

# Qatar Insurance Announces 2026 MENA InsurTech & FinTech Summit at Web Summit Lisbon

Startup Competition & Accelerator Program Now Open

**Lisbon, Portugal – November 2025** — Qatar Insurance (QIC, QIC Group), through its digital innovation arm QIC Digital Venture Partners (QIC DVP), has announced the fifth edition of the MENA InsurTech Summit and the second the MENA FinTech Summit, set to take place in Doha, Qatar, from May 17–18, 2026.

Held under the patronage of the Qatar Central Bank (QCB), the MENA InsurTech & FinTech Summit has become a central platform for financial innovation in GCC and emerging markets. The event unites a diverse global network of startups, corporate innovators, regulators, and investors to accelerate digital transformation and financial inclusion across MENA, Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia.

The announcement took place at Web Summit Lisbon, one of the world's most influential technology conferences, which gathers global leaders, investors, and founders, where this year, QIC made a prominent impact as a leading voice in the transformation of financial services, showcasing its vision through a dedicated pavilion, and a masterclass on *"MENA: The Launchpad for Global Insurtech & Fintech"*

"Web Summit Lisbon is the meeting point for the world's technology community, and QIC's participation here reflects our commitment to global collaboration and knowledge exchange," said Salem Al Mannai, Group CEO of Qatar Insurance. "Our presence in Lisbon underscores the growing contribution of the Middle East to the global innovation landscape. Beyond leading the change within Qatar and the region, by engaging with international founders, investors, and policymakers, QIC is helping shape the dialogue on how technology can drive more resilient and inclusive financial systems both in Qatar and worldwide."

## **Elevating GCC & Emerging Markets Through Startup Competition**

A highlight of the announcement is the launch of the 2026 Startup Competition, designed to spotlight high-potential startups solving key challenges in InsurTech, FinTech, and AI for financial services. Startups will compete across two categories: Pre-Seed and Market-Ready, for the opportunity to gain regional visibility, engage with regulators, and pitch live on stage at the Doha Summit in May 2026.

This year's competition is structured around three key tracks:

- InsurTech, focusing on digital underwriting, embedded insurance, microinsurance, and AI-powered fraud detection.
- FinTech, covering digital banking, payments, credit scoring, and open finance infrastructure.
- AI for Financial Services, including generative AI, risk analytics, regtech, and automation for compliance and fraud prevention.

The competition is positioned as a powerful launchpad for founders seeking to scale into new markets, collaborate with established players, and shape the future of finance in and beyond the MENA region.

### **New Acceleration Pathways for Market-Ready Startups**

In parallel with the competition, QIC also announced the second cohort of its MENA Accelerator Program, designed for market-ready InsurTech and FinTech startups aiming to enter and scale in the region. The six-month program provides comprehensive go-to-market support, including close collaboration with regional insurers, regulatory guidance, and fronting and capacity partnerships.

Participating startups will gain access to leading institutions and may be eligible for fully financed Proof-of-Concepts (PoCs) sponsored by QRDI and other public research bodies in Qatar. This enables them to validate and deploy their solutions more effectively, with real-time market insights and institutional backing.

The accelerator reflects QIC's commitment to transforming innovation from pilot to practice and building commercially viable pathways for digital financial services.

### **A Global Collaboration with Columbia University and Gates Foundation**

QIC also unveiled a pioneering collaboration with Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, focusing on inclusive insurance innovation. As part of this initiative, SIPA students are working on a capstone project centered around index insurance models and financial resilience in emerging markets.

The MENA InsurTech & FinTech Summit 2026 will host the final presentations of this capstone project, creating a platform for dialogue between academia, government, and industry. This collaboration underlines the summit's role in influencing global conversations on innovation, development, and financial inclusion.

### **MENA Insurtech & Fintech Summit 2026**

### **A Gateway to GCC & Emerging Markets Financial Innovation**

Now entering its fifth edition, the MENA Insurtech & Fintech Summit has established itself as the leading platform for financial innovation across MENA, Africa, LATAM, and Southeast Asia. The 2026 edition introduces new thematic tracks, including:

- AI-First Insurance & Finance
- Global South Innovation Bridges
- Investment & Corporate Venture Capital Forums
- Regulatory Sandboxes & Digital Policy

Through strategic partnerships with Qatar Central Bank, QDB, Qatar Financial Centre, MCIT, Ooredoo, Google Cloud, and others, QIC is building a 360° innovation platform that accelerates growth, facilitates global entry, and fuels cross-border collaboration.

For partnership inquiries or to apply to the startup programs, visit:

 [www.insurtech-mena.com](http://www.insurtech-mena.com)

### **About QIC**

Founded in 1964, **Qatar Insurance (QIC)** is the region's leading insurer and one of the largest investment groups in the MENA region. Listed on the Qatar Stock Exchange, QIC has operations in over 13 markets, offering a comprehensive suite of insurance and reinsurance solutions. The Group plays a central role in advancing Qatar's national vision for economic diversification and digital innovation.


QIC's commitment to innovation is reflected through its digital transformation agenda and strategic partnerships that aim to reshape the regional financial landscape. The MENA InsurTech & FinTech Summit is a key expression of this commitment, creating a platform for forward-thinking collaboration across borders.

For more information, visit: [www.qic-group.com](http://www.qic-group.com)

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