

Blockchain-based innovation challenge launched to support United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

- Challenge created to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations
- The winning entries will receive up to \$10,000 from IOHK in the Cardano blockchain's native cryptocurrency, ada, and guidance from UN affiliated and IOHK personnel to bring the solution to life
- Submissions will be judged by UN and IOHK personnel, using IOHK's innovative blockchain-based voting system, Catalyst
- Social Impact Challenge will recognize innovative blockchain projects that align with UN's Sustainable Development Goals

25th September, 2020: To explore potential use cases for distributed ledger technology that could mainstream and accelerate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a joint challenge for social impact has been announced for this year's Wyoming Blockchain Stampede. Devised by UN personnel, promoting and advancing digital innovation for the SDGs, the social impact challenge is supported by leading blockchain research and development company [IOHK](#).

This social impact challenge was created to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, and will recognize the transformative potential of blockchain in achieving the UN's SDGs. Building towards SDG solutions using blockchain technology has been recognised by the UN Task Force on Digital Financing of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which in a recent report titled ['People's Money: Harnessing Digitalization to Finance a Sustainable Future'](#) stated

"Technology solutions such as blockchain, together with public transparency offer the potential to improve effectiveness and accountability in the use of funds"

The third annual Wyoming Blockchain Stampede comprises six free virtual events, covering three main blockchain themes – Sources, Impact, and Implementation – that look to unite worldwide participants with thought leaders, legislators and changemakers at the forefront of major impacts to the world's future in blockchain technology.

Social Impact Challenge submissions will showcase blockchain-based solutions to enable the rapid achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, during the UN's current [Decade of Action](#). IOHK, the leading blockchain engineering company, has provided a prize fund of \$10,000 to fund the development of winning entries. A joint judging panel of IOHK and UN personnel will determine the winning submission(s) based on criteria that focus on solutions for the UN's SDGs. Winning participants will receive guidance from UN and IOHK personnel towards bringing the solution to life.

Charles Hoskinson, CEO of IOHK said: At IOHK, our mantra has always been to create environments where quiet brilliance can get loud and with that in mind getting involved in this project was a no-brainer. We can't wait to see the innovative challenge submissions, and empower those behind them to realise their ideas, with a view to bringing some game-changing projects into fruition."

Qualifying submissions must utilize Cardano and be licensed as open source.

The following criteria will be considered:

- **Social impact for the SDGs** - Does the project advance solutions for the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) using frontier technology?
- **Financing for the SDGs** - Does the solution organize or incentivize crowdfunded donations, multi-stakeholder allocation of resources, OR otherwise fall under the Task Force on Digital Financing of the SDGs report recommendations?
- **Volunteering for the SDGs** - Does this solution have an innovative component that supports volunteering for the SDGs?
- **Technical Prowess** - Does this submission address the technical challenges of its implementation?
- **Scalability** - Would this solution scale in its scope and beyond its presented context?

Challenge submissions are due between October 10th and October 18th. Submissions will be judged using IOHK's innovative blockchain-based voting system, Catalyst. Winners will be announced on [United Nations Day](#), on the 24th October at the WyoHackathon closing ceremony, where the finalists will present their projects.

Notes for Editors

About the UN Innovation Network

[UN Innovation Network \(UNIN\)](#) is an informal, collaborative community of UN innovators interested in sharing their expertise and experience with others to promote and advance innovation within the UN System. The UNIN is open to innovators from all UN Agencies as well as external partners and to date, over 2,000 colleagues from 65+ UN Entities in over 120 countries have joined the Network

About IOHK

IOHK is an R&D and product engineering company, committed to using peer-to-peer innovations to provide 21st century services to the 3bn who don't have them.

We build blockchain based products for governments, corporations and academic institutions and upskill people across the world, empowering them to solve the most pressing problems faced by people in their countries.

We have core beliefs in decentralization, the right to privacy and stand opposed to centralized control and bureaucracy.

For more information - including interview opportunities, contact:

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Disclaimer:

The views expressed by individual UN personnel in the judging of this special purpose social impact challenge do not necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations