“The hopes of billions of people depend on the strategies, initiatives and proactive solutions provided by governments to face current and future challenges”

His Highness Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President & Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai
His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates
His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai
A Decade of Shaping Future Governments

Over the last 10 years, the world has been subjected to increasing conflicts, climate emergencies and shortages in food and water. Impacting the lives of millions, these crises have underscored the importance of global, forward-looking collaboration and response. As a result, the world finds itself in the unique position of having to simultaneously respond to, recover from, and predict and prevent crises.

Achieving this objective will require transparent, accountable, and forward-looking governments with a finger on the pulse of development. Since 2013, the World Government Summit (WGS) has strived to provide a platform for world leaders and citizens to come together and collaboratively shape the future of governments. With its focus on building agile governments that citizens can trust, WGS has spotlighted topics such as building smart cities, prioritising sustainable development, developing skillsets and workforces of the future, reducing inequalities for vulnerable groups, and accelerating economic resilience. When COVID-19 hit, the 2020 and 2021 Annual Gatherings were paused – but WGS development efforts were not. The organization continued to host virtual dialogues and publish reports, articles, and tools to promote best practices in governance. WGS actively embraced the global transition to online spaces and dedicated its resources to closing the digital divide. These topics remain a high priority as the world is set to continue digitizing in the wake of the pandemic, creating new opportunities to harness scientific and technological developments to solve our greatest challenges.

The discussions at WGS are both a reflection of the current state of world affairs and a promising projection of what is possible. We are at a pivotal point in history: we know what needs to be done and, for potentially the first time, we now have the tools, the know-how, and the innovation-driven mindsets to do it. Pulling all this together will take a momentous global effort, and it is only innovative governments who can lead this charge.

Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi
Minister of Cabinet Affairs of the United Arab Emirates
Chairman of the World Government Summit
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Established in 2013, the World Government Summit is a global platform aimed at sharing future governments and creating a better, more sustainable world for future generations. Under the dynamic leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai, the Summit’s annual gathering in Dubai, UAE, has convened more than 9,000 government officials, thought leaders, decision-makers, and academic experts from more than 100 countries since its inception.

An internationally renowned platform, the Summit is dedicated to shaping future governments and creating a better, more sustainable world for future generations. Under the dynamic leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Summit’s annual gathering in Dubai, UAE, has convened more than 36,000 government officials, thought leaders, decision-makers, and academic experts from more than 100 countries since its inception. The Summit is held in Dubai thanks to the nation’s visionary leadership, the World Government Summit has positioned the UAE as a center for international collaboration, innovation, and an incubator for innovative solutions. It plays a significant role in setting the agenda of the next generation of governments, focusing on harnessing innovation and technology to solve universal challenges facing humanity.

Thanks to the nation’s visionary leadership, the World Government Summit has positioned the UAE as a center for international collaboration and an incubator for innovative solutions. It plays a significant role in establishing the agenda of the next generation of governments, focusing on harnessing innovation and technology to solve universal challenges facing humanity.

10 Years at a Glance
“Through the process of anticipating the future and enhancing readiness to navigate future change, governments can develop effective strategies and policies for sustainable growth and development”

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai
Inspiring Future Excellence

The World Government Summit is more than just an event – it is a platform that inspires and ignites change by supporting the exchange of ideas between world leaders, decision-makers, entrepreneurs, and experts from around the world. Since its inception, the Summit has provided thought leaders and trailblazers with a space to collaborate in their efforts to identify and address the most crucial dilemmas confronting the human race.

By seeking out individuals from diverse backgrounds and perspectives to explore the trends shaping the future of humanity, the Summit has offered foresight in key areas such as healthcare, education, energy, and transportation, to name just a few. Experts have shared insights on the potential impact of developments such as artificial intelligence, automation, and biotechnology on our societies and economies, and have discussed the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in a world marked by rapid change and transformation.

Understanding and anticipating these future trends inspires leaders to develop innovative and effective policies that address emerging challenges and opportunities, allowing them to stay ahead of the curve and work toward creating a sustainable, secure, and inclusive future for all.

The World Government Summit serves as a platform for experts and leaders from diverse fields to come together and share their visions of the future, curating inspirational discussions that catalyze action from policy-makers to promote universal solidarity. By looking to the future, the Summit has inspired the world to think beyond the present and imagine a better future for ourselves and for generations to come.
Every year, world leaders take to the stage at the World Government Summit’s Annual Gathering to respond to universal challenges and present solutions that pave the way toward progress, sustainability, and inclusivity. Through keynote speeches and engaging panel discussions, international experts and innovators present fresh insights into new technologies and discuss global trends that have the power to transform future governance and in turn, shape a better world for humanity.

Speakers at the World Government Summit do not only contribute to a global bank of knowledge through the exchange of best practices, but they also provide unique foresight, enabling governments to better anticipate the future and inspire a new generation of leadership.
“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
President of the United Arab Emirates

“WGS signifies 10 years of influence, during which the Summit has unleashed new horizons for management and institutional work”

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai
“Global governance and close cooperation will determine the future of our world”

HE Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
President of Türkiye
2023

“Issues of peace, tolerance and cooperation must be the permanent priorities at all levels of government”

HE Joko Widodo
President of Indonesia
2023
“Empowering the common man to be the source of constructive change is another vital component of the technological revolution”

The Hon Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India
2018

“Government exists for one reason: to serve our people, to help improve their lives”

The Hon Barack Obama
President of the United States
2016
“The vision of one person has the ability to change the future of the country, and in turn, the world”

HE Édouard Philippe
Prime Minister of France
2018

“Thinking and acting require a true dialogue with others because without others there is no future”

His Holiness Pope Francis
Head of the Catholic Church, Sovereign of the Vatican City State
2019
"We need each other and therefore we have to figure out how we work together in a world that is multi-polar"

HE Kristalina Georgieva
Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund

"The key question is whether man has the capacity to rise above oneself to look at the collective good"

Ray Dalio
Founder of Bridgewater Associates
“A more sustainable, secure, and prosperous future for all of us can be ours”

HE Amina J Mohammed
Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations
2019

“The role of governments in shaping the future of their citizens has never been as important as it is today”

Prof Klaus Schwab
Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum
2014
"What we do today determines our ability to provide a future for our countries, our communities, our families, and our children"

Harrison Ford
Actor and Philanthropist
2019

“We are in this together, and together we will continue to build bridges of hope and opportunity”

David Beasley
Executive Director of the World Food Programme
2019
“As a leader, you should feel comfortable saying: ‘We called this bit wrong; here is how we are readjusting’”

Reid Hoffman
Co-founder and Executive Chairman of LinkedIn, Partner at Greylock Partners
2017

“The major reforms are all composed of multiple small things that all need to move as well. You don’t solve the huge problem with huge reforms – you reform it by dissecting it into small pieces and then addressing each segment of the problem”

HE Christine Lagarde
Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund
2018
“Over time, companies should evolve, because if you don’t evolve just like nations, you’re going to become less relevant”

Arvind Krishna
Chairman and CEO of IBM
2022

“If we bring [together] governments, business and NGOs, we can move a lot faster than we have done in the past”

Alan Schwartz
Executive Chairman of Guggenheim Partners
2023
“There is no such thing as winning in world politics, governance, or business”

Simon Sinek
Leadership Expert and Author of Start With Why
2019

“I’m very keen to try and allow people to understand the power of storytelling — it is a generator not only of wealth, but of jobs. It’s almost a future-proofing industry”

Idris Elba
Actor and UN Goodwill Ambassador
2023
From the World for the World

One of the highlights of the World Government Summit is the participation of guest countries of honor. Each year, these countries are given the opportunity to showcase best practices and experiences in governance, and to inspire and share knowledge with the rest of the world. Over the years, several countries have been recognized as official guest countries, each with their unique approach to governance. From Japan’s focus on education and innovation to Costa Rica’s emphasis on environmental protection and sustainability, each guest country has presented valuable lessons that can be adopted and implemented by other nations. Rwanda’s post-conflict governance and Egypt’s experience in managing internal challenges through international solidarity are two examples that provide valuable insights into addressing some of the most concerning predicaments faced by modern society. Meanwhile, India’s and Estonia’s digital transformation efforts highlighted the role of technology in solving present-day issues.

The approaches and experiences that these guest countries share at the Summit each year provide valuable opportunities for global leaders and policy-makers to exchange ideas and collaborate on innovative solutions.

By spotlighting nations’ success stories, the World Government Summit aims to inspire a new generation of leaders and policy-makers who are committed to creating a more just, sustainable, and prosperous world.
“This tenth Summit is a great opportunity for people to hear, see and learn from one another, from their experiences and the paths they have taken”

HE Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
President of Egypt
2023
At the 2015 World Government Summit, South Korea emphasized the role of education as the main driving force behind the country’s development. The nation implemented comprehensive reforms through a five-year plan, which focused on several key areas to align with global economic growth. The plan also introduced thousands of flexible classrooms to create a more relaxed learning environment, helping students discover their talents and reduce the stress associated with studying. The importance of building ethics, happiness, creativity and innovation into the education system was highlighted as key to the reforms which fostered students’ creativity and talent.

South Korea
2015
The 2016 focus for the United States was the importance of developing inclusive governments in order to improve citizens’ lives. The country highlighted that by honoring and respecting human rights, inclusive governments can foster an environment where peace and prosperity can flourish. This focus on inclusivity necessitates international collaboration among governments, as they work together to prepare younger generations for global economic growth. By prioritizing equal opportunities for all, the United States believe that an inclusive government shows a genuine commitment to the long-term success and wellbeing of their citizens. The country highlighted that inclusive governments ensure lasting security, education, and a shared commitment to justice and human rights protection.
In 2017, Japan shared its approach to governing – one inspired by the Samurai ethos of courage, justice, propriety, honor, and loyalty. One key takeaway is the role played by education in fostering a sense of civic responsibility, self discipline, mutual cooperation and groundbreaking innovation supported by relevant investments and enabling regulatory frameworks. The Japanese Government sees its primary role as an investor in the future of its people by promoting education and innovation and enacting regulatory reforms to empower new talent to shine.
India
2018

At the 2018 Summit, a special delegation from India, led by the Honorable Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, spotlighted the country’s commitment to harnessing the power of technology to deliver maximum governance with minimum government. Showcasing a number of initiatives, such as the 'Digital India program', the Aadhaar biometric identification system, and the Smart Cities Mission, India showed how it planned to leverage future-oriented approaches to create a more prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable society.
Estonia
2019

At the 2019 Summit, Estonia showcased its experience in creating a digital society. It emphasized the importance of e-governance, blockchain, cybersecurity, digital identity, and AI in promoting transparency, efficiency, and citizen engagement. Estonia also highlighted initiatives such as its e-Residency program and the ‘X-Road’ system that enables the secure exchange of data between government and private sector institutions. The focus was on leveraging technology and innovation to create an efficient and transparent government, and to promote digital transformation for its citizens and businesses.
Rwanda
2019

Rwanda’s focus in 2019 was on digital transformation and innovation, as well as post-conflict governance. Rwanda showcased its progress in leveraging technology to drive economic growth and improve service delivery, while also emphasizing how the 1994 genocide prompted dedicated reconciliation and development efforts. With a focus on economic growth, social cohesion, and national unity, Rwanda’s success in post-conflict development has become a model for other countries to learn from and emulate.
Costa Rica’s 2019 showcase spotlighted its efforts in leadership, environmental protection, sustainable development, social security, and gender equality. The country emphasized the importance of investing in people, and committing to wealth distribution to reduce inequality and eliminate poverty. The nation also focused on improving health systems management, reducing emissions, fostering economic growth, and developing action plans on gender, climate change, and biodiversity. Costa Rica’s clarion call was for a shared global agenda, greater dialogue, multilateral agreements and inclusion to put happiness and quality of life at the heart of public policies.
In 2023, Egypt showcased its efforts to rebuild and ease internal conflict in the wake of the 2011 revolution, an achievement that was made possible by the international support the country received. Egypt also highlighted the great strides it has made in investing in and rebuilding its energy sector. Its successful hosting of the United Nations’ 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) was further evidence of Egypt’s progress in the post-revolution era. The Conference witnessed a landmark agreement to establish a new loss and damage fund for vulnerable countries.
Future Trends

Bringing together leaders and experts in various fields from all over the world, the World Government Summit plays a pivotal role in anticipating future trends. Its dynamic combination of panel discussions, keynote addresses, exhibitions, and future-focused workshops brings global challenges and opportunities to the fore, casting a spotlight on emerging technologies, social and economic trends, and geopolitical shifts that will shape the world in years to come.

Over the past decade, the Summit has provided governments with unique foresight, inspiring action and the implementation of policies that are in line with the world’s changing reality. By understanding the transformative effects of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and its technologies, including artificial intelligence, robotics, and biotechnology, governments can develop policies that both harness potential and mitigate risk.

Furthermore, by keeping the world’s leaders abreast of socioeconomic trends, the Summit has encouraged global preparedness and the development of collective solutions to effectively address both current and future challenges.
The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) is characterized by the increasing convergence of digital, physical, and biological technologies, transforming the way we live, work, and interact. It has been high on the WGS agenda since the organization’s inception. Discussions over the years have explored the transformative power of these technologies and accurately forecast their rapid global uptake.

Speaking at the 2014 Summit, during the early stages of AI adoption, entrepreneur, author, and futurist Dr. Peter Diamandis shed light on the extraordinary pace of change driven by innovation during a session titled ‘The World in 2050’. Founder and Executive Chairman of the XPRIZE Foundation, a competition that incentivizes solutions to global challenges in the areas of space exploration, renewable energy, and healthcare, Dr. Diamandis highlighted AI as a rapidly advancing technology that is necessitating the adoption of innovative mindsets to keep pace with the evolving landscape.

As AI and 4IR technologies gained momentum, they became prominent topics on the 2016 Summit agenda. In a session titled ‘The Dawn of the Fourth Industrial Revolution’, Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Chairman of the World Economic Forum, underscored the importance of developing human capital in the face of the 4IR. He identified the shift from capitalism to “talentism,” and urged governments to prioritize education and capacity-building, reflecting on the emerging trend of intertwining AI and human talent.

Complementing Schwab’s insights, Jennifer Pahlka, CEO of Code for America, highlighted the importance of preparing the next generation by teaching coding as “the language of tomorrow.” In her 2016 session titled ‘Is Coding the Language of the Future?’, she foresaw how learning coding would enable students to harness the power of technology for problem solving, civic engagement, and shaping their societies.
As AI and other 4IR technologies advanced from speculative conjecture to real-world implementation in the development of smart cities and more, discussions at WGS evolved similarly. By 2018, the Summit delved into the need for governments to leverage this exciting technology for citizen empowerment. In a session titled ‘Access to Technology and Development,’ musician and Founder and CEO of FYI, will.i.am, discussed the need for governments to integrate technology in service of their citizens. He emphasized the importance of human intelligence in preparing youth for future challenges: “Nine-year-olds need to be equipped with skillsets so that when they are 29, they are able to solve the problems that we can’t even foresee right now.”

As the COVID-19 pandemic hastened the adoption of 4IR technologies, post-pandemic Summits increasingly showcased examples of this real-world implementation. At the 2023 Summit, His Excellency Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi, Minister of Education of the UAE, applauded the UAE Government’s decision to fully embrace AI. Building on will.i.am’s 2018 vision for youth to be prepared for future challenges, he shared that AI is being used in the education sector to predict student outcomes, streamline processes, and is being taught as part of the curriculum. While the benefits of AI adoption are clear, Al Falasi also urged caution as we move toward generative AI – an AI that is capable of generating content. To underline this point, he informed the audience that the introduction of his speech had been written by OpenAI’s natural language processing engine, ChatGPT. He acknowledged that the human factor can never be replaced, but recognized that the use of AI should not be demonised. Noting that many may be hesitant to entrust the development of future generations to these self-directing technologies, he pressed that AI’s potential in this and many other fields could be immeasurable.

As the pace of AI implementation continued to accelerate, the 2023 Summit also brought unforeseen challenges and potential solutions to the fore. Ian Bremmer, President of the Eurasia Group, warned the world about the dangers of misinformation and false beliefs in an AI-driven world. However, in a session titled ‘Beyond 2023: A Global Outlook’ he ultimately underscored AI’s transformative potential, with includes increased access to operational intelligence and productivity gains. He urged governments to engage in the critical conversation surrounding AI and its implications for the future geopolitical order, emphasizing the need for regulation and oversight.

Some governments are already making strides in regulating AI. For example, the European Commission has proposed a first-ever regulatory framework to govern the ethical and respectful use of AI systems in the European Union to keep citizens secure. With regulations such as this in place, the safe use of 4IR technologies to improve all walks of life – from government, to education, to healthcare – could snowball in the coming decades.

Throughout its first decade, the World Government Summit has evolved into an effective and critical global platform upon which leading voices have explored the future of advanced technologies. In anticipation of the emerging reality of 4IR, thought leaders have called for digital transformation in government, education, and innovation to harness the power of emerging technologies for better governance and citizen empowerment. As His Excellency Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs of the UAE and Chairman of the World Government Summit, said at the 2023 Summit, “The power of countries will not be determined by their political and military capabilities only, but by how early they have adopted the various applications of modern technologies and AI.”
“The Fourth Industrial Revolution is coming like a tsunami. It will be overwhelming to see the changes”

Prof Klaus Schwab
Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum
2016
Since its inception in 2013, the World Government Summit has been at the forefront of exploring trends in healthcare. Future-focused sessions and forums have been instrumental in showcasing new developments in personalized healthcare, biotechnology, nutrition, and happiness and wellbeing. However, it was during the 2018 Summit that a prescient message about the potential for a future pandemic was delivered.

During a session titled ‘Can we Create a Pandemic-free World?’, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), advised a proactive, rather than reactive, approach to public health. He highlighted that fragile health systems leave the world exposed to potential health crises. He urged nations to implement universal health coverage and increase spending on preventing outbreaks, as contingency funding is cheaper than meeting the full cost of a pandemic.

This theme was expounded upon in 2019, with a particular focus on the importance of robust vaccination development and distribution programs and the challenges that could arise in their absence. In the ‘Infections of the Future: Preparedness or Peril?’ session, the threat of infectious diseases and the need for governments to invest in vaccine programs to protect future generations was a clarion call. Speakers such as Professor Dr Peter Seeberger, Managing Director of the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces in Germany, warned that without such programs, infectious diseases could become a serious worldwide threat. Just one year later, that threat became a reality, as the COVID-19 pandemic swept the globe in early 2020. Countries closed their borders, and the world came to a standstill.
Health experts speaking at WGS had previously warned that decisive vaccine action would be necessary to combat a health crisis of this scale, and that is exactly what followed. Vaccine development began almost immediately, signifying the start of an unprecedented global health effort.

The 2021 session, “Will the Earth’s Population be Vaccinated by 2021?” underscored the importance of global initiatives like COVAX in ensuring equitable vaccine distribution. As Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World, highlighted, “Until the vaccine is available to everyone, the pandemic will not end for anyone.” His remark delineated a key insight from the session and the wider summit in general: that global health crises require global solutions, with partnerships like COVAX serving as a critical instrument in this endeavor.

Despite the global halt and hesitance, the 2021 edition of the World Government Summit convened online. The Summit went virtual, with the launch of an online series titled ‘COVID-19 & Government.’ These virtual meetings hosted over 30 global speakers who discussed the impact of COVID-19 on seven vital sectors: education, healthcare, economy, security, infrastructure, governance, and leadership. In-person events resumed in 2022, a sign of the UAE’s successful recovery efforts, and speakers zeroed in on lessons to be learned from the COVID-19 crisis.

In 2023, the Summit switched gears to a state of reflection as it facilitated dialogue on what is needed to thrive in a post-pandemic world. One particular session that stood out was ‘The Next Global Health Priorities: What, Why, and How?’ During this keynote address, Dr Ghebreyesus
emphasized the vital role that governments and world leaders must play in taking action against the many threats to global health.

With the pandemic requiring so much attention and resources over the previous two years, progress toward the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals has slowed, he noted. The world must now focus on combatting other health threats, including preventable and non-communicable diseases as well as maternal and pollution-related deaths. Dr Ghebreyesus urged the global community to learn the lessons from the pandemic and make changes to create a safer world for all.

As we move forward, it is clear that there is still much work to be done to ensure access to healthcare for all, prevent future pandemics, and tackle the broader health challenges facing our world. The Summit has been instrumental in bringing together experts and leaders from around the world to discuss these challenges and share innovative solutions. These ongoing discussions and the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic give hope that we can build a healthier and more resilient future.
“It is not enough to respond to outbreaks; they must be prevented. The greatest current threat to health security is the absence of universal health coverage for 3.5 billion of the world’s people”

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director General of the World Health Organization
2018
Space for Earth

In 2016, astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson explained how humanity’s efforts to explore space resulted in some of the most indispensable tools in use today including the smartphone and numerous health-tech innovations. Predicting “a new era of hope,” he called on nations to invest in space exploration, which can produce unknown returns in unknown fields. Though some may consider it a gamble, history has shown that this kind of exploration is invaluable.

DeGrasse Tyson’s vision for a “culture of discovery and exploration” has played out across the WGS platform since he spoke in 2016. Since then, representatives from countless nations, organizations, and companies have taken to the stage to underscore the importance of developing the space sector for humanity.

In 2017, the UAE announced the Mars 2117 mission, which aims to establish the first inhabitable settlement on Mars by 2117. Touching on ambitious goals to have the city first built by robots, the plan also explores critical concerns including how Martians would access food and water and establish key infrastructure such as transportation and energy production. As part of its initial roadmap, the Mars 2117 plan aimed to produce the first holistic picture of the Martian atmosphere by 2024 through the Emirates Mars Mission (EMM). While the world is still some way away from settling on the Red Planet, the EMM hit its 2024 goal nearly three years early. Launched in 2020 and arriving in Mars’ orbit in 2021, the UAE’s Hope probe began capturing images of the hostile planet’s atmospheric and surface conditions from June 16, 2021, contributing to global datasets which are being used to understand the possible trajectory for human life on Earth.
During the 2018 Summit, a dedicated Space Settlement Forum explored how nations could foster developments in space science in order to cultivate an ‘off-Earth, for Earth’ approach. Speakers noted that this approach would simultaneously support further penetration into space and lofty goals such as colonising exo-planets. It would also help ensure a more even distribution of crucial space technologies and discoveries that could help humanity respond to the greatest challenges of our time.

Responding to the climate crisis was another key topic of discussion during the Forum. Discussions focused on the importance of ensuring that governments are making use of rapidly expanding climatic datasets to deliver relevant and effective government services, and future-proofing next generations to survive in and support a digitizing world. Astronaut Dr Mae Jemison, in a session titled ‘Why Do Governments Invest in Astronauts?’, held in partnership with Popular Science, stressed that for space exploration to truly improve life on Earth, it must be generated by a diverse range of people and be accessible across generations. This will naturally require government investments in education to ensure that innovation, science, and exploration are embedded as key components of a future-proof curriculum.

The WGS Advanced Skills Forum was launched in 2019 with this objective in mind, exploring future workforce requirements and the need for skills development in science, technology, and innovation. This issue came into stark focus in 2021, when the COVID-19 pandemic ushered in a new age of technological developments. Minister of State for Advanced Technology of the UAE and Chairwoman of the UAE Space Agency Her Excellency Sarah Al Amiri highlighted that the exploration of other planets to expand human knowledge of our universe and
planet will only be possible if nations commit to fostering innovation through comprehensive ecosystems which include both scientific and business endeavours. Evidence of successful private sector companies can be seen in the likes of SpaceX and Blue Origin, whose innovations are not only revolutionizing access to and use of private space technology on Earth, but also changing the face of public sector space travel and development.

This has become a primary objective for many countries. In 2022, Dr George Friedman, Founder and Chairman of Geopolitical Futures, projected that the geopolitical leaders of the future will be nations that succeed in space, meaning that even small countries could become big players. Space exploration also has an important role to play in developing robust economies, he explained. Therefore, it makes sense that countries with top-performing space industries, such as the United States, China, and Japan, are also on the list of the world’s top-performing economies.

However, the need for global cooperation as opposed to destructive competition for dominance in space was spotlighted at the 2023 Summit. In a session titled ‘Space and Planet: The Universal Race to Save Earth,’ a number of speakers urged the world to come together to develop this critical sector, with Al Amiri stating that “by pooling our resources and expertise, we can create sustainable and cost-effective solutions that will allow us to explore the vastness of space and unlock its full potential for the betterment of our world and our future generations.”
“Being out there among the stars is important for the long-term survival of humanity”

Elon Musk
Co-founder and CEO of Tesla Inc,
Founder and CEO of SpaceX, CEO of Twitter
2017
Creativity and Innovation have been at the forefront of the World Government Summit’s agenda since its establishment in 2013. The showcasing of cutting-edge technologies and future-focused solutions within forums and initiatives, at award ceremonies, and across pioneering exhibitions held on the sidelines of the main event have helped to connect minds and inspire transformation among the world’s most prominent thought leaders and decision-makers.

The Summit’s forward-thinking approach is driving the development of future governance and encouraging governments to implement policies that benefit the societies of tomorrow. Providing a global stage that facilitates the exchanging of knowledge, ideas, and best practices, the Summit encourages the fostering of innovation to expedite progress and translate creative ideas into actionable government tools.
Museum of the Future

The Museum of the Future, now a permanent institution in Dubai, represents the World Government Summit’s desire to delve into and address crucial topics related to the future. With its focus on knowledge exchange and forward-looking studies, the museum serves as an embodiment of the Summit’s ability to stimulate transformative projects that bring about enduring societal impacts. The initial idea for this state-of-the-art facility surfaced at the 2015 Summit. What started as an annual temporary exhibition at the WGS from 2016 to 2019 eventually found permanence in 2021, reinforcing the Summit’s commitment to exploring vital subjects.

WGS sought to spotlight groundbreaking concepts and nascent technologies with the potential to influence our world significantly. The exhibition, created to this end, provided attendees with the opportunity to encounter a variety of solutions oriented towards the future, encompassing areas like advanced robotics and artificial intelligence. For example, in 2019, the museum’s sixth exhibition titled ‘HUMANS 2.0’ invited visitors to imagine a future in which humanity already had technologies needed to solve the world’s biggest problems. The success of these types of forward-looking exhibitions rallied support from important entities such as the Dubai Government and various international organizations to build a permanent Museum of the Future in Dubai.

The development of the museum was a thorough one, involving multiple workshops, exhibitions, and consultations with experts. The driving force behind this initiative was the ambition to create an institution that moved beyond conventional frameworks, combining experiential learning with immersive exhibits and cutting-edge technology. The core mission was to spark curiosity, nurture creativity, and provoke visitors to reconsider the future’s potential.
The ground-breaking ceremony in 2017 was held in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai.

While the museum was being planned and constructed, the project team worked alongside experts from around the world. Their joint efforts aimed to ensure that both the design of the building and its technological aspects were up-to-date and innovative. Sustainable methods were also employed during the construction phase, in line with the museum’s and WGS’ core objective of promoting a sustainable future.

Completed in 2021, the building is architecturally distinct and represents a manifestation of human ingenuity and aspiration. Its design rethinks the conventional notions of what a museum could be, with a torus-like shape that speaks to the limitless potential of the future. The facade marries traditional Arabic calligraphy with contemporary materials, striking a balance between old and new, while also considering its environmental impact. Since its inauguration, the museum has been visited by people from around the globe, interested in the insights it offers about the future.

Inside the museum, visitors will find a range of exhibits that aim to engage through interactive and immersive experiences. These exhibits incorporate modern technologies like virtual reality, augmented reality, and artificial intelligence, providing insights into what future technologies might offer. The spectrum of topics is broad, covering areas from future transportation and energy solutions to advancements in biotechnology and robotics. It’s a space that attempts to redefine the traditional understanding of a museum’s role by focusing on exploratory and educational experiences.
The institution also houses state-of-the-art research labs where experts from diverse fields work together to develop solutions to the world’s most urgent trials. These labs, collectively known as the “Future Labs,” are open to the public, allowing visitors to engage with researchers and witness the process of innovation firsthand. The museum also actively pursues collaboration with international organizations, governments, and research institutions to foster knowledge exchange and innovation on a global scale.

In addition to its architectural and technological facets, the museum also plays a role in education, striving to ignite curiosity and foster continual learning. Various programs and workshops are made available to students, educators, and the general public, encouraging the growth of an innovative and problem-solving community. The museum’s progress to date highlights how cooperation between governments and global organizations can result in projects that go beyond standard limitations, with the aim of enhancing the future.

The Museum of the Future’s development from a concept presented at the Summit to a notable institution in Dubai demonstrates the possibilities that arise from collaborative vision and determination. The Summit facilitates the sharing of ideas and cooperation between governments, businesses, and citizens, contributing to a future that seeks to be both prosperous and sustainable. The Museum of the Future, resulting from the World Government Summit’s efforts, represents one of many projects that aim to redefine conventional perspectives and stimulate creative thinking.
“The Museum of the Future is a global platform where top-tier experts can identify the most prominent scientific and technological trends of the future. It is a catalyst for future forecasting and study efforts, and plays a pivotal role in setting up policies and strategies that allow the world’s governments to benefit from the technologies of the future and their potential.”

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai
The UAE has consistently demonstrated its commitment to innovation as a driving force for economic growth and sustainable development. In alignment with the UAE Vision 2021, which emphasized the significance of science, technology, and innovation, the UAE’s leadership declared 2015 the Year of Innovation. This focus aimed to attract national talent, boost research efforts, and foster the development of a skilled workforce capable of leading the nation toward progress and prosperity.

To further strengthen this vision, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, launched the UAE National Innovation Strategy. Making the UAE one of the most innovative nations in the world required building an ecosystem and infrastructure conducive to this ambitious goal. The strategy highlighted the essential roles of individuals, the private sector, and the government in Championing innovation and progress.

Recognizing the critical role of government in this process, the UAE focused on promoting innovation within its public institutions. The Mohammed bin Rashid Centre for Government Innovation (MBRCGI) was established to support government entities in achieving the National Innovation Strategy’s objectives. The center aims to institutionalize innovation and turn it into a daily practice.
Since 2016, MBRG1 has hosted the Edge of Government experience at the World Government Summit. This annual showcase features pioneering approaches to addressing the world’s most urgent public policy challenges, such as health, environmental protection, public safety, and citizen engagement.

Themes for the experience emerge from a review of global trends in government innovation and have included ‘The future is biological’ and ‘Powered by you.’ Innovations based on these themes are then carefully selected by MBRG1 and showcased at the Summit.

The Edge of Government is more than an exhibition; it is a globally recognized award and producer of groundbreaking reports which help disseminate these innovations to a global audience.

Since its inception, the experience has presented more than 50 international case studies of government innovation and their impact on crucial public concerns. From the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s creation of a ‘Zombie Task Force’ to motivate people to prepare for public emergencies featured in 2016, to the The Hague’s future-focused idea of storing digital files in plants spotlighted in 2023, the Edge of Government has spent close to a decade archiving the world’s most inspiring ideas for a more sustainable future.
These innovative case studies have undoubtedly spurred a global wave of creativity in addressing humanity’s greatest challenges. The sharing of knowledge and experiences among nations creates a unique opportunity for learning and collaboration, fostering a supportive global community. By bringing together novel approaches from various corners of the globe, the experience has served as a catalyst for a more inventive, collaborative, and progressive world. This sharing of innovation is reshaping government practices by encouraging public sector leaders to embrace change, think outside the box, and harness the potential of pioneering ideas to improve the lives of their citizens and contribute to a brighter, more sustainable future for all. This culture of sharing prompts a more creative leadership.

By gathering case studies for a global audience, WGS has drawn attention to lesser-known but vital government innovations. Hearing about these projects directly from those who developed them inspires attendees to consider how the ideas behind the innovations could be applied to their own work. In this way, the Edge of Government experience stimulates even greater innovation within government institutions.
“We have to build resilience, and building resilience is a long-term, sustained, constant investment”

HE Gilbert Houngbo
Director General of the International Labour Organization, 10th Prime Minister of Togo 2002
A Legacy in Progress

SDGs in Action

Every year the World Government Summit hosts specifically themed forums where innovative solutions are discussed and developed in response to global challenges. One such forum – SDGs in Action – has been instrumental in accelerating progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2018, the forum brought together an interdisciplinary network of policy-makers, academics, charitable organizations, private sector companies, and youth representatives as Global Councils on SDGs to identify and implement effective policies, programs, and initiatives that promote sustainable development. Their efforts have not only increased momentum toward the 2030 Agenda but have also helped to address critical development issues in all parts of the world.
Health in Your Hands

‘Health in Your Hands’ (HIYH) is an award-winning initiative that was conceptualized and adopted by the Global Council on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) at the 2017 World Government Summit. Serving as a platform that connects governments and investors to accessible, affordable, and sustainable healthcare solutions, HIYH focuses on innovations that benefit at-risk, underserved, and marginalized communities, reinforcing the Summit’s humanitarian commitment to leaving no one behind.

The multi-stakeholder model currently showcases 50 innovations that have the potential for scalability, replicability, capacity-building, and sustainability at both local and global levels. In order to put the technology-based solutions and financially sustainable service models directly into the hands of communities who need them most, HIYH has placed heavy emphasis on the need for cross-sector partnerships. VillageReach, for example, is a collaboration between governments, technology providers, private sponsors, and NGOs to provide accessible healthcare and resources to those living in remote villages. While the program initially started as a hotline serving just one district in Malawi, it has now been scaled up to include drone delivery programs in countries such as Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 2023, a Global Council on SDGs report emphasized that VillageReach has improved healthcare for 46 million people.

Another notable HIYH-selected innovation includes ‘LastMileHealth,’ a primary healthcare provider in rural areas of Africa. The SDG 3 initiative has helped provide 8,300 frontline health workers with access to information and much-needed digital tools. Furthermore, HIYH has also supported ‘Healthy Entrepreneurs,’ a community healthcare entrepreneurs franchise model, enabling 5,000 new entrepreneurs to deliver products and services to 6.2 million people. The Global Council on SDG 3 is now looking to replicate the model in other countries and markets.
META Portal

The META portal is another successful Global Council initiative that has yielded tangible results. This innovative e-platform offers professional development opportunities for teachers and grants open access to educational resources for up to 50,000 students in Paraguay. The platform was conceptualized at the 2019 World Government Summit, where the Global Council on SDG 4 (Quality Education), the Government of Paraguay, and Dubai Cares – a UAE-based non-profit organization – came together to support the transformation of Paraguay’s education system.

Aligned with the country’s digital learning strategy and SDG 4, the $3 million program ensures equitable access to quality education and promotes lifelong learning for children of all abilities in Paraguay. The platform features courses and content in a variety of formats and languages and is linked to other portals and education technology organizations regionally and worldwide.

To date, the portal offers free access to more than 1,500 books, engages teachers nationwide, and boasts an active online community. In 2022, META hosted Paraguay’s first international seminar on educational innovation. ‘META Innova’ saw 1,760 people gather virtually and in person to watch leading professionals from around the world share best practices and discuss innovative educational proposals for a sustainable future of learning.
In 2018, the Global Council on SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) enlisted youth platform ‘Peace First’ to invite young people from around the world to share their ideas for building a more peaceful world. The organization provides digital resources, start-up funding, and a supportive community for individuals aged 13 to 25. Recognizing the benefits of engaging the youth community to create more inclusive and peaceful societies, the Global Council sought their assistance in facilitating the implementation of the SDGs globally. The initiative saw involvement from more than 17,000 young people, spanning 150 countries.

17,000 YOUTH from 150 countries shared ideas for building a more peaceful world with the Global Council on SDG 16 in 2018

The youth community has launched more than 7,000 projects, tackling everything from social inclusion in Kenya to political participation in Scotland, to combating sex trafficking in South America. As well as having a significant impact on their communities, participation in these programs has left a lasting legacy on the youth participants. Utilizing a Harvard-designed impact evaluation, the Council determined that these youth participants were now more likely to develop relationships that transcend differences and were more likely to be involved in their community going forward.

For the 2023/2024 term, the Global Council is focusing on the capacity-building of young leaders in order to ensure peace and inclusive, sustainable socioeconomic development.
Enabling Global Innovation

The World Government Summit is more than an annual event - it is a global knowledge exchange platform that enables governments to harness innovation and technology to solve global challenges.

Alongside incubating and stimulating the development of best government service practices, the Summit is responsive to emerging hardships and crises. At each Annual Gathering, the agenda includes opportunities to confront and propose solutions to these issues, and reports and articles are commissioned all year round to provide insightful and evidence-based recommendations for policy-makers to make informed decisions.

Sharing this knowledge through the online Observer platform has also ensured that WGS’s impact is global. This remarkable repository of information developed by the Summit’s knowledge partners includes publications, strategic reports, best practices, articles, and interactive toolkits that keep governments informed and enable better decision-making. This resource is made all the more impactful by the organization’s partners in media and strategy who ensure the information is disseminated to the people who will benefit from it most.

With heads of state and leaders of some of the world’s biggest global organizations in attendance, the Summit enables cross collaboration at the highest level. By providing a space for these encounters, the Summit has become a focal point for the signing of bilateral agreements that directly impact global policy.

Over the last 10 years, WGS has been shaping governments by enabling changemakers to come together to collaborate, share best practices, and explore innovations. More than this, it enables global change by acting as a critical knowledge exchange hub between thought leaders, policy-makers, and the private sector.
Conversations and Dialogues

The World Government Summit welcomes esteemed leaders from various sectors to take to the stage and engage in dialogues surrounding critical global issues. These conversations, facilitated through forums, workshops, and keynote speeches, are instrumental in finding collective solutions that enhance governance models and facilitate progress toward a more sustainable and inclusive future.

Equally significant are the discussions held on the sidelines of the Summit. Insightful masterclasses and interactive sessions led by experts from diverse fields are designed to equip governments with the tools and foresight to respond to future challenges. Furthermore, formal and informal exchanges between world leaders often result in new partnerships and the signing of agreements, strengthening the exchange of ideas and solidifying commitments for countries to work together toward common goals.
In 2016, the World Government Summit launched an annual membership program to strengthen its role as a leading global platform for knowledge exchange and a vehicle for showcasing viable solutions to the world’s most acute challenges. As part of this program, members enjoy priority access to functions held on the sidelines of the event, entry to exclusive networking areas, and year-round direct access to the Summit’s government stakeholders, policy-makers, and innovators.

The Summit Masterclass series is an insightful set of courses and educational workshops designed specifically for members and partners of the Summit. Addressing technological developments and analyzing recent trends, the classes dive deep into topics that intend to disrupt, enhance, and strengthen the public and the private sectors, now and in the future. Often held in association with the World Government Summit’s knowledge partners, the workshops are facilitated by global experts and prominent thought leaders, providing unique networking opportunities for those in attendance.
Superforecasting: Enabling Better Decisions by Enhancing Foresight

A masterclass on foresight was held at the 2016 World Government Summit. Led by Professor Philip Tetlock, a specialist in psychology and political science from the University of Pennsylvania in the United States, the ‘Superforecasting: Enabling Better Decisions by Enhancing Foresight’ workshop explored the concept of future planning and the importance of foresight when developing effective policies and strategies. UAE ministers and executives from local and regional companies were invited to partake in exercises which saw them draw up future scenarios for their sectors focusing on the next 10, 50, and 100 years.

Summit Masterclasses with Envisioning

Between 2017 and 2018, the Summit presented a series of technology masterclasses in collaboration with Envisioning, a technology research institute based in Brazil. Focusing on areas such as digital citizenship, applications of artificial intelligence, and geo-engineering, the workshops explored the implications of emerging technologies and provided practical training to better prepare policy-makers and industry leaders for future possibilities.

Working with Complex Futures: Scenario Planning

Hosted by Amy Webb, Founder and CEO of Future Today Institute, the 2022 World Government Summit held a masterclass which delved into scenario planning and its influence on government decision-making. As well as examining the barriers hindering governments from developing practical solutions, the workshop underlined the importance of understanding current indicators and trends that will shape the future.
Frontier Series

The Frontier Series brings together experts and decision-makers from around the world to share insights and forecasts on developing trends and topics. This forward-looking event is held in advance of the World Government Summit and offers a comprehensive program of panel discussions, focus sessions, and workshops that carefully examine the year ahead. The engaging and thought-provoking dialogues aim to bring valuable foresight to the Summit.

Initiated in 2019 under the theme ‘2020 in Focus,’ this series of high-level engagements were designed to anticipate the relationship between innovation and disruptions in prominent industries. The discussions covered a range of topics, including geopolitics, smart cities, learning, sustainability, society and wellbeing. WGS integrated the future-orientated topics of the Frontier Series into its response to the global pandemic in a series of virtual WGS Dialogues.

2020 in Focus

During the 2020 Frontier Series, Dr George Friedman, Founder and Chairman of Geopolitical Futures, explored potential disruptions for the global economy in 2020 and presented a view of what the geopolitical future might look like for the United States, Europe, and the Middle East.

Technology and Automation in Education

Developments in learning and the skills needed for future career paths were central discussion points at the 2020 Frontier Series on technology and automation. Experts such as Allen Blue, Co-founder and Vice President of Product Management at LinkedIn, and His Excellency Dr Abdulla Al Karam, Director General of Dubai’s Knowledge and Human Development Authority, shared their views on how advanced technology and automation could fundamentally transform learning.
When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the need to bring together the world’s most influential decision-makers had never been greater, and the Summit was quick to adapt. The COVID-19 & Government dialogue series comprised several virtual sessions that took place between May and June 2020. They gathered government officials, policy-makers, experts, and stakeholders from around the world to discuss the impact of the pandemic on governance and public policy.

The series was launched in response to the significant obstacles brought about by this global crisis. Its aim was to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices among different nations in order to find effective solutions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and support economic recovery.

The sessions covered a wide range of topics, including public health, crisis management, economic resilience, social protection, and digital transformation. They provided a platform for participants to share their experiences and learn from each other, as well as to explore new approaches and solutions to the unique challenges the pandemic presented.

The series was a timely and important initiative that highlighted the need for international collaboration in the face of global crises. It also served as a valuable platform for governments and stakeholders to come together and consider the future of government beyond the pandemic.
Virtual Health Forum

In June 2020, as part of the COVID-19 & Government dialogue series, the World Government Summit held the first Virtual Health Forum, which convened leading policy-makers, healthcare experts, and government officials from around the globe. At the time, the world was grappling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and there was a critical need to make public healthcare systems more agile and resilient.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization, delivered the keynote address, sharing his insights on the global response to the pandemic. Other speakers included His Excellency Abdulrahman Al Owais, Minister of Health and Prevention of the UAE, His Excellency Bent Høie, Minister of Health of Norway, and Her Excellency Lena Hallengren, Minister of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden.

Recession or Recovery: What Can We Expect from the Global Economy Post-COVID-19?

Consistent with the Summit’s drive to shape the future, the COVID-19 & Government dialogue series considered the possible opportunities for businesses and individuals to innovate and thrive in the post-pandemic world.

This forward-thinking discussion was held in May 2020 with investor and businessman Kevin O’Leary, Alain Bejjani, CEO of Majid Al Futtaim Group, and Sarah Hewin, Managing Director and Chief Economist for Europe and the Americas at Standard Charter Bank. In the session, these experts considered the challenges and opportunities presented by the global crisis and asked if it was possible to embrace opportunities and emerge as winners.
As with nearly all international events, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted WGS’s normal operations – but the Summit never stopped. With the need for global collaboration more critical than ever, the Summit went online during 2020 and 2021. While the WGS Dialogues could not replace the experience of a physical Summit entirely, they provided an effective alternative that allowed for the continued exchange of ideas and collaboration.

These dialogues brought together global leaders, experts, and innovators to discuss pressing issues and explore solutions for the short and long-term future. These virtual events covered a range of topics, including healthcare, education, climate change, technology, and more. Participants were able to engage in discussions, share their perspectives, and learn from others in a time when interpersonal interactions were limited.

The WGS Dialogues utilized advanced technologies and virtual platforms to create a dynamic and interactive experience for participants. The format allowed for greater accessibility, with people from all over the world able to join and contribute to the discussions. The change in format also demonstrated the potential of advanced technologies and virtual platforms to facilitate global dialogue and collaboration in a post-pandemic world.
Will the Earth’s Population be Vaccinated by 2021?

With the world beginning to emerge from the pandemic, the 2021 Dialogues were a mix of COVID-19 recovery-themed sessions and more general discussions about future global trends and understanding the post-pandemic landscape.

Paving the way for the eventual end of the pandemic, the development of the vaccine was the defining moment in the fight against COVID-19. In this session, His Excellency Macky Sall, President of Senegal; His Excellency Sultan bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World; Her Excellency Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF; Dr David Nabarro, Special Envoy on COVID-19 of the World Health Organization; and Pascal Soriot, CEO of AstraZeneca, discussed the barriers governments needed to overcome to effectively distribute the vaccine globally. They looked at vaccine availability, logistics, and ways to minimize people’s hesitancy to get the vaccine.

Is Crypto the New Currency Beyond 2021?

With the world going online during the pandemic, the digital economy became more important than ever. Investors, businesses, and consumers across different sectors were looking to combat the effects of the economic downturn by using the digital economy. In this session, Anthony Di Iorio, Co-founder of Ethereum and Founder and CEO of Decentral; Denelle Dixon, CEO and Executive Director of Stellar Development Foundation; and Brock Pierce, Founder of Blockchain Capital, IGE, discussed whether this increased digitization and the rise of digital currencies would fundamentally change currency as we know it.
Established during the 2018 World Government Summit, the Global Councils on Sustainable Development Goals have evolved significantly since their inception. Having started with 12 councils, they have now expanded to 18. These councils drive global implementation of the SDGs and play a crucial role in enabling countries to meet the 2030 implementation deadline through their impact-driven and outcome-focused approach.

Through their work, the councils address inhibiting factors and find solutions to identified issues through the development of policies and programs. They also scope out technologies and delivery mechanisms, and build frameworks to share knowledge and best practices with other changemakers.

To execute the ambitious plan to achieve the SDGs by 2030, the councils convene at the Summit as well as other global events throughout the year. During the SDGs in Action forum at WGS, the Global Councils report their annual progress and renew their biannual term.

To ensure success, the 18 Councils are hosted in partnership with local and international partners including the United Nations, the World Bank, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Each council consists of no more than 15 members from a wide range of sectors who are diverse in gender, nationality, race, origin, and ability.

The Global Councils are now in their third term, and with the race to 2030 intensifying, WGS will continue to act as a springboard for this interdisciplinary network of changemakers as they strive to give visibility to best practices for implementing the SDGs.
Term 1: 2018 to 2020

During the first term, the 12 councils created new partnerships between countries, organizations, and experts and integrated their work into global changemaking forums. They rolled out impactful projects including the development of multi-stakeholder platforms to deliver accessible, affordable, and sustainable healthcare, and thousands of children were given access to quality education through the provision of e-learning tools.

High-level global figures were active members of the councils and were key to developing influential projects. A toolkit for gender balance best practices was developed, led by Her Excellency Mona Al Marri, Vice President of the UAE Gender Balance Council, in collaboration with the OECD. The Honourable Helen Clark, 37th Prime Minister of New Zealand, led two distinctive programs: ‘Leadership4SDGs,’ a support mechanism for governments to roll out the SDGs, and ‘Peace First,’ a youth engagement platform.

Term 2: 2021 to 2023

In 2021, a year later than anticipated due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the soft launch of the second term of the Global Councils took place virtually under the theme ‘Galvanizing the Global Acceleration of the SDGs.’ The formal launch of the 18 councils then took place during the return of WGS at Expo 2020. This increase in the number of councils reflected a new approach, which shifted away from focusing on singular SDGs toward a nexus methodology that acknowledged the goals’ complex and interconnected nature.

Term 3: 2023 to 2025

With the race toward 2030 intensifying, WGS 2023 witnessed the commencement of the Councils’ third term. Councils on Energy and Innovation, Policies and Leadership, Education, Health and Climate, and Partnerships also met at the Summit to accelerate action toward the SDGs.

The Council on SDG 5: Gender Equality developed the Policy Note on Addressing Gender-Based Violence to Advance Women’s Economic and Political Security. The council also hosted a workshop as part of the women empowerment initiatives at WGS 2023, held under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Manal bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, President of the UAE Gender Balance Council and President of the Dubai Women Establishment.
Africa Futures Forum

The Africa Futures Forum was held online in 2020 in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the African Union - African Peer Review Mechanism. The high-level forum was hosted by His Excellency Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs of the UAE and Chairman of the World Government Summit, and demonstrated how the Summit enables governments and other institutions to shape their shared future.

The forum was attended by senior figures from various countries and national organizations, including the UAE, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Botswana, South Africa, Kenya, and the UNDP, and included keynote speeches, ministerial roundtables, and interactive sessions. Attendees shared successful experiences and strategies, outlined visions for the future, and deliberated on priority areas for contributing to the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Speakers also discussed the development of advanced government models to tackle the impact of COVID-19 and initiatives to realize national, regional, and global aspirations.
“In a world in which everything is global, in which the problems are global, from climate change to the movement of people, there is no way countries can do it by themselves”

HE António Guterres
Secretary General of the United Nations 2017
Knowledge Exchange

The World Government Summit has been established as a preeminent platform for knowledge exchange, where best practices and solutions to universal dilemmas are shared between world leaders, experts, and innovators. In addition to engaging forums and dialogues, the Summit has continued to expand its knowledge repertoire through the timely release of reports, publications, and interactive tools that enable informed decision-making and offer relevant and reliable guidance to governments.

Over time, the Summit has informed strategic partnerships with prominent knowledge providers, offering governments and businesses access to valuable research, insights, and analyses on data, trends, and developments. This wealth of knowledge is not only driving further dialogues, it is also empowering governments to be prepared and resilient in the face of future challenges.
Over the course of the past decade, the World Government Summit has accumulated a wealth of invaluable information and insights regarding innovative solutions and best practices in governance.

To ensure that this valuable resource continues to have a positive impact, the Summit produces a range of reports, articles, and publications based on the discussions and insights that take place during the event. These materials are designed to be informative, relevant, and easily accessible to a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, academics, researchers, and the public.

To make this content easily accessible, the Summit established an online repository called the Observer. The user-friendly platform provides access to a decade’s worth of insightful content that can be readily accessed and utilized. The repository serves as a treasure trove of knowledge and will continue to support the development of innovative solutions and best practices in governance for years to come.
Commemorative Books

Included in this repository are the commemorative books that are produced annually in both English and Arabic (except for 2020 and 2021 when the events did not take place due to the pandemic). Packed with high-quality images, they provide a comprehensive and engaging summary of the Summit’s proceedings and offer a unique perspective on the event and its impact on the global landscape.

World Government Summit Annual Gathering

The impact the event has globally can never truly be quantified. With so many influential people gathered in one place, there is no telling how many sparks of creativity and valuable relationships are made at this remarkable event. To date, the Summit has seen 38,000 people walk through its doors and 1,500 expert speakers have addressed its audiences. While WGS is much more than its annual meeting, the event is a global knowledge-sharing hub that energizes this exchange of ideas and best practices.

Reports

The dialogue at the Summit is just the beginning. Reports are produced throughout each year, which examine key topics in-depth and offer new perspectives and solutions to complex problems facing governments and societies around the world.

The impact of these reports is far-reaching. They provide evidence-based guidance to policy-makers on policy development and implementation and facilitate networking and collaboration between stakeholders from different sectors and regions. They also position WGS as a thought leader and showcase its unique contributions to shaping the future.
The Government Summit Thought Leadership Series

From its inception in 2013, the Summit has produced reports that drive the future of government excellence. One of the first reports produced in 2013 under the Government Summit’s Thought Leadership Series was Government Efficiency: Innovate. Scale. Measure. Invent.

This study reviews government efficiency in the UAE and includes an analysis of public sector expenditure and performance, interviews with senior government officials, and reviews of initiatives in various countries. It then identifies the key drivers of government efficiency and provides a practical framework for improvement.

21 Priorities for Governments in 2021

The 21 Priorities for Governments in 2021 report highlights several critical issues that government leaders need to address collectively. These include the global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, the climate crisis and the need for climate action, leveraging digital technologies to bridge inequalities, and tackling the global trust deficit.

The report emphasizes the importance of strengthened multilateralism and global cooperation, drawing lessons from past experiences. It also highlights the achievement of developing a COVID-19 vaccine in a short time and encourages collaboration to overcome challenges and seize opportunities.

Rebuilding Economies – Trade and Economy: Operations in a New Normal


It provides insight and analysis on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global trade and the economy and outlines strategies for rebuilding and adapting to the new normal. The report highlights the need for international cooperation and coordination to address the issues created by the pandemic. It also emphasizes the importance of digital transformation and the adoption of new technologies to facilitate trade and support economic recovery.

Critical Decision Points: Facing Government Leaders in a Transforming World

In 2022, leading global management consulting firm Kearney produced a report in collaboration with the Summit that considered today’s radically altered landscape of uncertainty.

Critical Decision Points: Facing Government Leaders in a Transforming World is aimed at global leaders and recognizes that contemporary challenges are not just unfamiliar, they are structurally novel and need a new approach. An anticipatory strategy of contingency planning is recommended, as acting early in the evolution of challenges creates strategic advantage, strengthens resilience, and accelerates progress.
Government in 2071: Guidebook

One of the most significant reports produced by the Summit is the Government in 2071: Guidebook. Launched in 2018 by His Excellency Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs of the UAE and Chairman of the World Government Summit, the report is an in-depth evaluation of global trends and their impact on government over the next 50 years.

Referred to as a guidebook rather than a report due to the actionable nature of its content, the publication explores key innovation megatrends affecting society and visualizes the projected view of future government interactions with citizens and other stakeholders.

The purpose of the Guidebook is to enable global leaders to plan for future shifts that will impact governments over the next 50 years. It analyzes best-case scenarios of megatrend developments to determine plausible best-case innovation outcomes.

The Guidebook was just the start of the dialogue – a series of interactive workshops that complemented the megatrends addressed in the publication enabled stakeholders to leverage the findings in preparation for the future. The GovHack series for innovative startups was also developed in the spirit of government excellence. The prize is awarded to a team that demonstrates the most innovative ways of supporting governments.
Urban Resilience Tool

Launched in 2021, the Urban Resilience Tool is a resource to help city officials measure and compare how resilient their city is to economic, health, social, climate, and urban shocks and developments. The tool provides a framework for assessing and strengthening this resilience based on a set of key principles and indicators.

The tool supports city leaders and decision-makers in identifying and addressing the risks and vulnerabilities facing their communities. By providing a clear and structured approach to resilience-building, it helps cities plan and implement effective strategies for mitigating the impact of unforeseen stresses, and to enhance their capacity to adapt and thrive in the face of change.

The Urban Resilience Tool works by assessing a city’s ability to withstand and adapt to shocks and long-term challenges. It evaluates the city’s exposure to hazards, vulnerabilities, and institutional capacity using a comprehensive framework, which includes 131 key performance indicators and an institutional readiness checklist. The tool provides a composite index to compare and benchmark cities and provides a standardized approach that informs policy development and decision-making.

Designed to be flexible and adaptable to the unique needs and contexts of different cities and urban areas, the tool is supported by a range of resources and case studies to help users apply the principles and indicators in practice.
To enable cross collaboration between governments, the private sector, international organizations, and youth, the World Government Summit has developed partnerships with leading global institutions in knowledge, strategy, and media.

Partnerships help the Summit achieve its objectives and maximize its impact by bringing in new perspectives, resources, and expertise to address complex global issues. These partnerships can take many forms, such as collaborations with private sector entities, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and media platforms.

The networks created by these partnerships not only ensure wide dissemination of the knowledge and best practices developed by the Summit platform, but also ensure that the decision-makers at the very top of their fields are thinking collectively and creatively to develop the most progressive ideas to shape the future of governments.
Knowledge Partners

Over the Summit’s 10-year history, knowledge partners have elevated the standard of expertise, research, and analysis on various topics related to government, policy-making, and global issues. They work closely with WGS to share their knowledge and insights, participate in events and forums, and contribute to shaping the discussions around the future of government.

WGS counts several of the world’s most influential firms as knowledge partners, including PwC, McKinsey & Company, Boston Consulting Group, Bain & Company, Strategy&, Oliver Wyman, Kearney, Arthur D. Little, Deloitte, EY, KPMG, Accenture, Mercer, and Economic Impact.

This was evidenced in 2021 when WGS renewed eight knowledge partnerships and launched a series of reports to identify trends and opportunities to support governments and enhance their readiness for the world beyond COVID-19.

In response to shifting global priorities, the World Government Summit established partnerships with thought-leading organizations and agencies best equipped to achieve its vision of shaping future governments.


The knowledge partnerships signed in 2021 led to the development of several impactful reports including Making Healthcare Systems Resilient: An Action Plan for the Next Decade. Created in collaboration with the business consultancy Strategy&, the report examined the fragility of healthcare systems when thrust into a world of volatility, uncertainty, and complexity.

The report was a reminder that healthcare systems must adapt to a rapidly changing world and be designed to meet the needs of the populations they serve. By outlining the necessary steps for building more robust healthcare systems, the report provided a roadmap for governments, regulators, and healthcare providers to follow.

The Skills Revolution and the Future of Learning and Earning

Knowledge partnerships not only help the Summit achieve its mission of shaping future governments, but they also enable organizations to showcase and share their research with the most influential global decision-makers.

In 2023, McKinsey released a report in collaboration with the World Government Summit entitled The Skills Revolution and the Future of Learning and Earning, which focused on the development of essential skills required for the changing nature of work due to automation and artificial intelligence. The report draws from McKinsey’s ongoing research into implications of technology on the workplace and the educational questions that this poses.
“Why not build resilience globally, rather than just look nearby?”

HE Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
Director General of the World Trade Organization
2023
Strategic Partners

In 2015, the Government Summit underwent a transformational change, emerging as the World Government Summit with a bold vision to become a premier global platform for shaping the future of government and governance.

To turn this vision into a reality, the Summit forged strategic partnerships with the world’s most influential non-governmental organizations, solidifying its position as a critical forum for leaders from government, business, and civil society. By partnering with these organizations, the Summit has broadened its scope and accessed new networks, allowing it to leverage the expertise and resources of its partners.

These strategic partners include global changemakers such as the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the World Bank Group, the International Finance Corporation, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Economic Forum, the International Telecommunication Union, the International Labour Organization, the World Food Programme, the League of Arab States, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and others.
World Health Organization

The World Health Organization, a UN agency, is a vital partner of the World Government Summit, collaborating to shape health agendas by hosting workshops, providing expert speakers, and collaborating on reports.

In 2018, they jointly hosted the ‘For Better Healthcare’ Global Policy Platform session, bringing together international health experts to explore public-private sector relationships to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2019, they launched a dedicated Global Health Forum, with a highlight being a high-level dialogue titled ‘The Outlook of Global Health.’

This partnership has resulted in a dynamic platform that continues to gather annually at the Summit, bringing together key decision-makers to shape the sector’s future.

United Nations

The United Nations (UN) has been a prominent participant in the World Government Summit. They have used the platform to address global challenges, including climate change, sustainable development, peacekeeping, and human rights. A highlight from their participation was in 2017 when His Excellency Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the UN, launched ‘United to Reform,’ an initiative to make the UN more efficient and accountable.

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SDGs in Action

SDGs in Action is an initiative between the World Government Summit, the UN, and the UAE National Committee on SDGs, working toward the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The initiative’s 2016 launch became an integral part of WGS, paving the way for significant advancements and global collaborations, such as the launch of the second cohort of Global Councils on SDGs in 2022.

United Nations Children’s Fund

United Nations Children’s Fund has consistently used WGS as a platform to advocate for children. In 2019, then-Executive Director, Her Excellency Henrietta Fore stressed the need to equip youth with transferable skills to foster resilience in a rapidly changing world. In 2022, Her Excellency Catherine Russell, the organization’s Executive Director, championed the inclusion of children in global development plans.

World Economic Forum

Key members of the World Economic Forum (WEF) have addressed the Summit to underscore the significance of adopting emerging technologies, the pivotal role of artificial intelligence, and the importance of effective, future-ready governance. The WEF has underscored the importance of global cooperation, pushing for a sustainable, inclusive future through Globalization 4.0. It also stressed the need for resilience and solid leadership in tackling unpredicted events and mastering the future.
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia
The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UNESCWA) has been a prominent contributor at the World Government Summit. In 2018, it hosted a roundtable highlighting the importance of innovation for inclusive, sustainable development in the Arab region. In 2019, UNESCWA launched key reports encouraging open governance and digital technology-based development.

World Bank Group
The World Bank Group engages in various activities, from knowledge sharing to policy advisement. In 2019, they launched the ‘Human Capital and Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative,’ aimed at improving access to capital and technical assistance for women entrepreneurs. In 2023, His Excellency David Malpass, the President of the World Bank Group urged governments to prioritize digital transformation as a means for sustainable and inclusive progress.

World Food Programme
In 2017, the World Food Programme contributed to discussions on the importance of collaboration in protecting forests and biodiversity and in promoting agricultural practices that address climate change. In 2019, the then-Executive Director, His Excellency David Beasley, delivered a keynote address emphasizing the necessity of aiding children worldwide, particularly in vulnerable communities, in order to progress toward a safer, more equitable, and sustainable future.

World Trade Organization
The World Trade Organization (WTO) is devoted to fostering transparent trade policies and developing resilient economies. In 2018, then-Director General, His Excellency Roberto Azevêdo urged for soft infrastructure in tech-fueled trade and in 2020, he highlighted COVID-19’s impact on trade. In 2023, the Director General of the WTO, Her Excellency Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala detailed the landmark Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and the need for dispute settlement reforms.

International Civil Aviation Organization
The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is devoted to harmonizing global air operations and was a key partner at the 2022 Summit. There, the organization signed an agreement with the UAE to bolster aviation cybersecurity. In addition, ICAO’s President, His Excellency Salvatore Sciacchitano, participated in discussions on aviation expansion, government investments in airports, and the future of the sector.
International Finance Corporation
The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a World Bank Group entity, works to unlock private investments and foster markets to end poverty and boost prosperity. In 2023, Vice President, His Excellency Maktar Diop stressed the importance of efficient resource management and renewable energy investment. In 2022 and 2023, IFC partnered with WGS for ‘She WINS Arabia,’ aiding women-led startups in the Middle East and North Africa.

World Intellectual Property Organization
The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is WGS’s partner for advancing social and economic justice. In 2019, WIPO’s then-Director General, His Excellency Francis Gurry, emphasized the significance of a balanced IP system and challenges posed by digital technologies. Building on this in 2023, the current Director General, His Excellency Daren Tang, called for collective actions in IP skills development and innovation.

International Labour Organization
In 2019, then-Director General, His Excellency Guy Ryder highlighted the need for upskilling and reskilling in future work lives. He stressed that government policies should benefit economies and people, and ensure equal participation of women in the labor market. In 2023, the International Labour Organization’s Director General, His Excellency Gilbert Houngbo, underscored that social justice would ensure people’s rights to a dignified life.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
United Nations Development Programme
A key WGS partner, the United Nations Development Programme aims to build resilience to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2017, Her Excellency Helen Clark discussed global governance and long-term peace development. In 2018, His Excellency Achim Steiner highlighted technology’s role in innovative governance. In 2019, Steiner affirmed the SDGs’ potential to promote equitable, thriving societies.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), an international entity known for its forum and knowledge hub for public policies and standard-setting, has been an integral part of WGS since its inception in 2013. It has consistently shaped discussions on innovation in public governance. A memorable moment from the 2016 Summit was the address by His Excellency José Ángel Gurría, Secretary General of the OECD, who advocated for effective utilization of the public sector to foster innovation.

In 2017, the OECD partnered with the Mohammed bin Rashid Centre for Global Innovation to produce Embracing Innovation in Government. The report provided a global review of how innovation is transforming government operations and enhancing people’s lives, cementing the significant partnership between WGS and the OECD.

In 2018, His Excellency Achim Steiner highlighted technology’s role in innovative governance. In 2019, Steiner affirmed the SDGs’ potential to promote equitable, thriving societies.
League of Arab States
In 2023, the Arab League underscored the importance of education and government support for youth, along with the significance of digital transformation in Arab countries. In 2022, amid global conflicts and potential crises, the League advocated for policy reassessment, capacity-building, and the creation of a demilitarized Middle East. These actions highlight the League’s dedication to youth, digital progression, and crisis resilience.

International Monetary Fund
The International Monetary Fund (IMF), strive for sustainable growth, financial stability, job creation, and increased productivity and have been a vital part of the Summit over the years. Since 2016, they have partnered with the Arab Monetary Fund to deliver the annual Arab Fiscal Forum. From 2016, they were central to vital discussions on market volatility, the transformative role of new technologies, inclusive growth, and the importance of female inclusion in economic development. In 2019, important sessions focused on global trade, Brexit, and the impacts of the Fourth Industrial Revolution on women and job markets. The IMF’s work during the COVID-19 crisis, which supported economically vulnerable countries and fostered global interest rate growth, was showcased in 2022. In 2023, the IMF’s Managing Director, Her Excellency Kristalina Georgieva, expressed optimism for the post-pandemic economic recovery.

Gulf Cooperation Council
In 2022, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) highlighted its crucial role in promoting regional security and stability. In 2023, the GCC underscored the critical nature of leaders’ backing and oversight to ensure administrations, institutions, and individuals can swiftly adjust to changes. They developed a vision for an integrated, sustainable civil service based on cooperation, creativity, innovation, and transparency.

Islamic Development Bank
The Islamic Development Bank has been an important contributor to the Summit’s discourse. In 2023, the organization underlined the need for efficient regulation and strong leadership to drive socioeconomic development. Amid global economic uncertainty, it also emphasized the importance of investing in human and social capital, in conjunction with technology, to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

Centro Latinoamericano de Administración para el Desarrollo
In 2019, the Centro Latinoamericano de Administración para el Desarrollo (CLAD) participated in a roundtable in partnership with the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. The session focused on enhancing the exchange of government innovations among regions and countries and reflected CLAD’s commitment to promoting dialogue and cooperation in administrative development and public policy.
Over the past 10 years, media partners have played an essential role in fostering the World Government Summit’s reputation and reach by promoting its objectives and providing exposure and analysis of its events and discussions. The Summit’s audience has grown significantly since it began, with millions of people now tuning in to participate in the discussions, debates, and presentations.

These partnerships enable WGS to reach new audiences across different platforms, including print, online, and social media. By leveraging the expertise and resources of partners such as Sky News, Bloomberg, CNN, The National, Forbes, and CNBC, the Summit has been able to produce high-quality content that engages a global audience.

The Summit’s media partners do more than share information; they create it by conducting interviews with speakers, attendees, and organizers, and producing special reports or features on the event’s themes and outcomes. As WGS continues to grow and evolve, media partnerships will remain a critical component of its outreach and engagement strategy.
CNN
CNN is a world leader in media production and distribution with a portfolio of news and information services in more than 200 countries. As a media partner, CNN provides extensive coverage of the Summit and its themes, including live broadcasts, interviews with key participants, special reports, and the provision of world-class session moderators.

CNN streams live news reports directly from the Summit across the globe. In 2023, CNN anchor and WGS moderator Richard Quest interviewed Hussain Sajwani, Founder and Chairman of DAMAC Properties, live from the event about the benefits of living in Dubai, Dubai real estate, and his aspirations for the future of the city.

TIME
As one of the Summit’s media partners, TIME magazine held their TIME100 Impact Awards and Gala during the Summit in both 2022 and 2023. This prestigious event recognizes leaders from across the globe who go above and beyond to advance their industries, communities and in turn, the world.

In 2023, the event was held in the awe-inspiring surroundings of the Museum of the Future. Attended by more than 200 people from the worlds of business, government, entertainment, and sport, the event celebrated global changemakers including conservationist Farwiza Farhan and actor Idris Elba.

Forbes
Forbes Middle East is a dynamic business-focused media agency. In addition to its widely circulated monthly magazine, the agency boasts a significant online and social media presence. As a valued media partner of the Summit, Forbes Middle East reports on the event through their experienced journalists, who moderate sessions and forums, conduct interviews, and share event snapshots and articles.

In 2022, Forbes hosted its 30 Under 30 Forum at the Summit. This influential initiative recognizes exceptional young leaders, entrepreneurs, and industry figures who are under the age of 30 across 20 categories. Competition for this coveted recognition is fierce, with over 15,000 nominations received annually.

Bloomberg
As a global business and financial information news leader, Bloomberg is a natural collaborator with the World Government Summit. Its mission is to provide consumers with real-time business and market information. To help achieve this, it reports widely on the Summit, provides high-level moderators for some of the most influential sessions, and its top editors offer invaluable insights into global media challenges.

In 2019, in a series of sessions under the theme ‘What Is New in the News?’, Editor-in-Chief Emeritus of Bloomberg News Matthew Winkler took part in discussions that looked at the future of the news business. The dialogues included the inevitable impact of AI and content co-creation between men and machines.
“The global aspirational roadmap reminds us of the importance of international cooperation”

Franco Fenoglio
Head of the Human Spaceflight and Transportation Unit at Thales Alenia Space
2018
Cross Collaboration

Bringing together policy-makers, experts, and innovators from across the globe, the World Government Summit has become a catalyst for positive change and development. The event connects the brightest minds through its forums and initiatives, breaking down silos and encouraging partnerships across borders and sectors to empower governments and organizations to overcome the world’s biggest struggles.

Roundtables and ministerial meetings held on the sidelines of the event enable collaboration at the highest level. Here, nations, governments, and businesses engage in bilateral agreements to enhance progress and create a more inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable world.
Roundtables

Since 2013, roundtable meetings have been central to the Summit’s agenda. The primary objective of these meetings is to convene parties with a shared interest in a specific topic and enable them to engage in deep discussions that can inform their thinking and, in turn, their actions. Unlike traditional meetings where one person takes the lead, roundtable meetings are designed to encourage equal participation.

The first roundtable was held in 2013 and saw senior ministers from across the globe come together to discuss how government services can be made more effective, efficient, and citizen oriented. Over the Summit’s subsequent decade, these high-level meetings have covered a range of topics, including economic development, environmental sustainability, social justice, and technological innovation.

The topics discussed at these meetings are often linked to the forums that make up the main agenda. For example, in 2022 with the rise of cryptocurrency high on the global agenda, the Global Cryptocurrency Forum was held at the Summit. The forum gathered technologists and regulators to set clear priorities on blockchain use. Concurrently, a roundtable was held entitled “How Can Governments develop Innovative Policies for Cryptocurrency Adoption?” that was attended by select industry leaders, experts and policy-makers charged with developing these new policies.

Roundtables are also used to assemble individuals who possess particular expertise, skill sets, or job roles. In 2017, the Summit hosted a closed roundtable exclusively for mayors to share their unique experiences and perspectives on their roles. This roundtable provided them with an exceptional platform to meet, exchange ideas, and share best practices.

These meetings are a critical component of WGS as they provide a space for diverse global leaders to engage in meaningful and constructive dialogue. This collaborative approach to problem-solving helps foster a sense of shared responsibility and collective action toward building a better future for all.
CEO Dialogue
Kicking off in 2019, the CEO Dialogue began as an invite-only, in-person event that in its first edition, saw CEO’s come together and experience Dubai while networking and engaging on topics such as economic and social changes in the region, global growth, and development opportunities. It was an opportunity for leaders from top international and regional companies to discuss business challenges and opportunities in the Middle East and globally.

Once the pandemic hit, the CEO Dialogue went online before returning for its third edition in December 2021. The discussions highlighted the importance of creating solutions that promote regional economic prosperity, with executives outlining key priorities for governments and the need for cooperation with international organizations and the private sector to foster a sustainable economy.

This edition of the CEO Dialogue roundtable facilitated a Middle East focused, but globally relevant, conversation on important business topics, allowing executives to share their insights and collaborate to generate solutions for regional and global economic development.

Global Governance in AI Roundtable
The inaugural Global Governance in AI Forum was held in 2018, gathering an impressive collective of almost 100 technology experts. Their shared mission: establish an ethical foundation for the rise of artificial intelligence. Roundtable workshops focusing on defining global norms for AI governance were a central part of the forum.

The effort extended beyond the Summit, with a six-month incubation and curation period yielding 14 research papers and a strategic roadmap for the 2019 event. This event featured a one-day collective intelligence workshop, leading to an action-oriented policy summary.

Climate Change and Public Health Roundtable
A diverse cohort of representatives from both public and private sectors gathered in a collaborative roundtable session as part of the Summit’s 2019 Climate Change Forum.

Their focus was on dissecting the profound connection between climate change and public health. Recognizing the intertwined nature of these two issues, the participants debated the pledges that must be made by governments and other stakeholders at the forthcoming UN Climate Summit, and other international proceedings.
Strategic Roundtables with the International Monetary Fund

In partnership with the International Monetary Fund, the UAE Government co-hosted a series of strategic roundtables addressing key economic challenges and opportunities in the Arab region. These roundtables spotlighted fiscal governance, SME development, financial inclusion, and climate finance.

The Improving Fiscal Governance Roundtable session in 2019 brought together international policy-makers to discuss strengthening institutional frameworks to curtail governance vulnerabilities. Innovative solutions to uplift the Arab region’s economies were key topics.

The roundtable on ‘SME Development and Financial Inclusion in the Arab Region,’ held the same year, saw finance ministers, central bank governors, and representatives from key financial institutions deliberate on narrowing the lending gap for SMEs.

Most recently, the 2023 Ministerial Roundtable with Arab Finance Ministers, held in partnership with the Arab Monetary Fund, dove into financial system reforms, focusing on reinforcing the commitment of emerging economies, the private sector, and financial institutions to overcome climate finance challenges. These roundtables underscored the necessity for enhanced cooperation and effective means to secure private finance for pro-growth investments, particularly in renewable and clean energy and climate-smart food production.

Government Services Forum

In 2022, the fourth iteration of the Government Services Forum, guided by the theme ‘People, Purpose, and Possibilities’ and under the patronage of the Emirates Government Service Excellence Programme, served as a vibrant arena for comprehensive discussions on digital government services.

Through two critical roundtable sessions, an international assortment of ministers, thought leaders, private sector experts, and customer experience innovators tackled the task of evolving government services to meet dynamic citizen expectations.

Africa Futures Forum

WGS, alongside the United Nations Development Programme and the African Union (AU) – African Peer Review Mechanism, co-hosted the transformative Africa Futures Forum in 2020. Central to the virtual event was a series of ministerial roundtables, which convened top-tier officials from the UAE and six African nations.

These dynamic dialogues fostered the exchange of successful strategies and outlined a roadmap for the AU’s Agenda 2033 and the UN’s Agenda 2030. The roundtables also focused on innovative governmental models to counteract the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic and initiated discussions on strategies to achieve regional and global aspirations.
“Government effectiveness is achieved by strong leadership that pursues good governance, develops sound and predictable policies, and builds solid institutional frameworks”

HE Dr Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser
Chairman of the Islamic Development Bank Group
2023
Holding high-level meetings at the Summit allows ministers to optimize their time and resources while taking advantage of the diverse range of expertise and perspectives represented at the event. Additionally, the Summit’s international reach, reputation, and relevance to global governance make it an ideal venue for these meetings.

The GCC Telecommunications Ministers’ Roundtable, held at the WGS in 2014, marked the beginning of focused ministerial meetings at the event. The roundtable brought together communications and information technology ministers from the GCC countries to discuss opportunities for collaboration and exchange knowledge and experiences.

Initially focused on the Middle East region, as the Summit looked to enable global change, so did some of the ministerial meetings. In 2018, 16 ministers attended the Global Policy Platform, which included two ministerial roundtable meetings examining a range of topics, including trade and globalization, government innovation, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, education, economic policies, and financial technology.

As the Summit has evolved, ministerial meetings continue to lend weight to its forums. In 2019, the inaugural Advanced Skills Forum sought to enable future generations to adapt to the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Alongside the industry experts and academics working to make an impact, a high-level ministerial meeting was held to explore how innovation could be integrated into education and recruitment.

Ministerial meetings held at the World Government Summit are a crucial part of the global agenda. By providing a platform for policy-makers to come together and exchange ideas, these meetings help to build consensus on issues of international importance and enable cooperation between countries. They are an essential forum for tackling some of the most significant issues facing the world today.
Arab Administrative Development Ministers’ Meeting

 Held in partnership with the Arab Administrative Development Organization, the Arab Administrative Development Ministers’ Meeting was a key highlight of the 2022 Arab Public Administration Forum. It convened Arab ministers to discuss opportunities for promoting public administration, improving government systems and services, and ensuring readiness for the future.

 Among the topics discussed were the Arab Government Excellence Award, which recognizes governments in the region for their achievements in public administration, and the first Arab Public Administration Report, which provided recommendations on enhancing government efficiency. The Arab Administrative Development Ministers’ Meeting gave ministers from across the Arab world the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences, discuss common challenges, and develop strategies for enhancing public administration in the region. By focusing on key areas such as government efficiency, effectiveness, and innovation, the meeting promoted excellence in public administration.

 Ministerial Roundtable with Arab Youth Ministers

 In 2023, the Arab Meeting for Young Leaders witnessed its second edition, with lively and engaging conversations on a range of vital topics, including the role of digital content, post-modern identity, the Arabic language as a unifying force, and the power of positivity and triumph in the Arab story. Participants from various Arab countries brought their unique perspectives and insights to bear, sharing their views on contemporary role models.

 Building on the insights gained from this meeting, the Ministerial Roundtable for Arab Youth Ministers convened 15 influential leaders from the Arab region. The roundtable explored the objectives and purpose of the youth sector in the Arab world. It was a crucial part of the Summit’s youth-focused agenda, providing an opportunity for collaboration and collective action among Arab youth ministers.
“A company is just a group of people; a government organization is a group of people too. If you can inspire and motivate your people, you can create something exceptional”

Sir Richard Branson
Founder of Virgin Group, Entrepreneur
2014
Memorandums of Understanding

The Summit has witnessed the signing of more than 145 memoranda of understanding (MOUs) that strengthen global ties and bolster cooperation between governments, private sector entities, and humanitarian organizations. These agreements encourage the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and best practices that extend beyond the event itself, leading to continued progress in these crucial areas.

By bringing together heads of state and government ministers alongside industry experts and innovators, the Summit presents a unique opportunity for new partnerships to form that may not have otherwise emerged. While the signing of MOUs formalizes agreements between parties and establishes a framework for mutual cooperation, they can take a number of different forms. Notably, the Summit has facilitated key agreements between governments to share expertise with other countries. At the 2017 Summit, for example, an MOU was signed between Her Excellency Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi, then-Minister of State for Happiness of the UAE and Vice Chairman of the World Government Summit, and Her Excellency Angela Maria Gonzales Loayza, Secretary General of the Administrative Department of Civil Service of Colombia, to promote cooperation between their respective governments.
The MOUs can cover a range of topics, such as trade, education, security, and environmental cooperation. Considering the Summit’s emphasis on looking ahead to the future, the event has also led to new agreements in the fields of innovation, technology, and automation. On the sidelines of the Summit in 2018, the UAE and Portugal signed an agreement that pledged to enhance collaboration in areas of public governance, digitization, and e-governance.

MOU between the UAE and Portugal

In addition to intergovernmental MOUs, agreements are also signed between different sectors, such as between governments and businesses, or between governments and non-governmental organizations. These MOUs are often focused on specific issues or initiatives and strengthen efforts towards achieving a common goal. The Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology of the UAE signed an MOU with IBM at the 2022 World Government Summit in order to support the Champions 4.0 Network, an ecosystem promoting digital transformation in UAE industries.
MOU agreeing UAE’s Hosting of the 71st International Astronautical Congress

MOUs are also signed at the Summit to launch new initiatives, projects, or events. These agreements often include specific targets and timelines, establishing a framework for collaboration and coordination. At the 2019 World Government Summit, an MOU announced that Dubai would host the 71st International Astronautical Congress. This agreement sought to not only boost the UAE’s space program but also enhance communications between the global space community.

MOU between Emirates and France

In a deal inked at the World Government Summit in 2018, Emirates Airline and Airbus came together to expand their longstanding partnership. The MOU for 20 additional A380 aircraft and 16 options, which solidified the preliminary agreement announced earlier in January, was signed by His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and CEO of Emirates Airline and Group, and Mikail Houari, President of Airbus Africa Middle East. Present were His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and His Excellency Édouard Philippe, Prime Minister of France.

Media Agency MOU for Tolerance

In 2019, a pivotal agreement was signed by 25 different global media bodies on the sidelines of the Summit. Initiated by the Emirates News Agency, the News Agencies Tolerance Charter is an initiative aiming to promote openness, cooperation, and positive thinking among people and audiences.

MOU between the UAE and Georgia

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, met with His Excellency Irakli Garibashvili, Prime Minister of Georgia, at the 2023 World Government Summit to witness the signing of a strategic MOU aimed at enhancing cooperation in government excellence between the two countries. As part of the UAE’s Experience Exchange Program, the partnership enables governments to share expertise in relation to government modernization, empowering officials with future-ready tools and solutions.
The GovHack Series is a global competition initiated by the World Government Summit to recognize and award startups and individuals who create innovative technologies that address global challenges. Forming part of the Summit’s established GovTech Prize, the initiative aims to connect the world’s brightest minds, champion their ideas, and support the growth of future-ready solutions that enable governments to better serve their citizens.

Established in 2018, the competition saw teams from five cities across the globe compete to showcase their innovative and exciting ideas at the World Government Summit.

GovHack Participating Cities:
- New Delhi, India
- London, United Kingdom
- Berlin, Germany
- Santiago, Chile
- Washington, DC, United States
GovHack Series Finalists

In 2018, preliminary competitions for the GovHack Series were held in the five selected cities. Entrants were asked to respond to one of four challenges: Governance and Resilience, Economy and Society, Environment and Health, and Future and Progress. Selected entries were invited to attend events in which they pitched their ideas and collaborated with prominent thought leaders and industry professionals via presentations, high-level roundtables, and panel discussions. The winning startups from each city were awarded $10,000 and put forward for the final stage of the competition, held at the 2019 World Government Summit.

The competition offered all finalists the opportunity to further develop their ideas at Dubai’s incubation hub, Area 2071, where there was the potential to connect with government entities, innovators, and researchers. Judged on criteria such as feasibility, scalability, sustainability, and prospects for commercialization, the GovHack Series winner was presented with a $100,000 investment prize.
Podaris
City: London
Challenge: Economy and Society

The winning team in London presented an innovative approach to designing city infrastructure. Their real-time urban planning platform was designed to remove communication barriers between governments, planners, and engineers to boost productivity. By ensuring all stakeholders are on the same page, the platform facilitates effective collaboration. The team’s successful implementation of the technology on American campuses and in zero-carbon transport networks in Africa demonstrated the platform’s potential to positively impact society.

Invest Sou Sou
City: Washington, DC
Challenge: Governance and Resilience

A smart, social banking solution was announced as the winner at the Washington, DC, event. Aimed at empowering the people who traditional financing systems overlook, Invest Sou Sou harnesses machine learning, artificial intelligence, and the power of social networking to create a platform on which people can contribute towards community accounts.

Muvsmart
City: Santiago
Challenge: Environment and Health

In Santiago, the winning idea, Muvsmart (a last-mile delivery company) proposed a sustainable and low-carbon logistics solution. Based on a fleet of electric cars and cargo bikes, the startup showcased how algorithms and machine-learning technology could optimize routes, achieve greater efficiencies, and reduce delivery times.

Chainframe
City: New Delhi
Challenge: Governance and Resilience

A blockchain e-governance tool was judged to be the most effective solution to the challenge set in New Delhi. Comprising a public finance management system, the unique platform enables governments to identify beneficiaries via biometric technology and disburse funds using cryptocurrency vouchers. With the idea that vendors would accept the vouchers and sell them back to the state, the solution offered an innovative way for governments to collect information and distribute benefits to citizens.
Made of Air
City: Berlin
Challenge: Future and Progress

Made of Air was named the Berlin winner and the overall winner of the 2019 GovHack Series. The German-based startup developed a carbon-negative building material to tackle the construction industry’s growing carbon footprint. With the potential for the product to be implemented across all areas of the built environment, Made of Air offers governments a scalable, sustainable solution to actively reverse climate change and transform the way future cities are built.
“One of the tasks of modern governments is to build and develop the knowledge economy, digital economy, and innovative infrastructure”

HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah
Prime Minister of Kuwait
2022
A Legacy of Collaboration

Partnerships for a Better Future

On the sidelines of each World Government Summit, policymakers and industry leaders convene at roundtable meetings where agreements and memoranda of understanding are signed. Collaborations between countries and across sectors have launched initiatives and led to mutually beneficial outcomes, including the exchange of knowledge and support to effectively reach development goals. As such, the World Government Summit has become a catalyst for global progress, with signed agreements having a lasting impact on future governance and, in turn, the future of the world.
Developing Modern Governments

The UAE Government Experience Exchange Programme (GEEP), initiated in 2018 by the Prime Minister’s Office at the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, is a game-changer in the field of governmental collaboration. GEEP’s mission is to foster the transfer of the UAE’s experiences and best practices in government development and modernization to other nations.

One of the key aspects of GEEP is its global outreach. Partnering with more than 30 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean, GEEP has established a broad international footprint. These partnerships, underpinned by MOUs signed at the World Government Summit, aim to build institutional capacities for government development in these nations.

GEEP focuses on several strategic areas of cooperation: government services, government excellence, government accelerators, government performance, government innovation, competitiveness and statistics, leadership and capacity building, government human resources, programming, and startup and entrepreneurship. These areas exemplify the UAE’s commitment to providing comprehensive support in government modernization.

The following partnership case studies encapsulate GEEP’s dedication to fostering innovation and empowerment and provide real-world instances of positive change. They stand as evidence of GEEP’s commitment towards a more promising future for everyone.

Costa Rica
Costa Rica’s partnership with GEEP, formalized at WGS in 2019, focuses on enhancing cooperation and exchanging experiences in areas such as capacity-building. With a staggering 1,800 hours of training involving 405 trainees conducted within a three-year span, this collaboration stands testament to the transformative power of GEEP.
Uzbekistan

Similarly, the partnership with Uzbekistan, initiated in April 2019, is designed to modernize government work and foster knowledge exchange in various fields. The project, with a 10-year duration, features an impressive 27 workstreams and numerous workshops and has touched the lives of millions of trainees, showcasing GEEP’s commitment to nurturing sustainable government development.

**27 WORKSTREAMS**

across a variety of fields aimed at enhancing cooperation and exchanging experiences

**544 WORKSHOPS**

held to help build the capacity for government development

Albania

Albania entered the GEEP network during the World Government Summit 2023. A new, exciting partnership, the Summit saw the two countries come together and discuss ways to strengthen cooperation across various mutually beneficial fields. The bilateral agreement aims to consolidate the exchange of knowledge and expertise in the field of government excellence, highlighting the dynamic and evolving nature of the programme.

**3 YEAR PARTNERSHIP**

aimed at exchanging knowledge and expertise in government excellence
A Green Hydrogen Project

At the World Government Summit in 2018, an MOU was signed between Siemens, Expo 2020 Dubai, and Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) to launch a pilot project for the region’s first solar-driven hydrogen electrolysis facility. With the intention of producing hydrogen from solar power at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the agreement sought to accelerate renewable energy integration and transition the UAE to a greener and more sustainable economy.

The pioneering project was successfully inaugurated in 2021 by His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and Chairman of the Expo 2020 Dubai Higher Committee. Spanning over 10,000 square meters, the plant has been designed to accommodate future applications and test platforms for the different uses of hydrogen, including potential mobility and industrial uses. As well as aligning with Dubai’s Clean Energy Strategy to provide 75% of Dubai’s total power capacity from clean energy sources by 2050, the project is also in accordance with the Dubai Green Mobility Initiative 2030, which encourages the use of sustainable transport to lower the city’s carbon footprint.

His Excellency Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Managing Director and CEO of DEWA, hailed the project as a roadmap for hydrogen use. At the 2023 Summit, Al Tayer signed a further MOU with Saif Humaid Al Falasi, CEO of Emirates National Oil Company, to explore the potential of implementing hydrogen fueling stations in the region. The project has developed the UAE’s hydrogen economy as well as showcased the potential of adopting renewable energies in the fight against climate change.
Shaping the Leadership of Tomorrow

Ten years ago, the World Government Summit was formed to shape future governments, inspiring and enabling them to adapt to the changing world around them to build a better future for humanity.

Always setting the agenda for the most forward-thinking governments in the world, WGS has led discussions about Web 3.0 in the Global Metaverse Forum, the rise of cryptocurrencies and blockchain in the Global Crypto Forum, and the implications for humanity of artificial intelligence in the Global AI Forum.

It has redefined citizen wellbeing in the Global Dialogue for Happiness, formed partnerships for investment and innovation in the Global Energy Forum and Global Climate Tech and Policy Forum, and encouraged knowledge sharing in a range of formats, including the Experience Exchange Forum, GCE Best Practices, Government Services Forum, GX Talks, and more.

With a focus on youth, as under-30s make up 60% of the population in the Arab world, WGS has spearheaded numerous youth-oriented initiatives that have shed light on the priorities and capabilities of the next generation and placed youth at the center of efforts to shape future governments.

The World Government Summit also recognizes the changemakers shaping government services through global awards honoring the achievements of government ministers, the private sector, innovators, and creators for their exceptional contributions to building a better society for humanity.
“The UAE has always been at the forefront of innovation and progress and this Summit serves as a testament to the country’s unwavering commitment to promoting global cooperation”

HE Irakli Garibashvili
Prime Minister of Georgia
2023
Comprising panel discussions, workshops, and roundtable meetings, the World Government Summit’s forums have been orchestrated to encourage global dialogues on urgent global concerns. Contributors from the public and private sectors are invited to share insights and collaborate on solutions that will incite new methods of governance and positively impact communities around the world.

Often held in association with strategic partners, the forums provide an opportunity to home in on specific topics, collate knowledge, report progress, and make real headway in areas of sustainable development.
Not long after the unanimous adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by United Nations member states, a visionary framework promoting peace and prosperity for both humanity and the planet, SDGs in Action @ WGS was inaugurated during the 2016 World Government Summit. This dynamic platform actively propels efforts towards realizing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Since its inception, the forum has become emblematic of propelling innovation and fostering impactful change. It offers a comprehensive platform for shaping every facet of goal attainment, encompassing visions, strategies, and implementation plans, as well as data tracking, monitoring, and reporting. It spans policies, partnerships, and best practices while encouraging collaboration, fostering creativity, and engaging with communities. Above all, it recognizes the interconnectivity and dependency between the SDGs and encourages the global community to form partnerships to help meet them.

The forum unites top government officials, representatives from international organizations, foundations, academia, the private sector, media professionals, social influencers, and young people. Held in collaboration with notable partners such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as well as various local and global stakeholders, the forum centers its attention on the critical significance of channeling collective international endeavors to accomplish the SDGs.
2016
With the fifteen-year implementation timeframe for achieving the SDGs kicking off on January 1, 2016, this three-day program was one of the first global events on the SDGs. Held on the sidelines of the Summit, the forum orchestrated a series of mini-sessions and interactive panels, culminating in a range of recommendations and initiatives geared towards the global execution of the SDGs.

2017
In 2017, three innovative solutions were recognized and selected by the general audience for their potential to make a significant local and global impact. These ideas, which aimed to enhance health and wellbeing, reduce inequality, and foster gender equality, were formulated during brainstorming sessions in dedicated focus groups at the forum. The most promising of these concepts received backing to develop a prototype, which was then showcased at the UN’s Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation in New York, United States.
2018
This edition of the forum witnessed the launch of the Global Councils on SDGs, a unique interdisciplinary network bringing together decision-makers from the public and private sectors to share cutting-edge practices, discuss the creative implementation of the SDGs, and build new partnerships. The councils address global challenges through innovative projects, whitepapers, and initiatives and create new partnerships between countries and organizations as they seek to implement their work.

2019
In 2019, the SDGs in Action heard from governments that were putting the SDGs at the heart of policy-making. World leaders facing economic turmoil in Argentina and the refugee crisis in Lebanon showcased the benefits of using the SDGs as a foundation on which to shape the nations’ economic and political agendas. Panelists discussing sustainable development agreed that it had become an integral driving force for progress and something that must be embraced in every aspect of government policy.
2020–2021

In 2020, SDGs in Action continued to draw governments into dialogue surrounding the SDGs, even amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Convening online to celebrate the end of the first term of the Global Councils on SDGs, the forum highlighted the successful implementation of the councils’ global initiatives. Decision-makers, country representatives, Global Council chairs, and youth representatives addressed the role of governments in implementing the SDGs and realizing the human potential of all.

The second virtual forum was held in 2021 under the theme ‘Preparing for the Next Decade’. It reached an even wider audience, engaging 1,000 officials, experts, and specialists from around the world in determining governments’ roles in implementing the SDGs, empowering individuals and communities, and developing infrastructure. The second term of the Global Councils on SDGs was announced, with the scope expanded to include youth representatives.

2022

In 2022, the forum was held at Expo 2020 Dubai, bringing decision-makers back together at the first major event following the global disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Leaders regrouped, taking stock of the major challenges and emerging opportunities presented by the changed global landscape. Having now entered the ‘Decade of Action’, participants emphasized the urgency of galvanizing international efforts to realize Agenda 2030.

2023

With less than seven years until the Agenda 2030 deadline, His Excellency Abdulla Lootah, Deputy Minister of Cabinet Affairs for Competitiveness and Experience Exchange, Vice Chairperson of the UAE National Committee on SDGs, opened the forum with a resounding call to action: “According to the most recent data, we as a global society will not achieve one single SDG by 2030. Shame on all of us.” However, he stressed that there is still hope as long as partnerships between nations, as well as the public and private sectors, are forged in pursuit of the SDGs.
“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”

Dr Amina J Mohamed
Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations
2019
Arab Public Administration Forum

In order to chart a course toward a stable and prosperous future for the Arab world, governments – which tend to lead development in Arab countries and provide an inefficiently high proportion of employment, among other challenges – need to modernize. In light of this, the World Government Summit is helping guide the reform of Arab regimes through the 2022 launch of the Arab Public Administration Forum. In cooperation with the Arab Administrative Development Organization, the forum works to promote public administration, evolve public systems and services for Arab societies, and enhance their readiness for the future.
The first Arab Public Administration Forum convened 60 high-level government officials and public service ministers from Arab countries, as well as representatives from international organizations including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Participants focused on defining the issues facing Arab governments, such as persistent high unemployment, unsustainable financial conditions, an uncompetitive business environment, weak economic diversification, and a lack of reform and development plans. The session also considered solutions for modernizing governments in the region and enacting radical, sustainable reforms.

The first State of Arab Administration report, co-authored by five experts from prestigious Arab universities, informed the agenda for the discussions. Compiled following nearly 2,000 interviews with Arab civil servants, the report presented recommendations and guidelines on enhancing government efficiency and effectiveness, developing services, and future-proofing administrations. It also outlined the directions that will shape public administration in the region for the next decade.

As he opened the forum’s inaugural edition, His Excellency Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, advised governments to prepare for future crises, such as climate change, pandemics, and other unpredictable disasters. He urged governments to reconsider their priorities and build flexible and efficient government departments, highlighting that capacity-building, digitization, and innovation are among the elements that will define the future of government administration in an ever-changing world.
The forum’s second edition was held under the theme ‘Government Digital Transformation’, and explored the ways Arab countries are investing in digital transformation. Ministers of digital economy, communication technology, and e-government shared their countries’ experiences and illustrated how they were adopting national strategies to build infrastructure, develop regulatory systems, and upskill the workforce in preparation for the future economy.

Among other topics, the forum involved framing policies related to the challenges of cybersecurity and crafting visions and ambitions for future governments. It acknowledged the challenges regarding the digital gap between Arab nations that are advanced in digitizing government services and those still at the very start of their journey and urged advanced nations to share their expertise and provide support and advice based on successful models of implementation.

In line with the imperative to increase collaboration between the public and private sectors in the Arab world, the forum also heard from companies from across the region involved in fintech, enterprise, electronics, and e-learning about the government’s role in digital transformation.
“Let us build government capabilities and reprioritize based on foresight, innovation, and resilience to enhance the performance and efficiency of government administration in a changing world”

HE Ahmed Aboul Gheit
Secretary General of the League of Arab States
2022
Global Health Forum

The first Global Health Forum, held in association with the World Health Organization (WHO) at the 2019 World Government Summit, put pandemic preparedness on the agenda months before the first COVID-19 case was reported. Looking to future challenges and opportunities in the health sector, the forum explored the shift from physician-driven to patient-centered care. It focused on using preventative care to optimize population health outcomes, the role of new techniques such as cellular therapeutics, and government preparedness.

The forum elaborated on a warning issued by WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at WGS 2018 that the world must prepare for a global pandemic. The audience heard about Disease X, a placeholder name coined by the WHO for a hypothetical pathogen that could cause a future global epidemic.

In 2020, with the world more focused on healthcare systems than ever before, the Summit held a Virtual Health Forum, in which Dr Ghebreyesus called for national unity and global solidarity in the face of the pandemic. The forum predicted that the effects of the crisis—which by that time had struck more than eight million people, but would reach nearly 800 million by 2023—would be felt for decades to come.

More than 20,000 people attended the 2020 online event, and in 2021, the WGS Dialogues convened experts again via video link to discuss issues surrounding the health sector, such as global efforts toward vaccine development and distribution.
2022
When it returned after the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022, the Global Health Forum, held at Expo 2020 Dubai, examined the post-pandemic health agenda. Under the theme ‘Designing the Future of Healthcare Systems,’ it guided governments in the measures they must take to prepare for future crises.

Other central themes exposed by the pandemic were the parallel crises in mental health and equity in healthcare delivery. Dr Magdi Yacoub, one of the world’s most respected cardiac surgeons and a Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London, cited that an unacceptable 75% of those who die every year from heart disease are from middle- and low-income countries. The speakers examined how the digitization of healthcare delivery after lockdowns forced the sector to adopt healthcare technologies, such as telemedicine, and recognized the importance of frontline staff. A high-level panel discussion titled ‘Rebalancing Global Health Issues’ reviewed how health challenges and priorities have shifted.

2023
At the 2023 edition of the Global Health Forum, policy-makers, practitioners, and industry experts from various fields mapped out what governments must do to build resilient healthcare systems. At the center of discussions were vigilance against disease and ensuring sustainable preparedness against future health threats.

His Excellency Abdulrahman Al Owais, Minister of Health and Prevention of the UAE, warned that climate change is expected to cause 250,000 additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050 from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and heat stress, costing an estimated $2 billion to $4 billion per year by 2030. He explained that healthcare system policies, the healthcare workforce, and digital healthcare technologies are crucial to building health resilience for the future.
SHAPE | FOCUSED FORUMS

Women in Government Forum

The Women in Government Forum reflects the importance the World Government Summit places on empowering and supporting women, achieving gender balance in government, and ensuring women are a key pillar of strategic leadership. Reflecting the UAE Government’s values and actions to ensure women hold senior government positions, the dialogues held at the Women in Government Forum help build a framework for women’s empowerment, raising awareness of their importance in the public sector, nurturing the next generation, and building a network of female government leaders.
2019

At the inaugural Women in Government Forum, influential female leaders explored models for bringing more women into government roles. Among them, Her Excellency Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, shared her approach to supporting women in leadership with Her Excellency Sarah bint Youssif Al Amiri, Minister of State for Advanced Sciences of the UAE. Clark noted that women in leadership positions have a responsibility to enable other women to become leaders as well. Other panels examined the necessary conditions for encouraging women to pursue careers in the public sector, ways of supporting women in business through public-private partnerships, and how social welfare systems can provide greater opportunities for women.

2022

The Women in Government Forum reconvened at Expo 2020 Dubai for its second edition in 2022. Participants discussed a concerning trend highlighted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Bank. According to their reports, nearly 57% of government employees are women, but women hold fewer than 30% of senior positions. The World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Report forecasts that at the current rate of progress, it will take nearly 146 years to reach gender parity in politics. It revealed that only 26.1% of the 35,500 parliament seats in 156 countries are held by women.

In order to accelerate achieving greater female representation in leadership roles, the Women in Government Forum convened global heads of state, government ministers, and leaders of international organizations. The series of 14 addresses and panel discussions highlighted how more women in leadership roles can build resilient societies as well as provide fresh perspectives, new ideas, and a collaborative spirit to government work. Notable speakers included Her Excellency María Juliana Ruiz Sandoval, the First Lady of Colombia, who addressed the Summit about the crucial role women play in achieving the SDGs.
2023
Influential women in government, including Tunisia’s first female prime minister, Her Excellency Najla Bouden Romdhane, Her Excellency Kersti Kaljulaid, the fifth President of Estonia, Her Excellency Jessica Alupo, Vice President of Uganda, and female ministers from around the world, shaped the discussions at the 2023 Women in Government Forum. The forum was held under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Manal bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, President of the UAE Gender Balance Council, and President of the Dubai Women Establishment.

It explored how governments can pledge their support and reinforced commitments to empowering more women to reach the highest levels of decision-making.
The Arab Meeting for Young Leaders brings together young government talent from across the Arab world and is the largest event of its kind. It aims to unify efforts, build quality partnerships, and draw up joint action plans that serve Arab youth and empower them across all government sectors.

As almost 60% of the Arab population is under 30, the forum recognizes the unique opportunity – as well as the responsibility of governments – to harness this generation’s potential to contribute to the development and stability of the region. To achieve this, the meeting crafts a comprehensive agenda involving high-profile keynote speakers covering the most pressing developments related to youth work. The young leaders participate in working sessions to share experiences and best practices, brainstorm solutions and implementation methods, and review the youth strategies of the various participating countries.

Its outcomes include establishing partnerships and publishing data and studies to form a clearer and more comprehensive picture of the reality and future of Arab youth. This serves to enable more effective decision-making on youth issues. The meeting focuses on six main tracks for engaging and empowering Arab youth: citizenship, identity and values, entrepreneurship and jobs, education and capacity building, youth facilities, pioneers and talents, and youth interaction and participation.
Organized by the Arab Youth Center under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Presidential Court of the UAE, and Founder of the Arab Youth Center, the meeting’s inaugural edition was held at the World Government Summit 2022.

In her opening address, Her Excellency Shamma bint Suhail Al Mazrui, Minister of State for Youth Affairs of the UAE and Vice Chair of the Arab Youth Center, called on governments to amplify youth voices. She welcomed the meeting’s objectives of establishing methods of cooperation and looking at the challenges employees face when working with young people. The meeting also looked at ways of strengthening the reputation of Arab youth and their role in environmental sustainability.

The second edition of the Arab Meeting for Young Leaders was held at the 2023 Summit under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Thayab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the Arab Youth Center. It focused on consolidating the identity of Arab youth through the Arabic language, sports, and regional success stories that inspire hope and national pride among young citizens.

Sheikh Thayab highlighted the role of governments in harnessing the energy of youth in sustainability projects, stressing the significance of listening to youth, utilizing their ideas, and encouraging them to be actively involved in building the future of their societies.

His Highness Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Chairman of the Ajman Municipality and Planning Department, Vice President of the Arab Youth Center, emphasized how investing in sports is vital to enhancing economic diversification, supporting social and human development, and boosting the status of the Arab region in the world arena. He then cited several recent sporting events and development projects that had revived hope for Arab youth, presenting new opportunities for achievement at the international level.
“As Arab nations, we need young leaders to be pioneers in enhancing excellence in government. We look forward to the participation of talented individuals who can contribute with their creative ideas and innovative initiatives to accelerate growth and advancement in the Arab world”

HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Dubai Executive Council
Recognizing Changemakers

The World Government Summit's annual awards program recognizes the outstanding achievements of ministers, businesses, and innovators who harness new technologies and forge critical partnerships to address global challenges and advance governance and society. Participants from all over the world are invited to showcase their solutions on the global stage, presenting further opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaborations promoting innovation and government excellence.

The awards program comprises various international competitions held online and in different cities, recognizing pioneering approaches in government design, data visualization, and e-governance. Through its Global Universities Challenge, the Summit also encourages undergraduates to provide novel perspectives on government models, laying the foundation for a new era of leadership.
Best Minister Award

The Best Minister Award seeks to mold a new generation of exceptional government ministers by commending those demonstrating excellence in the public sector from around the world. The annual award honors a minister who has implemented a successful, scalable, and sustainable initiative to improve citizens’ lives over the last 18 months, taking into account areas such as socioeconomic impact and innovation.
2016
Greg Hunt
Minister for the Environment and
Acting Minister for Cities and the Built
Environment of Australia

Greg Hunt was recognized for his
pioneering environmental initiatives
that significantly contributed to a 93-
ton reduction in Australia’s carbon
pollution rates.

2017
HE Dr Awa Marie Coll-Seck
Minister of Health and Social Action
of Senegal

Her Excellency Dr Awa Marie Coll-Seck
received the award for her outstanding
work in malaria prevention locally and
internationally, as well as helping curb the
spread of Ebola in Senegal.

2018
HE Sri Mulyani Indrawati
Minister of Finance of Indonesia

Her Excellency Sri Mulyani Indrawati was
recognized for increasing the nation’s
macroeconomic stability, fighting corruption,
promoting transparency in government,
reducing poverty, improving the standard of
living, lowering public debt, and boosting
the transparency of public transactions.

2019
HE Dr Ferozuddin Feroz
Minister of Public Health of Afghanistan

His Excellency Dr Ferozuddin Feroz received
the award for improving the health of
citizens. The country witnessed a drop in
maternal mortality, a 44% reduction in the
death rate for under-fives, and a seven-
year increase in life expectancy at birth
under his leadership.

2022
HE Azucena Arbeleche
Minister of Economy and Finance of Uruguay

In 2022, the award recognized Her
Excellency Azucena Arbeleche for her role in
the nation’s economic recovery through her
work increasing trade exports, investments,
and employment opportunities, as well as
securing vaccines for the country by
establishing a special COVID-19 fund.

2023
Dr David Moinina Sengeh
Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary
Education and Chief Innovation Officer for
the Directorate of Science, Technology and
Innovation of Sierra Leone

Dr David Moinina Sengeh was recognized
as a changemaker in the education sector
for his development and implementation of
an inclusive project for vulnerable students.
In recognition of global efforts to nurture the next generation of innovators, the World Government Summit brings together tomorrow’s leaders and today’s policy-makers in the Shaping Future Governments: Global Universities Challenge. The initiative invites select graduate students of public policy, government relations, political science, and business administration from top international universities and schools to engage in an innovative competition aimed at designing the future of governments. The students work in groups to conceive and develop proposals on how to improve the way governments work, making them more effective, flexible, smart, and transparent.

A judging panel comprising high-level government officials and C-suite executives from renowned corporations appraises the student’s proposals for novelty and innovation, impact and comprehensiveness, viability and feasibility, and their ability to persuade the audience through their presentations.
2017
Harvard Kennedy School
Massachusetts, United States

The 2017 challenge commended the Harvard Kennedy School of Government for its concept focused on motivating general participation through direct interactions between citizens and government, which could help to incentivize civic engagement.

2018
London Business School
London, United Kingdom

London Business School crafted the winning response to the theme of the UAE Centennial 2071 Vision, a multiphase implementation plan including a set of bold, long-term aspirations that could be deployed in any country aiming to build a better nation.

2019
Tuck School of Business
Dartmouth College, United States

A team from the Tuck School of Business was recognized in 2019 for its solutions for resuscitating a failed state after having two days to analyze the situation and devise a strategy.

2023
IE School of Global and Public Affairs
Madrid, Spain

In the 2023 edition, students were challenged to devise practical strategies that would enable governments to proactively shape the future and tackle potential obstacles. Spain’s IE School of Global and Public Affairs won the challenge with its proposal that called for the establishment of a universal charter on digital human rights.
As digital transformation remains a recurring theme for governments, the World Government Summit hosts the GovTech Prize to encourage impact through innovation.

The annual awards highlight exemplary teams and individuals that exhibit boldness in adopting the latest technologies and applying them to tackle some of the toughest global challenges. It also showcases the innovations to the WGS community so that they can be replicated globally to achieve major societal impact.

The GovTech Prize, managed by the GX program, was launched in 2018 by the Emirates Government Service Excellence Program at the Prime Minister’s Office. It recognizes innovations across numerous sectors, including health and wellbeing, education and remote learning, refugees, climate change, and AI-powered government services. These enterprising solutions are likely to create history. For example, Visolis, the recipient of the 2022 award, is a pioneering technology platform that leverages synthetic biology and chemical catalysis to engineer sustainable alternatives to petroleum-based goods. Visolis forged a strategic partnership with the United States Department of Energy, propelling its integration into the realm of manufacturing and resulting in widespread adoption across the industry.

Prize Winners
The first edition of the prize took place in 2018, recognizing several winners, including the Dubai Police for their innovative ‘Protecting Human Life’ app. The app placed a full range of Dubai Police services, such as minor incident reporting and document requests, at residents’ fingertips.

In 2019, the prize continued to recognize both national and international innovation. The UK-based company GP at Hand was awarded the Best m-Government Service Award for their app, which enables users to seek medical advice via an advanced AI chatbot.

The prize then returned post-pandemic for its third edition in 2022, where winners included Flash Forest, a Canadian company that uses drones to plant billions of trees. In 2023, the fourth edition was presided over by His Excellency Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of Egypt. Winners included an environmentally friendly receipt generation app created by the Indian Institute of Technology in Indore, India.
World Data Visualization Prize

Guiding governments to develop more insightful and reliable evidence-based mechanisms for policy-making, the World Data Visualization Prize celebrates the power and beauty of data. This exciting annual competition challenges the global data visualization community to harness the potential of big data and produce artistic works around future government themes.

Conducted in partnership with Information Is Beautiful, an organization dedicated to making sense of the world through visual representations of data, the prize invites creatives to access given data sets and interpret them into meaningful and beautiful narratives.

Contestants are tasked with developing novel designs for a particular concept and its corresponding dataset. They submit their entries as static or interactive visualizations, making the challenge accessible to participants with different levels of resources at their disposal. The entries are then evaluated by a panel of industry-leading experts led by David McCandless, founder of Information Is Beautiful. The judges are looking for entries that demonstrate a strong visual impact that increases clarity, understanding, or curiosity about a topic.
Nikita Rokotyan, founder of data-visualization studio Interacta, was honored for his project ‘An Alternative, Data-driven Country Map,’ an interactive visualization that encourages users to see the world differently by using a machine-learning algorithm to find unseen connections between countries. It identifies clusters of nations that are related across variables such as happiness score, health expenditure, and investment in education.

For the 2023 edition, participants were given 10 years’ worth of government statistics and challenged to represent the past, present, and future of society and governments. Grand prize winner Linsay Poulter created a dynamic and multi-layered interactive dashboard titled ‘How Do We Compare?’ It invited users to scrutinize metrics across different demographics, countries, and regions.
**Edge of Government Award**

The Edge of Government Award champions exemplary models of government innovation by evaluating the exhibits showcased at the Summit’s Edge of Government experience according to three specific criteria: novelty, replicability, and impact.

These important considerations provide a framework for effective local and federal government innovation. They consider how significant a departure from current approaches a new solution really is and the new models, processes, technology, and participants it leverages to provide its impact. It takes into account how widespread the problem is globally and how practical it would be to adapt the solution for other countries and geographies. Finally, it assesses the scope and severity of the problem and the extent to which the solution has improved it.
2018
Mobilizing Construction
Kenya

Kenya’s innovative program, ‘Mobilizing Construction,’ was heralded for its solution to maintaining the quality of roads. The initiative uses a smart device mounted on vehicles to record road conditions and generates micro-contracts for the work for local laborers to bid for through their mobile phones, reducing lead times from two years to two weeks.

2019
Carrot Rewards
Canada

The Public Health Agency of Canada was recognized for its ‘Carrot Rewards’ system, in which citizens earn points for every step they take that can be redeemed for rewards such as fuel or movie tickets. Devised in response to rapidly increasing healthcare costs, the simple nudge approach enabled the government to increase public knowledge of the risks associated with inactivity by 29% and increase physical activity by 34% in just one year.

2023
Open Fisca
France

In 2023, the French Government and OpenFisca’s Mes Aides website won the award for their platform that converts laws into code so they can be read digitally. The platform helps inform citizens of their rights and responsibilities and is used by more than 2,300 young people in France every day.
“The distinguished global models that competed to win the WGS’s awards assured us that there many people in the world who share our vision and ambitions to serve humanity, and improve people’s quality of life and achieve their happiness; as well as equip them with science and knowledge so they continue the progress journey of the humanity”

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai
A Legacy in Action

Awards to Shape the Future

Through its international awards, the World Government Summit celebrates and acknowledges pioneering projects and initiatives that hold the potential to revolutionize societies and enhance the quality of life for people across the globe. Each year, the Summit showcases contributions from governments, universities, international organizations, and the private sector on a global platform, providing unprecedented exposure for groundbreaking ideas. As well as boosting visibility, the Summit’s award ceremonies foster opportunities for partnerships and investments, making way for greater scalability and long-term impact.
At the fourth edition of the Summit, the governments of Mozambique and Tanzania were honored for their novel approach to addressing significant threats posed by rising levels of tuberculosis (TB) and the remnants of landmines left over from the war. Collaborating with Belgian NGO Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling (APOPO), they deployed trained rats who used their smell to detect unexploded landmines or evidence of TB. This innovative method significantly sped up and improved the detection process, reduced cost, and most importantly, saved lives. In 2015, Mozambique was able to declare itself ‘mine-free.’

To date, APOPO still retains a strong presence in both countries, and the opening of a new facility in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, has seen a 40% increase in TB detection rates and a 20% increase in treatment initiation rates. Meanwhile, in 2020, Mozambique reduced TB-related deaths by 35% over a five-year period. Subsequent investments, alongside new partnerships with community-based organizations, have accelerated patient tracking and treatment rates and opened up avenues into molecule testing as well as exploration into non-TB-related illnesses, including HPV and COVID-19.

Government cooperation remains a crucial factor for success. Understanding the value of eliminating landmines, the Mozambique government assisted with the border transfer of demining assets and equipment to a new program in neighboring Zimbabwe. Rat and dog-led detection methods have been adopted in several countries across Africa and Southeast Asia, where they are having a positive impact on both people’s lives and the path to achieving universal healthcare for all.
Creative Governments Innovation Award

Releasing Budgets Before Disasters Happen, Government of Togo

2017

The implementation of a sophisticated flood prediction tool known as ‘Forecast-based Financing’ (FbF) saw the Government of Togo pick up the Creative Governments Innovation Award at the 2017 World Government Summit. Utilizing innovative technologies, hydrometeorological data, and risk analyses, FbF releases humanitarian funding in advance of a disaster once a specific threshold is reached. The system showed positive results in Togo, where, supported by the government, FbF was able to reduce flood impact and enable the Togo Red Cross to prepare vulnerable communities ahead of the flood.

The success of FbF pilot programs in Togo and Uganda has led to further implementations in countries such as Mozambique, Peru, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh. Predominantly driven by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, FbF projects are constantly updated to reflect previous learning and have had a significant impact on humanitarian-led responses. As of 2022, more than 60 countries have anticipatory action systems in place.

The scope of anticipatory action has moved beyond the consequences of hydrometeorological disasters. To respond to a broader spectrum of threats, the German Red Cross launched the ‘Anticipation Hub’, a platform promoting cross-sector anticipatory action through knowledge exchange, learning, and guidance. In its mission to integrate anticipatory action into global policies, the initiative is engaging with governments around the world to scale up investments and reduce the humanitarian impact of climate change.

60 COUNTRIES have financial anticipatory systems for flooding in place as a result of the FbF pilot.

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An international award showcasing how technology can help governments better serve their citizens led to an innovative building material being selected as the winner of the GovHack Series at the 2016 World Government Summit. Designed to combat climate change, the carbon-natural material is made from biochar, a negative emissions technology that locks in carbon and offers a sustainable alternative for use in construction, interiors, and furniture.

Since being elevated onto the global stage, the German-based entrepreneurs have increased their efforts to develop carbon-neutral products and, in 2022, opened a new research and development facility. As well as exploring end-of-life scenarios and circularity for their products, Made of Air also brought their first commercial product to market: a carbon-negative material for injection molding called Prime Flex. The company recognizes that their technology will have the biggest impact in construction and has joined forces with architectural manufacturer Arktura to encourage the industry to adopt a carbon-negative mindset.

Across the world, there has been a significant emphasis on climate technology at the policy level. Global leaders convened at a dedicated forum at the 2023 World Government Summit to discuss the role of governments in harnessing technologies to address climate challenges. Meanwhile, in Europe, the World Green Building Council launched an EU policy roadmap to accelerate the decarbonization of buildings by 2050. Developed with a coalition of construction leaders, it advocates for a more ambitious policy to lower the carbon footprint of an industry that is one of the heaviest carbon emitters in the world.

3 GIGATONS OF CO₂ could be removed from the atmosphere if just 10% of global plastics were replaced with biochar
“Being aware of what awaits us in the future enables us to develop more advanced systems that can accelerate progress”

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