

Mohammed Bin Rashid Initiative for Global Prosperity

a GMIS initiative

Design Workshop at the United Nations in Vienna, Austria

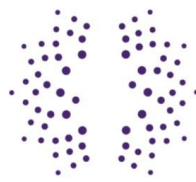
BACKGROUND

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is committed to contributing to global innovation through a platform that will empower and encourage ‘makers’ to solve some of the world’s most pressing issues. The Mohammed bin Rashid Initiative for Global Prosperity was launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and reflects the strong belief of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, in the power of innovation to transform global economies, and bring prosperity to people across the world. The mission of the Mohammed bin Rashid Initiative for Global Prosperity is to bring together the world’s leading manufacturers, innovative startups and entrepreneurs, governments and NGOs, technologists, and philanthropists, to form a community dedicated to spreading global prosperity through the art of ‘making’. The initiative is dedicated to building an innovative ecosystem that encourages collaboration and partnerships and empowers the broader society to play a larger role in building global prosperity. At the heart of this ecosystem is an online community of co-creators who integrate machine, digital, and human capabilities to deliver solutions to some of the world’s most pressing problems - paving the way for new businesses, job creation and economic growth.

In collaboration with the United Nations (UN), the initiative combines ongoing innovation challenges with an award for global manufacturers to make positive changes happen across countries worldwide, in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- The Global Maker Challenge is an online open innovation platform which promotes collaborative competition for start-ups and entrepreneurs, encouraging and inspiring them to solve specific real-world problems by applying a design-thinking approach used by the world’s most disruptive innovators to accelerate manufactured solutions from ideas to impact.
- The Global Prosperity Award will honor the global manufacturer who has sponsored the challenge deemed to have the greatest potential for significant global impact. The winning innovation will demonstrate its contribution to advancing at least one of the UN SDGs, while nurturing four core values: Resilience, Community, Harmony, and Dignity.

The eight UN entities that have partnered with the Mohammed bin Rashid Initiative for Global Prosperity are the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UNESCO-UNEVOC International Center, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and the World Food Programme (WFP). These organizations have developed four themes surrounding major challenges faced by the least developed and developing countries. The initiative invites world-leading manufacturers and entrepreneurs to adopt one of the global themes identified by the partner UN entities, and work alongside them through an integrated open-innovation platform that enables ideas to be shared and solutions to be co-created. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Solve is working with the Mohammed bin Rashid Initiative for Global Prosperity to bring together problem-solvers and innovators to work with stakeholders and technical experts to design and manage each challenge.



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EVENT

Join the Mohammed Bin Rashid Initiative for Global Prosperity and Solve, an initiative of the, on June 25 for an interactive, design thinking workshop with cross-sector leaders to identify the most difficult problems facing our world. The perspective and expertise of participants will help formulate specific, actionable challenge questions that will be posed by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Initiative for Global Prosperity's Global Maker Challenge to innovators around the world. In turn, those innovators will develop and submit technology-driven solutions on the Global Maker Challenge open innovation platform.

In small groups, workshop participants will consider the following challenge themes:

* **Sustainable Energy:** The challenge will tackle how renewable resources can be applied for Inclusive and Sustainable Development and humanitarian action, while also reducing inequalities through economic prosperity and industrialization. It will address the need for renewed investment in the least developed countries to build needed infrastructure.

* **Digital Divide and Digital Literacy:** The challenge will focus on ensuring underserved communities and vulnerable populations have access to digital innovation capacity that accelerates digital transformation, thereby narrowing the digital skills gap in the context of emerging technologies.

* **Rural Transformation and Zero Hunger:** The challenge will focus on promoting and enabling inclusive rural transformation in an increasingly urbanized world and enable investment in smallholder farmers, with a focus on developing entrepreneurship in agribusiness, specifically for women and young people, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger.

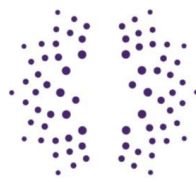
* **Sustainable Cities:** The challenge will tackle how cities can become incubators for innovation and growth, and drivers of sustainable development.

This workshop will present the overarching challenge themes to audiences at the event by Solve experts, with interactive question-and-answer and brainstorming sessions enabling attendees to share their insights and ideas and help design the specific challenge within each of the themes. The challenges will be opened up for innovators to submit their solutions in September 2018.

Format

This interactive workshop will take place at the UN in Vienna, Austria, with the participation of UN entities, international corporations, foundations, non-profit organizations, government, and academia. The participants will contribute to designing specific challenges to humanity's most pressing problems.

We invite UN entities' representatives to attend and assist with defining well-structured challenges that contain both an overarching scope and technical aspects, and help to define and hone the SDG-related aspects of the proposed challenge.



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Date: 25 June, 2018

Time: 10-12 am

Venue: Vienna International Center (VIC), Mozart Room

Agenda

10:00 - Arrival and Welcoming Remarks

10:10 - Discussion on theme barriers and outcomes

10:30 - Stakeholder identification discussion

10:55 - Brainstorm/formulate possible challenge questions, the “how can we’s”

11:20 - Determine 3 critically important challenges in this theme

11:45 - Report back

12:00 – End