Executive Director of the Secretariat of the High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, and His Excellency Francis Gurry, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization, agreed. Every country is forging its own path, they said, rather than seeking cooperation.

Markus Reinisch, a regional Vice President of Public Policy for Facebook, stressed the issue of deciding what content is acceptable is fundamental. It is a question that requires the intersection between lawmakers, society, and companies. He advised that this collaborative effort should be led by the United Nations.

His Excellency Patrick O’Donovan, Minister of State for Public Procurement, Open Government, and eGovernment of Ireland, advised governments to allow time to develop a set of globally accepted values and regulations.
Transforming The Future: Creating Value Through Government Innovation In Partnership With The Organisation For Economic Co-operation & Development

Governments cannot fall behind, and policies and institutions must embrace innovation rather than maintain the status quo, asserted a panel of experts.

His Excellency Angel Gurría, Secretary General of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development, highlighted a recent OECD report, which examines how 542 innovations from 84 countries work better, faster, and cheaper to benefit the most people, and how these approaches can be implemented elsewhere.

Professor Mariana Mazzucato, Founding Director of the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose at the University College London, noted that governments must restructure patent systems to better suit advancing technologies.

His Excellency Richard Raši, Slovakia’s Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Informatization, pointed out that governments need to be citizen-centric to create better services. Siim Sikkut, Estonia’s Chief Information Officer, added that Estonia works directly with its residents when redesigning services.

Her Excellency Dr Rauda Al Saadi, Director General of Abu Dhabi Digital Authority, highlighted her organization’s efforts to create a customer-centric journey by focusing on engaging the public, in-house talent, the private sector, and academia.

Finally, Her Excellency Huda Al Hashimi, Assistant Director General for Strategy and Innovation of the UAE’s Prime Minister’s Office, advised governments to take an active role in mitigating risks presented by rapid technological change.
The Road To Digital Economy: The Role Of Blockchain In Partnership With The International Monetary Fund

Siim Sikkut
Chief Information Officer of the Government of Estonia

Nelson Chow
Chief Fintech Officer of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Thérèse Couture
Director of the Treasury Operations Department of the World Bank

HE Dr Aisha Bint Butti Bin Bishr
Director General of the Smart Dubai Office

Promoth Manghat
Group CEO & Executive Director of Finablr

Ross Leckow
Deputy General Counsel of the International Monetary Fund, Moderator

In a discussion examining blockchain, panelists agreed that the technology is a potential game-changer in finance. Blockchain is a simple and efficient way of working with governments, explained Siim Sikkut, Chief Information Officer of the Government of Estonia, but it needs shared platforms to ensure seamless use.

Promoth Manghat, Group CEO and Executive Director of Finablr, said the technology is useful and efficient for his financial services organization. Although it is still evolving, it is beginning to work worldwide.

According to Thérèse Couture, Director of the World Bank’s Treasury Operations Department, the World Bank has created the first blockchain-based legally binding bond. She encouraged governments to invest in research and plan ahead for the use and regulation of these funds. Her Excellency Dr Aisha Bint Butti Bin Bishr, Director General of the Smart Dubai Office, explained that one of the main functions of her office is to scan emerging technologies, like blockchain, and see how they can be implemented in Dubai to improve citizens’ lives.

To improve blockchain rollout, the panel suggested bank accounts for all, centralized legislation and regulation, and forward planning.
The Future Of Energy

A panel of five industry leaders discussed the oil market’s volatility and the new forms of energy that will fuel the future.

His Excellency Engineer Suhail Mohamed Faraj Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Industry of the UAE, opened the session by expressing his optimism that the oil market will stabilize by the first quarter of 2020, despite recent volatility.

He emphasized the importance of renewable energy for the future. The key will be in building partnerships between the public and private sectors to make energy more affordable and cities cleaner so that they are better places to live for current and future generations.

Siemens CEO Joe Kaeser agreed that renewables are the future, but pointed out that we must also examine how fossil fuels can be cleaner and more efficient. The world should strive to be hydrocarbon-free by 2100, he added, but it is important to improve energy efficiency before then.

His Excellency Saeed Al Tayer, CEO and Managing Director of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), highlighted DEWA’s 15 year journey to improve energy transmission and distribution. During that time, the authority has also reduced power loss by more than 50%, improved reliability for customers, and reduced fuel usage and CO2 output.
Major shifts in trade require fresh approaches to prevent global imbalances, asserted five panelists as they discussed the outlook for trade.

His Excellency Paulo Portas, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, asserted that the growth of China, India, and the Gulf has created a new economic order, but lacks a new, parallel political order. Similarly, His Excellency José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, seventh Prime Minister of Spain, suggested that change has outpaced existing multilateral systems.

The panelists agreed that the World Trade Organization (WTO) is still fundamental to the future of trade, but it must be reformed to be effective.

His Excellency Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, raised the possibility that the WTO’s requirement for unanimity creates paralysis. Her Excellency Arancha González, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre agreed, but added that true reform requires all member countries to reach a consensus.

Finally, His Excellency Sultan Al Mansoori, Minister of Economy of the UAE, pointed out that growing economies such as China and India present an opportunity for other countries. He urged governments to tap into this to help grow their own economies.
The panel discussed the rise of the digital sector post-financial crisis, and how it became involved in all other sectors and industries.

Karan Bhatia, Google’s Vice President of Global Public Policy and Government Relations, said it was not a question of whether artificial intelligence would affect industries, but how quickly and which industries and countries could best harness it. Those who wish to benefit most must enable online access to all, invest in human capital, and develop smart regulations.

According to Margaret Peterlin, Senior Vice President of Global External and Public Affairs at AT&T, the two biggest challenges policy-makers face when attempting to govern technology are investment in infrastructure and management of data and privacy. His Excellency Dr Amr Talaat, Egypt’s Minister of Communications and Information Technology, added that new policies must benefit all users. They must be protective but not restrictive and ensure every citizen has access and security.

The panel highlighted Europe’s General Data Protection Regulation as a step forward in online data protection, but concluded that international collaboration is needed to improve protection worldwide.
The Future Of Crypto & Digital Assets

Martin Bartlam
Partner, International Group Head of Finance & Projects, & FinTech Global Co-chair of DLA Piper

Ross Leckow
Deputy General Counsel of the International Monetary Fund

Laurence White
Member of the Secretariat to the Financial Stability Board

Lawrence Wintermeyer
Co-founder & Principal of Elipses, Co-chair & Guarantor of Global Digital Finance, Moderator

The market has matured, and the next phase of crypto and digital assets requires further development of the regulatory landscape, according to the panelists in this discussion session.

Martin Bartlam, Partner and International Group Head of Finance and Projects, and FinTech Global Co-chair of DLA Piper, said raising capital is crucial for economies all over the globe. He emphasized that securities regimes shouldn’t be economically prohibitive or prevent businesses from forming capital. DLA Piper is working with tech providers and regulators to devise an open model for raising funds with global safeguards.

Ross Leckow, Deputy General Counsel of the International Monetary Fund, said he is unconvinced on the benefits of digital bank currencies. However, he warned of the risks of private cryptocurrencies and cross-border payments, such as money laundering and terrorist financing, and emphasized the need for international cooperation. Laurence White, Member of the Secretariat to the Financial Stability Board, said the crypto-assets space poses few risks to the global financial system. However, he called for vigilant monitoring due to the speed of developments, emerging products and services, and data gaps.
Investing In Digital Economy: The New Approach For Development Funds

HE Dr Fahad Al Mubarak
Minister of State & Member of the Council of Ministers of Saudi Arabia, Secretary General of the G20 Saudi Secretariat

HE Jin Liqun
President & Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

HE Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi
Director General of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development

Dr Abdul-Hakim Elwaer
Director of Cooperation, Regional Integration, & Resource Mobilization of the Islamic Development Bank

Ferid Belhaj
Vice President for the Middle East & North Africa of the World Bank Group

HE Dr Abdulrahman Al Hamidy
Director General Chairman of the Board of the Arab Monetary Fund, Moderator

Development funds are crucial to supporting sustainable development, asserted a panel of experts in an open discussion about how these funds intersect with the digital economy.

His Excellency Dr Fahad Al Mubarak, Secretary General of the G20 Saudi Secretariat, explained that Saudi Arabia has restructured its development funds to adapt to new technology. Digital infrastructure requirements are now written into each loan, he said, which increases investment.

Digital infrastructure is vital for economic and social development, explained His Excellency Jin Liqun, President and Chairman of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, but it must be balanced with physical infrastructure. He advised development banks and financiers to leverage the private sector to devise more innovative investment solutions.

Ferid Belhaj, the World Bank’s Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa, and Dr Abdul-Hakim Elwaer, Director of Cooperation, Regional Integration, and Resource Mobilization of the Islamic Development Bank, both agreed, adding that meeting today’s development needs requires private sector involvement.

Finally, His Excellency Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, urged governments to foster an enabling environment for digital economies. This can be achieved by implementing innovative policies for education, capacity building, energy, and big data infrastructure.
Tolerance As An Effective Way Of Combating Crimes Impacting The Safety Of Our Communities

Initiating interfaith dialogue to help foster change across communities should be a joint effort between governments and religious heads, asserted a panel of international spiritual and community leaders.

Interfaith engagement can only flourish where there is respect and understanding for each other’s faiths. It is important for secularity and spirituality to come together to help fight crimes perpetrated against society.

If communities are connected, they can share crucial information, wisdom, and values. This will also lead to helping protect children against crime, irrespective of which religion they are born into. The discussion delved into online crime and the education required to spread awareness among parents and children. According to the panel, there is also a pertinent need to teach the value of peace, forgiveness, and service to others in schools.

The panelists concluded that government and religious leaders must work in strong partnerships to make a sustainable change and advance communities together.

Rabbi Diana Gerson
Associate Executive Vice President of the New York Board of Rabbis

Pastor Stephen Gualberto
Field Strategy Coordinator & Pastor for the CMA Church of the Nazarene

Bhai Sahib Bhai Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia
Chairman of Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha, Chairman of the British Sikh Consultative Forum

HE Reem Abdullah Al Falasi
Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Motherhood & Childhood of the United Arab Emirates

Ernie Allen
Chair of the WePROTECT Global Alliance, Former President & CEO of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Moderator
Fiscal Coordination

In a discussion session moderated by CNN's John Defterios, panelists highlighted the importance of fiscal coordination and the lessons to be learned from recent global events.

According to Marcelo Guigale, Director of the Department of Financial Advisory and Banking Services of the World Bank Group, there is no single blueprint for fiscal coordination, as it depends on each country's constitutional history.

His Excellency Dr José Antonio González Anaya, Former Secretary of Finance and Public Credit of Mexico, explained that there will always be pressures where people try to spend and not raise taxes.

In Europe, the willingness of governments to live up to the means of monitoring has been weak, said Niels Thygesen, Chairman of the European Fiscal Board. It is vital for a country to define a medium-term fiscal framework to help it function as a unit during a crisis.

His Excellency Juan Carlos Echeverry Garzón, Former Minister of Finance and Public Credit of Colombia, concluded that implementing solutions demands discipline and the involvement of consistent leadership.
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Global Dialogue
For Happiness & Wellbeing

With the happiness and wellbeing of both individuals and nations becoming a growing global priority, the world’s leading personalities in the field convened for the third annual Global Dialogue for Happiness and Wellbeing.

A platform that brings together more than 500 happiness and wellbeing experts, government officials, and representatives of international organizations, the dialogue examines ways to help governments ensure the happiness and wellbeing of their people.

The 2019 agenda revolved around four main pillars.

1. Well Governments: How are governments creating policies and measures that highlight the importance of and serve the happiness and wellbeing of nations?
2. Well Minds: Why is mental health essential to our wellbeing?
3. Well Life: What steps can people take to adopt wellbeing as a lifestyle and alleviate mental stressors?
4. Well Cities: How are cities shaping technologies and infrastructure that influence happiness and wellbeing?

