

Wednesday, 15 May 2013

## UK officially backs bid to host Expo 2020 in Dubai



The United Kingdom has announced its support of the UAE's bid to host the Expo 2020 in Dubai.

The British foreign secretary William Hague updated parliament and declared the decision in a written statement.

Hague acknowledged that Dubai is an "exceptionally strong" candidate city, adding that it is "focused on global connectivity and accessibility." He stated that these factors "would allow exhibitors to reach a large and varied international audience."

No reasons were given for the UK lending its support to the Dubai bid. However the statement pointed out that a large British population resides in the UAE, with "over 100,000" UK citizens live and working in the country. The statement continued to explain that the two nations cooperate in different sectors such as education, tourism and security.

The UAE is bidding to host the World Expo 2020 in Dubai under the theme 'connecting minds, creating the future.' If successful, the emirate will host World Expo for a period of up to six months, attracting millions of visitors and tourists.

Should Dubai's bid be successful, it would be the first time a World Expo is held in the region. The exhibition has never been held in the Middle East, Africa, or South East Asia.

The UAE launched its official bid in February 2012. The Expo 2020 host nation is set to be announced in Nov. 2013.

Bill Gates is among other high-profile supporters of Dubai's Expo 2020 bid.