



إكسبو 2020
دبي الإمارات العربية المتحدة
DUBAI UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



المجلس العالمي
WORLD MAJLIS

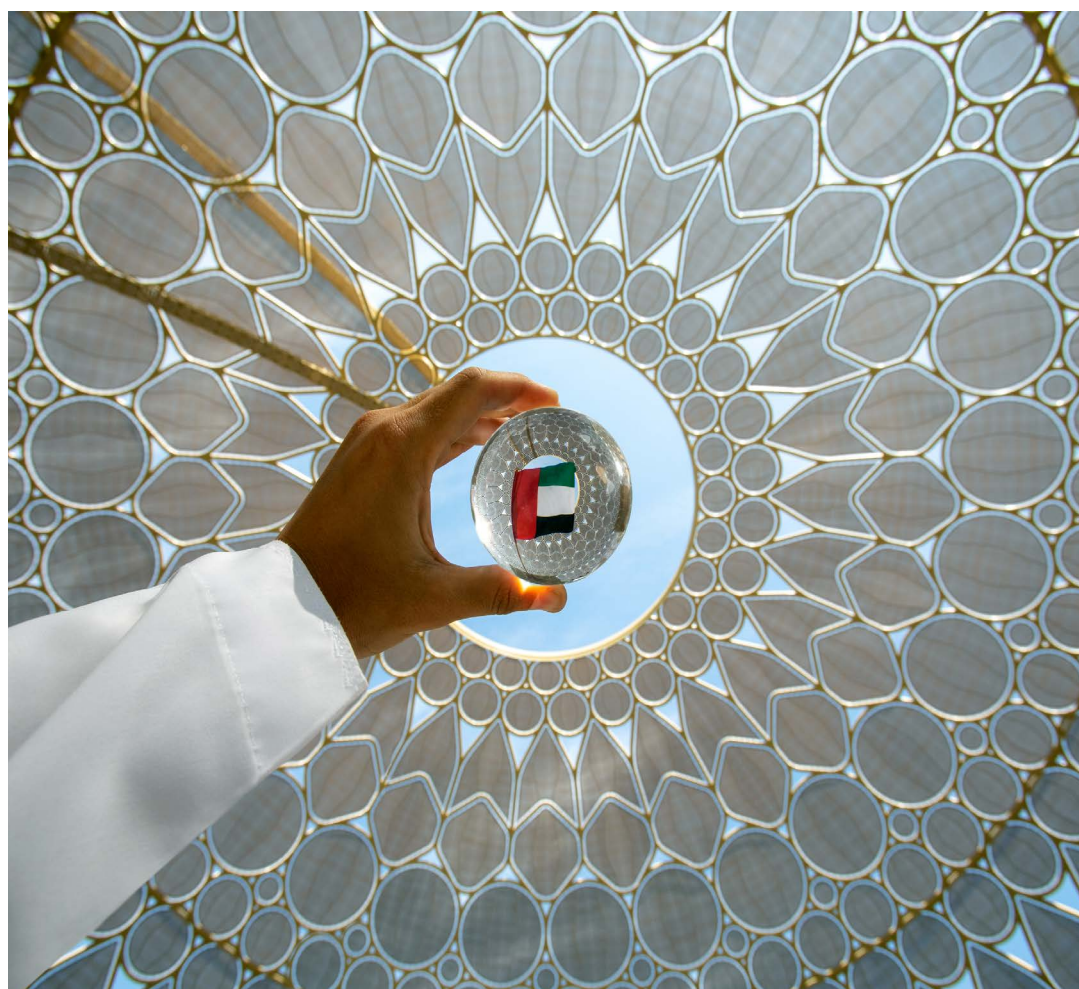
Expo 2020 Dubai

PROGRAMME FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

WORLD MAJLIS AGENDA

GOLDEN JUBILEE

03 November - 04 December 2021



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2071

Preparing for the world in 50 years

DATE Saturday, 4th December 2021

TIME 3.00 to 5.00 PM UAE

VENUE Al Wasl Plaza



THE CONVERSATION TOPIC

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2071

Preparing for the world in 50 years

The next half century will bring new trends that impact the way we all live, work and play. There will also be unique challenges that the next generation needs to prepare for.

We are witness to a pivot point in many of the trends that have defined the last 50 years of progress. Ideas that we saw as separate now seem more and more connected.

We have learnt that industrial progress also changes our climate. We are reminded that advanced technologies will not be successful without the creative human who can put them to good use. And it is very clear today that our wellbeing is affected by our environment, not just individual health.

But there is still huge uncertainty about how these trends will combine, and how they will respond to events over the next 50 years. Preparing for the future means being ready to make the best of whichever scenario plays out.

By imagining potential future worlds, we can develop concrete plans for how to respond to changes around us. We can encourage investment in long term goals rather than short term gains.

How do we ensure we control technology, and not the other way round?

How do we keep 9 billion people healthy and happy?

What are the best ways to help the next generation become ambitious, innovative leaders?

How do we balance ambitious visions for the future with the need to adapt to change?

MODERATOR**ABDULAZIZ AL JAZIRI**

Deputy CEO and Chief Operations Officer, Dubai Future Foundation, UAE

Abdulaziz Khalid AlJaziri was appointed the Deputy CEO and Chief Operations Officer of the Dubai Future Foundation (DFF) in 2017. As Deputy CEO and Chief Operations Officer, AlJaziri leads a number of projects at DFF in partnership with Government, Private Sector and Academia.

In DFF, Abdulaziz leads the Research, Content Dissemination, Capacity Building and Design and Acceleration streams. AlJaziri's focus is to support Dubai leaders better navigate the future, develop high-quality content about the future, equip generations to come with skills of the future and foster an innovation ecosystem that develops experiments. AlJaziri is part of the integral team behind the Museum of the Future.

Additionally, AlJaziri has led, managed and launched DFF's AREA 2071 in 2016, an innovative ecosystem where a diverse set of partners design the future.

Before his role at DFF, Abdulaziz AlJaziri worked at The Executive Office of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid (TEO) as well as the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs. In his role at TEO, AlJaziri worked on developing innovative programs and key initiatives, such as Dubai Capital of Islamic Economy, Dubai Smart City and Hatta Development Project. AlJaziri also served as the CEO of Palmwood, a partnership between the United Arab Emirates and the global design firm IDEO.

Currently, AlJaziri sits on the board of several organizations including the Higher Colleges of Technology, Palmwood and the Dubai Future Academy. Abdulaziz holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Civil Engineering Technology, and is a graduate of the UAE Government Leaders Program.

PARTICIPANTS**HE BERNARDINO LEON**

Director General, Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, UAE

Bernardino León is the Director General of the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy. In this role, he works with the Board of Trustees to consolidate the status of the Academy as a global thought leader in diplomatic studies. As the head of the Academy's international faculty, he works to ensure the highest standards of diplomatic education in nurturing the next generation of Emirati diplomats.

León is a veteran diplomat with a career spanning over 27 years. He has served as the UN Special Representative and Head of the UN Support Mission in Libya, where he brokered the Libyan Political Agreement and the Presidential Council that put an end to the civil war. Previously he was the European Union SR to the Southern Mediterranean, Secretary General at Spanish prime minister Office and Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs. His career has focused on mediation and negotiations, covering also intercultural dialogue, security, energy and migration. He founded with Edward Said and Daniel Barenboim the Barenboim-Said Foundation. He has worked in different Human Rights initiatives, particularly in the Arab world.

León has worked extensively in the Middle East, playing a key role in the EU "peace team" delegation that followed the Oslo process. Following the events of the Arab Spring, he mediated crucial talks in Libya, Egypt and Tunisia. He was posted in Algeria during the internal conflict in the early nineties.

Bernardino León holds a diploma in International Relations from the University of Barcelona and a degree in Law from the University of Malaga, Spain, and followed post graduate courses at London King's College and Sorbonne University.



PROFESSOR DR RAGHIEB ALI

Director and Principal Investigator of the Public Health Research Center and Associate Research Professor, New York University, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Professor Raghieb Ali is the Director and Principal Investigator of the Public Health Research Center and Associate Research Professor at New York University, Abu Dhabi and Adjunct Associate Professor in Population Health at New York University School of Medicine.

He is also an Honorary Consultant in Acute Medicine at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and an Associate Fellow at Green-Templeton College at the University of Oxford. Additionally, he is a Senior Clinical Research Associate at the MRC Epidemiology Unit at the University of Cambridge and Honorary Consultant at Public Health England.

He is a graduate of the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford and London and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. He was a faculty at the University of Oxford for 10 years before moving to NYU Abu Dhabi in 2014 to set up the UAE Healthy Future Study, the first prospective cohort study in the country, which aims to understand the causes of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

He has published over 120 papers with over 60,000 citations and is one of the most highly cited medical researchers in the region.

He has been involved in both the NYU Abu Dhabi and Abu Dhabi Department of Health response throughout the Covid pandemic and was also appointed as an Independent Expert Adviser on Covid to the UK government as well as serving on the frontline.



PROFESSOR NIDHAL GUESSOUM

Professor of Physics and Astronomy, American University of Sharjah, UAE

Prof. Guessoum is an Algerian astrophysicist. He received his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California at San Diego and spent two years as a post-doctoral researcher at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. He has conducted research at several top centers in the USA and France, participated in dozens of conferences worldwide, and published over a hundred papers in major international journals. He has been at the American University of Sharjah, UAE, since 2000, where he has served as chair of the Physics Department, Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, President of the Faculty Senate, and other roles.

Prof. Guessoum has had ongoing research collaborations with colleagues in Europe (particularly in France), in the USA, and in the Arab world. His has specialized in gamma-ray and nuclear astrophysics and has made contributions in Islamic astronomy (crescent visibility, Islamic calendar, and Islamic cosmology) and other areas.

Prof. Guessoum has also published several well-received books, including: *The Young Muslim's Guide to Modern Science* (Manchester, UK: Beacon Books, 2018); *Islam's Quantum Question: reconciling Muslim tradition and modern science* (London: IB Tauris, 2010), which has also been published in French (in two editions), Arabic, Indonesian, and Urdu; *The Story of the Universe* (in Arabic), which has had 4 editions and sold over 10,000 copies; and *The Determination of Lunar Crescent Months and the Islamic Calendar*, with two editions (one in Algeria and one in Lebanon). He has also edited two conference proceedings volumes on Islamic Astronomy (in English and Arabic) and published hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles on general science and education issues in Arabic, English, and French.

Prof. Guessoum has been invited to lecture at many prestigious universities, including Cambridge, Oxford, Cornell, Wisconsin, Malaya, NYU Abu Dhabi, and others worldwide. He has been interviewed in numerous international media, including the BBC, *The Times*, *Le Monde*, *Al-Jazeera*, *Der Spiegel*, NPR, France 2, France 24, Fox News, Sky News Arabia, and others. He is a regular columnist for Arab News and has a strong online and social media presence: 120,000 followers on Twitter, 130,000 followers on Facebook, and 400,000 channel subscribers to his YouTube channel, where he presents his regular program Ta'ammal Ma'l (Reflect with Me) on science, culture, and education.



ALEXANDRA IVANOVITCH, PHD
CEO, EQLab, USA

Alexandra Ivanovitch, PhD is an award-winning creative technologist who produces high-impact virtual reality (VR) applications for local and national governments with a focus on healthcare, education, and peace-building.

Dr. Ivanovitch pioneered a VR program to fulfill seniors' wishes through immersive technology in Miami in 2019. Her VR work for Healthy Longevity received an innovation award from the US National Academy of Medicine in 2020. Her organization, EQLab, worked for the National Unemployment Office of France and Miami-Dade Public Schools to produce VR Career Simulators which empower job seekers to test-drive different professional futures. In 2021, EQLab developed a VR peace-building platform for the United States Institute of Peace to facilitate interfaith dialogue through shared virtual pilgrimage experiences. Dr. Ivanovitch is currently preparing for the 2022 launch of EQLab's 3D school where students will do science on Mars and explore history through virtual time-travel.

Her work in VR has been covered by *Forbes*, *WIRED*, CNN and Voice of America, and has received global media coverage in 32 countries on 5 continents. EQLab was first sponsored by the creators of Star Trek to help us materialize a hopeful and inspiring future of peaceful exploration.

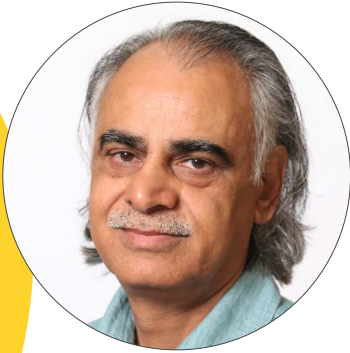


DANIEL VAN OTTERDIJK
Chief Communications Officer DP World, UAE

Daniel is the Chief Communications Officer of Group Communications at DP World. He is accountable for building and delivering the Group's communication and brand strategies, alongside managing stakeholder communications across DP World Group and across all communications disciplines. Daniel also advises DP World's Group Chairman and CEO, as well as the global leadership team, on all communications and brand-related matters.

Daniel is a seasoned communications specialist with a wealth of international experience spanning over 20 years across Europe, the Middle East, the Americas, and Asia. He has worked in various markets and industries including Energy, Oil and Gas, Medical, Retail and Technology. Prior to joining DP World, Daniel worked for Royal Dutch Shell for 17 years as a communications specialist, advising on corporate brand-building, reputation management and internal and external communications. He has served as a Non-Executive Director in the Communications industry.

Daniel has a BSc in Science from Victoria University in Wellington in New Zealand. He is a Dutch national, but has spent 12 years in New Zealand, and the last 18 years in the UK.



PROFESSOR ZIAUDDIN SARDAR

Director of the Centre for Postnormal Policy and Future Studies, UK

Ziauddin Sardar, writer, cultural critic and futurist, is Director of the Centre for Postnormal Policy and Future Studies, and editor of the quarterly *Critical Muslim*. Formerly, Professor of Law and Society at Middlesex University, he is author of over 50 books, including two acclaimed volumes of autobiography: *Desperately Seeking Paradise: Journeys of a Sceptical Muslim* and *Balti Britain: A Provocative Journey Through Asian Britain*. A collection of his writings is available as *Islam, Postmodernism and Other Futures: A Ziauddin Sardar Reader* and *How Do You Know? Reading Ziauddin Sardar on Islam, Science and Cultural Relations*. His most recent books are *Future: All That Matters*, *Reading the Qur'an*, *Mecca: The Sacred City*, and as editor, *The Postnormal Times Reader* and *Muslim Societies in Postnormal Times: Trend, Emerging Issues and Scenarios*.

Professor Sardar has worked as a science journalist for *Nature* and *New Scientist*, as reporter for London Weekend Television and Channel 4, and has made numerous television and radio programmes. A former columnist on the *New Statesman*, and editor of *Futures*, the monthly journal of foresight and futures studies, he served as a Commissioner on the Equality and Human Rights Commission from 2006 to 2009. He is a well-known futurist and public intellectual.



DANIEL ERIK SCHAER

Estonia Commissioner General to EXPO 2020 Dubai

Daniel Schaer has been working at the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for almost 20 years. He has previously been Estonian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. As Ambassador at large - Special Diplomatic Representative of the President for Africa, Daniel helped run Estonia's successful UN Security Council Campaign.

Daniel has worked as Charge d'Affaires at the Estonian Special Mission to Afghanistan, and at the Permanent Representation of Estonia to the European Union in Brussels. From March to July of 2011, Daniel was the Special Representative of the Foreign Minister in Lebanon. Daniel spent 4 years in the European Union's Foreign Service, as the Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Rwanda.

Daniel is a graduate of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, where he studied International Relations. He has a Master's degree in European Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. He speaks Estonian, English and French fluently.



APRIL K WARD

PhD Candidate, University of Lincoln, UK

Former UNESCO Futures Literacy Project Manager

April K Ward is passionate about peace and futures thinking. She has a background working for the private sector and international organisations and is an experienced facilitator and designer of futures and foresight-related workshops, labs, and processes internationally.

Her experience includes working as a project manager advancing UNESCO's Futures Literacy programme in Paris, France and as a policy consultant for the University of Lincoln's UNESCO Chair on Responsible Futures for Sustainable Development in the UK.

Ms. Ward is currently a foresight researcher and project manager for the School of International Futures and is also a PhD candidate researching the relationship between imagined futures, violence, and non-violence in complex conflict systems and peace processes (cases: Northern Ireland, Colombia, South Africa). She loves exploring ways of connecting futures work towards co-creating a more peaceful world.

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[The event is live-streamed via the virtual Expo platform.](#)

**MEDIA AND
COMMUNICATION**