Discussion points included governments’ efforts to create actionable policies, wellbeing as an important economic sector and enabler of social mobility, the practical applications of these policies in cities, and how cities are harnessing technology to enhance happiness.

“Since its inception in 2017, the dialogue has served as an incubator for the very best minds to come together and look at practical ways to develop societies for the betterment of the citizens that inhabit them”

HE Ohoud bint Khalfan Al Roumi
Minister of State for Happiness & Wellbeing of the United Arab Emirates, Vice Chair of the World Government Summit Organization
The third edition of the Global Dialogue for Happiness and Wellbeing saw world leaders, policy-makers, and academics come together to engage in two days of discussions vital for the advancement of global happiness and wellbeing.
Global Governance Of AI Forum

Drawing government representatives and leading international experts, the Global Governance of AI Forum initiated a crucial dialogue helping to shape an effective roadmap toward AI governance. The forum included expert sessions, as well as interactive workshops and high-level meetings to discuss the global governance of AI.

The meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) AI Group of Experts, which included representatives from world governments and thought leaders from academic and science communities, focused on setting principles to ensure the safe deployment of AI for the betterment of humanity. The sessions led to the finalization of a draft of AI principles, a proposed set of recommendations that are intended to support the OECD in developing the first intergovernmental policy guidelines for artificial intelligence. During the workshops and expert sessions, industry leaders engaged in action-oriented discussions around artificial intelligence and autonomous intelligent systems. Participants highlighted the need to prioritize ethical considerations, and called for international cooperation and responsible and participatory design to ensure that autonomous and intelligent technologies have outcomes that are beneficial to society.

“In establishing such a collective intelligence platform, we hope to serve as a catalyst, ensuring humanity reaps the extraordinary promise of artificial intelligence, while mitigating possible risks”

HE Omar Sultan Al Olama
Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence of the United Arab Emirates, Managing Director of the World Government Summit Organization
Experts at the Global Governance of AI Forum deliberated on ethical considerations surrounding artificial intelligence and explored solutions that would ensure autonomous and intelligent technologies had positive impacts on society.
The dialogue between international experts and thought leaders at the Global Governance of AI Forum centered around AI governance and the challenges and considerations in setting global principles.
“Delivering on the SDGs will require transformation and inclusive leadership, leadership that was on full display when heads of state and governments adopted these historic and far-reaching goals in 2015”

HE Amina J Mohammed
Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations

Organized in collaboration with the United Nations, the World Bank, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the forum brought together government representatives, heads of international organizations and foundations, and academics. They showcased the progress of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and discussed the challenges, opportunities, and recommendations to meet the 2030 deadline.

In her opening remarks, Her Excellency Amina J Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, called for greater commitment, ownership, and innovation. Moreover, she emphasized the need for nations to report on progress and boost support for multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The sessions showcased successful practices applied by Spain, Lebanon, and Argentina in partnership with the OECD, and other long-term strategies and national investment plans put in place by Costa Rica and Slovakia. Speakers also addressed the importance of open data and the sharing of progress in order to develop benchmarks for each goal.
FORUMS & INITIATIVES

The progress of implementing the SDGs and recommendations to meet the 2030 deadline were some of the key points discussed at the SDGs in Action @ WGS.
Global Policy Platform

The Global Policy Platform held at the World Government Summit brought together government officials, policy-makers, thought leaders, and economists to explore practical solutions to implementing policies to shape a more hopeful future for humanity.

Organized in collaboration with the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Trade Organization, the World Health Organization, and other international organizations, the platform included a series of sessions featuring a group of distinguished speakers.

The sessions inspired stimulating dialogue on the various challenges and opportunities posed by advancements in technology, such as AI and blockchain. Speakers remarked that governments are well positioned to set policies and legal regulatory frameworks that encourage, rather than impede, innovation.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals were also discussed with some of the biggest challenges identified as rising inequalities, concentration of wealth, poverty and hunger. Further topics included wellbeing, childhood development, and education with speakers calling for education systems that enable basic fundamental skills, transferable skills, entrepreneurship, real vocational skills, and digital skills.

“The two defining variables that will be at the center of the next paradigm are going to be equity and sustainability”

HE Achim Steiner
Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme
The Global Policy Platform saw policy-makers from governments, heads of international organizations, and business leaders convene to debate the most recent policy challenges and opportunities shaping the world.
"Global problems are a collective challenge. Every one of us must be given the opportunity and authority to help solve them – especially the youth”

HE Shamma bint Suhail Al Mazroui
Minister of State for Youth Affairs of the United Arab Emirates

Held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, the 2019 World Government Summit hosted the third edition of the Arab Youth Forum. It drew together some of the Middle East and North Africa’s brightest young minds to brainstorm ways to shape the future of the region and define youth’s leading role in efforts to attain sustainable development at a global level.

Leaders and experts from across the Arab region attended the forum, including Her Excellency Shamma bint Suhail Al Mazroui, Minister of State for Youth Affairs of the UAE and Vice President of the Arab Youth Centre.

The young participants discussed their aspirations for the future and the challenges posed by a rapidly changing social landscape. In addition, the agenda targeted youth unemployment in the Arab region, which is the highest anywhere in the world at more than 30%.

To address this challenge, the 2019 forum introduced the Arab Youth Pitches initiative, which allowed young entrepreneurs and innovators to showcase their creative solutions to key decision-makers. The pitches included innovative ideas such as flexible employee-scheduling software, initiatives that empower and upskill women, and a platform that uses AI and machine learning to match candidates with potential employers.
“The Arab Youth Forum at the World Government Summit is an opportunity to share our experience in involving youth in decision-making processes”

HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs of the United Arab Emirates
Inspiring young leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs were among the participants at the Arab Youth Forum, where they showcased their ideas and creative solutions toward creating a sustainable future for youth.
Launched by the Emirates Government Service Excellence Program, the inaugural Government Services Forum drew a distinguished range of government representatives, corporate figures, and thought leaders, who deliberated on the future possibilities for government services. The aim of the forum was to create a platform that would enable the sharing of global ideas and insights, help shape a global agenda, and inspire continuous dialogue.

Panelists discussed a range of topics including the role of technology in improving service delivery and experience and the rising expectations of today’s citizens, who demand seamless and straightforward transactions, such as the ability to issue a passport within an hour. This shift in expectations and behavior has brought about new challenges and demands on governments who strive to deliver high-quality services.

Other discussion points centered on the lack of trust citizens felt toward governments and the need for a strong data protection framework when providing digital services. The forum also highlighted the importance of defining the customer, given that investors and tourists, along with citizens, use government services.

Panelists agreed that there is a need to measure quality. They discussed the possibility of creating an international index to both measure and compare the quality of services.
“Without a stable foundation, even the best policies can flounder. Without a stable foundation, fiscal policy will lack credibility”

HE Christine Lagarde
Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund

A number of distinguished panelists convened on the sidelines of the World Government Summit to participate in the Arab Fiscal Forum, which aims to serve as a platform for generating further economic integration. The forum’s fourth edition brought Arab ministers of finance, governors of central banks, and representatives of Arab and International monetary institutions to Dubai to explore topics related to global economic and financial conditions.

Panelists asserted that oil price volatility, tighter global financial conditions, trade tensions between the United States and China, and the uncertainty surrounding Brexit are to blame for weakened global economic growth. They shared challenges and strategies for achieving inclusive and sustainable growth. In addition, the experts agreed that there is a pressing need for good fiscal management and strong fiscal frameworks, transparency, and governance to boost confidence and gain the public’s trust.

Public debt was another topic examined. Some of the policies and strategies adopted by regional and international countries to enhance the public debt management process were the primary focus. The dialogue continued on macroeconomic management, in particular the coordination between fiscal and monetary policies, with a view to achieving inclusive and sustainable growth.
The world’s leading economists and representatives of Arab and international monetary institutions convened to discuss global economic and financial conditions, sustainable growth, and fiscal and monetary policies.
Gender Balance Forum

Best practices in fostering equality, gender-friendly policies, and challenges hindering gender balance on an international level were among the discussion points during the Gender Balance Forum. The forum was organized by the UAE Gender Balance Council in partnership with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Speaking at the ‘Achieving Gender Balance: From Policies to Impact’ session, Her Excellency Mona Al Marri, Director General of the Government of Dubai Media Office and Vice President of the UAE Gender Balance Council, highlighted positive outcomes from the UAE’s gender equality agenda, such as the presidential directive to increase women’s participation in the Federal National Council. Al Marri, who was joined by His Excellency Angel Gurría, Secretary General of the OECD, also emphasized the importance of international cooperation to encourage the adoption of gender balance policies around the world.

The forum also set the stage for the fourth edition of the Global Gender Circle, where thought leaders and experts discussed ways to close the gender gap and examined the impact of policies developed to advance gender balance. In addition, the council hosted an official gathering where Her Excellency Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, met with Emirati and UAE-based entrepreneurs and female leaders of philanthropic organizations.

“There are challenges like job opportunities, equal wages, and political participation, but we should have hope that fundamental changes are possible and positive change and opportunities are on the rise”

HE Mona Al Marri
Director General of the Government of Dubai Media Office, Vice President of the UAE Gender Balance Council
Advanced Skills Forum

Preparing future generations to adapt to the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution was the main objective behind the inaugural Advanced Skills Forum, which was launched at the World Government Summit 2019.

Participants attended sessions with government leaders, academics, and private sector speakers. They exchanged experiences, discussed the evolving requirements of the future workplace, and brainstormed ways to equip the citizens of tomorrow with the tools required to meet the needs of future employers.

The forum also hosted a series of discussions that explored the UAE’s Strategy for Advanced Skills. A ministerial roundtable examined embedding innovation into education and recruitment, as well as measuring candidates’ readiness for the future labor market.

According to His Excellency Dr. Ahmad bin Abdullah Humaid Belhoul Al Falasi, Minister of State for Higher Education and Advanced Skills of the UAE, the ideas and recommendations from the inaugural forum were invaluable in supporting the nation to develop an integrated framework for skill development.

“It is inevitable that in the future, new types of jobs will crop up to replace existing ones”

HE Dr. Ahmad bin Abdullah Humaid Belhoul Al Falasi
Minister of State for Higher Education & Advanced Skills of the United Arab Emirates, Chairman of the United Arab Emirates Space Agency
Astana Civil Services Hub

The Astana Civil Service Hub held on day two of the World Government Summit drew senior government officials, civil service practitioners, and academics together to discuss the progress made, and the challenges faced in transforming governance in post-Soviet Union countries.

Being the first Astana Civil Service Hub meeting held outside a founding member country, the session titled ‘Civil Service in the Post-Soviet Countries: Challenges, Prospects, and Benchmarking’ generated dialogue on civil service development and an exchange of innovative solutions. Uzbekistan, Armenia, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan were among the nations in attendance.

Participants learned how a gender-balanced, stable, and relatively young civil service in Kazakhstan has led to important initiatives. These include the introduction of a single competency framework, a new wage system, and a new system of employee performance appraisal. Speakers from other countries shared national case studies that demonstrated how high-quality human resources and civil service excellence was driving change and effective governance. Among the insights were the Ukrainian civil service reforms and the SIGMA report, which tackles the achievements and challenges of public administration reform in Macedonia. Attendees were also introduced to UAE initiatives including the Global Star Rating System, the Happiness Meter, and the UAE Government Excellence Program.
“At a time of high levels of uncertainty and insecurity about the future in general, fuelled by the pace and impact of changes which are more keenly felt than they are understood, it appears essential to establish a clear political project for the future of work.”

HE Guy Ryder
Director General of the International Labour Organization

Policy-makers, senior government officials, and representatives from regional and international organizations convened for the Future of Jobs Forum to discuss challenges reshaping the world of work. Under the theme ‘Planning for the Next Generation of Careers’, the forum included two sessions during which panelists examined forces that are transforming jobs, such as emerging technologies, and recommended viable solutions to navigate these challenges.

Much of the discussion explored key points raised in the earlier plenary address by His Excellency Guy Ryder, Director General of the International Labour Organization, who noted high levels of uncertainty and insecurity about the future. Ryder called for human-centered economic and social policy making, a lifelong learning approach, and the protection of fundamental rights. He also recommended investment in productive sectors that promise significant future employment opportunities.

During the forum sessions, speakers deliberated on skill polarization and the need for rapid reskilling, with migration among the recommended solutions to reinforce economic growth, nation-building, and enrich cultures. Panelists agreed that governments must demonstrate greater commitment and take decisive action to create policies that benefit economies and people. They must also improve the quality of working lives and ensure the full and equal participation of women in the labor market.
The Future of Jobs Forum generated action-oriented discussion with speakers sharing recommendations and viable solutions to help navigate future challenges transforming jobs and reshaping the world of work.
World Bank Government Capacity Building Program

Comprising two sessions, the World Bank Government Capacity Building Program created a dialogue between senior government officials, academics, advisors, and heads of international monetary institutions. Participants shared knowledge and strategies adopted by countries around the world to effectively carry out policies.

The ‘Intensive Program to Build Capacity for Public Servants in Developing Countries’ focused on the critical role technology and digital transformation play in helping developing countries reduce poverty and foster inclusive growth, as well as the value of data, and the challenges some countries faced in using technology effectively. The future of work and laying the foundations for a digital economy were also discussed, with speakers sharing examples of human-centric digital infrastructure driving innovation, improving productivity, and encouraging lifelong learning.

During the ‘Interactive Workshop on Strategy and Policy, Government as a Platform, and GovTech in Action’, participants were given insights into a variety of approaches adopted by countries around the world. These included a case study from Estonia on building an e-government system, and methods applied by the UAE Government to execute national agendas with tangible milestones and clear outcomes.
The two sessions generated discussion around global case studies, successful strategies, and topics such as digital transformation and the importance of human-centric digital infrastructure.
Experiences

Museum Of The Future 270
Edge Of Government 280
EXPERIENCES

Museum Of The Future

The sixth installation of the Museum of the Future was showcased at the World Government Summit 2019 with a thought-provoking theme, ‘HUMANS 2.0’. Inspired by the latest scientific breakthroughs and leading futurist projections, the theme imagined a future where theoretical technologies exist, with remarkable benefits for humankind.

The exhibition was an interactive experience with visual, high-tech displays that depicted a future world where humans could benefit from the latest scientific and technological advancements. The showcase was a journey through time, detailing potential advancements across four future eras: the 2040s, the 2060s, the 2080s, and the year 2100.

Each era explored advancements that could improve our quality of life, physical bodies, and brain functionality. They also examined how the rules of nature could be bent to allow us to exist outside the boundaries of our bodies, eventually creating a ‘hive mind’ of linked consciousnesses.

The permanent Museum of the Future will open in Dubai in 2020, and it will become the world’s largest and most exciting way to discover tomorrow’s trends and opportunities. An initiative of the Dubai Future Foundation, it aims to be an incubator for ideas, a driver of innovation, and a destination for inventors and entrepreneurs from around the world.

“Since its inception, the World Government Summit has continued to attract global leaders and experts to present their experiences and successes, as well as provide insight on future challenges”

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates
His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, visited the Museum of the Future exhibit as part of the 2019 World Government Summit. He was briefed on some of the ways brilliant and unprecedented technological advancements could lead to remarkable benefits for humankind.
Lt Gen His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the UAE, visited the Museum of the Future exhibit. He toured displays that detailed futuristic possibilities, such as a genderless conceptual humanoid and a Mind Augmentation Lab.
An AI-powered surgical unit and a gene editing machine were among the displays that invited visitors to consider the possibilities of futuristic healthcare, and whether they would be comfortable using these biomedical inventions to alter their DNA or undergo complex surgery.
Visitors exploring the exhibits were given insights into fascinating future concepts such as bioreobotics, refined nanotechnology, and pharmaceutics, or the possibility of transcending our physical bodies and transferring consciousness to biological, robotic, or even digital forms.
EXPERIENCES

Edge Of Government

The Edge of Government is an immersive, interactive exhibition organized and curated by the Mohammed bin Rashid Centre for Government Innovation. The aim is to showcase some of the most innovative and less conventional methods that are helping governments around the world find solutions to pressing public challenges.

In 2019, under the theme ‘Powered by You’, the fourth edition of the Edge of Government focused on how change is driven by action. Whether it is a world-defining event or the smallest local initiative, driving change requires both commitment and decisive action. The overarching message is that the power to fuel progress and create a better tomorrow is entirely in our hands.

The experience was a journey of discovery through numerous government innovation case studies that were transformed into interactive displays. Each presented the human ingenuity behind innovation, and showcased the ways in which experimentation and less-obvious solutions have made a positive impact on society.

The main purpose behind the experience was to inspire visitors, trigger new ways of thinking, and encourage people to think outside the box.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, unveiled the Edge of Government innovation experience on the sidelines of the Summit. He emphasized that the UAE was eager to inspire governments around the world to use innovation in finding solutions that enrich human life and promote societies.

“Innovation is a driving force for humanity, a catalyst for the development of vital sectors, and a global language whose owners share a passion for developing expertise, tools, and solutions to the challenges”

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President & Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai
"We can’t lead the future with tools from the past, and we can’t accomplish quantum leaps in growth without conceptualising a new way of governance”

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President & Prime Minister of the
United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai
EXPERIENCES

Finding Places

Germany
Empowering the public to find housing for refugees

The city of Hamburg has taken a collaborative approach to finding housing solutions for tens of thousands of refugees. Local citizens and decision makers are invited to participate in workshops and discussions, with cutting-edge technology such as optically tagged Lego bricks, simulation algorithms, and augmented reality models to help identify suitable accommodation for refugees.

Finding Places

Switzerland
Using data to boost refugee employment rate

Finding employment opportunities for refugees and integrating them into society is a challenge for governments. Using an algorithm to accurately match a refugee with the ideal geographical location for work and integration into society has boosted the employment rate of refugees by 73% in Switzerland and 41% in the United States.

Immigration Policy Lab
EXPERIENCES

Aurora

Finland
A digital twin to reclaim your data

Aurora allows citizens to take back control over their digital self and use data to predict important aspects of their lives, such as career sustainability. With the digital twin, data is seen as an empowering tool that can help improve lives in the future.

Carrot Rewards

Canada
Encouraging a nation to be healthier

Canada rewards citizens for every step they take, issuing loyalty points that can be redeemed at places like gas stations or movie theatres. The initiative has reduced the number of inactive people and reduced the nation’s healthcare costs by a staggering $2.1 billion annually.
CrossWalk
The Netherlands
Using empathy to define the pace of a city

An app in the city of Tilburg uses GPS-based intelligent traffic light operating software and sensors to give extra crossing time to elderly or mobility-limited pedestrians. This allows citizens to determine their pace and boosts traffic safety in busy urban areas.

Sustainable Mobility
Pakistan
Reusing animal waste to clean the air

A clean bus network in the city of Karachi is powered with biomethane, a type of fuel made from converted cow dung. By looking at waste in a new light, the project helps to reduce carbon emissions and prevent 3,200 tons of cow manure from entering the ocean.
EXPERIENCES

Surabaya City Bus
Indonesia
Making plastic a new form of currency

In Surabaya, the second-largest city in Indonesia, citizens can pay for bus fares with plastic bottles. A two-hour ride costs five plastic bottles, with a single bus collecting 7.5 tons of plastic every month. To date, the system has collected a total of 62,000 kilograms of plastic garbage.

The Bus Crash Predictor
Singapore
Using AI to prevent bus accidents

Singapore can predict how likely drivers are to cause an accident through an algorithm that uses road performance data and the observations of two data scientists monitoring drivers’ behavior. The technology has reduced the employee accident frequency rate to 1.41, which is well below the 2.8 industry average.
Electro Culture

China

A breakthrough technique to boost food production

A program that uses high-frequency electricity to kill bacteria in the air and soil is helping to grow more food in more natural ways in China, with less dependence on pesticides and fertilizer. Electro Culture has boosted vegetable production by 30%, decreased pesticide use by 70 to 100%, and reduced fertilizer consumption by more than 20%. 
A Platform For Exchange

The World Government Summit provides a unique platform to showcase and exchange best practices and smart solutions to the challenges that nations face. Since its founding in 2013, it has become the largest gathering of its kind, bringing together the public and private sectors to collaborate with world-renowned experts in order to help create a positive impact for citizens worldwide.

In addition to the Summit’s main program, the meetings, agreements, workshops, and launches that take place on its sidelines are an important catalyst for the development of future policies and strategies that better serve humanity.

“The World Government Summit is a knowledge platform for government officials, experts, and designers of future government work,” said His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai. “The three-day Summit is also an opportunity for leaders and international organizations to meet, create partnerships, and launch initiatives that will help formulate the future of the world’s governments.”

The 2019 edition witnessed the formation of nearly 100 international agreements and partnerships and hosted 16 specialized forums - more than any previous Summit. Landmark programs and initiatives were announced on the Summit’s sidelines, and workshops and roundtable meetings were convened to foster international cooperation and explore innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges.
Meetings &
Roundtables

SME Development & Financial Inclusion
In The Arab Region
In Partnership With The IMF

Finance ministers from across the Arab region, central bank governors, and officials from prominent financial institutions met to address the lending gap for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Middle East. Approximately 90% of all companies in the region qualify as SMEs, but they attract only 7% of bank loans. Throughout the workshop, which was held in partnership with the International Monetary Fund, participants explored possible solutions to better facilitate lending for SMEs.

Improving Fiscal Governance Roundtable
In Partnership With The IMF

Discussions at the Improving Fiscal Governance Roundtable focused on improving institutional frameworks so that they reduce governance vulnerabilities. Participants also examined how innovative solutions can be used to benefit the economies of the Arab region and beyond. During the roundtable, which was jointly organized by the UAE Government and the International Monetary Fund, international policy-makers also shared lessons from their own experiences in improving fiscal governance.
CONNECTIONS

AIGO Expert Group Meeting In Partnership With The OECD
The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence (AIGO) held a closed meeting at the Summit. During the meeting, participants scoped principles for implementing AI to help the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, to maximize the benefits of the technology while minimizing its risks. The group is comprised of experts from OECD member countries as well as think tanks, corporations, civil society, and international organizations.

Global Happiness Council Meeting
The Global Happiness Council held its annual meeting at the Summit, where members reflected on the progress achieved in the last year. They also discussed additional efforts to promote happiness and wellbeing across the development agendas of both governments and international organizations.
Global Happiness Coalition Meeting

Ministers from six countries came together for the annual meeting of the Global Happiness Coalition. Launched in 2018 at the World Government Summit by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, the alliance seeks to ensure effective international cooperation and knowledge exchange on achieving happiness on a global level, and the implementation of happiness-related policies.

Climate Change & Public Health Roundtable

Public and private sector officials from all over the world convened in a roundtable session under the Summit’s Climate Change Forum to examine the impact that climate change has on public health. As the two issues are inextricably linked, participants explored the commitments that governments and other stakeholders must make at the UN Climate Summit later in the year and in upcoming international processes.
Memorandums Of Understanding

The UAE and France signed a joint statement, agreeing to bilateral cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence.

The UAE and Slovakia signed an agreement to strengthen the partnership between the two countries, particularly in the areas of automation, artificial intelligence, and information communications technology.

The UAE and Ireland signed an MOU pledging that the countries’ Ministries of Education would work together to address the global skills challenge and the gender gap that exists in higher education.
The UAE and Costa Rica agreed to work together in the field of artificial intelligence, including the development of trainings and workshops on topics such as data mining and big data, as well as an exchange program for scientists, researchers, and students.

Estonia, Latvia, New Zealand, and South Korea signed MOUs with Dubai Future Foundation, making them the newest countries to join the foundation’s Country in Residence Program, which aims to accelerate innovation and foster global collaboration.
The Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre and the International Astronautical Foundation signed an agreement to hold the 71st International Astronautical Congress in Dubai in October 2020.

Dubai Municipality and the United Nations Programme for Human Settlements, UN-Habitat, signed an agreement on the sidelines of the Summit to strengthen ties between the two organizations.

The UAE and the Central American Institute of Public Administration signed an agreement on the sidelines of the Summit to collaborate on matters related to artificial intelligence.
The Emirates News Agency (WAM) and 25 other news agencies from around the globe signed the News Agencies Tolerance Charter. Signatories of the charter pledge to shed light on the principles of tolerance, promote peaceful coexistence between people of different religions, doctrines, and ideologies, and highlight the role of youth in building tolerant communities.
Dubai International Best Practices Centre

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, launched the Dubai International Best Practices Centre (DIBPC) on the sidelines of the World Government Summit 2019. The center will act as a network that links global best practices in areas including urban planning, building and construction engineering, infrastructure, artificial intelligence, food security, climate change, economic growth, and socioeconomic development. Thought leaders from international companies, organizations, universities, and research centers will convene at the DIBPC to share best practices, develop long-term partnerships, present investment opportunities, and start new businesses. It will also host trainings courses, workshops, and brainstorming sessions to engage the public as the UAE looks toward a future beyond Expo 2020.
Sky Pods

On the sidelines of the Summit, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Executive Council, Chairman of Dubai Future Foundation, inspected the Dubai Roads and Transport Authority’s (RTA) innovative autonomous mobility system, Sky Pods. Part of RTA’s strategy to convert 25% of total journeys in the city to autonomous transport by 2030, the pods will operate on an elevated network and will use only a fifth of the energy required by electric vehicles.
FIRST Global Challenge
Every year, the FIRST Global Challenge invites countries from around the globe to send teams to compete in their robotics olympics, which focuses on solving the greatest challenges facing the world today. On the main stage of the World Government Summit 2019, His Excellency Mohammad Abdulla Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and the Future of the UAE and Chairman of the World Government Summit Organization, announced that Dubai would host the competition’s 2019 edition. It will be the first time the event is held in the Middle East.

Dubai Declaration on Early Childhood Development
Dubai Cares and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) launched the Dubai Declaration on Early Childhood Development, in coordination with the UAE’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The declaration is a response to the growing scientific consensus that children’s early development directs their mental and emotional trajectories throughout their lives, which has major implications for the economy and community stability. It calls for a rapid increase in global investment in the early years of children’s lives and identifies approaches and strategies for providing a holistic package of services for young children and their caregivers. Additionally, the declaration urges governments to support these directives with national policy that encourages both the public and private sector.
Feeding 1 Billion People
During his plenary session on the opening day of the Summit, best-selling author, entrepreneur, and business strategist Tony Robbins announced that he and the UAE Government have partnered on a humanitarian mission to feed one billion people. While Robbins’ organization recently achieved the milestone of feeding 400 million people in the United States, together with the UAE he seeks to push that number much higher to effect widespread positive change in the lives of people all over the globe.

Omega
Renowned musician and founder of the technology company i.am+, will.i.am launched his company’s new and exciting Omega technology on the sidelines of the Summit, in conjunction with the Dubai-based real estate and retail conglomerate Majid Al Futtaim. Setting it apart from other AI voice assistants on the market, Omega allows users to activate the system without accessing their data, ensuring user privacy and protection. Majid Al Futtaim aims to introduce the dual-language platform at various customer touchpoints, beginning with Carrefour and VOX Cinemas.
“We are living in a historic era that is witnessing a turning point for the work of government, and we must unify international efforts to prepare for the future”

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President & Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai
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Best Minister Award

His Excellency Dr Ferozuddin Feroz, Minister of Public Health of Afghanistan, received the 2019 Best Minister Award from His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai.

Dr Feroz was honored for his significant contributions in improving the health of Afghanistan’s citizens. Under his leadership, the mortality rate for children under five has decreased by 44%, and life expectancy at birth has risen by seven years. Dr Feroz’s efforts have also resulted in a drop in maternal mortality, and saw the launch of Afghanistan’s Data Warehouse, a web-based system for storing and sharing health data with stakeholders and policy-makers.

The World Government Summit Best Minister Award recognizes the exceptional efforts of government ministers who demonstrate excellence in the public sector. These ministers implement successful initiatives and inspire other government leaders and service providers to promote innovation within their domain to better serve their citizens. The award is given to one government official each year to distinguish his or her efforts in enacting effective reforms in their home country.

After a comprehensive review, which also takes public opinion into account, eight ministers are nominated. A jury of international experts and representatives from international organizations and the private sector then select the winner based on social and economic impact, scalability, innovation, and leadership.

"I never dreamed that I would receive such an honor and I accept it with profound gratitude on behalf of every single child and adult in Afghanistan. They are very brave and they are facing uncertainty on a daily basis”

HE Dr Ferozuddin Feroz
Minister of Public Health of Afghanistan, Winner of the Best Minister Award 2019
Carrot Rewards
Canada
His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, presented the Public Health Agency of Canada with the 2019 Edge of Government Award for their ‘Carrot Rewards’ initiative.

Canada’s innovative Carrot Rewards program was devised in response to rapidly increasing healthcare costs. The initiative relied on a simple nudge approach, whereby citizens were awarded with points for every step they walked. They could then redeem their points for rewards such as fuel for their car or movie tickets. Through Carrot Rewards, the government was able to increase public knowledge of the risks associated with inactivity by 29% and increase physical activity by 34% in just one year.

The Edge of Government Award invites administrations from all over the world to submit their cutting-edge solutions to current and future challenges their countries face.

The 2019 edition attracted more than 200 innovative experiences, which were reviewed and evaluated by the Mohammed bin Rashid Centre for Government Innovation’s International Advisory Board, as well as renowned innovation experts from leading international organizations and the private sector. The best projects, which earned the honor of exhibiting at the World Government Summit, were selected based on their level of innovation and novelty, impact and scope of improvement, and replicability of innovation in other countries and regions.
Shaping Future Governments Global Universities Challenge

Tuck School of Business
Dartmouth College, United States

Dartmouth College’s Tuck School of Business was honored by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, as the winning team in the 2019 World Government Summit Shaping Future Governments Global Universities Challenge.

The challenge is a unique initiative designed to bring together tomorrow’s leaders with today’s policy-makers. Some of the brightest young minds from top graduate schools of public policy and business administration come to the UAE from across the world to help shape the future of government.

For the challenge this year, the students were tasked with finding solutions to resuscitate a failed state. Teams had two days to analyze the situation and devise a strategy. More than 100 students from internationally renowned universities and graduate schools devised multi-phase implementation plans outlining how the failed nation could be improved.

A team from each participating school presented their ideas to a panel of high-profile judges. The presentations were evaluated based on how innovative and comprehensive the proposal was, the viability and feasibility of the concepts being pitched, and the team’s ability to convince decision-makers to take action.
World Data Visualization Prize

An Alternative, Data-driven, Country Map

Nikita Rokotyan
Interacta

Nikita Rokotyan, from data-visualization studio Interacta, was awarded the World Data Visualization Prize by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Executive Council, Chairman of Dubai Future Foundation, for his project ‘An Alternative, Data-driven, Country Map’.

Rokotyan’s data visualization uses a machine learning algorithm called t-SNE to find unseen connections between different countries. It identifies clusters of nations that are related across variables such as happiness score, health expenditure, investment in education, and more. The patterns are presented visually, creating an interactive world map that one can explore, adjust, and filter to find unexpected relationships and insights.

The World Data Visualization Prize seeks to harness the potential of big data through artistic representations, with the ultimate goal of helping world governments better serve their citizens. The award is presented in partnership with the data-visualization studio Information is Beautiful.

Contestants are tasked with developing novel designs for a particular concept and its corresponding dataset. Participants submit their entries under one of three categories – static, interactive, or napkin, which allows participants who do not have the resources or expertise to create fully functional data visualizations to sketch out their ideas on a piece of paper. The data visualizations are then evaluated by a panel of judges comprised of creative and industry leaders headed by David McCandless from Information is Beautiful.
GovTech Prize
Acknowledging government technology pioneers for providing global solutions to global challenges

GovHack Series Award
Made of Air, Germany

Germany-based start-up Made of Air was awarded the 2019 GovHack Series Award for its innovative new building material designed to combat climate change. It is made from biochar, a stable form of carbon created by baking waste biomass that has absorbed carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in an oxygen-free oven. The resulting carbon-negative material is a sustainable alternative for use in construction, interiors, furniture, and more.

The GovHack Series Award was introduced at the World Government Summit 2019 as a unique international competition. It runs in five global cities to showcase innovative solutions that demonstrate how technology can help governments better serve their citizens. Participants are evaluated by a panel of experts based on criteria such as creativity, social impact, sustainability, scalability, feasibility, and prospects for commercialization.
Best m-Government Service Award
Encouraging government entities to provide creative and innovative solutions via smartphone applications

Data Driven
SnapRx
mClinica in partnership with the Food & Drug Administration, Philippines

Using AI, this app generates health data from pharmacists’ photos of prescriptions in real time. The information is then digitized and fed into a national health database, which the government can use to predict outbreaks, manage medication supply, detect fraud, and much more.

Emerging Technology
GP At Hand
Babylon in partnership with the National Health Service, United Kingdom

This app allows users to seek medical advice through an advanced AI chatbot, outlining their symptoms and receiving a diagnosis. Based on the diagnosis, users can schedule a doctor’s appointment or video conference with a physician for immediate assistance.

Public Empowerment
Qlue Smart City
Qlue Performa in partnership with the City of Jakarta, Indonesia

Acting as a social media platform for the city of Jakarta, Qlue Smart City allows users to post issues and concerns, complete with images and geotags. Government officials are held accountable for addressing the issues that are raised, as citizens can monitor their response in real time.
Innovative Service
Dubai Police
Dubai Police General Headquarters, United Arab Emirates

Equipped with the latest technologies, this mobile app puts more than 130 Dubai Police smart services and features right at users’ fingertips, including a new volunteering feature that allows citizens to report suspicious behavior using a smart camera and 3D location maps.

Public-Private Partnership
WeChat
WeChat in partnership with the Government of China

The WeChat app has partnered with the Government of China to create e-IDs for Chinese citizens to replace physical identity documents. Through WeChat’s integrated multipurpose platform, users can access a wide range of services, including utility payments, money transfers, online delivery tracking, and much more.

Accessible Government
Moscow Public Services
City of Moscow, Russia

This centralized platform allows users to access all government services in Moscow, including driver’s license renewal, passport applications, utility payments, and more. It also enables parents to monitor their children’s school attendance and marks, as well as their balance for the school cafeteria.

Gamification
Traffic Guru
Kerala Police, India

Drivers in Kerala can learn the rules of the road and test how they would respond to difficulties and distractions simply by playing a game. This mobile app gamifies driving, awarding points and badges for good driving behavior and deducting them for unsafe decisions.
“The human being is the center of the World Government Summit. We have the fundamental opportunity to create dialogue and reflect on how to develop governments to achieve prosperity for the people”

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President & Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai