



## «The Banner of Humanity» Rises from the Land of the Emirates

### Issue Supplement:

(UAE and Humanitarian Work -From Relief to Sustainability-  
Valued at over 368 Billion Dirhams (1971 – May 2025).

**Al Ayyala and Al Naashat - Emirati Heritage  
Reflecting the Right to Cultural Identity.**

**«Know Your Customer»... A National Digital  
Platform to Enhance Transparency and Data  
Protection in Financial Transactions.**

**UAE Humanitarian City - An Emirati Model  
Embracing Humanity Unconditionally.**

**International Humanitarian and Relief Work Faces  
Risk of Complete Halt.**

**Political Empowerment in the UAE, A Pioneering  
Model for Exercising Political Rights with a Unique  
Emirati Vision.**



**Dr. Amjad Shamout**

«Establishing an Arab Human Rights  
Council is a necessity to support the  
development of the human rights  
system in the Arab world.»



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«Why did the UAE  
deserve to lead global  
healthcare indicators?»



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**Dr. Hadi Al Yami**

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for GCC Countries.»

## Renewing the Covenant



**Dr. Fatma Khalifa Al Kaabi**

Editor-in-Chief

In the face of rapid technological advancements, women human rights defenders (WHRDs) are encountering increasingly diverse and escalating challenges, particularly within the digital sphere. This online space has transformed into an open arena for cyberattacks, encompassing defamation campaigns, the spread of rumors and disinformation, and online harassment. This reality urgently necessitates the development of «binding» international legal frameworks to ensure their protection and guarantee the continuity of their legitimate work in defending human rights.

### Digital Challenges Facing Women Defenders and Artificial Intelligence

United Nations reports indicate that women human rights defenders (WHRDs) are increasingly subjected to systematic digital attacks aimed at silencing their voices and undermining their roles. In many countries worldwide, WHRDs have been targeted by hate campaigns and digital targeting, including direct threats of physical and psychological harm, and the dissemination of abusive or fabricated content. This includes fake videos designed to damage their personal reputations. The severity of this phenomenon is escalating with the growing use of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to produce fake content, such as Deepfake videos, which have become a weapon for reputation damage and distortion of facts.

In this context, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) held a dialogue session in 2019 titled «The Impact of Digital Violence on Women Human Rights Defenders.» During this session, it was emphasized that despite the opportunities the digital revolution has provided for enhancing access to information, communication, and the launch of human rights campaigns, it has also created new forms of oppression, most notably intimidation, threats, and the spread of

disinformation. The OHCHR noted that the digital environment has become a breeding ground for cyberviolence due to the ease of creating anonymous accounts and the difficulty of removing harmful or false content. This has exacerbated the challenges to protecting WHRDs and necessitated a robust response from both international and technological entities.

### International Legal Frameworks for Protection Against Defamation and Digital Violence

The protection of women human rights defenders (WHRDs) constitutes a fundamental obligation of states under international law. Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) affirms the right of every individual to protection from arbitrary interference with their privacy and from any unlawful attacks on their honor or reputation. Despite these provisions, these international legal frameworks remain characterized by generality and lack of specificity, as they lack binding rules that explicitly criminalize digital targeting or online defamation, including abusive fabricated content.

In this context, despite the United Nations' adoption of the «Global Digital Compact» in September 2024, and its explicit calls to combat digital violence, hate speech, and disinformation, the Compact remains a guiding, non-binding document, lacking effective implementation tools. This leaves individuals and communities vulnerable to systematic and fabricated digital targeting without adequate legal protection.

Nevertheless, many countries worldwide are witnessing a growing trend towards strengthening legal protection against digital defamation and cyber violence, especially in light of the increasing risks faced by individuals in cyberspace. Among the prominent countries that have established effective legislative frameworks in this area are Singapore, France, and South Korea, in addition to the United Arab Emirates, which has presented an advanced model combining legislative deterrence with community prevention.

In the UAE, Federal Decree-Law No. (34) of 2021 on Combating Rumors and Cybercrimes stands out as a key tool for digital protection. It explicitly criminalizes slander, defamation, and the dissemination of false news and misleading information, classifying them as cybercrimes subject to punishment. This law serves as a clear deterrent for anyone seeking to damage individuals' reputations or dignity through digital means. Further reinforcing this legal framework, the UAE launched the National Policy for Digital Quality of Life in 2021, which aims to build a healthy and safe digital environment by raising awareness of proper digital behaviors and providing educational and awareness tools, especially for groups most vulnerable to digital violence. This integration of law and policy reflects the UAE's firm commitment to protecting digital dignity and safeguarding rights in the era of rapid technological advancement.

Despite these legal efforts undertaken by some advanced countries, reality shows that a large number of nations still lack clear and binding legislation to protect individuals from digital defamation and cyber violence. This global disparity highlights the urgent need for a unified and binding international framework that obliges all to their responsibilities in protecting digital dignity and safeguarding the right to safe expression.

### A Guide for the Protection of Women Human Rights Defenders in Africa in Cooperation with the United Nations

In response to the increasing digital threats targeting women human rights defenders (WHRDs), civil society organizations, in cooperation with UN Women and several other UN entities, have initiated the development of effective guiding tools. Prominently among these is the issuance of the «Guide for the Protection of Women Human Rights Defenders in Africa» in 2023. This guide serves as an important legal and political reference, highlighting the challenges faced by WHRDs, particularly gender-based violence, digital defamation, and cyber harassment, while offering practical recommendations to enhance digital protection.

The guide's recommendations emphasized the responsibility of social media companies and platforms to implement strict policies to combat hate speech and harassment, and to provide accessible mechanisms for reporting violations. It also called for strengthening international and regional cooperation to exchange expertise and build capacities in the field of digital security for activists.

In a similar context, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) – Human Rights Office, launched a specialized guide in 2022 titled «Online Protection and Digital Security: A User Guide for Human Rights Defenders.» This guide included technical tools for protecting digital identity, data encryption, dealing with defamation campaigns, and avoiding the risks of electronic targeting.

Despite the importance of these guides and the awareness and training support they represent for WHRDs, they remain within a guiding framework. This underscores the need for a binding international framework that criminalizes digital targeting and provides effective legal protection for WHRDs against organized campaigns of abuse and defamation.

### A Call for an International UN Framework to Protect Women Human Rights Defenders from Digital Defamation

The involvement of women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in highlighting their countries' human rights efforts is a fundamental and conscious role. Defending rights is not an act of opposition; rather, it is, at its core, a noble expression of belonging, a dedication to the civilized image of the state, and an appreciation for its efforts in upholding human dignity.

Unfortunately, many WHRDs, including the author of this article, are subjected to systematic digital attacks that attempt to portray this role as a contradiction between patriotism and human rights work. This is an effort to create a false conflict between commitment to human rights values and loyalty to one's homeland. The truth is that a true defender protects her nation by safeguarding its reputation, correcting misconceptions, and continuously advocating for progress in human rights in alignment with the state's aspirations and standing.

In this context, I renew my commitment to continue working to protect human rights and defend the bright image of the United Arab Emirates, which, under its wise leadership, continues to solidify the principles of justice and human dignity both domestically and internationally. I will remain steadfast in this role, with unwavering faith and national responsibility, no matter how fierce the targeting or how diverse its tools.

Given the escalating pace of digital targeting, it has become essential for responses to move beyond recommendations to concrete steps at the level of international policies. In this regard, the following is proposed:

1. Transform the «Global Digital Compact» into a binding international convention, with a proposed name: «The International Convention on Information Integrity and Digital Justice.» This would be the next stage required by the international system to ensure legal protection in cyberspace and put an end to systematic defamation and misinformation campaigns.
2. Oblige technology companies and social media platforms to establish and implement strict and effective policies to protect WHRDs and activists from cyber violence. This includes combating abusive content and providing effective mechanisms for reporting and response.
3. Call upon the Human Rights Council and relevant UN bodies to adopt a special resolution or establish a permanent monitoring mechanism concerned with tracking digital violence violations against WHRDs, and submitting periodic reports and in-depth analyses that contribute to the development of policy and legislative responses at both international and national levels.

### In Conclusion

Protecting women human rights defenders (WHRDs) isn't a legal luxury; it's a fundamental necessity to ensure the continued civilian role in upholding principles of justice and accountability. In an era where digital campaigns are rapidly used as tools for settling ideological, social, and political scores, it becomes crucial for the defense of freedom of opinion and expression to evolve into a comprehensive protection system. This system must provide WHRDs and activists with a secure environment that guarantees continuity, credibility, and professional protection. Believing that the protection of WHRDs is a shared international responsibility, we count on global partnerships to be a shield that preserves the dignity of everyone who dedicates their efforts to serving justice and rights.

As for me, renewing the covenant is not merely a symbolic stance. It's a firm affirmation of my professional, legal, and national commitment to continue highlighting the United Arab Emirates' efforts in upholding human rights. This is a nation that has chosen to be a shining model in protecting human dignity, under wise leadership that believes in supporting humanity, wherever it may be, as a noble goal unrestricted by borders or circumstances.

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**UAHR** جمعية الاتحاد لحقوق الإنسان  
Union Association for Human Rights

President of the Union Association  
for Human Rights  
Editor-in-Chief

**Fatima Khalifa Al Kaabi**

Editorial Management

**Maryam Mohammed Al Ahmadi**

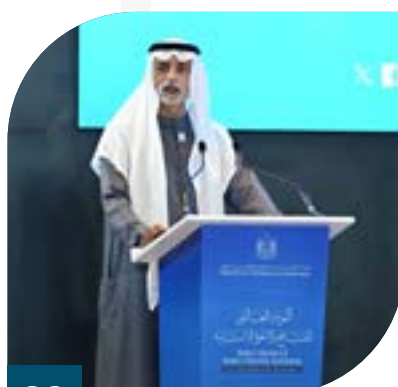
Technical Team

**The Union Association  
for Human Rights**

Correspondence  
United Arab Emirates  
Emirate of Abu Dhabi  
P.O. Box No. 4282  
Email info@theuahhr.org

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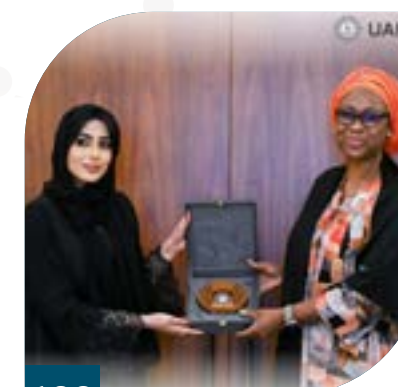


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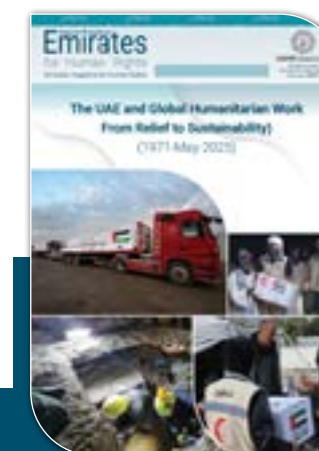
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## Wise Sayings in International Relief Work

Inspirational quotes serve as a powerful motivator in the journey of humanitarian work, carrying within them a moral energy that helps us move forward despite challenges. In moments of doubt or exhaustion, a single word can be enough to revive passion and renew determination. The following is a collection of insightful quotes that reflect the spirit of international relief work.



His Highness **Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan**  
(The late Founder of the United Arab Emirates, May God rests his soul)

«The rich must help the poor, and Almighty God has bestowed upon us this wealth to develop our country, and at the same time, to contribute to the development of other nations.»



His Highness **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**  
(President of the United Arab Emirates, may God protect him)

«We will work to strengthen our role among the world's leading nations in providing developmental and humanitarian aid and charitable work... and continue to extend a helping hand to communities around the world, regardless of religion, race, or color.»



His Highness **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**  
(Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, may God preserve him)

«We affirm that our humanitarian work is ongoing, and the UAE's hand of giving is extended to all peoples... We thank God for enabling our country to undertake these actions... and we ask God to perpetuate His protection and blessings upon our nation through the good deeds that emanate from our country to various nations of the world.»



His Highness **Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**  
(Vice President of the UAE, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Presidential Court)

«Humanitarian work is an inherent part of the UAE's vision and a deeply rooted approach in its policy. Zayed's humanitarian legacy will remain a source of inspiration for giving and generosity, extending a helping hand, and strengthening the values of global solidarity.»



His Highness **Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan**  
(Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs)

«Giving is a deeply rooted Emirati heritage, nourished by our belief that humanitarian work is a responsibility and a noble mission that reflects our aspirations towards building a more prosperous world, one that is more respectful of humanity.»



**António Guterres**  
(Secretary-General of the United Nations)

«Humanitarian response, sustainable development, and sustaining peace are three sides of the same triangle.»



**Ban Ki-moon**  
(Former Secretary-General of the United Nations)

«Humanitarian assistance is not mere charity; it is a vital lifeline for those in need.»



**Nelson Mandela**  
Former President of South Africa (1994 - 1999)

«There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return.»



**Ertharin Cousin**  
Former Executive Director of the World Food Programme

«Until we reach political solutions that establish peace, we must implement humanitarian solutions that establish hope and stability throughout the region. Failure to do so will haunt us all for decades to come.»



**Helen Clark**  
Former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

«We need innovation in humanitarian and development work. Humanitarian needs will be decisively reduced when and where more sustainable development is achieved.»



## UAE Humanitarian City: An Emirati Model Embracing Humanity Unconditionally

«The United Arab Emirates will remain a symbol of aid and rescue in times of hardship, and a source of inspiration in humanitarian work.» With these inspiring words, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the State, «may God protect him,» summarized the noble mission undertaken by the UAE Humanitarian City during his visit to the city four years ago.

The UAE Humanitarian City did not emerge as a temporary response to a humanitarian emergency. Instead, it was born from a strategic vision of leaders who believed that humanitarian work knows no bounds, and that every human being deserves dignity and protection in every circumstance and place. On the land of Abu Dhabi, this vision transformed into a tangible reality; the city has become a global model for embracing those affected by wars and crises, and an Emirati symbol reflecting the deeply rooted national values of solidarity, giving, and strengthening human fraternity. Through an integrated system of health, social, educational, and psychological support services, the city continues to fulfill its mission, affirming that humanity in the UAE is not just a slogan, but a firm commitment that the state proudly and responsibly practices.



### A Tour by «Emirates Magazine for Human Rights» through the UAE Humanitarian City

During a field tour conducted by the «Emirates Magazine for Human Rights» inside the UAE Humanitarian City, the city's features emerged as a living symbol of the UAE's leadership in organized humanitarian and relief work, based on rapid and effective responses to urgent crises.

The city was established in 2020 under the directives of the wise leadership, with the aim of sheltering and providing relief to citizens of sisterly and friendly countries who have been evacuated from conflict zones or epidemic outbreaks, offering them integrated health and social care in a safe environment surrounded by human dignity.

The city includes a range of integrated facilities, among them:

- Modern residential units that provide privacy and comfort for guests.
- Advanced medical clinics equipped with the latest devices and equipment, managed according to the highest international standards, while considering the psychological and humanitarian aspects in providing care.
- A school and nurseries for children, allowing children to continue their education in a stimulating and safe environment.
- Dedicated sports halls for men and women, enhancing physical and psychological health.
- Restaurants, green areas, and recreational and sports facilities that give the city the character of natural life and a stable environment.

**UAE Humanitarian City:**  
A pioneering model for  
institutional humanitarian  
work in the world.

## Integrated Services Reflect Human Dignity and the Right to a Safe Life

Since its establishment, the UAE Humanitarian City has been keen to provide a comprehensive package of educational, health, psychological, and social services, ensuring a dignified and stable life for guests that considers all their needs and embodies the UAE's values in preserving human dignity. The services available within the city have been organized according to the following categories:

- **Educational Programs:** These include academic stages from the first grade to the secondary level, applying the curriculum of the United Arab Emirates under the supervision of the Ministry of Education. A program for completing university studies remotely has also been provided, under the supervision of higher education institutions in the state.
- **Cultural and Recreational Services:** These vary between the specialized library, «Zayed Humanitarian Library,» psychological support and rehabilitation workshops, in addition to recreational programs that promote mental and social health.
- **Health and Medical Services:** This includes providing integrated treatments for patients, especially cancer patients, those injured due to wars, or those suffering from chronic diseases, in cooperation with a selection of hospitals and medical centers in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
- **Daily Recreational Trips:** The city organizes regular tours for guests to

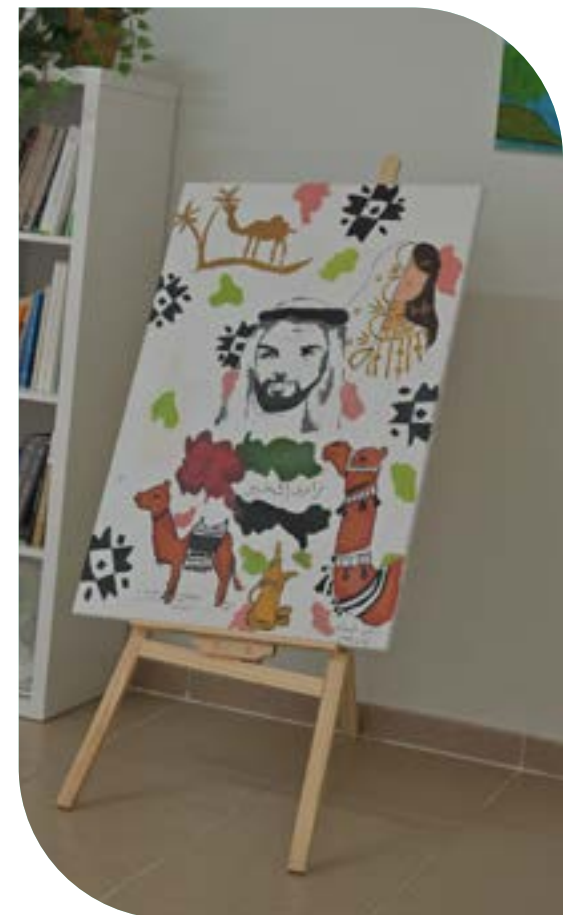


shopping malls, public parks, tourist attractions, and Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, contributing to their social integration and boosting their morale.

- **Diverse Events:** These include organizing marathons, cultural and sports competitions, religious and national celebrations, theatrical performances and recreational games, in addition to the bazaar event, and events organized by partner entities in humanitarian work.
- **Guest Happiness Services:** These are provided by offering personal supplies and facilitating communication with their families in their home countries, in addition to internal and external transportation services.
- **Services for People of Determination:** The city provides an integrated support system for people of determination, including providing prosthetics, advanced wheelchairs, physical and occupational therapy sessions, and speech therapy, in addition to comprehensive psychological support and specialized rehabilitation for all types of disabilities.
- **Community and Family Services:** These include psychological and social counseling sessions aimed at strengthening family cohesion and psychological stability within the city's humanitarian community.
- **Specialized Halls:** Such as the Creative Expression Hall and the Social Guidance and Counseling Hall, in addition to the UAE Humanitarian City Council Hall where community events and discussions are held.

## A Symbol of Transcending Humanitarian Solidarity

Embodying the values of humanitarian solidarity that form a cornerstone of the UAE's foreign policy, the UAE Humanitarian City has transformed into a





safe haven for vulnerable populations affected by prolonged conflicts and crises across the region. The city opened its doors wide to receive displaced individuals from these areas, in a scene that embodies the highest meanings of human fraternity.

Based on direct directives from the wise leadership, the city welcomed hundreds of wounded Palestinians, especially children, cancer patients, and those with chronic diseases, providing them with integrated medical and psychological care in an environment that restores their sense of dignity and reassurance.

Thus, the UAE Humanitarian City confirms that it is not just a pioneering Emirati project, but a beacon of global solidarity that embodies the UAE's humanitarian role in supporting humanity, wherever they may be.

### UAE Humanitarian City - Feelings of Inclusion and Love Woven by Hearts

In a quiet corner of the city, we met Ms. Samah Khalil, a Palestinian woman residing with her family in the UAE Humanitarian City after the current conflict in the Gaza Strip forced them to displace. She found in the city an alternative homeland that carries all meanings of inclusion and love.

Samah speaks with eyes filled with gratitude, saying: «I found genuine feelings of inclusion from everyone, especially His Excellency Mubarak Fallah Al Qahtani, the city's director, who did not hesitate to support us psychologically and humanely... He was like a father to us, surrounding us with love and care that eased the pain of loss and fear.»

She adds: «The entire team in the city works with exceptional dedication, meeting our basic, humanitarian, and even cultural and recreational needs, which helped us regain our psychological balance after what we experienced.» Samah points to her passion for reading and describes the city's library as «another world» containing a vast number of outstanding books that helped her overcome hardships. She says: «I spend long hours among the library shelves... The books here gave me strength and made me believe that a

**A Palestinian girl dreams of designing an Emirati dress... in loyalty to a land that embraced her in the most difficult circumstances.**

future is still possible.»

Regarding her personal ambition, she declares an inspiring dream: «I want to become a fashion designer, and the first design I will present will be the Emirati dress... I want to express through it my loyalty to this good land and to its leaders who restored hope to us.»

Samah's story, like other stories within the UAE Humanitarian City, embodies how giving can rebuild a person from within and help them move towards a promising future.

### Newborns Named «Zayed» and «Emirates»: Gratitude Born with Life

In moments where tears mingle with joy, and pain with hope, the UAE Humanitarian City continues to fulfill its noble mission of caring for humanity, especially the most vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, the sick, and the injured. Amidst an atmosphere of care and serenity, the city witnessed the birth of 15 new children recently, who were the fruit of hopes that would not have been realized without the embrace of the UAE during the most difficult times.

Some parents chose to immortalize their gratitude to the UAE in their own way, naming their newborns with high national symbolism. Some named their male newborns «Zayed,» out of love for the founding leader, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God have mercy on him. Others named their female newborns «Emirates,» expressing love and belonging to this benevolent land that embraced them in their plight.

These births occur within an integrated healthcare system provided by the city, which includes monitoring critical cases, providing necessary care for pregnant women, in addition to postnatal services for both mother and child, as well as continuous psychological and social support.

These stories are not merely new births, but a symbolic birth of loyalty and a deep spiritual connection between peoples and the UAE, a living embodiment of what «humanity without conditions» truly means.



**15 newborns in UAE Humanitarian City... including «Zayed» and «Emirates» in commemoration of loyalty.**

### In Conclusion...

The UAE Humanitarian City in Abu Dhabi is not just a developed infrastructure or a temporary relief project; rather, it is a living translation of a humanitarian vision deeply rooted in the conscience of the UAE and its wise leadership, which has placed humanity at the heart of its policies, both domestically and internationally. From aiding the distressed to embracing the sick, injured, and displaced from crisis areas, the UAE demonstrates to the world that compassion is not restricted by geography, nor limited by nationality or creed. In every corner of the city, and in every smile and new birth, the truth is revealed: The United Arab Emirates... a homeland for humanity without conditions.

## Dr. Amjad Shamout to «Emirates Magazine for Human Rights»: «Establishing an Arab Human Rights Council is a necessity to support the development of the human rights system in the Arab world.»

**In view of the rapid transformations witnessed in the human rights file at both regional and international levels, and the accompanying traditional and technical challenges, there is an urgent need to develop the Arab human rights system. This development would enhance its ability to respond effectively to current challenges and lay the foundations for an advanced path that reflects Arab interest in promoting respect for human rights.**



**Call for the establishment of an independent Arab Human Rights Commission that reflects the cultural specificity of Arab societies.**

**The UAE is an advanced model in developing national human rights legislation and mechanisms.**

In this context, Dr. Amjad Shamout, an expert in international law and human rights, and the former head of the Permanent Arab Human Rights Committee of the League of Arab States, emphasized in an interview with the Emirates Magazine for Human Rights the necessity of establishing an independent Arab Human Rights Commission. This commission would be concerned with promoting Arab human rights work and would constitute a regional entity parallel to the United Nations Human Rights Council, but with a vision and methodology that aligns with Arab specificity and responds to its priorities.

He also clarified that building an effective system for the protection of human rights is not limited to legal aspects only, but also requires formulating a human rights discourse emanating from Arab societal values and culture. This discourse should be capable of achieving a balance between development requirements and respect for rights, away from Western projections that may not be compatible with the social, religious, and cultural environment in the Arab world.

Dr. Shamout praised the positive developments achieved by the United Arab Emirates in the field of national legislation and policies related to human rights, considering it an important model at the regional level. However, he also pointed out that the role of civil society organizations still needs further development and coordination, in a way that can contribute to developing the human rights system

more comprehensively and effectively.

• **Initially, we would like to know what prompted you to get involved in human rights work and international law?**

•• Basically, I am a legal professional. I worked in the judiciary for many years before retiring. During my international participations in the field of human rights, I realized the importance of this field, especially as it intersects with my practical and academic background, and my interest in international treaties, legal standards, and related agreements.

I realized then that I could be part of this work in the future, or more precisely, be among the movement of human rights defenders and civil activists, by working on monitoring, analyzing, and addressing violations. I began interacting with this field by participating in regional and international conferences, seminars, and events. This interest was further enhanced after I obtained my master's and doctoral degrees in law. As I delved deeper into it, my passion, understanding, and contributions to promoting human rights grew, reflecting a genuine commitment to the principles of justice and human rights.

• **During your career, what were the most prominent milestones or challenges that left their mark on your professional personality? And how do you view your experience as Chairman of the Arab Human Rights Committee?**

•• Over years of work and involvement in the field of human rights, I, along with a group of specialized colleagues, established the Arab Bridge Center for Development and Human Rights, as a civil initiative aimed at promoting human rights values and principles in the Arab region.

Later, by a decision issued by His Majesty the King, I was appointed a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Center for Human Rights in Jordan, which is similar in nature and jurisdiction to the «National Human Rights Institutions» established in accordance with the Paris Principles relating to National Human Rights Institutions.

In 2016, I assumed the chairmanship of the Arab Human Rights Committee of the League of Arab States, based on the nomination of the Jordanian government. This committee is concerned with promoting the respect and protection of human rights in Arab countries, to play the role of the «legislative chamber» concerned with organizing and developing the Arab human rights system. After the elections, I became the first Jordanian to chair the Arab Human Rights Committee, and I served as chairman for one term.

• **The most prominent challenges in the field of human rights are double standards and «suspicious hidden agendas.»**

•• The most prominent challenges in the field of human rights are double standards and selectivity in applying international law and related international agreements and treaties. Although Islamic civilization is rich in an ancient human rights heritage, based on respecting and protecting human rights without discrimination, this heritage is deliberately ignored or misrepresented by some parties in the West.

Among the most prominent evidence of this advanced heritage is the Document of Medina, drafted by the Noble Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) upon his migration from Mecca to Medina, which is considered the first civil document guaranteeing rights and duties and establishing peaceful coexistence among various human components.



**Dr. Amjad Shamout**

• Dr. Amjad Shamout holds a Ph.D. in Public International Law. He has been an observer member of the Arab Human Rights Committee since 2012, and he chaired the committee in 2016.

• He is also a member of the Jordanian National Centre for Human Rights and a consultant for the Arab Observatory for Human Rights, which is affiliated with the Arab Parliament.

• Furthermore, Dr. Shamout is the Head of the Arab Bridge Centre for Human Rights.

• He is an international expert in the field of human rights with participations in numerous international conferences. Among these was the International Leadership Peace Conference in South Korea, where he was awarded the title of «Ambassador for Peace and Goodwill» in 2014.

**Double standards in the international system, and the human rights challenges facing the Arab world.**

**Armed conflicts and national armed conflicts have caused some Arab countries to go through critical stages that have affected the deterioration of human rights conditions.**

Despite this, some in the West still claim that the Islamic nation is deficient in caring for human rights, which is a distorted and incorrect stereotype, whether intentional or resulting from ignorance and misunderstanding.

This negative view in itself is an offense to our Arab societies, and it reflects – in part – a shortcoming on the part of civil society and the media in highlighting the true image of the humanitarian values advocated by Islamic Sharia. We must work together to correct this image and present the true model of justice and human dignity in our culture.

The Arab region has gone through a number of critical stages throughout its modern history, including armed conflicts and national armed conflicts, which had a profound impact on the deterioration of human rights conditions. Some Arab countries still suffer from a state of chaos and instability, leading to a sharp decline in the levels of human rights protection and care.

At the same time, the region has faced suspicious external agendas that exploit concepts such as democracy, human rights, and political freedoms, while hiding other agendas that have nothing to do with these values. In the face of this, we are working through the League of Arab States, and in cooperation with human rights activists, civil society organizations, and observers, to develop the Arab human rights system, whether by improving legislation or by strengthening actual practices on the ground, in order to confront these agendas and highlight the true face of our societal human rights culture.

The deeper we delve into human rights work, the more capable we become of correcting stereotypes and presenting a unique model derived from our principles and culture.

Furthermore, Arab involvement in international human rights work provides us with a greater space to confront the double standards practiced in human rights issues, foremost among them the grave violations committed in the Gaza Strip, which have put these international organizations in a position of moral and humanitarian accountability, given their silence or weak interaction with the suffering of civilians in Gaza, despite the enormity of the crimes committed and the catastrophic humanitarian conditions. Hence the importance of Arab human rights coordination and collective humanitarian action, in order to push towards a more balanced, equitable, and just international justice.

**• How do you see the evolution of the concept of human rights in the Arab world over the past two decades?**

• The League of Arab States, through the governments of its member states, plays a pivotal role in developing the human rights system in the Arab world, whether through issuing Arab legislation and agreements related to this field, or through specialized institutions such as the Permanent Arab Human Rights Committee and the Committee of the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which review the extent of member states' commitment to respecting and protecting human rights.

In addition, there are a number of Arab organizations concerned with the rights of specific sectors, such as the Arab Labor Organization, the Arab Women's Organization, and the Arab Child Organization. The League of Arab States has also issued many agreements that address women's rights, children's rights, and workers' rights.

Currently, we are also working to monitor new developments in the human rights field at the Arab level, which include issues related to climate change, environmental protection, and the impact of pollutants and carbon emissions, considering them topics with a direct impact on human rights.

From this standpoint, I can confirm that these Arab institutions aim, at their core, to promote and develop human rights care in the Arab world, especially since we have the ability to apply the best human rights practices on the ground, based on our human cultural heritage, which calls for respecting human rights. Therefore, we must work to highlight our values and principles to the world, both within Arab societies and at the level of United Nations international organizations.

The United Arab Emirates is making integrated efforts in this field, by spreading the values of tolerance, shared human coexistence, and acceptance of others, through the establishment of the Global Tolerance Council, of which I am a member. This is an important platform that highlights the truth of the Islamic religious heritage and shows the tolerance, moderation, and respect for diversity and others within the framework of respecting human beings and their rights.

Therefore, we Arabs must show our best, and rearrange these values according to modern tools, to be a leverage in all sectors and fields, and to reflect our civilization and human history, and to solidify the values of human rights to which we belong.

**The Necessity of Legal Oversight for Civil Society Organizations to Ensure «Good Governance»**

**• In your opinion, what role should civil society organizations play in promoting a human rights culture in the Arab world?**

• Civil society organizations play an extremely vital role as a link between governments and society. Civil society in the Arab region is notably effective. From this perspective, I believe it's essential to apply «qualitative governance» to these institutions, so they are subject to legal oversight, whether they are related to human rights or development issues. Good governance is crucial to ensuring the transparency and effectiveness of these organizations' work, especially in light of what we witnessed after the so-called «Arab Spring,» where some civil society organizations emerged operating according to suspicious regional and international agendas, seeking to promote extremist ideas and cultures.

Therefore, regulating the public sphere of civil society work means ensuring its commitment to its humanitarian and ethical mission, its endeavor to spread and promote a human rights culture among all segments of society, and its vital role in communicating with law enforcement agencies to address human rights violations, thereby strengthening its partnership in building a society where justice and dignity prevail.

**• Do you believe that international organizations deal fairly with human rights issues in our region, or is there sometimes a double standard?**

• Double standards and the politicization of human rights issues constitute a real problem in the field of human rights. Some countries exploit this as a means of «blackmailing» Arab nations, instead of genuinely striving to protect and care for human rights. This behavior fundamentally contradicts the lofty human rights principles advocated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, making this issue extremely serious.

Therefore, we must remain constantly vigilant regarding this challenge. Although there is some attention currently, it is not sufficient to the required degree. To overcome this problem, we must ensure the application and implementation of internationally agreed-upon human rights within our societies and in our interactions with others. This will enhance our credibility and limit opportunities for these challenges to be exploited to undermine human security in our Arab nations.

**Arab civil society between the need for good governance and the challenges of the post-'Arab Spring' era.**



**Supporting Arab international engagement in the human rights file primarily requires strengthening and developing the human rights care process within our societies.**

**There is a need to develop Arab legislation and agreements, and to update human rights protection mechanisms, to improve the Arab image internationally regarding the reality of human rights.**

#### **Developing Arab Human Rights Mechanisms and Establishing an «Arab Human Rights Commission»**

• **If you were in charge of an international human rights organization, what decision would you make to promote global human rights protection?**

•• Supporting Arab international engagement in human rights primarily requires enhancing and developing the advancement of human rights within our own societies. This ensures that our engagement aligns with our national, cultural, and humanitarian identity, contributing to a positive and highly credible image of us to others.

To achieve this, it's essential to develop Arab legislation and agreements and to update mechanisms for protecting human rights from violations, including the human rights mechanisms of the League of Arab States, which have seen significant efforts in this area in the past.

From this perspective, we advocate for moving forward with the establishment of specialized Arab bodies such as an Arab Human Rights Commission and an Arab Human Rights Council (similar to the UN Human Rights Council), alongside an Arab Commission for Civil Society working in human rights. There's an urgent need for new and advanced legal and human rights frameworks that enhance the guarantee of human rights respect, whether within the League of Arab States or

any other Arab framework.

These institutions aim to support the advancement of human rights while simultaneously improving the international perception of the human rights situation in Arab countries, thereby strengthening our international standing and supporting our efforts in this vital field.

#### **UAE Achieves Human Rights Milestones in National Legislation and Policies**

• **You recently participated in workshops and training in the UAE. What distinguishes the Emirati experience in building human rights institutions at national and international levels?**

•• The United Arab Emirates has taken positive and well-considered steps to support and enhance its human rights efforts, achieving remarkable progress in this area. The state has focused on capacity building within national institutions, in addition to developing the skills of legal professionals working in the human rights field. Furthermore, it has strengthened the role, contribution, and partnership of civil society organizations and the National Human Rights Institution in human rights matters.

Notably, the UAE has made significant strides in advancing its human rights journey, leadership, and protection, both through official institutions and Emirati civil society organizations. This has strengthened the UAE's effective and influential engagement in regional and international human rights affairs, whether in interacting with international bodies and mechanisms or in developing national human rights legislation and policies. This extensive effort reflects the state's commitment to enhancing the guarantee and protection of human rights.

While acknowledging the efforts made by Emirati civil society organizations in the human rights field, advanced national aspirations call for further development and professionalism in their performance. This can be achieved through enhancing capacity-building programs, active engagement with international bodies and mechanisms, and expanding areas of partnership and cooperation with various parties to support the country's human rights progress.

It can be said that the opportunities for developing human rights civil society in the UAE are significant, especially with the presence of young leaders characterized by a comprehensive human rights culture and vision, who are currently working to push this sector towards greater development and effectiveness. The experience of the Union Association for Human Rights provides a unique model for civil society representation. Despite its recent establishment, it stands out among other Arab civil society institutions. Its launch of the first specialized Arab human rights magazine published in international languages is also a qualitative addition to its nascent experience.

• **What message would you like to convey to the Arab world?**

•• I hope that we work together to reflect the values, traditions, and civilizational and human heritage of the Arab world, making human rights a priority in our joint Arab work. We must also promote and spread the values of tolerance, shared human coexistence, and acceptance of others within our Arab societies. We are called upon to highlight the message of peace, which represents the essence of our deeply rooted human traditions and ingrained societal culture. This is a human duty before it is a religious and civilizational duty for all of us.

I wish for peace to prevail in the world and the Arab region, because human beings are honored by Allah Almighty, and what unites us as humans is more than what divides us.

**The UAE has made great strides in strengthening its journey, leadership, and care for human rights, both at the level of official institutions' work and concerning civil society institutions.**

**Opportunities for developing the human rights civil society in the UAE are significant, especially with the presence of young leaders characterized by a comprehensive human rights culture and vision.**



**International Humanitarian Aid Faces «Complete Halt»  
Amidst Funding Decline, UN Reports Confirm:**

**As global funding dwindles, UN reports indicate that international humanitarian and relief efforts are at risk of a «complete halt.»**

**In an increasingly turbulent world, burdened by escalating climate crises, armed conflicts, and intertwined economic and health emergencies, international humanitarian work has become more urgent and complex than ever. The first half of 2025 has shown rapidly accelerating indicators that warn of a surge in the need for humanitarian aid, juxtaposed with a shrinking international capacity for comprehensive response.**

According to the United Nations' 2025 Humanitarian Appeal, over 305 million people worldwide are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. However, the UN response plan targets only 189.5 million people, with an estimated funding requirement of \$47.4 billion.

While this targeted number is the highest in the history of modern humanitarian work, it also means that 115.5 million people suffering from acute humanitarian crises have no prospect of receiving aid due to the limited resources available to relief organizations.

Worse still, even those covered by UN assistance are grappling with a critical funding gap that threatens their ability to secure minimum basic needs. This renders the humanitarian response inadequate and poses a risk of the support system collapsing in many communities.

### Global Humanitarian Overview 2025 – United Nations

According to the «Global Humanitarian Overview 2025» report published by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – the agency responsible for leading and coordinating the international response to humanitarian disasters and crises – the year 2025 presents unprecedented challenges burdening the global aid system. The most prominent challenges include:

- Escalating Armed Conflicts: The intensity of conflicts is concentrated in Palestine (Gaza), Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen, and Syria. These conflicts have resulted in hundreds of thousands of casualties, widespread internal and external displacement, and comprehensive destruction of vital infrastructure, including the health, food, and education sectors.
- The report indicates that 78% of civilian casualties worldwide occurred in countries suffering from severe humanitarian crises, which are the same countries included in international humanitarian appeal plans.
- Complex Health Emergencies: According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 42 active health emergencies have been recorded in multiple regions worldwide. These emergencies are a result of epidemic outbreaks, increasing displacement, and the collapse of essential healthcare services, especially in fragile environments.
- Accelerating Impacts of Climate Change: The report indicates that the world is on the verge of exceeding the 1.5°C global warming threshold. This has led to more severe and frequent natural disasters – such as floods, droughts, and wildfires – contributing to the worsening food security crisis in large parts of Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
- Funding Shortfalls and Declining Commitments: The funding gap has become one of the most serious challenges, as aid organizations face unprecedented

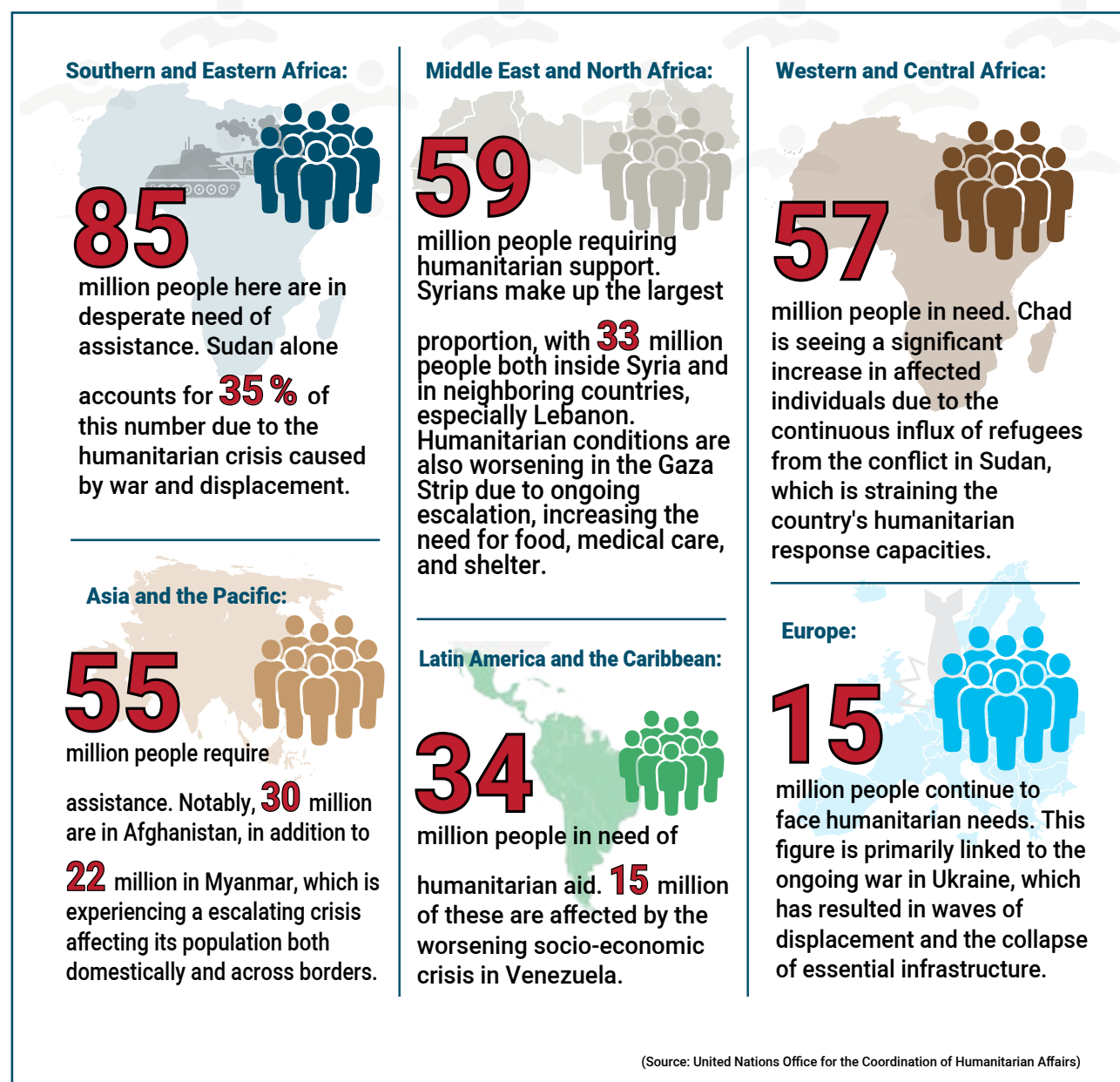
**While the world pulls back on funding, the UAE continues to champion humanitarianism through qualitative initiatives and exceptional responses.**



difficulty in mobilizing financial support. This is due to donor countries being preoccupied with addressing their internal economic crises and an increasing nationalist trend in their foreign policies, leading to a decline in multilateral commitments towards humanitarian issues.

### Regions Most in Need of Humanitarian and Relief Aid – 2025

According to the «Global Humanitarian Overview 2025» report published by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), humanitarian needs are distributed as follows:

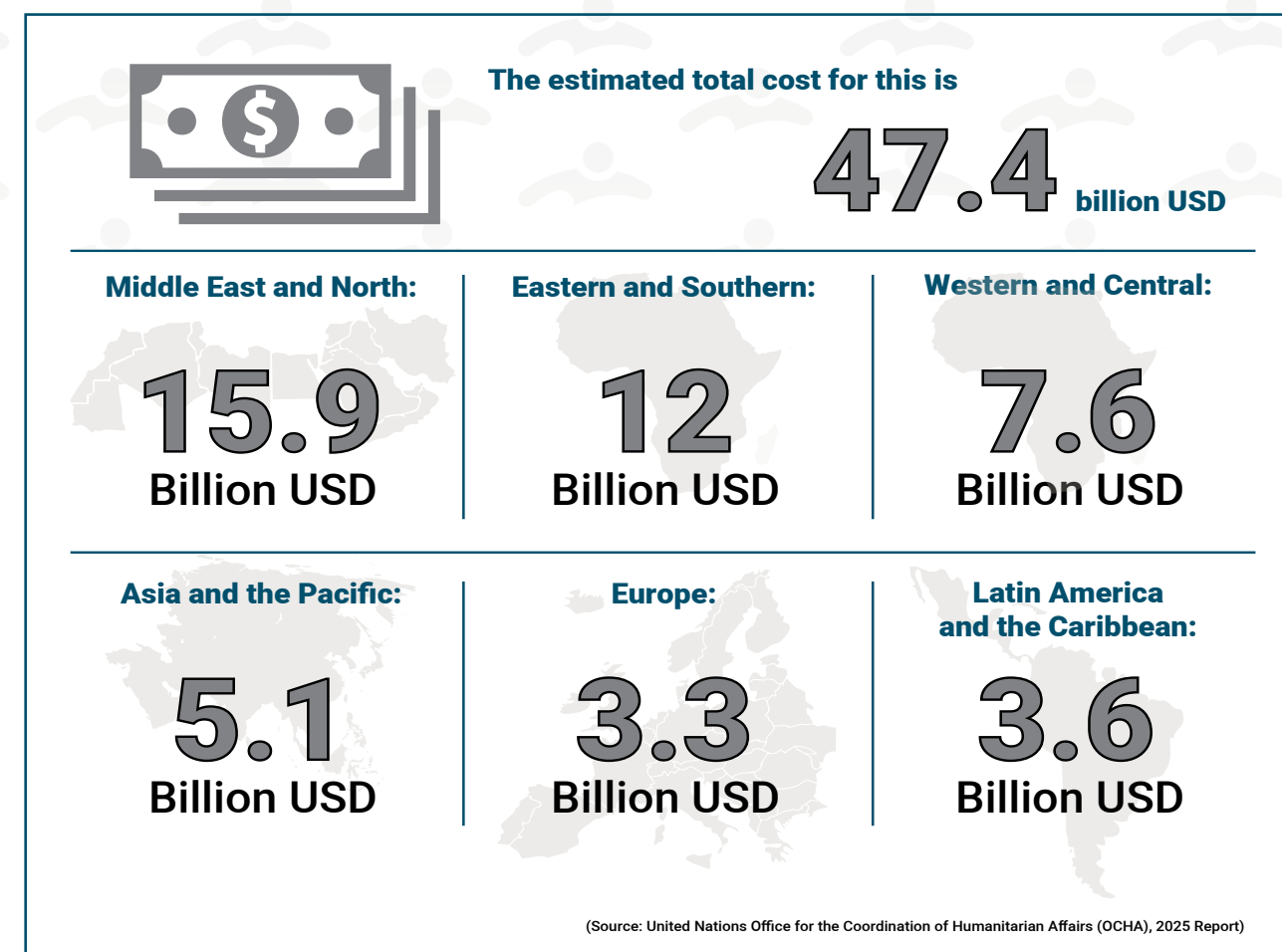


Given this dire reality, humanitarian action is no longer merely an emergency response. Instead, it has become a strategic necessity that requires the international community to re-evaluate intervention mechanisms, role distribution, and the activation of prevention and proactive tools, rather than just reacting with limited responses after disasters strike.

### UN Appeals for \$47 Billion in 2025 to Address Global Humanitarian Needs

In its 2025 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and international aid organizations have launched an appeal to fund the humanitarian needs of approximately 189.5 million people worldwide. The estimated total cost for this is \$47.4 billion USD.

The requested amounts have been allocated by geographic region as follows:



### Funding Shortfalls Threaten International Humanitarian Action

Despite repeated appeals launched by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in December 2024 to raise \$47 billion to meet urgent humanitarian needs throughout 2025, the actual funding received by May 2025 has only reached 9%, or approximately \$4.19 billion.

This decline reflects the persistent funding challenges facing the global humanitarian system. The year 2023 saw a similar reality; at that time, 245.2 million people were targeted for humanitarian assistance, with estimated financial requirements of approximately \$56.7 billion. However, the total amount actually raised did not exceed \$21.8 billion, equivalent to only 38.3% of the declared needs.

This chronic decline in funding volume portends serious consequences for millions of affected people worldwide and places aid organizations before a harsh equation: expanding needs versus shrinking available resources.

**A Critical Funding Gap: The United Nations has received only 9% of its 2025 humanitarian appeal.**

**The reasons behind the humanitarian funding crisis stem from escalating conflicts and disasters, coupled with declining commitments from donor nations.**

**10% of workers in humanitarian and relief organizations have been laid off due to current funding shortfalls.**

### Causes and Consequences of the Funding Gap in International Humanitarian Action

The severe shortage in humanitarian funding during 2025 can be attributed to two main factors:

- 1. Escalation of Global Crises:** The increasing number of armed conflicts and climate-related disasters has led to a doubling of people in need of assistance in several regions, such as Sudan, Yemen, and the Gaza Strip. This has created unprecedented pressure on available humanitarian resources.
- 2. Decline in Donor Country Commitments:** Some major donor countries, primarily the United States, have reduced their contributions to aid funding. A significant portion of their humanitarian budgets has been redirected to support their internal economic priorities, negatively impacting the ability of aid agencies to meet even the minimum needs.

#### Consequences of This Financial Decline:

According to OCHA data, the repercussions of this decline have begun to manifest in several regions around the world, and their impacts are expected to expand during the second half of 2025. The most prominent of these consequences include:

- Layoffs and Reduced Operations: A 10% reduction in humanitarian and aid workers due to funding shortages, along with significant cutbacks in life-saving operations conducted by UN agencies in several countries.



### In Conclusion

The noticeable decline in international humanitarian and relief aid is no longer just a drop in numbers and statistics. It has become a concerning indicator of a diminishing global commitment to urgent humanitarian issues. This reality demands a serious pause from the international community to re-evaluate its strategies and strengthen its tools, whether by expanding partnerships or innovating sustainable funding sources. Addressing humanitarian crises is no longer an option; it's a necessity dictated by the ethics of solidarity and moral responsibilities.

Investing in humanitarian action does not only mean saving lives; it is also a fundamental pillar of global stability and peace. From this perspective, humanitarian response must remain a constant priority in the policies of nations and international organizations. (Information derived from United Nations (OCHA) and Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) reports for 2024 and 2025.)

- Deterioration of Health and Nutrition Services: A decline in health and nutrition services in areas such as Nigeria and Burundi, where healthcare levels have dropped by nearly 70%, while nutrition services have decreased by approximately 50% in some states.
- Reprioritization of Humanitarian Response Plans: Re-ordering of priorities in humanitarian response plans, focusing solely on critical interventions, especially in areas inhabited by the most vulnerable people.
- Suspension of Essential Services in Conflict Zones: The suspension of basic services in some conflict-affected areas of Colombia, including the halt of essential relief supply distribution.
- Closure of Nutrition and Water Centers: The closure of nutrition and water centers in Afghanistan due to an 88% funding gap, leaving hundreds of thousands without vital services.
- Suspension of Emergency Nutrition Programs: The suspension of emergency nutrition programs in Somalia, which threatens the lives of more than 55,000 children with starvation, after the program lost 65% of its essential funding previously provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).



## «Digital Relief: A New Path for Humanitarian Solidarity!»

**In a world where humanitarian crises, natural disasters, and armed conflicts are a daily occurrence, social media platforms are no longer just tools for entertainment or communication. They have transformed into digital lifelines, effectively contributing to supporting people in times of crisis.**

**The communication revolution has led to the rise of platforms with unprecedented impact, transcending their traditional functional roles. They have become vital windows for monitoring crises, conveying the suffering of those affected to the world, and instantly promoting relief needs, even if it's just through a hashtag or a short video.**



These platforms have reshaped the concept of humanitarian response. Images, videos, live broadcasts, and hashtags are now powerful tools capable of mobilizing global solidarity and spurring responses from governments, international organizations, and donor communities.

They have also become a potent means of directing public attention toward areas of suffering that don't receive traditional media coverage. This enhances communities' ability to mobilize and rally resources, bridging the gap between individual efforts and institutional relief work.

### The Red Cross and Red Crescent Guide: A Digital Roadmap for Humanitarian Communication

Recognizing the crucial role of digital transformation in boosting the effectiveness of humanitarian response, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), with support from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), issued a practical guide in 2017.

This guide focuses specifically on using social media platforms in relief efforts to communicate with people affected by crises. Aimed at humanitarian workers, it provides a set of recommendations and guidelines on how to effectively leverage social media as a tool for connecting with individuals impacted by disasters and crises.

The guide focuses on four key areas to ensure optimal utilization of digital platforms:

- **Communication for Listening and Interaction:** It's crucial that communication via social media isn't solely for disseminating practical or awareness-raising information. It must also involve actively listening and interacting with communities affected or impacted by disasters and humanitarian crises. This approach enhances the effectiveness of humanitarian response and builds a level of trust in the information exchanged between both parties.
- **Monitoring and Responding to Misinformation:** During times of crisis and humanitarian emergencies, rumors spread rapidly, especially through social media. Therefore, the guide emphasizes the importance of monitoring and effectively responding to this misinformation to maintain the trust of users in relief and humanitarian organizations.

### The Red Cross Guide: A Roadmap for Using Digital Communication in Disasters

### When a Tweet Becomes a Lifeline: The Digital Revolution Serving Humanity



## From Interaction to Mobilization: How Social Media Creates Global Solidarity

- **Content Planning and Management:** The guide offers advice on how to plan and schedule content, select appropriate platforms, and ensure messages align with the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

- **Capacity Building and Training:** This involves training staff and volunteers in relief organizations on how to use social media responsibly and effectively. It also highlights the importance of understanding the cultural and social context of target communities and developing the ability to engage with influential figures in those communities receiving aid.

It is worth noting that this guide is considered a “living document” that remains open to updates, reflecting a growing awareness of the importance of digital transformation in humanitarian work. It is distinguished by its inclusion of practical case studies from crisis zones—such as water distribution campaigns in Syria or tracking the needs of affected populations in Nepal and Haiti—thereby enhancing the credibility of its guidance. The guide also places a strong emphasis on the concept of “digital listening” (Social Media Listening) as a fundamental entry point for understanding affected communities and tailoring messages to their actual needs. Notably, the guide focuses on enhancing the effectiveness of communication and humanitarian accountability, rather than serving marketing or fundraising purposes. This approach makes it a reliable and professional reference for all those working in the field of digital humanitarian response.

### The European LINKS Project: Digitalization in Disaster Management

To deepen the understanding of how digital platforms contribute to disaster management, the European Union launched the LINKS project from June 2020 to November 2023, supported by the Horizon 2020 program.

The project focused on studying the impact of social media and

crowdsourcing in the context of disasters and crises. This was done through practical applications in four European countries: Denmark (flash floods in Copenhagen), Italy (earthquakes in Terni province), Germany (terrorist attacks), and the Netherlands (industrial leaks and environmental pollution in Limburg). The LINKS project aimed to develop knowledge tools and field guides to help official and community organizations effectively use social media during the prediction, response, and recovery phases.

The project concluded with several important findings, notably:

- Lack of institutional coordination among disaster management entities in effectively and cohesively utilizing social media.
- The power of community engagement via these platforms as a vital source of information for damage assessment, despite some variability in the accuracy of certain collected data.
- The need for systematic training for disaster management personnel in using digital analysis tools and understanding patterns of online interaction during emergencies.
- The role of digital platforms like «X» (formerly Twitter) and «Facebook» in providing real-time information, mobilizing community support, and coordinating relief efforts between volunteers and official bodies.

The project also developed standardized tools such as the «Citizen Engagement Guide,» the «Digital Response Scenarios Library,» and the «Resilience Wheel,» which serve as practical references for enhancing digital preparedness in emergencies.

In this context, the project established the «LINKS Collaborative Community,» a network comprising over 500 relevant entities from various European countries. This network includes first responders, public authorities, and civil

## «X» at the Forefront of Digital Relief: What Does the LINKS Project Say?



## Digital Skills for Aid Workers: From Publishing to Interaction

### Digital Disaster Management: From Early Warning to Field Coordination

society organizations, all working to foster the exchange of knowledge and practical experience in disaster management and community resilience. Furthermore, the project highlighted several future challenges that must be addressed to ensure the safe and effective use of digital tools during crises. These primarily include issues of digital privacy and ethical considerations in data collection and use. Additionally, it emphasized the crucial need to consider cultural and linguistic diversity to guarantee equitable access and effective interaction with all segments of society.

#### «X» Platform: A Digital Forum for Supporting Humanitarian Work

Since Elon Musk announced in 2023 the renaming of «Twitter» to «X», he also declared his ambition to transform the platform into a comprehensive digital ecosystem for various aspects of daily life, ranging from social interaction to financial services and engagement with artificial intelligence (Grok). This shift has bolstered X's position as one of the world's most prominent digital platforms, including in the fields of humanitarian work and crisis management.

Thanks to its open and immediate nature, X has become a vital platform during humanitarian crises. It has demonstrated its effectiveness in disseminating urgent warnings, updating on-the-ground information, and directly interacting with affected communities. A comprehensive analytical study of over 21 million tweets published during Hurricane Ian, which struck

the United States in 2022, revealed that the platform served as a strategic tool for assessing damage and guiding humanitarian response efforts.

The most prominent characteristics that have distinguished the «X» platform in emergency contexts are:

- **Instantaneous Response:** The platform has provided an ideal environment for individuals, influencers, and humanitarian organizations alike to disseminate urgent news, emergency alerts, and crisis updates. This has enabled rapid intervention and coordination of relief efforts.
- **Hashtag and Trend Analysis:** Popular hashtags are used to analyze digital patterns around affected areas, contributing to the development of precise relief plans based on real-time and updated data.
- **Mobilization of Digital Solidarity:** Videos and images spread widely, stimulating public support and immediate donations, and globally highlighting the scale of the crisis.
- **Affected Individuals Expressing Their Needs:** The platform allows those impacted by crises to directly voice their needs by specifying their locations or detailing their requirements. This facilitates relief teams in tracking critical areas and allocating resources effectively.

With the integration of AI technologies like (Grok), the platform's ability to analyze real-time data and predict crisis trends is increasing. This paves the way for its future use as an early warning tool and for guiding humanitarian aid more proactively.

#### In Conclusion

Social media platforms—foremost among them X (formerly Twitter)—are no longer merely tools for interaction or entertainment. They have evolved into vital humanitarian channels that contribute to rescue efforts, public awareness, and the coordination of relief operations. In the digital age, a single tweet or hashtag can save a life, issue a cross-border call for help, or ignite a wave of global solidarity that was previously unimaginable.

These platforms have reshaped the concept of humanitarian response, turning every user into a potential actor in the chain of support and relief. This transformation underscores that digitization is no longer a technical option, but rather a moral and social responsibility that demands deep awareness when applied in crisis contexts. In this regard, it becomes essential for humanitarian organizations to adopt a professional framework for engaging with these platforms, grounded in specialized resources such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent guide—to ensure more effective and equitable digital responses that align with the evolving challenges of the digital era.



# The UAE: Capital of Humanity in 2025

## Six Major Events Underscore Its Global Leadership in Tolerance, Peace, and Crisis Management

The United Arab Emirates has witnessed unprecedented humanitarian momentum, manifested in its hosting of a series of high-level international summits and conferences. These events affirm its leading position as a global capital for tolerance and sustainable humanitarian action. These prominent gatherings embody the UAE's organizational readiness, advanced infrastructure, and its status as a preferred destination for fostering international dialogue and building humanitarian partnerships.

Six major events held across the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai during 2025 have positioned the UAE as a unifying call for global visions, an incubator for constructive dialogues, and a catalyst for positive change in matters of peace, tolerance, sustainability, justice, and crisis management. This further enhances its image as a nation working towards a more balanced and humane future for the entire world's peoples.



**5th Tolerance and Human Fraternity Conference Reaffirms UAE's Leadership in Upholding Values of Tolerance and Coexistence, and Advancing the Document on Human Fraternity as a Global Framework for Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue.**

### The Global Conference on Tolerance and Human Fraternity

The fifth edition of the Global Conference on Tolerance and Human Fraternity convened in Abu Dhabi on February 5th and 6th, 2025, under the theme «Peace, Human Dignity, and Peaceful Coexistence.» The Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence and the Muslim Council of Elders, in collaboration with the Zayed Award for Human Fraternity, jointly organized it.

The conference served as a reaffirmation of the UAE's leadership in consolidating the values of tolerance and coexistence and promoting the Abu Dhabi Document on Human Fraternity as a global framework for interreligious and intercultural dialogue. It also highlighted the nation's experience in supporting these principles through legislation and community initiatives. The event saw the participation of international figures, Nobel laureates, and representatives of UN and religious organizations from various countries. The sessions addressed key themes including peace, human dignity, peaceful coexistence, and the impact of the United Nations' declaration of the



International Day of Human Fraternity. Discussions also revolved around the historic document signed in Abu Dhabi in 2019 by the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar and the Pope of the Vatican.

The conference reviewed the UAE's experience in promoting tolerance through legislation and emphasized the role of youth and people of determination in building tolerant societies. It also highlighted the necessity of integrating the environmental dimension into human fraternity plans. The conference culminated in the launch of the «Global Call for an International Tolerance Alliance» from Abu Dhabi, urging the expansion of partnerships between cultures, the empowerment of youth, and respect for human dignity. The conference also recommended: (integrating the concepts of human fraternity into education and policies), (supporting environmentally friendly initiatives with a fair dimension), and (empowering people of determination to ensure their effective community participation). Furthermore, it underscored the UAE's standing as a global model for coexistence, especially in light of the declaration of 2025 as the «Year of the Community,» and its pioneering role in establishing dialogue, openness, and respect for diversity.

### The Humanitarian Partnerships Forum 2025

The Emirates Red Crescent Authority hosted the events of the Humanitarian Partnerships Forum 2025 on February 24th, 2025, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with broad participation from local and international humanitarian organizations and the private sector. The forum aimed to enhance coordination between institutions, expand partnerships, and activate the role of the private sector and civil society in emergency response. The forum discussed innovation in humanitarian work, food security, and the protection of vulnerable groups of women and children across three main sessions. It highlighted leading Emirati initiatives such as the «Hifz Al Ni'mah» (Preservation of Grace) project and the contributions of the Fatima bint Mubarak Center and the Sheikha Fatima Fund for Refugee Women.

The forum also reviewed the nation's efforts in responding to the crises in Gaza,

**Humanitarian Partnerships Forum 2025 Emphasizes Strengthening Institutional Coordination and Expanding Partnerships for Rapid Emergency Response.**



Sudan, Ukraine, Myanmar, and earthquakes and floods around the world. The UAE provided water to 600,000 displaced people in Gaza, participated in vaccinating 640,000 children against polio, and provided hundreds of tons of food aid. The forum concluded with a recommendation to transform it into a recurring event, develop coordination and innovation mechanisms, and solidify the UAE's position as a global model in humanitarian action.

### The Global Summit for Emergency and Crisis Management 2025

The Global Crisis and Emergency Management Summit 2025 was held in Abu Dhabi on April 8-9, organized by the National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA) and under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Ruler of Abu Dhabi and National Security Advisor. The summit, held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), was held under the theme «Together Towards Building Global Resilience.»

The summit witnessed the widest participation in its history, with the attendance of government leaders, international experts, and representatives from UN organizations, academic and technological institutions from various countries worldwide. The aim was to enhance international cooperation and build a flexible system based on innovation to address major challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, health crises, and security issues.

The summit's activities were distributed across four main pillars: unifying global capabilities, bridging cooperation between sectors, managing uncertainty, and promoting an adaptive economy.

The summit included dialogue sessions with broad international participation and specialized workshops focusing on leadership, artificial intelligence, and proactive planning. It also featured two international exhibitions, one highlighting modern emergency technologies and the other aimed at raising awareness among children and youth.

Leading initiatives such as «Billion Readiness», the «Noggin 2.0» platform, and



proactive analysis mechanisms were also presented.

The summit concluded with a set of strategic recommendations that included enhancing cross-border cooperation, building resilient national strategies, empowering innovation and artificial intelligence, involving communities in promoting a culture of readiness, adopting proactive leadership models, and strengthening economic resilience in the face of future crises.

### The World Governments Summit: An Incubator for Tolerance

The capital city of Abu Dhabi hosted the third edition of the «World Governments Summit: An Incubator for Tolerance» on April 9th, 2025. It was organized by the Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence in collaboration with the Annual Investment Meeting.

This year's conference was held under the theme «A Balanced Approach to Achieving Prosperity» and witnessed high-level international attendance from policymakers, diplomats, academics, and officials from international organizations, including ministers from Morocco, Bahrain, China, and Italy.

The conference focused on consolidating the culture of tolerance and coexistence by exchanging best governmental practices and discussing the challenges of integrating these values into public policies. It also highlighted the importance of dialogue between governments and think tanks.

Participants emphasized that societies driven by tolerant governments are more stable and capable of progress amidst global transformations.

The conference saw the participation of over 500 influential figures and included the signing of three Memoranda of Understanding with prominent international entities from Morocco, Bahrain, and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). These agreements aim to enhance cooperation in the fields of tolerance diplomacy, the role of youth, and the utilization of artificial intelligence in balanced development.

Key outcomes of the conference included: highlighting the Emirati model



in integrating tolerance into governmental performance, formulating recommendations to enhance inclusivity in policies, affirming the role of tolerance diplomacy in supporting global peace, and calling for the adoption of a coexistence approach as a primary path to achieving social and economic sustainability.

### The Global Summit for Justice, Love, and Peace

The city of Dubai hosted the events of the Global Summit for Justice, Love, and Peace on April 12th and 13th, 2025. Considered the largest international conference dedicated to peace in the world, it was organized by the «I am a Peacemaker» movement at the Dubai Exhibition Centre – Expo City, under the theme «One Planet, One Voice: Global Justice, Love, and Peace.»

The summit saw the participation of over 2,800 peacemakers from around the world, including 72 prominent speakers and 12 Nobel Peace Prize laureates, alongside heads of state, religious leaders, thinkers, and environmental and social activists.

The summit aimed to consolidate the values of justice, equality, and dialogue, promote global peace initiatives, and emphasize the role of love, freedom, and human dignity in achieving global stability.

The summit witnessed the launch of the «Peace Charter – A Message of Love to Humanity,» signed by the Nobel laureates, which is slated to be presented to the United Nations as a unifying international initiative.

The events also included sessions and workshops on environmental peace issues, human rights, and the role of religions in fostering understanding. Additionally, the «I am a Peacemaker» initiative was launched, aiming to gather one million peacemakers by September 21, 2025. A global awards ceremony was held, presenting 28 international awards to distinguished individuals in various fields such as education, human rights, media, and technology.

Leaders affirmed during the summit that peace does not only mean the absence of war but also requires the presence of the values of justice, empathy, knowledge, and dialogue.

The summit's final outcomes included the adoption of a global peace charter as a reference document promoting justice and love, affirming the UAE's role as a global center for tolerance and peace, and a pledge to hold the summit annually in Dubai. The summit also included strengthening international partnerships in the areas of coexistence, human rights, and climate, and

### Events Highlight UAE's Organizational Readiness and Status as a Preferred Hub for Global Dialogue and Humanitarian Partnerships.



advancing the global trend toward consolidating human values as a means to achieve comprehensive peace and sustainable development.

### The International Procurement and Supply Chain Conference (IPSC)

The prestigious International Procurement and Supply Chain Conference (IPSC) convened on April 13th, 2025, at the W Hotel in Dubai, under the theme: «Redefining Global Trade: The UAE Shaping Sustainable Supply Chains for the Future.» The conference was organized by Blue Ocean Corporation.

The conference aimed to highlight the pioneering role of the United Arab Emirates in building resilient, innovative, and sustainable supply chains within a world facing rapid economic and geopolitical challenges. It focused on smart solutions such as artificial intelligence, green procurement, and unified purchasing systems.

The conference saw the participation of over 650 international figures, including industry leaders, decision-makers, and representatives of governmental organizations and global companies. It featured presentations and specialized dialogues that addressed carbon-negative supply chains and the UAE's leading experience in the In-Country Value (ICV) program, which has redirected AED 145 billion to the national economy since 2018. Successful solutions such as the «DubaiNow» platform, which unified procurement operations for 40 government entities, were also showcased.

The conference further affirmed the UAE's position as a global hub for green trade and economic integration.

The conference included the distribution of «IPSC» awards for excellence in innovation, sustainability, and leadership.

The conference concluded with several key outcomes and recommendations, most notably: the necessity of building flexible supply chains based on data and technology, strengthening international partnerships to ensure trade sustainability, highlighting the UAE's global model in transparency and innovation, and announcing that the next edition of the conference will be held in New Delhi, India.

The conference represented a significant milestone in global events, reflecting the UAE's commitment to driving sustainable development and fostering international cooperation in the field of supply chains and trade.

### In Conclusion

The convening of these six major events within a short period reflects not only the growing momentum of the UAE's humanitarian and diplomatic role but also the unique integration between its national vision and the global agenda in the fields of peace, tolerance, justice, and sustainability.

Through this global presence and impactful engagement, the United Arab Emirates has proven that it is not merely a nation that hosts conferences but a fundamental partner in shaping a more just and balanced future for all of humanity.

Through its initiatives, alliances, and the outcomes of these events, the UAE is charting the features of a new decade of global humanitarian leadership, where dialogue becomes an alternative to conflict, compassion forms the basis of policies and innovation serves as a path towards global security and prosperity.



## «Know Your Customer»: A National Digital Platform to Enhance Transparency and Data Protection in Financial Transactions



What is the role of the digital platform in enhancing financial compliance according to FATF standards?

Combating money laundering and terrorist financing are among the most prominent global challenges that require close coordination between national and international efforts to ensure the stability of financial and economic systems and preserve global security. In this context, the United Arab Emirates has achieved a qualitative leap in its legislative and executive framework to effectively and efficiently combat the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing.

International recognition of this progress came through the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) statement issued in February 2024, which praised the substantial improvements implemented by the UAE in the context of its commitment to the action plan adopted since February 2022. These improvements included: developing mechanisms for international cooperation, enhancing the efficiency of financial intelligence units, raising the level of supervision and oversight of financial institutions and designated non-financial businesses and professions, in addition to activating deterrent penalties, and achieving tangible progress in investigation and prosecution.

Therefore, the removal of the UAE's name from the FATF's «grey list» is not merely a technical acknowledgment of reforms, but rather embodies a strategic transformation in the state's approach, as a responsible global financial center that contributes to protecting the international financial system from cross-border threats.

### Forty Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has developed a reference document containing «Forty Recommendations» that form the globally adopted framework for building integrated financial systems to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. These recommendations are a key reference for financial institutions around the world to enhance their compliance with relevant international standards.

Among the most prominent of these recommendations is Recommendation 10, which emphasizes the importance of applying customer due diligence, maintaining records, and prohibiting the opening of anonymous or fictitious accounts. It also stresses the necessity of verifying the identity of the customer and the beneficial owner, understanding the nature and purpose of the business relationship, in addition to continuous monitoring of transactions to ensure their consistency with the customer's profile.

In its endeavor to continuously align with the policies and recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force, and in line with its vision to enhance transparency and support the digital economy, the UAE issued Federal Decree-Law No. (30) of 2024 regarding the «Know Your Customer» digital platform, on October 1, 2024, to enter into force in the middle of the same month.

This decree aims to develop an advanced digital infrastructure for collecting, storing, and exchanging customer data, thereby enhancing compliance with

### The Role of «Know Your Customer» in Fostering Trust Between Financial Institutions and Clients.

Federal Decree (30) of 2024 aims to develop an advanced digital infrastructure for collecting, storing, and exchanging customer data, thereby enhancing compliance with international financial standards and contributing to combating financial and cybercrimes.





**A qualitative step towards banking leadership: «Know Your Customer» and the transition to integrated digital solutions.**

international financial standards and contributing to combating financial and cybercrimes through an integrated legislative and executive framework that supports the integrity of the national financial system.

**Objectives of the Platform and Scope of the Decree-Law**

Articles (2) and (3) define the legislative and practical basis for the Decree-Law. Article (2) clarifies that the law's objective is to support digital transformation and develop the state's financial infrastructure by establishing an accurate national system for customer identity verification, enhancing transparency in financial transactions, regulating the collection and use of «Know Your Customer» (KYC) data, and contributing to the fight against financial crimes by facilitating information exchange among relevant entities. Article (3), on the other hand, specifies the scope of the law's application to include all relevant parties, including the company, data providers, customers, users, and any entity dealing with «Know Your Customer» data, as defined by the Executive Regulations. This ensures comprehensive and precise application and regulation.

**Establishment of a Company to Manage the Platform**

Articles (4) and (5) aim to lay the legal and regulatory foundation for establishing a national company responsible for creating and managing the «Know Your Customer» platform. This company will have an independent legal personality and will be subject to the supervision of the Central Bank. They clearly define the company's governance structure, including the formation of its board of

directors, its articles of association, its ownership, its capital, and the federal government's rights within it. The two articles also outline the main tasks entrusted to the company, most notably managing the platform, regulating the exchange of «Know Your Customer» data, ensuring its cybersecurity, issuing related reports, cooperating with data providers, and developing risk assessment tools, thereby ensuring the platform's effectiveness and its contribution to digital transformation and enhanced compliance and transparency in the state.

**Regulatory Framework and Data Protection Assurance**

Articles (6) to (8) aim to establish a precise regulatory framework for the company's operations and ensure the protection of «Know Your Customer» data at all stages of handling. Article (6) imposes strict obligations on the company regarding non-disclosure of data, its processing with modern systems, and its security from any technical risk or illegal use, with full adherence to controls issued by the Central Bank and reporting any violations. Article (7) affirms the customer's right to view their report and stipulates procedures for correcting data in case of errors, while defining the company's limits of responsibility for errors originating from the data provider. Article (8) regulates the contractual relationship between the company and data providers, ensuring that the company is provided with the required data free of charge and obliging both parties to protect data and its confidentiality, as specified by the Executive Regulations, thereby enhancing integration and transparency within the system.

**Deterrent penalties to protect customer data: A legal system to ensure confidentiality and legitimate use.**

### Strict Controls for «Know Your Customer» Data Protection

Articles (9) to (13) aim to establish strict controls for protecting «Know Your Customer» data and regulating its use within precise legal limits. Article (9) prohibits the use or circulation of data for any purpose not stipulated, while Article (10) emphasizes the necessity of obtaining customer consent before issuing any report, with a judicial exception allowed to protect creditors' rights. Article (11) establishes the principle of absolute data confidentiality, where access is permitted only in specific and legally authorized cases. Article (12) grants the Central Bank a comprehensive supervisory and regulatory role, including setting controls and behaviors, defining data, and issuing instructions. Finally, Article (13) stipulates the regulation of database linkage within the state's technical system as defined by the executive system, to ensure integration and coordination without compromising privacy or information security.

### Deterrent Penalties to Protect Customer Data

Articles (14) to (20) aim to complete the legal and executive framework of the Decree-Law by establishing a strict system of penalties to protect «Know Your Customer» (KYC) data and ensure the proper application of this system's provisions. Article (14) stipulates criminal penalties, including imprisonment and fines, for those who violate confidentiality provisions or obtain data through fraudulent means, with increased penalties for public officials or company employees who commit the violation. Article (15) authorizes the Cabinet to issue regulations specifying administrative violations, penalties, and appeal mechanisms. Article (16) grants the Central Bank the authority to prepare detailed executive regulations to govern all technical and procedural aspects of the platform. Article (17) specifies the financial consideration for the company's services, while Article (18) grants certain company employees the status of judicial enforcement officers to verify violations. Article (19) affirms the annulment of any legal text contradicting the provisions of this Decree, while Article (20) specifies its effective date from its publication in the Official Gazette. Collectively, these articles constitute the necessary regulatory, punitive, and

executive guarantees to achieve the law's effectiveness and protect it from any misuse.

Protecting Privacy and Providing a Safe and Transparent Financial Environment In line with its commitment to international standards in combating money laundering and terrorist financing, the United Arab Emirates has issued this Decree-Law with the aim of establishing a safe and transparent financial environment, based on a balance between protecting customer data and enabling relevant authorities to disciplined access to information when needed. The law reflects the state's approach towards enhancing compliance by setting clear controls for the use of «Know Your Customer» data, defining the purposes of its collection, and stipulating strict penalties for any unlawful use, thereby reinforcing the principles of transparency and accountability.

### Expected Impact of Law Implementation:

- Enhancing the Leadership of the Banking Sector in the State: The «Know Your Customer» platform represents a strategic step within the efforts to develop the UAE's banking sector, through the adoption of innovative digital solutions that enhance operational efficiency and support global competitiveness.
- Providing an Integrated Digital Mechanism for Customer Identity Verification: The platform contributes to accelerating and simplifying identity verification procedures and confirming the extent of customer compliance with national regulations and legislations.
- Enhancing Transparency in Financial Transactions: By providing accurate and comprehensive data to users, the platform enables financial entities to make more informed decisions and contributes to the legal regulation of customer data collection and use, which facilitates information exchange among relevant entities and enhances cooperation in combating financial crimes.
- Preventing Financial Crimes and Enhancing the UAE's Global Standing: The law enhances the state's capabilities in preventing financial crimes and supports the UAE's position as a global financial center with the highest standards of security, compliance, and governance.

**Integrated legislative balance: Protecting data on one hand, and providing accurate information on the other.**

**The Know Your Customer platform aims to improve the transparency of financial transactions by providing accurate and comprehensive data to users, it enables financial institutions to make more informed decisions.**

### In Conclusion

«Know Your Customer» is an integrated national platform that strengthens oversight of financial transactions, solidifies legal data protection, and applies the highest standards of customer due diligence, with the aim of reducing the risks of fraud, money laundering, and cybercrimes. The platform also contributes to preventing account takeover and identity theft within a secure and confidential business environment, which reinforces financial conduct rules, supports the integration of banking infrastructure, and elevates the United Arab Emirates' global digital indicators.



## Political Empowerment in the UAE: A Pioneering Model for Practicing Political Rights with a Unique Emirati Vision

The United Arab Emirates stands out as a unique model for practicing and developing political rights. It has adopted a well-thought-out path that combines the authenticity of Shura (consultation) traditions and the specific character of Emirati society with modern innovations based on the latest contemporary democratic approaches. Since the establishment of the federation in 1971, the wise leadership has focused on building a state of institutions, not only on the administrative and economic levels but also in the fundamental relationship between the state and its citizens. This has been achieved by solidifying the principle of national participation in decision-making.



The first elections for the Federal National Council in 2006 marked a significant starting point in this journey. Since then, the UAE has witnessed remarkable developments, including the expansion of the electoral college base and the adoption of modern technologies such as electronic voting and remote voting. This has elevated the Emirati political experience to a model that merges modernization with national identity.

### The Political Empowerment Program: A National Vision for Gradual Transition

On the 34th National Day in 2005, the late Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan (may he rest in peace) launched the Political Empowerment Program. Its



primary goal was to enhance citizens' political participation and activate the role of the Federal National Council (FNC).

The program aimed to cultivate a more engaged and aware citizenry, while also strengthening the FNC's position as a supportive and guiding institution for the executive authority, capable of effectively addressing national and citizens' issues. The program adopted a gradual and balanced approach, respecting the UAE's cultural and social specificities by thoughtfully embedding the values of Shura (consultation) and political participation.

To realize this vision, Federal Decree No. (10) of 2006 was issued, establishing the Ministry of State for Federal National Council Affairs. This ministry was tasked with coordinating between the government and the FNC, developing parliamentary work, and fostering its communication with Emirati society.

### Enhancing Parliamentary Representation and Expanding the Council's Powers

As part of the Political Empowerment Program, the FNC's role was activated in 2006 through the election of half of its members (20 members) via electoral colleges formed in each emirate. The other half was appointed by the wise leadership. This marked a crucial first step towards bolstering political participation and diversifying sources of national representation. This development continued with Constitutional Amendment No. (1) of 2009, which extended the FNC membership term from two to four years and increased the minimum duration of annual sessions to seven months. The amendment also granted the Council the autonomy to draft its internal regulations, which would later be approved by a decision from the President

**Political Empowerment Program: A new beginning for the citizen-state relationship.**



of the State and the consent of the Supreme Council of the Union. As a result, Presidential Decree No. (1) of 2016 was issued, approving the new bylaws. In addition to this, the FNC was granted the authority to discuss international agreements and treaties referred to it by the President before ratification. This reflects its growing role in the national decision-making system and legislative oversight.

### **The Journey of Political Development: Increasing Participation and a Renewed Experience**

The successive electoral cycles in the United Arab Emirates from 2006 to 2023 have formed a pioneering experience in solidifying active political



participation. These cycles have witnessed a gradual expansion in the number of members of the electoral colleges and a remarkable increase in the participation rate of citizens from various segments, especially women, youth, senior citizens, and people of determination. The electoral process has been characterized by its ease of procedures, with relevant authorities keen to provide a suitable environment for both voters and candidates. This has been achieved through the adoption of the latest technological and organizational solutions, and the development of executive instructions for each electoral cycle. The Federal National Council elections of 2023 represent a pivotal stage in this journey. They saw the introduction of qualitative amendments to the executive instructions and the adoption of electronic voting and remote voting systems. This significantly enhanced transparency and accessibility, making political participation more inclusive and streamlined in line with the best global practices.

**Electronic Voting and Youth Leading the Scene: UAE elections transform into a pioneering digital experience.**

From 6,000 to 400,000 Voters: A remarkable growth trajectory for political participation.

### Remarkable Growth in Political Participation

The UAE's electoral body has seen significant growth, reflecting the wise leadership's strategic vision to boost political engagement. The number of eligible voters surged from 6,595 in the first election in 2006 to nearly 399,000 in the 2023 elections, an increase of 392,284 voters over 17 years. This growth was distributed as follows:

- 2006 (First Cycle): 6,595 voters.
- 2011 (Second Cycle): 135,308 voters (a staggering 1,951.7% increase, nearly 20 times the initial number, showcasing a radical shift in the political empowerment strategy).
- 2015 (Third Cycle): 224,281 voters (a 66% increase from 2011).
- 2019 (Fourth Cycle): 337,738 voters (a 51% increase from 2015).
- 2023 (Fifth Cycle): 398,879 voters (an 18.1% increase from 2019).

The latest electoral lists were notably diverse and inclusive. Youth aged 2140-constituted about 55% of the total electoral body, while women made up 51% of registered voters compared to 49% for men. These figures underscore the nation's commitment to empowering women and youth, fostering an inclusive and equitable environment for political participation. This consistent growth in the electoral body highlights the leadership's trust in its citizens and embodies the success of the political empowerment strategy, which the UAE has cemented as a core component of its national development journey.



### Political Awareness: A Parallel Pillar of Participation

The UAE's political empowerment journey hasn't been limited to developing legal and procedural frameworks; it's also been accompanied by a continuous national institutional effort to cultivate a culture of political participation and enhance electoral awareness. This has been evident in the awareness campaigns launched by the National Elections Committee before each election cycle. These campaigns included workshops, community meetings, and interactive platforms specifically designed for youth. Concepts of participation and national responsibility have also been integrated into educational programs through initiatives in schools and universities, alongside extensive coverage across traditional and digital media. This educational momentum has helped instill values of belonging and active citizenship across all segments of society, particularly among the youth, who comprised over half of the electoral body in the 2023 elections. This reflects the direct positive impact of political awareness efforts in deepening the UAE's democratic culture.

### Emirati Women: From Representation to Leadership

The empowerment of Emirati women is a top priority for the UAE's wise leadership, spearheaded by Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, «Mother of the Nation,» Chairperson of the General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairperson of the Family Development Foundation. Her Highness has consistently worked to provide opportunities and resources to enable women to fully undertake their national role, especially in the political sphere.

In 2019, a landmark decision, Decree No. (1), was issued by the wise leadership to raise the representation of women in the Federal National Council (FNC) to 50% of its total members. This was a first of its kind in the Arab world, underscoring the state's commitment to the principle of equality and strengthening women's presence in decision-making positions.

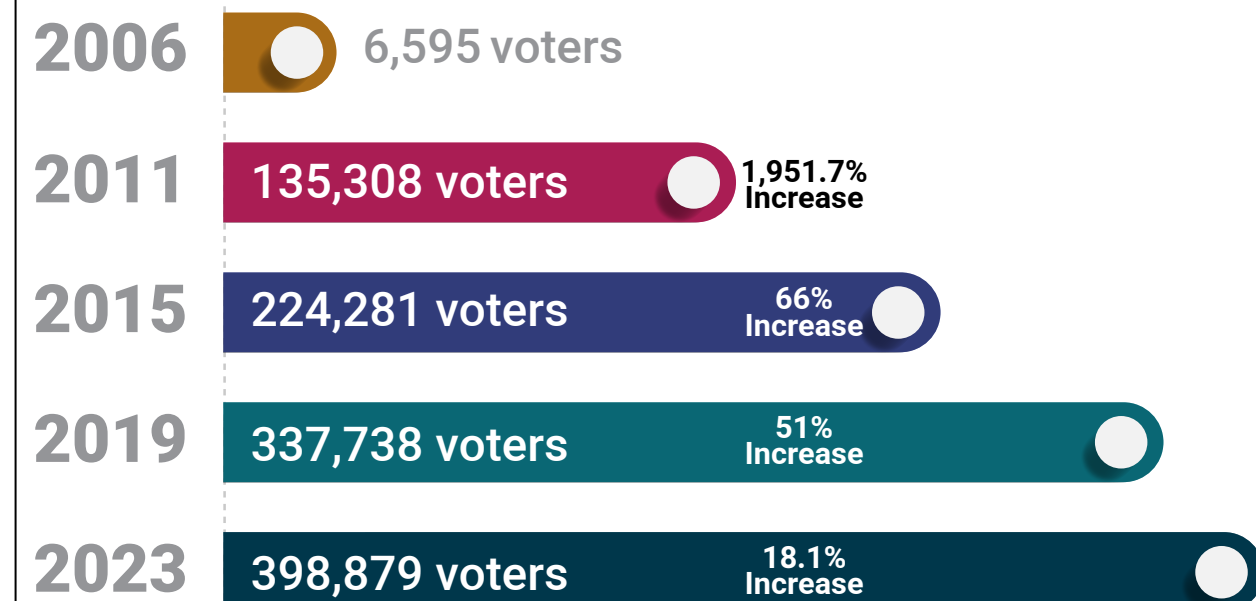
It's important to note that women were actively involved in political work even before this decree. During the 14th legislative term (2006–2011), women's representation reached 22%, which was the highest among Arab nations at the time. The UAE also made history again when Her Excellency Dr. Amal Abdullah Al Qubaisi presided over the Federal National Council during the 16th legislative term (2015–2019), becoming the first woman to lead a parliamentary institution in the Arab world.

The achievements of Emirati women are not merely a matter of numerical empowerment; rather, they represent a qualitative empowerment that reflects a deep belief in their competence and ability to contribute effectively to nation-building and national policy-making.

### In Conclusion

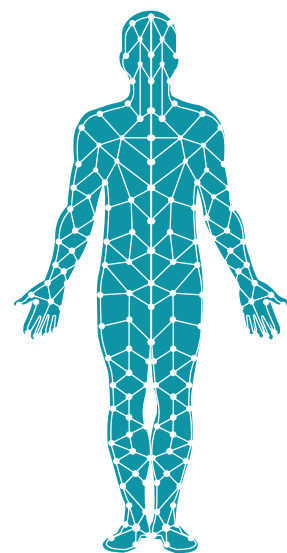
The experience of practicing political rights in the United Arab Emirates represents a unique national model—one not replicated from others, but rather rooted in the distinct character of Emirati society and its core values. It is the result of a visionary leadership that believed in gradual progress and in building political pathways based on empowerment and participation. The UAE has succeeded in striking a delicate balance between preserving social cohesion and embracing modern concepts of political participation, without compromising its deeply rooted traditions of consultation and national service. The achievements in elections and political representation—whether in empowering women, engaging youth, or adopting cutting-edge technologies in electoral processes—constitute a milestone worthy of recognition and study. This is a pioneering national experience in shaping a modern political model that embodies identity, dignity, and inclusive participation.

Emirati Women in Parliament: From leadership to full equality.



## Through Unprecedented Qualitative Platforms and Projects Worldwide Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare: A UAE Vision Placing Humanity First

The provision of the right to health is no longer merely one of the challenges facing the world; rather, the greatest challenge lies in the ability of nations to keep pace with modern technological developments and adapt them to provide the highest levels of healthcare. In the United Arab Emirates, healthcare has moved beyond being just a function performed by the state and its institutions; it has become a fundamental pillar of human rights. The Emirati Constitution explicitly guarantees this right in Article (19), which stipulates that «Society shall guarantee citizens healthcare, and means of prevention and treatment of diseases and epidemics, and shall encourage the establishment of public and private hospitals, clinics, and treatment centers.



### From the Right to Health to Smart Excellence: The UAE and the Leadership of Digital Transformation in the Health Sector

Since the establishment of the Union in 1971, the wise leadership has attached paramount importance to building an advanced medical system that keeps pace with the highest international standards, not only at the level of providing preventive and therapeutic services but also through investment in healthcare infrastructure and reliance on modern technologies in this sector.

The state's adoption of the UAE Strategy for Artificial Intelligence, which aims to support the objectives of the UAE Centennial 2071, has had a significant impact on bringing about a qualitative leap in the health sector. This has been achieved through the introduction of artificial intelligence systems and digital technologies to improve the quality of health services and reduce chronic and serious diseases, thereby enhancing the well-being of every individual, citizen or resident, on the land of the UAE.

Consequently, the UAE now possesses one of the most integrated and advanced healthcare systems in the region, based on innovation and digital transformation, solidifying its position as a nation that places humanity, dignity, and health at the core of its priorities.

### Artificial Intelligence Technologies at the Ministry of Health and Prevention

The journey of applying artificial intelligence in the healthcare sector in the UAE commenced through the Ministry of Health and Prevention, which pioneered the launch of several leading initiatives to employ smart technologies in enhancing the quality of health services. Among the most prominent of these initiatives is the adoption of AI technologies in X-ray devices within the medical examination procedures for residency in the country. This aims to safeguard the community from communicable diseases, elevate the level of medical and preventive services, and enhance customer satisfaction and happiness.

The Ministry also established the Artificial Intelligence Office under the Information Technology Department, a strategic step aimed at accelerating the pace of digital transformation in the health sector. This is achieved by supporting the adoption of AI applications and achieving integration between



innovation and technology in line with the UAE's vision in this field.

#### Objectives of the Artificial Intelligence Office:

- To establish a culture of innovation within the healthcare system to provide sustainable and highly efficient health services.
- To improve customer experience through the application of smart solutions.
- To enhance operational efficiency by utilizing automation and predictive analytics.
- To ensure the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence technologies.
- To empower national talent through training and capacity building in the field of artificial intelligence and advanced health technology.

#### Pioneering Projects in Artificial Intelligence at the Ministry of Health and Prevention:

The Artificial Intelligence Office, in collaboration with various departments, is working on the implementation of a range of innovative projects that contribute to enhancing the quality of health services and accelerating digital transformation. Among the most notable of these projects are:

- **Smart Dashboard for Health Crisis Management:** Provides advanced analytics to support effective decision-making during health crises, contributing to efficient resource allocation and enhanced speed of response.
- **Organ Donation System «Hayat»:** An advanced data dashboard that enables the tracking of organ donation processes, enhancing transparency and contributing to saving more lives.
- **Fraud Detection Tool «Wafed»:** Relies on artificial intelligence technologies to detect forged health certificates, ensuring the safety of the workforce in the health sector.
- **Engineering Plans Review System:** An AI-based system aimed at reviewing and approving engineering plans for health facilities, accelerating processes

**Empowering National Talent: Emirati Academies Graduating Champions of Healthcare AI.**



and ensuring compliance with health and engineering standards.

- **Smart Chatbot for Employees:** Facilitates the execution of tasks and provides instant answers via artificial intelligence, enhancing internal work efficiency.
- **Smart Model for Predicting Births, Deaths, and Diseases:** Assists in effective health planning based on demographic data, supporting strategic decision-making in the health sector.

### The First «Center of Excellence» for Artificial Intelligence in the Federal Health Sector

In October 2023, the Ministry of Health and Prevention announced the inauguration of the first Center of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence in the health sector at the federal level, during its participation in the «GITEX GLOBAL 2023» exhibition. The center aims to enhance the digital transformation journey in the field of health data and employ smart technologies in developing the efficiency and quality of health services. It also seeks to establish an integrated digital services system that delights customers and provides them with the best sustainable and innovative services. Emirati cadres have been assigned to manage this center in cooperation with data analysis experts from «SAS» company. The center's scope includes seven main areas:

- **Medical Facility Licenses:** Utilizing artificial intelligence to facilitate the process of selecting locations for building hospitals or medical centers by linking analysis results with investors before submitting license applications for medical facilities, and supporting doctors in securing the necessary licenses according to the country's needs.

### Centers of Excellence and Smart Platforms: How is the UAE Redrawing the Future of Health?

- **Organ Donation and Transplantation Center:** Matching tests between donors and patients using artificial intelligence, which helps streamline organ transplantation processes and prioritize critical cases within and outside the country.
- **Analysis of Radiological Examination Results:** Employing artificial intelligence in analyzing the results of radiological examinations, which increases the efficiency of diagnosing cases.
- **Analysis of Birth and Death Data:** Analyzing birth and death data using artificial intelligence, which helps in understanding the causes and analyzing data more effectively.
- **Management of the Ministry's Crisis, Emergency, and Disaster Center.**
- **Management of the Strategic Drug Stockpile:** Utilizing artificial intelligence to link databases and analyze usage to develop distribution strategies according to essential needs, and tracking drug shipments from the country of manufacture until their delivery to patients, while linking it to other systems in the country.

The establishment of the Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence is part of a joint project between the Ministry of Health and Prevention and «SAS» company, in line with the leadership's vision to leverage the latest technological innovations. This is achieved by employing big data to assist in predictive analysis of information and making more effective decisions, as well as attracting a national elite of research talents to drive technological innovation that enhances the country's position as a thriving global hub and a leading example of digital governments, in line with the main objectives of the UAE Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2031.

### Artificial Intelligence Initiatives at the Emirates Health Services (EHS) Establishment

The Emirates Health Services Establishment is a leading entity in adopting artificial intelligence to enhance the quality and efficiency of health

The establishment of the Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence is in line with the leadership's vision to leverage the latest technological innovations in predictive analysis of information and making more effective decisions.





### «Irada»: The First Smart Platform in the Middle East Dedicated to Emergency Services for People of Determination

services. Among the most prominent innovative projects launched by the establishment are:

- **«Surgical Operations» Platform to Enhance Clinical Excellence Efficiency:**

This platform is part of the Performance and Clinical Excellence (PACE) program. It conducts in-depth analysis of surgical data performed in hospitals and operating room occupancy rates, enabling hospitals to improve performance indicators and compare them with previous time periods, thereby enhancing strategic planning and operational efficiency.

- **«Irada» Project for Services for People of Determination:** This platform is the first of its kind in the Middle East region, aiming to improve their quality of life by predicting their emergency service needs.

- **«Predicting Hospital Readmission Before it Occurs» Platform:** This is a smart solution designed to improve patient experience, reduce the number of unnecessary admissions, and lower costs.

- **«Injaz» Platform:** This platform aims to ensure the operational efficiency of outpatient clinics through predictive analytics that support optimal resource planning and contribute to reducing congestion.

- **«Salamati - Zero Harm Initiative» Project:** This represents a transformative step towards enhancing patient safety. It aims to reduce avoidable errors in the healthcare environment and includes a central platform and dashboard for monitoring and analyzing incidents, compliance rates, and case-specific metrics, with a focus on critical conditions such as bedsores, septicemia, acute kidney failure, and others. In addition, it provides workflow guidelines and medical protocols that guide multidisciplinary teams on the necessity of rapid intervention and effective action, contributing to the creation of a

safer and more reliable treatment environment.

These projects are part of the establishment's strategy to promote digital transformation in the health sector and employ modern technologies to improve the quality of health services provided to the community.

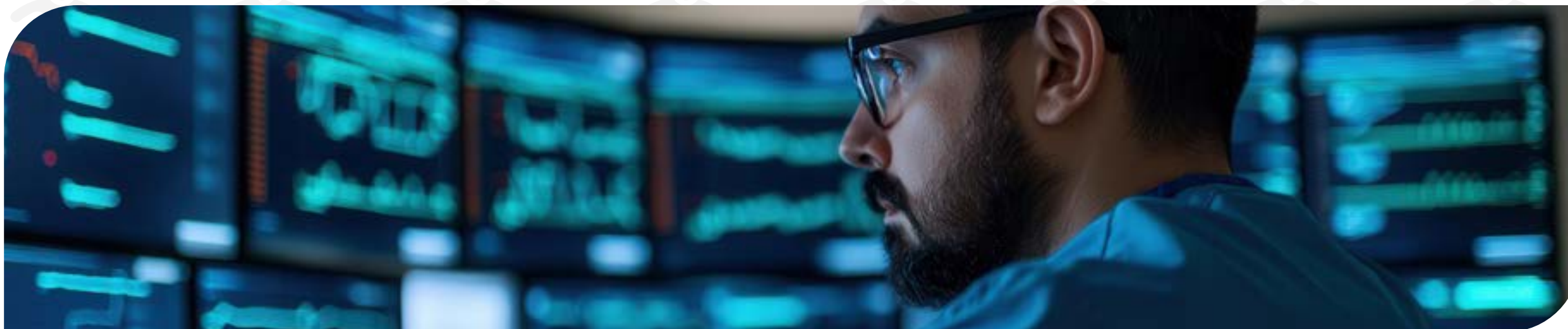
### The «Healthcare Metaverse» Project for Remote Healthcare

The Emirates Health Services (EHS) Establishment launched the «Healthcare Metaverse» project, which aims to provide telemedicine services using three-dimensional virtual reality «Metaverse» technologies. This project allows patients to interact with doctors in a virtual environment, contributing to improving patient experience and facilitating their access to health services. The services provided through the platform include: virtual medical consultations, provision of medications through robotic pharmacies, outpatient clinic services, psychological medical consultations for various age groups, the establishment of a customer happiness center, and family health promotion services. The Emirates Health Services Establishment utilizes artificial intelligence technologies in several areas to enhance the quality of healthcare, including:

- **Diagnosis and Early Detection of Breast Cancer:** Using algorithms for medical image analysis, contributing to improved diagnostic accuracy and early intervention.
- **Diabetes Management:** Through the analysis of patients' vital data and the provision of personalized treatment plans.
- **Alzheimer's Diagnosis:** Utilizing machine learning techniques to analyze behavioral patterns and brain changes.

### From the Metaverse to Disease Prediction: Healthcare Projects Ahead of Their Time





**The Global AI Healthcare Academy aims to enhance the skills of healthcare professionals, improve the quality of healthcare, and accelerate digital transformation in the healthcare sector.**

**The UAE aims to transition from a reactive healthcare system to a proactive one, contributing to the early detection of diseases and the implementation of timely therapeutic interventions.**

- **Identification of Diseases in their Early Stages:** Enabling timely therapeutic interventions and improving patient outcomes.
- **Collaboration with the University of Chicago Medicine:** To utilize artificial intelligence technologies in the remote diagnosis and treatment of strokes, contributing to the provision of advanced care for patients

### **The Global Artificial Intelligence Academy in Healthcare**

The Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, in collaboration with Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI) and Core42, a G42 company, launched the Global Artificial Intelligence Academy in Healthcare during Abu Dhabi Global Healthcare Week in May 2024.

The academy aims to enhance the skills of healthcare professionals in the field of artificial intelligence, contributing to improving the quality of healthcare and accelerating digital transformation in the health sector.

Since its launch, the academy has trained more than 3,750 healthcare professionals from the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, who participated in training programs and courses designed to enhance their capabilities in artificial intelligence technologies and their applications in fields such as radiology, cardiology, and advanced data analysis.

#### **Objectives of the Academy:**

- **Capacity Building:** Providing specialized training programs for healthcare professionals in fields such as radiology, cardiology, and advanced data analysis. This includes multiple courses specifically designed to advance artificial intelligence in healthcare and predictive technologies.
- **Improving Quality of Care:** Empowering professionals to utilize AI technologies to enhance diagnosis and treatment, contributing to the provision of more accurate and effective healthcare.
- **Proactive Care:** Transitioning from reactive to proactive healthcare, which contributes to the early detection of diseases and the provision of timely therapeutic interventions.
- **Supporting Innovation:** Strengthening Abu Dhabi's position as a global hub for innovation in healthcare by supporting research and development in the field of artificial intelligence and its applications in the health sector.

#### **Implementation Partners:**

- **Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI):** The university provides the academic faculty for training courses and workshops,

leveraging its expertise in artificial intelligence and its applications in healthcare.

- **Core42:** The company provides modern technological solutions and the necessary infrastructure for the implementation of training programs, ensuring an integrated learning experience for participants.

This initiative demonstrates Abu Dhabi's commitment to enhancing the capabilities of healthcare professionals and adopting the latest technologies in the field of healthcare, which contributes to improving the quality of health services provided to the community.

### **From Abu Dhabi to the World: Formulating Principles for the Governance of Healthcare AI**

In April 2025, the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, on the sidelines of Abu Dhabi Global Healthcare Week 2025, organized a dialogue session that brought together a distinguished group of international government officials. The aim was to formulate a declaration of principles for the governance of artificial intelligence in healthcare.

The session addressed the key challenges and opportunities for unlocking the potential of artificial intelligence and explored the fundamental principles for its governance in the health sector, marking a launch from the UAE towards the world.

#### **Key Highlights of the Session:**

- **Opportunities and Challenges:** The session discussed how to leverage artificial intelligence to improve the quality of healthcare, while focusing on challenges related to privacy, security, and potential biases in algorithms.
- **Fundamental Principles of Governance:** Principles for the governance of artificial intelligence were reviewed, including transparency, accountability, fairness, and ensuring the ethical and responsible use of modern technologies.
- **International Cooperation:** The session emphasized the importance of cooperation between governments and international institutions to establish joint regulatory frameworks that ensure the safe and effective use of artificial intelligence in healthcare.

This initiative is a pioneering step by the UAE in the field of artificial intelligence governance and reflects its commitment to developing regulatory policies that enhance the quality and efficiency of health services at both the local and global levels.

### **In Conclusion**

What the UAE is undertaking in the healthcare sector is not merely a technological upgrade, but rather a fundamental transformation in the concept of the «right to health.» Artificial intelligence has become a pivotal tool for achieving the highest levels of care, supported by a clear methodology in qualifying national healthcare professionals in collaboration with leading specialized institutions globally.

Smart platforms and pioneering health projects, from early disease detection to the provision of remote healthcare, the reduction of surgical waiting times, and the provision of advanced and optimal services for People of Determination, embody a profound Emirati vision that elevates the value of human beings and their right to a dignified life.

For in the UAE, policies are not built on technology alone, but on a firm foundation of respect for humanity and the guarantee of well-being through integrated and comprehensive healthcare.

**Abu Dhabi Leads the Formulation of AI Governance Principles for the World from a Human Perspective.**

## Why did the UAE rank first in global healthcare indicators?

Contemporary health challenges are no longer limited to providing basic care. Instead, the real challenge now lies in the ability to sustainably develop the healthcare system to keep pace with rapid shifts in disease causes and epidemics. From this perspective, it has become essential to redefine the concept of healthcare, not merely as a means of treatment, but as a guarantee for human dignity and quality of life.



His Excellency:

**Imran Al Khoury**

Member of the Board of Directors of the  
Union for Human Rights Association

The UAE places great importance on building an integrated healthcare system that aligns with global standards and is based on innovation, ensuring high-quality services.

I have always believed that «the fundamental pillar of human rights begins with comprehensive and advanced healthcare.» It is impossible to discuss a complete human rights system if individuals can't access effective healthcare services that keep pace with their evolving needs.

In this context, the UAE's experience stands out as a pioneering global model in building a resilient healthcare system that invests in technology, artificial intelligence, and community prevention. This has positioned the country at the forefront of numerous international health indicators and demonstrated that the right to health is not just a slogan, but a reality supported by political will and strategic vision.

### The UAE is at the forefront of global indicators and standards.

The United Arab Emirates, under its wise leadership, has given great attention to building an integrated and advanced healthcare system that keeps pace with the latest global standards and is based on innovation and modern technology. This ensures the provision of high-quality healthcare services to all members of society, both citizens and residents alike. These efforts have been reflected in global rankings and reports, notably the 2025 Human Development Report issued by the United Nations Development Programme, which confirms this excellence. The UAE has maintained its leading regional position among countries with very high human development and advanced 11 places globally compared to its ranking in the 20212022- report.

The UAE ranked 15th globally among 193 countries included in the report, surpassing nations like Canada, the United States, Japan, Australia, and South Korea. Additionally, it was the only Arab nation among the top 20 countries worldwide, reflecting its leadership in comprehensive development indicators, foremost among them healthcare, which has become a cornerstone of the quality of life in the country.

### Advanced digital systems and skilled human resources

One of the most prominent features of progress in the UAE's healthcare system is the comprehensive digital transformation that the sector has undergone in recent years. Unified digital systems for storing and sharing medical records, such as the «Riayati» and «Malaffi» systems, have been developed. This has contributed to speeding up diagnosis processes,



improving the quality of healthcare services, and facilitating easier access to them

The health authorities in the country have also launched a range of smart applications that allow users to book appointments, request medications, and access remote medical consultations, such as the SEHA and MOHAP apps. This reflects the state's commitment to providing effective and easily accessible healthcare.

This development has contributed to enhancing the UAE's position as an attractive regional hub for major global companies specialized in the healthcare sector. Meanwhile, human well-being and welfare have remained at the core of the state's health policies, recognizing health as a fundamental right and a national priority.

### Massive investment in human health

In a clear embodiment of its deep commitment to enhancing the healthcare system, the UAE government has allocated AED 5.7 billion within the 2025 federal budget to the healthcare services and community protection sector. This is an increase from AED 5 billion in 2024 and AED 4.9 billion in 2023. This progressive increase reflects the state's firm belief that health is not merely a priority, but a cornerstone in the equation of development, stability, and well-being.

This funding is being used to expand healthcare infrastructure, develop human resources, and support digital transformation. It also includes investments in modern technologies like artificial intelligence, smart diagnostics, and preventive care.

In a related context, the state gives special attention to continuing medical education programs. Both the Ministry of Health and Prevention, and the Departments of Health in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, launch numerous accredited training programs, including more than 40 specialized programs. These are supervised by a selection of qualified faculty members and cover fields such as general medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and advanced medical fellowships. The National Health Research Center at the Ministry of Health and Prevention is also working to build an environment that stimulates scientific research in the health and medical fields. It does this by qualifying national competencies and developing research skills, thereby enhancing the UAE's position as a leading center for medical innovation regionally and globally.

### In conclusion

I believe that healthcare in the UAE is no longer merely a service provided by the state; it has become a comprehensive national vision that translates into policies and initiatives centered on people first. This reflects a firm commitment to achieving the highest quality standards in medical care.

What the UAE has achieved in this sector is a leading regional and global model, whether in terms of investment in healthcare infrastructure, qualifying human resources, or adopting the latest technological innovations and continuous medical education. Driven by this vision, the UAE is moving confidently towards global leadership in public health. It doesn't just provide advanced healthcare services; it also strives to instill a culture of innovation and sustainable excellence in all the care it offers.

## The Future of Education in the UAE: Embracing Innovation and a Personalised Education



**Dr. Manuela-Elena Concioiu**

President of EUROPEAN M.I.N.D. Association  
Biologist and Educational Learning Expert

**The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has established itself as a dynamic hub of innovation and progress, with education playing a central role in shaping its future and advancing the broader human rights revolution. Recognizing education as a fundamental human right, the UAE has made significant strides in promoting access to quality, inclusive, and equitable education at all levels, including technical and vocational training. This commitment aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), which aims to ensure lifelong learning opportunities for all and to equip learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to support sustainable development.**

As the nation continues to evolve, there is a growing emphasis on integrating advanced technologies into educational systems to foster continuous learning, social inclusion, and skill development. This forward-thinking approach aligns with global trends towards personalized learning, seeking to adapt education to individual needs, interests, and abilities, thereby preparing society for the societal and economic challenges of tomorrow. Through these efforts, the UAE demonstrates its dedication to aligning national policies with the global human rights agenda, contributing to a more just, equitable, and progressive society.

### Educational Landscape in the UAE

The UAE's education sector is renowned for its commitment to excellence and inclusivity. The country hosts a diverse array of institutions, including government universities, private colleges, and international schools, reflecting its multicultural society. The government's vision emphasizes not only academic achievement but also the development of skills essential for the future. Initiatives such as We the UAE 2031 Vision and the National Innovation Strategy highlight a focus on fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and lifelong learning.

In recent years, the UAE has made significant strides in digitalizing education. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of online and blended learning models, prompting educational institutions to explore innovative technological solutions. These developments aim to provide a flexible, accessible, and personalized learning environment that respects the rights of learners and supports their individual growth.

### Introduction to Personalized Learning and SDT

In recent years, many educational experts and countries, including the UAE, have emphasized the importance of personalized learning. This approach



tailors education to meet each student's individual needs, interests, and abilities rather than using a one-size-fits-all method. Personalized learning helps students become more motivated, engaged, and independent learners. One way to understand why personalized learning works so well is through a psychological theory called Self-Determination Theory (SDT). Developed by psychologists Edward Deci and Richard Ryan (Ryan and Deci, 2000), SDT explains what motivates people to learn and grow.

### What is Self-Determination Theory?

The notion of self-determination was noted and introduced by Ryan and Deci in their work in the year of 1985, a book entitled "Self Determination and Intrinsic Motivation in Human Behaviour". The syntagm self-determination speaks about a person's own ability to manage one's self, to make confident choices, and to think on their own. Within self-determination theory (SDT) were identified three basic psychological needs: autonomy, competence, and relatedness.

Self-Determination Theory suggests that people are most motivated when three basic needs are satisfied students:

- **autonomy** - feeling in control of one's own learning and decisions;
- **competence** - feeling capable and confident in one's abilities;

### The Impact of Technology on Promoting Lifelong Learning Opportunities in the UAE.

## Inclusive Education in the UAE: Integrating Students with Special Needs into Digital Platforms.

- **relatedness** - feeling connected and supported by others, like teachers and classmates.

When these needs are met, students are more likely to enjoy learning, work harder, and develop a love for knowledge. Conversely, if these needs are ignored, students may feel bored, frustrated, or less motivated.

### How Does Personalized Learning Support SDT?

Personalized learning aligns closely with SDT because it:

- **promotes autonomy** - students choose topics they are interested in, set their own goals, and decide how to complete tasks;
- **builds competence** - while working at their own pace and receiving tailored feedback, students gain confidence and mastery;
- **fosters relatedness** - personalized learning often involves collaborative projects and supportive teacher-student relationships, making students feel valued and connected.

There are various factors that interfere and shape technology based personalised learning and educational activities. Some of the extrinsic factors are: technological developments in education applied to different educational systems, resistance to change in administration and educational institutions, human resource - teachers trained to use digital skills. Intrinsic factors that influence technology based personalised learning. and educational processes are: prior knowledge, cognitive abilities, learning interests and affinity, learning goals and motivation.

### Why is Personalized Learning Important for the Future?

In the UAE, where the future economy will rely more on knowledge, innovation, and problem-solving, personalized learning helps prepare students for these challenges. It encourages independent thinking, creativity, and lifelong learning—all essential skills for success in a rapidly changing world

### Implementation in the UAE

The UAE's education system is increasingly adopting personalized learning strategies supported by technology. For example, digital platforms allow students to access content suited to their skill level, and teachers can track progress to customize lessons. This approach helps ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed and develop their unique talents.

### Integrating Technology and Personalization

The future of education in the UAE revolves around harnessing technology to enhance engagement, motivation, and inclusivity. Based on the principles of self-determination theory, which emphasizes autonomy, competence, and relatedness, the UAE's educational reforms aim to empower students to take charge of their learning journeys. For instance, artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual learning environments can tailor content to match individual learning styles and interests, fostering a sense of competence and independence.



Moreover, the incorporation of innovative tools such as gamified learning, augmented reality (AR), and online collaboration platforms allows students to explore abstract concepts with greater interest and confidence. These technological strategies are designed to create a supportive environment where learners feel connected to their peers and educators, promoting social inclusion and mutual respect.

### Human Rights and Ethical Considerations

While embracing technological advancements, the UAE remains committed to upholding the dignity, rights, and freedoms of its citizens and residents. Education policies are implemented with sensitivity to cultural and societal values, emphasizing respect, openness, and inclusivity. The approach to human rights in education reflects a balance between progress and tradition, aiming to foster an environment where every learner's rights are protected, and their voices are heard.

It is essential to acknowledge that the UAE's human rights landscape is complex, with ongoing efforts to enhance transparency and human dignity. The focus on social cohesion, tolerance, and community development underscores its dedication to creating a nurturing educational environment that respects individual rights and promotes social harmony.

### Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

The path forward involves addressing challenges such as ensuring equitable access to digital resources, training educators in new pedagogical methods, and maintaining a respectful dialogue around cultural diversity. The UAE's initiatives, like the Digital Education Strategy and investments in AI, aim to prepare students for a rapidly changing world, equipping them with skills for the future job market and fostering social inclusion.

### In conclusion

the UAE's vision for education is one of openness, innovation. Integrating advanced technologies and emphasizing personalized learning, the country seeks to build a resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking educational system. This approach promises to empower learners, support societal development, and uphold the fundamental rights of all individuals, ensuring that progress benefits everyone in accordance with the nation's cultural values and human rights commitments.

## UAE Initiatives to Support Educators in Adapting to Digital Education Requirements.



Ambassador:  
**Dr. George Papadatos**

- Head of Delegation and Permanent Observer of the European Public Law Organization to the United Nations in Geneva since 2015.
- Dr. Papadatos held previously served as the Regional Coordinator for Western Europe at the International Labour Organization and as a senior advisor to Greece's representation at the United Nations. He earned his doctoral degree in Economics from Virginia Technological University.
- His distinguished diplomatic trajectory includes notable leadership roles, most prominently serving as Vice President of the Economic and Social Council and Vice President of the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society.

## Addressing and Highlight in a holistic manner numerous developments and accomplishments in the Gulf countries and in the UAE.

When I started writing this article, I remembered the renowned human rights defender Martin Luther King Jr. "I had a dream." That dream inspired me to write this article.

Since I will write about the activities of the Gulf countries—particularly the United Arab Emirates—I would like to draw some parallels between the European Public Law Organization (EPLO), which I represent, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which represents the six Gulf countries. Both are intergovernmental organizations composed of like-minded states and have been accredited by the United Nations General Assembly as observer organizations and follow closely the Council.

The GCC is a cohesive group of countries that share a common vision and values. EPLO is similar in structure, comprising 14 European member states that also share common values and a collective vision. However, while some regions are tightening their borders, EPLO—true to its founding principles—is expanding. In fact, we are about to welcome Cape Verde, early next month, as the first non-European, and the first African member of our organization, a milestone we take great pride in.

The Gulf region and the UAE in particular, much to its credit, has been navigating the challenges of hosting an overwhelming number of foreign residents by implementing policies aimed at balancing economic needs with social cohesion. While expatriates make up a significant majority of the population, governments have introduced labor reforms, and measures to strengthen local identity and workforce participation. At the same time, there is a growing recognition of advances to ensure fair treatment, rights, and integration of foreign workers within the broader development vision of the region.

The multipolar world represents a space where countries and groups of countries compete for influence and diplomatic solutions to global and regional problems. As global powers recalibrate their presence in the Middle East, Gulf countries are filling the vacuum with a blend of soft power, economic diplomacy, and regional security cooperation, transforming themselves from passive energy suppliers to proactive architects of regional order.

In recent years particularly the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, and Qatar—have witnessed a sharp rise in their geopolitical importance, driven by a combination of economic diversification, improvements in labor conditions



and quality of life. They have established themselves as regional power brokers and global actors playing key mediating roles in global and regional conflicts, capitalizing on their stable governance and financial strength to broker peace deals and influence outcomes in places and even Ukraine. This expansive diplomatic engagement, have enhanced their influence on the international stage. Investments in high-tech sectors, coupled with initiatives like the UAE's growing presence in space exploration, green energy, and logistics underline a strategic shift toward long-term economic and political relevance beyond hydrocarbons.

Advancing human rights necessitates an environment characterized by several key elements. I shall try to describe the necessary conditions for human rights to advance which are present in the Emirates.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has achieved significant milestones across diplomatic, economic, technological, and cultural domains. In 2024, the UAE ranked first regionally and tenth globally in the Global Soft Power Index, reflecting its effective diplomacy and international influence. The country has established diplomatic relations with 189 countries and hosts 198 embassies, underscoring its commitment to global engagement. It has also become the world's third-largest donor of humanitarian aid relative to Gross National Income in 2016, highlighting its dedication to global humanitarian efforts.

### In conclusion

Finally, we emphasize the importance of continuing to promote respect for human rights, developing legal frameworks for protection and strengthening the rule of law, and promoting effective governance, transparency, and accountability. We also emphasize strengthening civil society participation in advancing the human rights system and meaningfully participating in decision-making processes. We also emphasize the importance of disseminating a culture of human rights, which is essential to highlighting the efforts made to promote human rights worldwide.

**The UAE has achieved remarkable accomplishments in diplomatic, economic, technological, and cultural fields, ranking first regionally and tenth globally in the 2024 Global Soft Power Index.**

## National branding at the nexus of Soft Power and Values: the example of the United Arab Emirates for the promotion of human security

In an increasingly interconnected global environment and technologically advanced information society, national branding has become a central pillar of countries' efforts to project soft power and gain political and economic influence on the global stage. Successful national branding strategies overcome the complex duality between competition, through the emphasis on differentiating strengths, and collaborative engagement, through the trust, interests and beliefs of people in the country and abroad. Instead of deepening divisions and widening distance, national branding becomes an instrument of peace-building and international cooperation when it reflects the fundamental values and principles of the country.



**Ventzeslav Sabeв**

Observatory on Security,  
Geneva University

### A nation's brand: reflection of core values, policies and actions

With the mission to manage "a country's image and reputation in the international arena", national branding has developed into a major element of public diplomacy. It is not merely a marketing exercise, with fancy campaigns, visuals, slogans, logos or stories, but a process deeply rooted in the aspirations, achievements and unique cultural, social, historical and natural characteristics that define a nation's competitive identity. To be perceived as authentic, the nation's brand should be built around tangible assets and policies which are aligned with widely accepted national values. Furthermore, the success of nation branding is contingent upon the ability of states to translate abstract values into concrete actions, such as hosting multicultural events, promoting human rights, or taking the lead in environmental responsibility, all reinforcing the brand's credibility and appeal.

### Nation branding in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The UAE's public diplomacy is closely tied to the country's core values. Branding initiatives emphasize the UAE's identity as a hub of tolerance, security and opportunity in the region and beyond. National flagship campaigns, such as the Year of Tolerance and the Year of Innovation, convey value-driven messages. The "Seven Lines" nation brand logo, and the campaign "Seven Emirates – Seven Beacons – One Future" present the UAE as "a melting pot for cultures, a meeting point for ideas and ambitions, and a destination to live and work in. People of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds from all over the world come together to build and strengthen the Emirates' unique global identity. (...A) land where the word «impossible» does not exist." By embedding values like security, coexistence and sustainability into its branding, the UAE



leverages soft power to build trust and credibility internationally. The link to core values ensures nationwide public support and ownership of the branding narratives. Initiatives such as the UAE Nation Brand Logo Contest, which involved millions of votes from around the world and linked each vote to tree planting, created bridges between national and international audiences, and demonstrated how national branding can mobilize both citizens and the global community around shared values.

### Human Security as a fundamental value and global aspiration

National branding in the UAE is a strategic tool for nation-building, policy coherence, and international positioning. In this context, the value of «Security,» and more broadly human security, occupies a central place in the country's branding strategy, by addressing fundamental societal needs and underpinning other values such as prosperity, stability, and tolerance.

The prioritization of human security by the UAE aligns with global attitudes. Sociological research and international surveys consistently demonstrate that security is regarded as a fundamental component of well-being across continents. The World Values Survey (2017–2021) found that in 70% of the 54 countries surveyed, a majority of respondents considered security to be more important than freedom. This trend reflects a global inclination towards valuing safety, stability, continuity and predictability - in politics, the judicial system, jobs and family life.

International indices, such as the Global Peace Index, the OECD Better Life Index, and the Safe Cities Index, also illustrate empirically the multidimensional nature of security, encompassing environmental, digital,

**National identity initiatives  
confirm the UAE's identity  
as a center of tolerance,  
security, and opportunity in  
the region and beyond.**

**The UAE's visual media  
identity is a strategic tool  
for nation-building, policy  
cohesion, and enhancing its  
international standing.**



**The UAE has strategically integrated security enhancement as a core pillar in its efforts to bolster its national identity, making it a safe, stable, and forward-looking nation on the global stage.**

**The thriving cultural scene in the UAE (Louvre Abu Dhabi, Art Dubai, Sharjah Biennial, etc.) has strengthened the nation’s global identity as a patron of the arts.**

health, and infrastructure security. Indeed, perceptions of safety are closely linked to overall well-being and life satisfaction.

The UAE has strategically integrated the promotion of security as a central pillar in its national branding efforts, positioning itself as a safe, stable, and forward-looking nation in the global arena. Over the past two decades, the UAE has executed one of the Middle East’s most successful nation branding campaigns, leveraging its reputation for security and safety to attract tourists, investors and skilled professionals. Security and safety are consistently highlighted as key national assets in branding materials, government communications, and major international events, reinforcing the UAE’s image as a secure destination.

The UAE’s security strategies are anchored in the preservation of its cultural patrimony and national identity which emphasis social cohesion, intercultural coexistence and tolerance. Historically, the UAE has valued mediation over confrontation, seeking to resolve disputes through dialogue and multilateral institutions. This value is reflected in its diplomatic efforts to de-escalate regional tensions. Pragmatism, assertiveness and self-reliance characterize the country’s regional initiatives. This includes building independent military capabilities and pursuing autonomous decision-making in both domestic and foreign security matters. The UAE integrates values of tolerance and moderation into its security framework, aiming to counter radicalization and promote social harmony.

Security is also essential for sustaining the UAE’s status as a global business hub, by protecting maritime trade routes and critical infrastructure.

The UAE’s flourishing cultural scene (Louvre Abu Dhabi, Art Dubai, Sharjah Biennial, etc.) has enhanced the country’s global identity as a patron-protector of the arts.

In recent years, the UAE has increasingly recognized the critical relationship between security and environmental protection. Environmental threats are direct risks to human security, public health and economic stability. The UAE’s General Environmental Policy frames the preservation of natural resources and sustainable use as central to national culture and security, emphasizing that environmental well-being underpins harmonious and resilient societies. We the UAE 2031 Vision and the UAE Energy Strategy 2025 set ambitious targets for air quality, clean energy, and sustainable development, aiming for a 30% share of clean energy by 2030 and net-zero emissions in the energy and water sectors by 2050. The UAE’s presidency of COP28 and the resulting UAE Consensus marked a milestone in global climate diplomacy, emphasizing adaptation and a just transition as integral to security and sustainable development. National campaigns and educational programs raise public awareness about environmental responsibility, climate change, food and water security. The UAE has also partnered with the UN Climate Security Mechanism, as the first donor from the global South to strengthen the UN’s capacity to address the nexus between climate change, peace and security.

**Summary of the key values, underpinning UAE’s vision of human security:**

| Value                          | Domestic Implementation                                                    | International Implementation (Public Diplomacy)                                |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cultural heritage & traditions | Social cohesion, education, legal system                                   | Promotion of Emirati culture and tolerance abroad                              |
| Regional stability             | Cooperation within the Gulf Cooperation Council, internal security         | Mediation, alliance-building, joint military operations                        |
| Pragmatism/Self-Reliance       | Military investment, autonomy                                              | Independent foreign policy, multi-alignment and diversified partnerships       |
| Tolerance                      | Religious tolerance, Education, prevention of radicalization & hate speech | Counter-extremism messaging, cultural diplomacy                                |
| Economic prosperity            | Predictable business environment, rule of law, infrastructure protection   | Investment promotion, trade diplomacy                                          |
| Multilateralism/ Mediation     | Domestic consensus, capacity building for public diplomacy                 | Mediation in regional disputes, active participation in global forums          |
| Environmental sustainability   | Clean energy, mitigation of CO2 emissions, biodiversity, water security    | Climate diplomacy, COP28, SDGs, funding research and start-ups in green energy |

**In Conclusion  
leading in the Global  
Soft Power ranking**

Soft Power, as articulated by Harvard scholar Joseph Nye, refers to the capacity to influence the preferences and behaviors of others through attraction and appeal, rather than through coercive means. In the context of an increasingly multipolar international system, this form of influence has gained significance. This is particularly evident among Middle Eastern countries, which are actively seeking to redefine their roles on the global stage by leveraging diplomacy, strategic investment, and cultural initiatives.

In the 2025 edition of the Global Soft Power Index, the United Arab Emirates continues to lead in the Middle East region, retaining its position in the top 10 globally, being an exception to a regional slowdown in soft power. The UAE ranks 8th in the “Influence” indicator, 9th in the “international relations” indicator, and 10th in “Business & Trade”. It has risen to 2nd globally for being ‘easy to do business in and with’ and remains in the top 10 for both ‘future growth potential’ and ‘strong and stable economy’.

This sustainably strong performance is a testament to the UAE’s long-term strategy of economic diversification, investment in future industries, as well as a commitment to mediation and good offices that enhance its global trust and appeal, in line with its core values.



## Matthew Robinson to «Emirates Magazine for Human Rights»: Emirati Leadership in an Evolving Gulf Landscape: Human Rights at the Heart of Legal Modernization and Responsible Digital Transformation

In light of the rapid geopolitical transformations in international relations, the importance of think tanks and strategic studies centers emerges as knowledge bridges contributing to fostering dialogue and building understanding among nations worldwide, thereby supporting an atmosphere of intellectual convergence among all.

Among these centers, the European Gulf Information Centre (EGIC) stands out, aiming to bring Europe and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries closer together.

In this context, «Emirates Magazine for Human Rights» had a dialogue with Matthew Robinson, the Director of the Centre, who possesses legal and political expertise spanning across European Union institutions, to clarify his vision on the path of this rapprochement and the positive developments in the Gulf region regarding the advancement of human rights protection.

### Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights: UAE Leads Responsible Innovation Globally.

• First, we would like you to tell us about the launch of the European Gulf Studies and Research Centre, its work and efforts, especially those related to human rights?

• The European Gulf Information Centre (EGIC) was founded as a non-profit association in Rome in the autumn of 2015. Our mission is to build bridges of communication between Europe and the Arabian Gulf in political, strategic, cultural, and economic fields. To achieve this, the Centre relies on a network of academics, policymakers, and civil society experts from both regions.

The Centre publishes its research through a wide range of publications, including special reports, policy papers, and analyses. It also organizes seminars,

conferences, dialogues, and roundtables on current issues in European-Gulf relations. Furthermore, it offers training programs and internship opportunities; for example, the Centre proudly holds membership in the «Erasmus» academic exchange network and collaborates closely with universities across Europe and the Arabian Gulf.

### Interest in Women's Issues, Labor Rights, and Civil Liberties.

Regarding human rights, the Centre pays great attention to issues such as the role of women in education, labor rights, and civil liberties. Our analysts have written on topics such as women's academic achievement, and we have hosted specialized panel discussions on the rule of law and human rights dialogues. These activities reflect the Centre's commitment to deepening understanding of human rights challenges and promoting the exchange of best practices between the two regions.

### Continuous and Clear Gulf Progress in Promoting Human Rights Protection

• In recent years, Arabian Gulf countries, especially the United Arab Emirates, have shown great interest in developing and leading the human rights agenda within their borders. They have sought to develop their national systems to achieve further progress in promoting rights and freedoms and achieving sustainable development. How do you view these steps and the progress made by the GCC countries?

• In recent years, Gulf countries have taken significant steps to modernize aspects of their legal and social systems. For example, Gulf countries, led by the United Arab Emirates, have made substantial amendments to their legal systems to support and enhance human rights protection. This includes the adoption of national policies for digital human rights protection, or those related to the ethics of artificial intelligence, with the goal of protecting human rights in both the present and the future.

Many GCC countries have also established national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles and ratified additional international conventions, including those related to the rights of children and people with disabilities.

These steps indicate continuous and clear progress and reflect a willingness to adapt certain aspects of national law to international standards. These reforms show that Gulf leaders see importance in fostering a more open society and a knowledge-based economy. Sustainable development goals, such as expanding women's participation in the labor market and economic diversification, have also become an integral part of national plans, such as UAE Centennial 2071 and Saudi Vision 2030. Recent developments in human rights and laws in Gulf countries are genuine developments and represent an advanced and important step forward.

### Ambitious Gulf Strategies in Artificial Intelligence.

• Artificial intelligence and modern technologies represent one of the most significant challenges to human rights. How can these challenges and risks be addressed, especially regarding protection and accountability for violations in the digital world?

• Artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technologies offer enormous



**Matthew Robinson**

Director of the European Gulf Information Centre.

- He served as Chairman of the Conservative Party in Northern Ireland from 2021 to 2023.
- Previously, he advised elected Conservative Members of the European Parliament in Brussels and Strasbourg on various issues, including foreign affairs, security and defense, international trade, and internal policies, across three parliamentary terms (from 2013 to 2020). He also served as a senior advisor to the Chairs of the European Parliament delegations for relations with Iraq and relations with South Asia.
- Matthew also worked for the «America and the Global Economy» program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C. in 2010. He regularly appears on various media outlets, including: BBC, Euronews, CNN, Asharq News, GB News, NBC, and MSNBC.
- A qualified (non-practising) lawyer since 2011, he holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) with Honours from Wales, and a Master of Laws (LLM) from the University of Edinburgh in 2012.

### Gulf leaders recognize the importance of fostering a more open society and a knowledge-based economy.

benefits, but at the same time, they raise new risks to human rights, particularly concerning privacy, surveillance, discrimination, and misinformation. In some Gulf countries, ambitious AI strategies have been launched, such as the UAE's Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031, with the aim of driving innovation. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has developed the «Guidance on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence,» prepared based on UNESCO's recommendations on the ethics of AI, which explicitly warns that AI can both enhance and undermine human rights. This guide emphasizes that AI may threaten fundamental rights such as equality and privacy if left unchecked and calls for urgent national and international measures to mitigate these risks. A number of Gulf countries, including the UAE, have acted on this, with the UAE being a pioneer in establishing a dedicated Ministry of Artificial Intelligence, embodying its foresight in leading global digital transformation. In mid-2024, the Ministry issued the «Charter for the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence in the UAE,» a national document aimed at achieving the objectives of the UAE's AI strategy, ensuring the responsible and controlled use of this advanced technology. In addition to the Charter, the UAE also adopted the «UAE Policy on Artificial Intelligence at the International Level,» which defines its stance on AI governance in multilateral forums, focusing on promoting digital rights, protecting privacy, and ensuring transparency and accountability. In December 2023, it also issued the «Artificial Intelligence Ethics: Guidelines and Principles» guide, which establishes eight ethical principles to ensure respect for human rights at all stages of the development and deployment of AI systems. This integrated system constitutes a leading model for an effective balance between technological innovation and the preservation of human dignity, highlighting the UAE's commitment to using AI as a tool for achieving sustainable development, promoting social justice, and building a secure and just future for all.

### Cooperation between Research and Study Centers Forms Bridges for Rapprochement and Support for Joint Collaboration.

• **How do you view the importance of enhancing cooperation between European and Gulf research and strategic studies centers, especially regarding the development and alignment of legislation, policies, and strategies concerning human rights and sustainable development?**

•• Strong cooperation between European and Gulf research centers is crucial, as human rights and sustainable development challenges are inherently global. Therefore, both Europe and the Gulf benefit from exchanging experiences and best practices. European institutions often possess long experience in rule of law frameworks and social welfare policies, while Gulf institutions have a deep understanding of regional cultures, politics, and social contexts.

Research centers on both sides can form bridges for rapprochement by hosting joint conferences, issuing academic publications, and organizing academic exchange programs. The European Gulf Information Centre (EGIC) specifically works with universities and think tanks in Europe and the Arabian Gulf to enhance direct communication networks among researchers, thereby contributing to an academic dialogue aimed at supporting the alignment of laws and policies, especially in areas such as free trade and investment.

• **The United Arab Emirates leads the world in efforts concerning achieving peace, tolerance, and human coexistence, and it seeks to promote and spread peace in many countries worldwide. How do you view the importance of this role?**

•• The active role played by the UAE in global peace-building is highly commendable

The necessity of supporting cooperation between Gulf and European research centers, as it represents a bridge for rapprochement and knowledge transfer between both sides.



and its influence is growing significantly. By hosting peace summits, supporting interfaith dialogue, and presenting itself as a neutral mediator, the UAE enhances its credibility on the international stage. A prominent example of this is its recent success in mediating the prisoner exchange between Russia and Ukraine, which reaffirms the UAE's commitment to resolving conflicts peacefully. This achievement demonstrates how the UAE's focus on tolerance and quiet diplomacy is yielding political dividends and bolstering its geopolitical standing globally.

### A Message to Gulf Youth: The Future is in Your Hands, So Ensure It Is Filled with Peace, Prosperity, and the Continuous Advancement of Human Rights Protection.

• **What message would you like to convey to the youth in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries?**

•• You are the bridge between tradition and the future. Seize the opportunities available to you – from high-quality universities, international exchange programs, and modern technologies – but at the same time, preserve and cherish your cultural heritage. Strive in your studies and work, and be curious about the wider world. Engage in dialogue with others, and travel if you can. Understanding different perspectives is a fundamental element of true leadership.

At the same time, do not forget the values you grew up with – values of tolerance, family, and community – which have always formed the foundation of the cohesion of Arabian Gulf societies. You must realize that the future is being shaped now in your hands; make it a future filled with peace, prosperity, and human dignity.

### Emirati Diplomacy for Peace and Coexistence: From International Mediation to Building the Future.



## UAE and UNICEF: A Global Partnership to Protect Childhood and Empower the Future

At a time when millions of children around the world are suffering due to poverty, armed conflict, and inadequate services, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) stands as a steadfast guardian of children's rights and well-being. Since its inception, the organization has played a vital role in supporting children whose lives and futures are at serious risk.



UNICEF works to uphold the rights and well-being of children in 190 countries, in collaboration with international partners—foremost among them, the United Arab Emirates.

### The Story of UNICEF – From Emergency Relief to a Beacon of Hope

UNICEF was established on December 11, 1946, by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution 57-D/1), with the initial aim of providing urgent aid and supplies to children affected by the devastation of World War II.

At that time, the organization bore the name “United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund” and operated as a temporary relief agency. This status granted it the right to use the UN emblem in its mission.

However, as the challenges facing children around the world grew more complex and persistent, UNICEF's role evolved significantly. In 1953, it became a permanent part of the United Nations system and was officially renamed the “United Nations Children's Fund”—a name that reflects its broader, enduring mission to uphold and protect the rights of every child.

Since then, UNICEF has been working around the world to support children—not only during emergencies, disasters, or armed conflicts, but at all times—through developmental, health, and educational programs aimed at improving children's quality of life and securing a safe future for them.

### UNICEF's Journey: From Relief to Sustainable Development

Since its establishment in 1946, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has been a cornerstone in championing children's rights globally. Its programs have expanded to reach 190 countries and territories, focusing efforts on providing education, healthcare, clean water, and protection from violence and exploitation.

Among its most notable achievements is the near-eradication of polio through vaccination campaigns that reach over 400 million children annually. UNICEF has also led sustainable projects that have delivered clean water to millions of children in crisis-affected areas. In collaboration with governments and civil society organizations, the agency spearheads inclusive education programs that enable children to continue learning—even in the most challenging conditions.

### UNICEF's Core Goals:

UNICEF seeks to achieve a range of key objectives aligned with the rights of the child, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. These include:



- **Protecting Children's Rights:** UNICEF works to safeguard children's rights, including the right to life, a safe environment, education, and healthcare—ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive.
- **Ending Poverty and Hunger:** The organization aims to reduce poverty and hunger among children worldwide by providing social assistance programs and distributing essential food supplies.
- **Inclusive and Quality Education:** UNICEF strives to ensure that all children—including girls and children with disabilities—have access to free, quality education to reduce illiteracy and promote development.
- **Health and Medical Care:** The organization supports child health through vaccination campaigns, treatment of infectious diseases, and improved healthcare services in developing regions.
- **Protection from Violence and Exploitation:** UNICEF confronts issues such as child labor, trafficking, and early marriage, while working to protect children in conflict zones.
- **Gender Equality:** The organization promotes gender equality by raising awareness about the dangers of early marriage and educational discrimination, empowering girls to access their full rights.
- **Emergency Response:** UNICEF delivers emergency aid to children and women in disaster and conflict situations, including clean water, food, education, and healthcare services.

### The UAE and UNICEF: A Partnership for Childhood

The United Arab Emirates is a key partner in supporting the efforts of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Through the appointment of several prominent Emirati figures as ambassadors, the UAE has played a vital role in promoting children's rights and bringing attention to their issues both locally and globally. Among these ambassadors:

The organization focuses on supporting the most vulnerable children, particularly in areas such as healthcare, education, and protection from exploitation.



Majid Al-Usaimi - First National UNICEF Ambassador from the UAE

#### - Majid Al-Usaimi - First National UNICEF Ambassador from the UAE (2021)

In January 2021, UNICEF appointed Mr. Majid Al-Usaimi-President of the Asian Paralympic Committee and CEO of the Dubai Club for People of Determination—as its first national ambassador from the UAE. This appointment recognized his advocacy for children’s rights, particularly those of children with disabilities, and his efforts to promote their social inclusion through sports and community empowerment.

#### - Balqees Fathi – Regional UNICEF Ambassador (2023)

In April 2023, UNICEF named artist Balqees Fathi as its regional ambassador. She uses her artistic and media platforms to raise awareness of children’s rights—especially in the areas of health, education, and protection—with a focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

#### - Seven Youth Climate Ambassadors for UNICEF (2023)

Under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, «Mother of the Nation»—President of the General Women’s Union, Chairwoman of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation—UNICEF, in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, announced the appointment of seven youth ambassadors from the UAE as UNICEF Climate Ambassadors. This initiative was part of a broader awareness campaign in preparation for the COP28 Climate Conference.

The appointed ambassadors included: Ghayah Saeed Al-Ahbabi, Yousuf Abdullah Mohsen Al-Balooshi, Maryam Hassan Al-Ghafri, Abdul Muqet Abdul Mannan, Sophia Fakihi, Saeed Ahmed Al-Rumaithi, and Ahmed Salem Al-Mutawa.

This initiative aimed to empower the younger generation to play an active role in environmental and climate issues, and to strengthen their engagement in



the global dialogue for a sustainable future that guarantees children’s rights to a safe and clean environment.

#### UAE Strategic Partnerships and Pioneering Global Initiatives

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) stands as a prominent international partner of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), bound by a long-standing collaboration focused on safeguarding children’s rights and promoting their well-being across the globe. This commitment stems from the UAE and its wise leadership’s belief in extending a helping hand to humanity in every society and in every place.

Among the most notable examples of this partnership are:

##### Support for Humanitarian Efforts in Sudan and South Sudan:

In August 2024, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed an agreement with UNICEF to provide \$7 million, of which \$6 million was allocated to support the organization’s operations in Sudan, and \$1 million for South Sudan. This contribution aimed to provide primary healthcare, clean water, and education to children and women affected by conflicts in both countries, amidst a displacement crisis considered the largest globally for children.

##### Empowering Youth Through Technology:

In February 2025, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Autonomous Racing League (A2RL) and the Drone Champions League (DCL), launched a training program targeting 100 Emirati youth. The program aimed to equip them with practical skills in drone technology, data analysis, and innovation, thereby enhancing their readiness for an increasingly technology-driven future.

##### Raising Awareness of Child Rights:

In August 2024, UNICEF collaborated with the Community Development

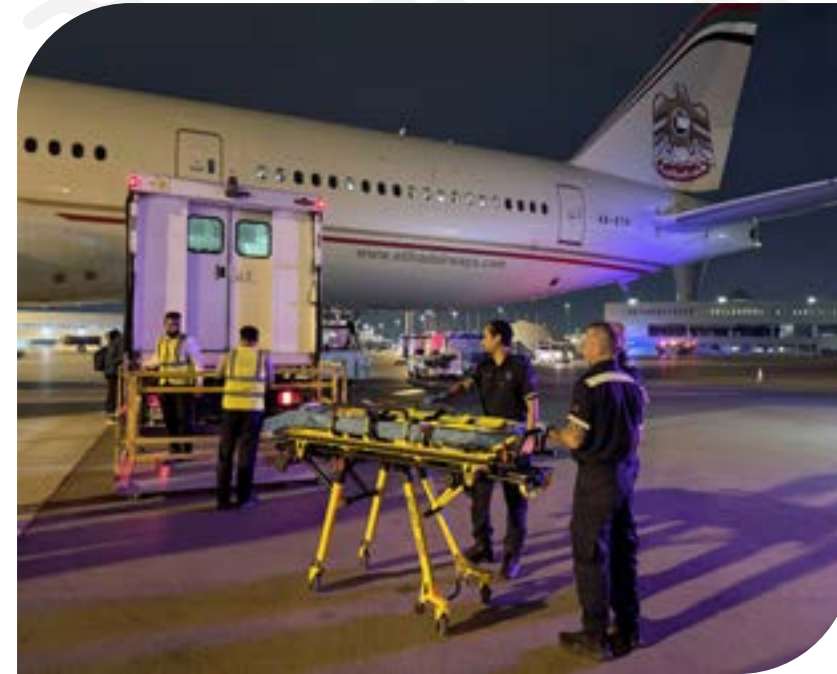
**The UAE and UNICEF share a strong strategic partnership aimed at empowering childhood globally and ensuring the full realization of children’s human rights.**



Authority in Dubai to develop a child rights awareness activity kit. The goal was to promote and disseminate child rights among children, their families, and the community, fostering an environment where children are aware of their rights and empowered to advocate for themselves.

#### **Combating Malnutrition:**

During its participation in the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2024, the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives Foundation announced a contribution of AED 30 million (equivalent to \$8.1 million) to support UNICEF programs aimed at combating malnutrition among children and women in crisis-affected regions.



#### **Supporting Healthcare in Afghanistan:**

In 2020, the Emirates Red Crescent Authority signed a cooperation agreement with UNICEF, contributing AED 1 million to support specific programs aimed at reducing congenital disabilities among newborns in Afghanistan.

#### **Humanitarian Response in Yemen:**

In 2017, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed a cooperation agreement with UNICEF regarding life-saving and early recovery efforts for affected children and women in Yemen. Under this agreement, the UAE provided AED 7.3 million (equivalent to \$2 million) as part of its contribution to the United Nations plan for saving lives and promoting early recovery for affected children and women in Yemen. The UAE considers this project an integral part of its response to the humanitarian situation in Yemen.

#### **Global Support for Education:**

The UAE has been keen to prioritize the protection of children's education, with its total donations to support education projects worldwide exceeding \$1.55 billion. This includes a contribution of \$284.4 million to crisis-affected areas, in cooperation with UNICEF and other partners, since 2017 to support the education of 20 million children in 59 countries up to September 2020. These contributions include: supporting the establishment of schools, providing scholarships, developing curricula, and training teachers, in addition to digital initiatives such as the «Digital School» launched by the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives Foundation, which has reached more than 160,000 students in 13 countries. The UAE has also pledged \$100 million to support the «Global Partnership for Education» for the period between 2021 and 2025, further strengthening its efforts to improve the quality of education in developing countries.

#### **Leadership in Supporting Children's Rights Globally:**

During 2021, the UAE affirmed in a statement before the Security Council its commitment to promoting the rights of children in armed conflict zones and rehabilitating survivors. It clarified that its total contributions to support the activities and programs of UNICEF amounted to \$37.5 million during 2021, in addition to more than \$100 million in recent years to support its efforts in expanding access and protecting children in Yemen.

#### **In Conclusion**

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) stands as one of the foremost international humanitarian organizations, tirelessly dedicating its efforts to improving the lives of children across the globe. Through its ongoing programs, UNICEF strives to ensure that all children have equal opportunities in life, contributing to the building of a brighter and more sustainable future for them, wherever they may be.

The strategic partnership between the United Arab Emirates and UNICEF embodies the UAE's deep commitment to protecting human rights, particularly the rights of the child. This partnership has formed a distinguished global model for international cooperation in addressing issues of poverty, ignorance, and discrimination, and in ensuring the dignity and well-being of children in all circumstances.

**The UAE has contributed over \$1.55 billion to support education projects worldwide, including \$284.4 million directed to crisis-affected regions.**



**Volker Türk:**

## Volker Türk: The Quiet Voice of Conscience at the United Nations

**Human rights are considered the fundamental cornerstone upon which stable and prosperous societies are built. They represent the primary guarantee for the preservation of individual dignity, freedom, and safety. Amidst escalating armed conflicts, climate change and its repercussions, and growing global challenges, the need intensifies to solidify human rights as a principal pathway towards achieving sustainable development, justice, and a stable future for humanity. Indeed, the continuity of societies is unattainable without respect for fundamental human rights.**



**An internationalist leader possessing legal wisdom and humanity, combining diplomatic firmness with courteous engagement with diverse peoples.**

From this premise, the international community and societies recognize the imperative of reinforcing the system of human rights as an indispensable necessity. It is through this system that the building of a world founded on equality, mutual respect, and human dignity becomes feasible.

The United Nations has given considerable attention to the promotion of global awareness of human rights. This commitment is embodied in the establishment of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 48141/ of December 20, 1993. This resolution meticulously defined the mandate of the High Commissioner, among the most prominent aspects of which are:

Possessing distinguished literary standing, profound personal integrity, and extensive experience, particularly in the realm of human rights, in addition to a deep understanding of cultural diversity and the capacity for impartial and effective performance of crucial tasks.

Over the years, this position has been held by a number of prominent figures in the field of human rights. The most recent of these was Volker Türk, who officially assumed his duties on October 17, 2022, succeeding Michelle Bachelet. Türk has been actively involved in the defense of human rights since October 17, 2022, building upon a rich professional record in this area. Volker Türk was born on August 27, 1965, in Linz, Austria, and holds a Master's degree in law. Türk holds a doctorate in international law from the University of Vienna. He has significant academic contributions in the fields of international refugee law and international human rights law. He is also proficient in English and French, in addition to his native Spanish.

### Personal Traits of Volker Türk

Volker Türk is distinguished by a unique balance, bringing together the rigor



of legal principles and the loftiness of humanitarian ideals. This manifests in his astute diplomatic approach and his profound empathy with vulnerable and marginalized groups, particularly refugees, a sensitivity he acquired from his extensive field experience amidst complex humanitarian crises and emergencies. Türk possesses a calm, composed, and balanced demeanor, coupled with remarkable insight in navigating sensitive international issues. Furthermore, his unwavering commitment to principles is evident despite the political complexities of the international arena. His wise leadership, characterized by a blend of firmness and diplomacy, has enabled him to effectively engage with diverse cultures, making his voice a respected and influential one in the defense of human dignity and human rights globally.

### Volker Türk's Professional Journey

Volker Türk boasts a distinguished professional career spanning over twenty-five years in the field of international law and human rights. He has held numerous senior positions within the United Nations system. Prior to his appointment as High Commissioner for Human Rights, Türk served as a senior advisor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Subsequently, he held the position of Assistant Secretary-General for Policy in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, where he spearheaded the work on coordinating global policies. In this capacity, he oversaw the implementation of the Secretary-General's call to action for human rights and took charge of following up on the report «Our Common Agenda.» He also supervised the human rights aspects in the «Our Common Agenda» report, which lays out a comprehensive vision for addressing global challenges grounded in the principles of trust, solidarity, and human rights.

**A firm believer that humanity's future is contingent on adhering to the principles of human rights and achieving dignity for all.**



**More than a quarter-century of dedicated work in the heart of conflicts and negotiations, ultimately reaching the pinnacle of the international system.**

Furthermore, from 2019 to 2021, he held the position of Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination in the Executive Office. In this role, he made pivotal contributions to aligning the UN's efforts to confront emerging challenges.

Between 2015 and 2019, Türk held the position of Assistant High Commissioner for Protection at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, playing a central role in shaping the landmark Global Compact on Refugees, which is considered a pivotal moment in the protection of refugee rights at the international level.

Türk held several leading positions at UNHCR, including:

- Director of the Division of International Protection (2009 – 2015)
- Director of Organizational Development and Management (2008 – 2009)
- Chief of Section, Protection Policy and Legal Advice (2000 – 2004)

Furthermore, Türk served UNHCR in various capacities worldwide, including as Representative in Malaysia, Head of Mission in Kosovo, and Regional Coordinator for Protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Kuwait.

#### **The International Human Rights Journey of Volker Türk**

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, is known for his principled stance on pressing human rights issues. He consistently urges the upholding of human dignity and justice, particularly during times of crisis.
- In May 2023, Türk cautioned against new policies announced by the United States regarding border control threaten to undermine core international



human rights and refugee law principles, expressing his concern about the potential human impact of these measures.

- In May 2025, he made his first official visit to Damascus, where he called for a comprehensive national reconciliation process to guarantee justice for the crimes committed during the past decades.
- In March 2025, he described the Israeli settlement policy in the West Bank as a «war crime,» demanding an immediate cessation of all settlement activities, the evacuation of settlers, and the provision of reparations for the damages inflicted upon the Palestinians.
- In the same month of March 2025, he expressed his shock at the reports indicating the killing of hundreds of civilians in Sudan and called for taking all necessary measures to protect civilians, pointing out that indiscriminate attacks may constitute war crimes under international humanitarian law.
- He also emphasized, during his participation in the African Union summit in March 2025, that the racist approach still denies individuals of African descent their full human rights, calling for greater unity and commitment to protecting these rights in all aspects of life.
- In April 2025, he presented a briefing to the United Nations General Assembly regarding the issue of missing persons, stressing the need for further efforts for truth and justice in solidarity with the victims.

#### **Our Human Rights Commitment**

- The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, affirmed his vision for his tenure in this high office through an official message published on his «LinkedIn» page, in which he stated: «Promoting and protecting human rights has been central to my work with the United Nations since my early field assignments as a protection officer. On behalf of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, I urge you to renew your commitment to human rights in the face of our greatest challenges and to strive towards building a better world—a world that draws lessons from history, values every individual in their freedom, openness, equality, and diversity, transcends division, and fosters equity and justice.»

#### **In Conclusion**

The person of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, embodies a unique model for the international official who combines profound legal knowledge, ethical commitment, and extensive field experience. His long career in defending the rights of refugees and minorities has been a cornerstone in his approach. He consistently adheres to principles and demonstrates unwavering commitment during times of crisis. His calm and clear voice reflects a deep-seated belief that the protection of human dignity begins with respect for it.



## Al-Ayyala and Al-Naashat Living Emirati Heritage Reflecting the Right to Cultural Identity

**In light of the growing global reliance on the digital space as a platform for cultural expression and exchange, there is an increasing and urgent need to re-evaluate mechanisms for protecting cultural identities from distortion, oversimplification, or misuse, whether intentional or due to ignorance. This need becomes even more pressing when the heritage in question originates from societies with deep historical roots and is linked to practices inscribed on UNESCO's lists of intangible cultural heritage.**



**Between Internationally Recognized Heritage and Deep-Rooted Folk Art: Al-Ayyala and Al-Naashat are Tributaries of a Single Emirati Identity**

Although the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions—to which the UAE acceded in 2012—established important principles related to cultural rights, it did not set direct obligations or clear deterrents against the increasing cultural violations in the digital and international media environment.

### **An International Charter for the Protection of Cultural Rights: A Digital and Ethical Responsibility**

Emerging from this gap between international principles and digital reality, there is an urgent need to draft an international charter for the protection of cultural rights in the digital and media space. This charter would serve as a legal and ethical reference, defining the obligations of states, media institutions, and digital platforms.

This proposed charter would not only aim to protect communities from cultural distortion or symbolic insult, but also seek to achieve a fair balance in

the representation of cultures. It would do so through clear rules that prohibit hate speech and promote equitable cultural exchange, moving away from monopolization or superficial consumption.

The proposed charter is essential to protect global cultural diversity from dissolving into a commercial or politicized digital culture that produces distorted stereotypes of the «other» and empties identities of their deep meaning.

The UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights affirmed this concept in her 2021 report to the General Assembly (A/76/178), emphasizing that cultural diversity is an integral part of human rights, and that respecting the dignity and identities of peoples is a collective responsibility. She called on media to play a positive role in building a common understanding based on respect and multiplicity.

### **UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity 2001**

Article 1 of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted by the General Conference of the Organization in 2001, states:

«Cultural diversity, as a common heritage of humanity... Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. In this sense, cultural diversity is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.»

This declaration reflects the philosophical and legal basis for the idea that protecting cultural heritage is not an option, but a duty towards all humanity. This diversity cannot be preserved without genuine respect for the cultural heritage of local communities.

**Cultural Rights: An Authentic Cornerstone Affirmed by International Covenants and United Nations Reports.**



### The Union Association for Human Rights Launches a Call for Drafting an Ethical Charter for the Circulation of Cultural Heritage Across Digital Platforms

In the context of contemporary developments, the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights' report during the 58th session of the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/58/60) highlighted the importance of the digital transformation of cultural heritage as a means of preserving it for future generations. The report also recommended establishing mechanisms for receiving complaints related to «digital misappropriation of heritage,» but it stopped short of proposing a comprehensive international framework that ensures respect for this heritage in the digital environment.

Hence, the Union Association for Human Rights renews its call for the necessity of developing an international ethical and legal framework to regulate the circulation of cultural heritage across digital platforms. This would preserve the dignity of peoples and protect their cultural specificities from abuse, commodification, or distortion.

### The UAE's Rich Cultural Heritage: Al-Ayyala as a Model

Al-Ayyala is one of the most prominent folk and cultural arts in the United Arab Emirates. In 2014, it was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity under nomination file 01012. This recognition highlights the deep meanings it embodies, which extend beyond artistic performance to express identity and belonging.

This folk art represents a collective performance that combines poetry, melody, and movement. It is practiced at national and social occasions, such as weddings and public celebrations. It also intersects with Gulf culture, as it is similarly performed in the Sultanate of Oman.

In a complete artistic spectacle, this art simulates a symbolic battle scene. The performance features two opposing rows of men—usually around twenty in each row—carrying thin bamboo sticks that symbolize spears or swords. Musicians play large and small drums, tambourines, and brass cymbals between the rows. The men move their heads and sticks in harmony with the rhythm, reciting poetic verses that vary according to the occasion, while other

performers wander around carrying swords or rifles, sometimes throwing them into the air and skillfully catching them.

In the UAE, girls also participate at the front of the scene, dressed in traditional attire, moving their long hair from side to side in a dancing rhythm that adds a sophisticated feminine dimension to the performance.

The melody consists of seven irregular, repetitive notes, and this art is performed at weddings and public celebratory occasions.

Al-Ayyala, with its rich heritage symbolism and collective performance, embodies people's right to express their culture and practice their heritage rituals freely and with dignity, in line with international conventions that emphasize the right to enjoy cultural life.

### Al-Naashat: The Femininity of Joy and Heritage

While Al-Ayyala performances in the UAE may include symbolic participation of girls with graceful hair movements harmonizing with the rhythm, Emirati heritage is also rich with independent female artistic forms. Among the most prominent of these is Al-Naashat, which embodies the memory of collective joy and represents one of the most sophisticated forms of popular cultural expression for women.

This art form is performed at joyous occasions like weddings and celebrations. Girls participate in harmonious group movements, accompanied by the chanting of folk songs. The movements of long hair create a unique visual spectacle that embodies femininity, joy, and cultural belonging.

The UAE has been keen to foster this art as part of its efforts to protect intangible cultural heritage through documentation, education, organizing events, and enabling new generations to learn and practice it.

Al-Naashat exemplifies the right to cultural participation, as stipulated in international conventions. It highlights the active role of Emirati women in preserving popular memory and promoting national identity through the arts.



### The UAE: A Global Model in Safeguarding Cultural Heritage as a Shared Human Right for All Humanity.

#### In Conclusion...

The protection of cultural heritage in the digital space is no longer an intellectual luxury or a marginal concern. It has become an urgent legal and ethical necessity, imposed by contemporary challenges facing national identities in a cross-border digital environment where stereotypes proliferate and cultural specificities fade before the dominance of generalization and consumption.

The distortion, denigration, or decontextualization of some heritage arts is not merely an accidental occurrence. It is an indicator of the absence of a binding international legislative framework that protects this heritage from abuse, politicization, or marginalization.

From this perspective, the Union Association for Human Rights renews its call for the drafting of an international charter for the protection of cultural rights in the digital space. This charter would serve as an ethical and legal reference, embodying the principle of global cultural responsibility and safeguarding the dignity of peoples and their right to express their heritage freely and with respect.

Protecting heritage is not just defending the past; it is a guarantee of peoples' right to free cultural existence and a fundamental pillar of sustainable human justice.



Through Country and Regional Offices and Special Rapporteurs:

## How does the High Commissioner for Human Rights Monitor Global Human Rights Protection?

**The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) stands as a cornerstone of the United Nations system and a leading international body dedicated to safeguarding and promoting human dignity and rights worldwide.**

**Established in 1993, its primary mission encompasses monitoring human rights situations, intervening in cases of violations, and offering technical and legal support to member states. This work aims to bolster the rule of law, equality, and justice globally.**

The OHCHR derives its significance from its pivotal role in transforming the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into practical reality. It achieves this through effective UN mechanisms and multi-stakeholder partnerships that ensure respect for the fundamental rights of every individual, without discrimination based on race, sex, religion, language, political opinion, or any other status. Furthermore, the OHCHR contributes to raising awareness and advocating for the protection of digital rights, which have become increasingly crucial with the accelerating shift of human interactions into the digital realm.



### Establishment and Historical Background

The organized work on human rights within the United Nations traces its origins back to the early years of the organization's founding in the 1940s. During that period, a small human rights division was established within the UN Secretariat. In the 1980s, this division was relocated to Geneva and later evolved into the «United Nations Centre for Human Rights.»

The World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in June 1993, marked a pivotal turning point. It adopted the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which recommended the creation of a High Commissioner for Human Rights. This position was intended to enhance the United Nations' capacity to protect fundamental rights. In response to the Vienna Conference's recommendations, the UN General Assembly issued Resolution A/RES/48141/ on December 20, 1993, formally establishing the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

### What is the Role of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)?

#### 1. Objectives and Mandates of the OHCHR:

- Promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms for all individuals, without discrimination, across the globe.
- Monitoring and documenting human rights violations and intervening to address them through United Nations mechanisms, including special procedures, treaty bodies, and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process.
- Providing technical and advisory support to states to align their national legislation with international human rights standards.

**The 1993 Vienna Conference: A Turning Point in the Trajectory of International Human Rights Protection.**



### Mandates of the Commission: From Technical Support to Monitoring Field Violations.

- Empowering individuals and communities to know, exercise, and defend their rights through education, training, and capacity-building initiatives.
- Supporting civil society organizations and strengthening their role as active partners in monitoring, accountability, and awareness-raising, while coordinating with them in implementing human rights programs.
- Advancing the principles of accountability and the rule of law, combating all forms of discrimination, and preventing serious human rights violations.

**The OHCHR also focuses in its current strategy on emerging and high-priority issues, most notably:**

- Protecting digital rights in the context of global technological expansion.
- Combating hate speech and misinformation that threaten social cohesion.
- Integrating human rights into sustainable development efforts, particularly within the framework of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### 2. Executive Functions of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR):

The OHCHR carries out a range of vital functions aimed at promoting and protecting human rights at both international and field levels. These functions include:

- Supervising the Implementation of International Human Rights Treaties: The OHCHR monitors the implementation of core international human rights treaties by State Parties—such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention against Torture (CAT)—by supporting treaty bodies and providing necessary recommendations.
- Supporting the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Mechanism: The OHCHR contributes to the UPR process by preparing comprehensive reports on the human rights situation in member states, offering technical assistance during review sessions, and following up on the implementation of recommendations.
- Preparing Periodic Reports: The OHCHR issues regular reports that assess

the human rights situation in member states, contributing to greater transparency and accountability at the international level.

- Field Interventions in Conflict or Crisis Situations: The OHCHR intervenes in humanitarian crises and armed conflicts—such as in Myanmar, Sudan, and Ukraine—to provide technical support, monitors violations, and offer necessary recommendations.
- Implementing Global Awareness Campaigns: The OHCHR launches public awareness campaigns aimed at promoting human rights principles, such as combating violence and protecting minority rights, to strengthen public understanding and engagement.
- Providing Technical and Advisory Support to Governments: The OHCHR offers technical and advisory assistance to member states to help reform justice systems and law enforcement practices in alignment with international human rights standards.

Through these functions, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) plays a key role in promoting and protecting human rights globally. It serves as a fundamental partner to states and civil society in advancing the human rights agenda.

### Organizational Structure of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR):

#### 1. Headquarters

The OHCHR is an integral part of the United Nations Secretariat. Its main headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland, with an additional office in New York, along with numerous country and regional offices across the globe. The OHCHR employs approximately 1,300 staff members from diverse backgrounds, reflecting the global nature of its mandate.

#### 2. Field Presence

##### - Country Offices:

The OHCHR operates 19 country offices in the following locations: Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Liberia,



## The Commission's Global Reach: How Country and Regional Offices Operate?

Mauritania, Mexico, Niger, the Syrian Arab Republic (with its office based in Beirut), Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Yemen, and Palestine. Additionally, it maintains a field-based structure in Seoul covering the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as well as a Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. The main tasks of these country offices include monitoring, analyzing, and documenting the human rights situation at the national level; engaging with host governments, national authorities, civil society, victims, and other stakeholders; and providing technical assistance through targeted cooperation programs, capacity building, and the preparation of public reports.

### - Regional Offices and Centers:

The OHCHR manages a broad network of regional offices and centers that cover various parts of the world and contribute to mainstreaming human rights into development and peacebuilding efforts. There are currently 12 such units, including 10 regional offices located in:

Addis Ababa (East Africa), Pretoria (Southern Africa), Dakar (West Africa), Bangkok (Southeast Asia), Suva (Pacific), Beirut (Middle East and North Africa), Bishkek (Central Asia), Brussels (Europe), Panama City (Central America), and Santiago de Chile (South America).

In addition, the OHCHR operates two regional centers: The Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (Yaoundé, Cameroon). The Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar). These offices strengthen direct engagement with states and regional organizations, provide technical support, and contribute to enhancing national capacities.

### Experts and Advisers:

The OHCHR is also supported by 54 Human Rights Advisers embedded within UN Country Teams. Furthermore, 11 human rights experts are deployed in United Nations peacekeeping missions in: Afghanistan, the Central African

Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Iraq, Kosovo, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan.

### 3. Divisions at the Geneva Headquarters:

#### - Special Procedures and Right to Development Division:

This division is responsible for policy development, providing tools and expert advice, supporting the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, and enhancing capacity in key human rights issues.

#### - Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division:

It provides technical and advisory support to the Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism, and assists treaty bodies in implementing their recommendations.

#### - Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division:

This division oversees field activities, manages technical assistance projects, and monitors human rights situations in conflict-affected countries.

## International Bodies Associated with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR):

Although the OHCHR is not the founding body of certain mechanisms, it plays a central role in providing technical and administrative support, as it serves as the operational arm of the United Nations system in the field of human rights. This system includes two main types of bodies:

### First: International Treaty Bodies (Treaty-Based Mechanisms)

These committees are among the most prominent monitoring mechanisms within the UN human rights system. They are composed of independent experts tasked with overseeing the extent to which State Parties comply with the provisions of core international human rights treaties they have ratified or acceded to.

These bodies function in accordance with the mandates granted to them under the respective treaties. The OHCHR provides them with technical,



The UAE and UN Rapporteurs:  
Responsible Cooperation  
in Support of International  
Human Rights Protection.

administrative, and logistical support to ensure they can carry out their functions effectively.

| Names of the Expert Committees (Treaty Bodies)                                                            | Corresponding International Treaties:                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Human Rights Committee (CCPR)                                                                             | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights                                                          |
| Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)                                                 | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights                                                |
| Committee Against Torture (CAT)                                                                           | Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment                      |
| Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)                                                                | Convention on the Rights of the Child                                                                         |
| Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)                                      | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women                                    |
| Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)                                              | International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination                             |
| Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)                                               | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities                                                         |
| Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)      | International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families |
| Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) | Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture                                                           |
| Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED)                                                                | International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance                        |

Second: Special Procedures:

Special Procedures constitute a fundamental pillar of the United Nations human rights system. They are composed of independent experts appointed by the UN Human Rights Council. Their mandate involves monitoring human rights situations in specific countries or addressing thematic human rights issues of international priority.

According to the latest update issued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in January 2025, the number of Special Procedures mandates amounts to 60, distributed as follows:

- 46 Thematic Mandates: These focus on issues such as the right to adequate housing, freedom of opinion and expression, minority rights, prohibition of torture, combating human trafficking, elimination of violence against women and girls, protection of human rights defenders, and enjoyment of rights in the context of climate change and technology.
- 14 Country Mandates: These focus on monitoring human rights situations in countries experiencing escalating rights crises, such as Myanmar, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Belarus, Eritrea, North Korea, Syria, Mali, Sudan, Libya, and others.

The holders of these mandates, known as «Special Rapporteurs» or «Working Group Members,» are granted the authority to:

- Conduct field visits to the concerned countries.
- Gather information from diverse sources, including civil society organizations,

victims, and witnesses.

- Prepare thematic and analytical reports submitted to the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly.
- Issue public statements and warnings regarding critical situations.
- Communicate with governments through official mechanisms such as «urgent appeals» and «official communications,» urging them to take immediate action or provide clarifications on raised issues.

UAE’s Engagement with Special Procedures

In line with the United Arab Emirates’ commitment to cooperate with the Human Rights Council mechanisms, the country has hosted several Special Procedures mandate holders during their country visits aimed at assessing human rights conditions on the ground. These visits demonstrate the UAE’s transparency and positive engagement approach.

Notable visits include:

- In December 2024, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls conducted an official visit to the UAE. During her visit, she met with various government entities, national institutions, and civil society organizations. She reviewed laws, policies, and practices related to protecting women from domestic and societal violence. She expressed interest in the national programs for women’s empowerment and praised the political will and supportive legislative environment.
- In April 2025, the UAE received the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, who conducted field visits to several child protection and care institutions. She commended the advancement of UAE’s legislative framework on child protection, particularly regarding combating cybercrimes and human trafficking. She also appreciated the country’s approach to enhancing international cooperation on cross-border child rights issues.



In Conclusion

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) embodies the international commitment to human rights protection. Its diverse work—spanning treaty bodies and special procedures—reflects the depth of its legal and ethical responsibility to support the rule of law, combat discrimination, and ensure dignity and justice for all. Within this framework, the Union Association for Human Rights held a series of direct meetings with OHCHR officials at its Geneva headquarters to explore avenues for joint cooperation and discuss the future of international human rights protection. These meetings also facilitated an exchange of views on strengthening the role of civil society organizations as key partners in implementing human rights obligations and enhancing national monitoring mechanisms. During 2024 and 2025, the Association hosted several Special Procedures mandate holders from the UN Human Rights Council during their visits to the UAE, including the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls and the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children. The Association discussed with them the country’s progress in human rights protection, women’s empowerment, and child protection. It also presented its institutional projects, awareness initiatives, and future plans relevant to each mandate, highlighting legislative and institutional advancements in the UAE. The Association believes that these meetings strengthen the effectiveness of its partnership with OHCHR and consolidate the status of national organizations as active international actors in safeguarding rights, promoting justice, and advancing sustainable development.

A regular feature by the UAE Human Rights Magazine, including a Q&A segment where we engage in quick discussions highlighting the experiences and insights of leading experts and thinkers. Each participant offers a brief overview of their ideas and interests from their unique perspective.



## Promoting and Supporting Human Rights: A «Firm Conviction» Among GCC States



**Dr. Hadi bin Ali Al-Yami**

Former Head of the Arab Human Rights Charter Committee

**As an international expert in human rights, and through your leadership of both the Arab Human Rights Charter Committee and the Human Rights Committee of the Saudi Shura Council, how do you view the development of human rights in the GCC countries, specifically the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?**

In recent years, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have witnessed increasing activity in the field of human rights, manifested in the development of legislation, the strengthening of institutional structures, and the broadening of commitment to relevant international and regional instruments. This transformation is not a circumstantial or external response; rather, it stems from a firm conviction among GCC states that protecting human rights is a fundamental pillar in the path of sustainable development, societal stability, and the promotion of the rule of law.

Consequently, it has become clear that GCC states now view the human rights file from a comprehensive perspective that considers their cultural and religious particularities while simultaneously aligning with the international standards they have committed to. This is further reflected in the issuance of the GCC Human Rights Declaration. This approach has been mirrored in a series of national initiatives, most notably the adoption of national human rights strategies, the development of tools for transparency and accountability, and the activation of community participation, especially for women, youth, and people with disabilities (people of determination).

### Proactive Institutional Human Rights Approach in the United Arab Emirates

The human rights approach in the United Arab Emirates is characterized by its proactive institutional nature, founded on concepts of tolerance, diversity, and shared human coexistence. The most prominent features of this approach include:

- Issuing advanced laws to combat discrimination and hatred, and criminalizing hate speech in all its forms.
- Establishing the Permanent Human Rights Committee, the National Human Rights Institution, a Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence, and a Ministry of

Family, reflecting a high level of governmental interest in human rights.

- Developing an integrated system for protecting workers, empowering women, and enhancing the care of children's rights.
- Adopting national plans with tangible executive dimensions.
- Active engagement with international organizations, and hosting global events that contribute to enriching international human rights dialogue and advancing international human rights policies and practices.

### Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 Reshaped the Relationship Between Development and Human Rights

As for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Vision 2030 formed the most prominent framework that reshaped the relationship between development and human rights. The Kingdom adopted a comprehensive national human rights strategy based on:

- Principles of dignity, justice, and equal opportunities.
- Human rights reforms encompassing multiple areas, including empowering women in public life and the labor market, and granting them more legal rights.
- Enhancing judicial independence and developing its mechanisms to ensure justice and swift resolution of disputes.
- Modernizing judicial systems and reorganizing regulations related to civil and family rights, and establishing the principle of transparency in government work and combating corruption.

### The Gulf Human Rights Experience on the Path to Institutional Maturity

Therefore, the Gulf human rights experience is now moving towards institutional maturity, with an increasing commitment to developing national legislation, expanding the scope of legitimate freedoms, and enhancing citizen participation in public life, without compromising cultural and religious constants or societal values. The most important feature of this experience remains its ability to reconcile authenticity with modernity, and to link economic and social development with the preservation of rights and freedoms.

### In Conclusion

In my humble experience in the field of human rights, I see that the GCC countries, despite the challenges, are moving with confident steps towards building a national human rights system based on the principles of justice and dignity, and responding to the demands of the current stage and the requirements of the future.



Counselor

### Mohammed Gomaa Al Fazei

Former Head of the Arab Human Rights Committee (Charter Committee)

## The UAE: The First Arab Nation to Chair the Arab Human Rights Committee

**During your tenure as head of the Arab Human Rights Charter Committee, you visited the United Arab Emirates. How did the efforts and achievements made by the country in the field of human rights appear to you?**

Since the adoption of the Arab Charter on Human Rights by the Council of the League of Arab States at the Summit held in Tunis in 2004, the United Arab Emirates has interacted positively with this important Arab human rights document. It was:

- Among the first Arab countries to ratify the Charter.
- The first country to chair the supervisory committee, composed of seven human rights experts, which was established by the Arab Charter on Human Rights under Article (45) and named the Arab Human Rights Committee. This name was later changed to the Arab Charter on Human Rights Committee. The Committee began exercising its mandate in 2009 after the Arab Charter on Human Rights came into effect in 2008, following the ratification by seven Arab countries in accordance with Article (49) thereof. The United Arab Emirates was one of these seven countries and continues to be keen on participating in the membership of this committee, clearly demonstrating its support and belief in the importance of the roles undertaken by Arab mechanisms operating under the umbrella of the League of Arab States.

### The UAE is Committed to Fulfilling its Obligations Under the Arab Charter on Human Rights

The United Arab Emirates has initiated the fulfillment of its obligations in accordance with the provisions of Article 48 of the Arab Charter on Human Rights. It has been keen to regularly submit its reports to the Arab Human Rights Charter Committee and to review its efforts concerning the promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms. It also strives to foster positive interaction with the recommendations issued by the Committee in light of the discussion and review of national reports.

The UAE has not only committed to submitting its reports to the Arab Human Rights Charter Committee on a regular basis and positively interacting with the Committee's recommendations, but it has also invited the Committee to visit the UAE on multiple occasions. For these visits, the state prepared extensive programs, including holding workshops and organizing meetings with various government bodies and civil society institutions, as well as visits to several facilities to gain firsthand insight into the state's efforts in legislation, programs, and institutions aimed at caring for and advancing human rights and freedoms. I had the honor of participating in two visits: the first during my membership in the Committee, and the second during my presidency of it. During both, I and the Committee members found comprehensive answers to all inquiries and clarifications raised, which contributed to forming a clear picture of the efforts and achievements made by the United Arab Emirates at all levels to implement the provisions of the Arab Charter on Human Rights as required.

### In Conclusion

In conclusion, the United Arab Emirates has witnessed significant progress, making it a model in the journey of human rights work and the advancement achieved in promoting respect for human rights. This is due to its tangible accomplishments in developing legislation, within a framework of commitment to the values of justice and equality. This progress is the fruit of a conscious leadership's vision that believes respecting rights and freedoms is a fundamental pillar in building sustainable and advanced societies.

## The Union Association for Human Rights: Pioneering Initiatives to Solidify UAE's Human Rights Achievements Globally

The Union Association for Human Rights continues to make a positive impact both nationally and internationally through its targeted activities and events. These initiatives aim to establish human rights concepts, drawing inspiration from the United Arab Emirates' advanced standing in human rights leadership. This progress is a direct result of the wise vision of its leadership and the foundational pillars it has laid for building cohesive and cooperative societies that uphold human values and support sustainable development.



between civil society organizations in the UAE and UN mechanisms. This collaboration aims to develop existing efforts and expand the scope of human rights impact for child protection. The meeting was attended by Advisor Mariam Al Ahmadi, Vice Chairperson of the Association's Board of Directors

### UAE's Strong Commitment to Child Protection Praised by UN Rapporteur

Following an 11-day visit to the UAE, Ms. Singhateh's concluding statement highlighted the significant progress the nation has made in promoting and protecting children's rights since the previous rapporteur's visit in 2009. She noted numerous positive changes aligning with earlier recommendations. Ms. Singhateh commended the UAE's efforts in developing relevant political, legal, and institutional frameworks for child protection. These include Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 on Child Rights, known as «Wadeema's Law,» alongside various specialized child protection entities such as the Child Protection Center, social support centers under the Ministry of Interior, and the Child Protection Unit within the Ministry of Education. She was also briefed on the work of specialized institutions across the emirates, including the Child Center in Abu Dhabi, Dubai Foundation for Women and Children, Aman Centre for Women and Children in Ras Al Khaimah, Hima Foundation for Women and Child in Ajman, and Kanef Centre in Sharjah.

**Mama Singata reviews the association's efforts in the field of children's rights and protecting them from sexual abuse.**



### Association Meets with UN Special Rapporteur on Child Protection

Her Excellency Dr. Fatma Al Kaabi, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of The Union Association for Human Rights, met with Ms. Mama Fatima Singhateh, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children, during her official visit to the UAE from April 14 to 24, 2025.

The UN expert was briefed on the association's efforts in child protection, with a review of key projects and initiatives. These included specialized studies and research on children, community awareness initiatives, oral and written statements submitted to international bodies, and international exhibitions and events organized by the association, all of which highlighted efforts to protect children and promote their rights.

During the meeting, discussions also focused on enhancing future cooperation

### The Union Association for Human Rights Meets with UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls

As part of her official visit to the UAE, Her Excellency Dr. Fatma Al Kaabi, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of The Union Association for Human Rights, met with Ms. Reem Alsalem, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls. The meeting focused on the national landscape of legislative and institutional protection for women and girls, and the active role of civil society, particularly the Union Association for Human Rights, in supporting and enhancing these protections. Advisor Mariam Al Ahmadi, Vice Chairperson of the Association's Board of Directors, also attended.

**Two meetings of the Association with two UN rapporteurs to protect children and women from abuse and violence in order to enhancing the UAE's advanced position in human rights protection.**



**Reem Al Salem reviews the initiatives implemented by the association to empower women and protect them from all forms of violence.**

The UN Rapporteur gained insight into the Association's efforts in this area, which include initiatives and events focused on women's empowerment and combating violence, specialized studies and research, and oral and written statements submitted to international bodies concerning women's rights in the UAE. International exhibitions and events organized by the Association, highlighting the UAE's achievements in promoting women's rights and protecting them from all forms of violence, were also discussed. Additionally, Ms. Alsalem learned about the national campaign launched by the Association to coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls. This campaign aligned with the global «UNITE to End Violence against Women» campaign for 2024, contributing to increased community awareness and a strengthened positive perception of the UAE's efforts to combat violence against women.

**Praise for the UAE and its Institutions' Commitment to Women's Empowerment**

In her closing remarks at a press conference in Abu Dhabi, held at the conclusion of her official visit to the UAE, Ms. Alsalem affirmed that the UAE's programs and policies are designed to empower women and enhance their active participation across all sectors. She highlighted the significant achievements the UAE has made in this area, which provide a strong foundation for continued progress in women's empowerment, strengthening their societal role, and ensuring support and protection for girls from violence. Ms. Alsalem expressed deep gratitude to the UAE government for the invitation, stating that it was one of the most effective visits she has undertaken since



assuming her role as UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls. She emphasized that the UAE's constitution guarantees equality for all, underscoring social justice and equal opportunities. She further noted that over recent years, the UAE has launched numerous initiatives supporting gender balance, promoting family values, and addressing violations against women and girls. Ms. Alsalem also commended the vital role of state institutions such as the General Women's Union and the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood in supporting and empowering women and girls, and assisting victims of violence. She lauded the UAE's efforts in supporting UN Security Council Resolution (1325) on Women, Peace and Security, specifically mentioning the «Women, Peace and Security» initiative launched by Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak in 2019, as part of the UAE's global contribution to the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

**Active Participation of the Union Association for Human Rights at the 58th Human Rights Council Session**

The Union Association for Human Rights actively participated in the 58th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, held in Geneva from February 24 to April 4, 2025. This participation was part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen the presence of Emirati civil society in international human rights forums. During the session, the Association delivered five oral and five written statements to the Council. These statements presented the Association's human rights perspective on several priority international issues, including the right to privacy and data protection in light of technological advancements,

**The Union Association delivers 10 oral and written statements at the 58th edition of the Human Rights Council, which addressed the state's efforts to enhance human rights and humanitarian leadership.**



the plight of workers worldwide, particularly those in precarious occupations, the decline in international humanitarian support, combating discrimination and racism in sports, and the importance of supporting African countries in implementing sustainable development programs.

The Association also highlighted the UAE's efforts in promoting the right to privacy through the issuance of Federal Law No. (45) of 2021 concerning Personal Data Protection, which regulates data collection and processing according to international standards. Additionally, Labor Relations Law No. (33) of 2021 was noted for establishing principles of justice, non-discrimination, and prohibiting forced labor, thereby comprehensively ensuring workers' rights. Furthermore, the Association praised the UAE's leading humanitarian role, which has topped the list of donor countries by providing over \$100 billion in humanitarian and development aid by the end of 2024. It also acknowledged the establishment of the «Zayed Humanitarian Legacy Foundation» and the allocation of 20 billion dirhams to support humanitarian work globally, as well as the UAE's initiatives in combating discrimination and hate speech, leveraging sports as a tool for development and human rapprochement, and its active role in supporting international peace and security, particularly in conflict zones.

### From Geneva: The Union Association Organizes Two Seminars and an International Exhibition

During the 58th session of the United Nations, The Union Association held a series of side events, including seminars and an international human rights exhibition, with the aim of showcasing the United Arab Emirates' practices in promoting and protecting human rights at both regional and international levels.



The Association organized a specialized exhibition titled "Sport and Human Rights in the UAE," which highlighted the country's efforts to uphold human rights principles through the sports sector as a tool for promoting peace and development. The exhibition focused on UAE policies and initiatives that foster inclusion and equality in sports, contributing to sustainable development. Held over three days at the United Nations Square in Geneva, the exhibition attracted a wide audience including athletes, human rights advocates, academics, and students. It featured panels with inspiring quotes from His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE (may God protect him), and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai (may God bless him), along with remarks from prominent figures from the United Nations and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

On the sidelines of the UN session, the Association also organized an international seminar titled "Sport, Culture, and Human Rights," which brought together a distinguished group of international experts and speakers in the fields of culture, sports, and human rights. The seminar explored several key themes, most notably the role of culture and sport in promoting human values, and the importance of integrating these sectors into international human rights policies. It also presented successful international experiences, including the UAE's use of culture and sports as effective tools in the human rights domain, the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (2001–2017), and aikido initiatives as a form of nonviolent self-defense for youth.

### Active Participation of the Union Association in the 69th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

The Union Association for Human Rights actively participated in the 69th

Reviewing the successful Emirati experience in addressing culture and sports through two seminars and an international exhibition organized by the association at the 58th edition in Geneva with wide international participation.

Empowering Emirati women topic is in top of the association's agenda in its active participation in the 69th edition of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.



## The Union Association celebrates 25 international, Arab and national days to enhance human rights culture.

session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), held at the UN Headquarters in New York from March 10 to 21, 2025. The Association took part through its international human rights partners, as part of its ongoing efforts to amplify the presence of UAE civil society on the global stage.

This participation served as a prominent platform to highlight the United Arab Emirates' efforts in empowering women, stemming from the National Policy for Empowering Women 2031, which aims to strengthen women's roles across society, the labor market, and future-oriented sectors.

The Association showcased key achievements by the UAE in this field, including women holding one-third of ministerial positions and 50% of the seats in the Federal National Council, placing the UAE second globally in women's parliamentary representation, according to the 2024 Global Competitiveness Report. Additionally, women constitute 66% of public sector employees, one of the highest rates worldwide, and 49.5% of the workforce at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Association also highlighted notable initiatives such as the appointment of six female ministers in the federal cabinet, the launch of the National Strategy for Empowering Women, the issuance of the National Policy for Enhancing Women's Health, and the allocation of a dedicated seat for women on the boards of private joint-stock companies. It was noted that women entrepreneurs represent 18% of the country's total business owners, with 77.6% of women-led enterprises run by women under the age of forty.

In the field of gender equality, the Association pointed out that the UAE ranked first regionally and seventh globally in the 2024 Gender Equality Index issued by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Moreover, the country scored 82.5 out of 100 in the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2023 report and secured first place among Arab nations in the Global Gender Gap Report issued by the World Economic Forum.



## The Union Association Observes National, Arab, and International Days Through Awareness and Media Campaigns

As part of its educational and advocacy role on human rights and social issues, The Union Association for Human Rights marked a series of national, Arab, and international observances. Through the publication of awareness statements via official agencies, media outlets, and digital platforms, the Association worked to promote a culture of human rights and raise public consciousness.

The events observed by the Association included: the International Day of Women Judges, the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, Arab Human Rights Day, Zayed Humanitarian Work Day, the International Day of Happiness, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, World Down Syndrome Day, the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, World Water Day, the International Day of Zero Waste, World Autism Awareness Day, the International Day of Conscience, the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, World Health Day, International Mother Earth Day, World Intellectual Property Day, World Day for Safety and Health at Work, World Press Freedom Day, International Day of Families, International Day of Living Together in Peace, World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, International Day for Biological Diversity, International Day of UN Peacekeepers, World No Tobacco Day, and Global Day of Parents.

These initiatives reflect the Association's dedication to positively engaging with global human rights events and reinforcing awareness of human rights culture at local, regional, and international levels.

## The Union Association Issues Human Rights Statements Supporting the UAE and Defending Human Dignity

As part of its active human rights role on both regional and international levels, The Union Association for Human Rights has released a series of public statements addressing prominent issues.

One key statement, issued in collaboration with more than 15 international and Sudanese human rights organizations, expressed full support for the humanitarian approach adopted by the United Arab Emirates in response to the crisis in Sudan. The statement rejected the case filed against the UAE at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), praised the country's humanitarian relief efforts, condemned the politicization of international justice, and called for a comprehensive cessation of military actions and the formation of a civilian government that upholds human rights and fosters peace and development.

In another statement, the Association welcomed the ICJ ruling in favor of the UAE, which dismissed the lawsuit and rejected the request for provisional measures. The Association viewed this ruling as a reflection of the UAE's commitment to international treaties and a clear rebuttal of malicious attempts to misuse international law to tarnish its reputation. The statement emphasized that the decision reinforces the UAE's credibility in upholding the rule of law, following a comprehensive legal defense that demonstrated the soundness of its position and disproved the allegations against it.

In a third statement, the Association strongly condemned a targeted media campaign against Emirati cultural heritage, following an offensive portrayal of the traditional "Al-Ayyala" performance and the appearance of "Al-Na'ashat" (women bearing ceremonial elements). It asserted that the incident constituted a symbolic offense to the dignity of Emirati women and a clear violation of internationally protected cultural rights. The Association called for an end to the circulation of defamatory content and urged the launch of an international charter to safeguard cultural rights in digital and media spaces from distortion and defamation.

**Human rights statements issued by the association to enhance Emirati leadership and defend human dignity.**

**A mutual international statement including the association and 15 human rights and Sudanese organizations expressing full support for the UAE's humanitarian approach to the crisis in Sudan.**

**A statement by the association welcoming the decision of the International Court of Justice to dismiss the case against the UAE and reject the temporary measures requested by Sudan.**

## In Conclusion

The Union Association for Human Rights continues to play a leading role in representing UAE civil society through active participation in international forums and the organization of high-impact events that showcase the UAE's achievements in the field of human rights. The first half of 2025 witnessed the Association's strong presence at United Nations sessions and events, during which it submitted official statements, and organized international exhibitions and seminars. These efforts reaffirmed the UAE's commitment to human rights standards and its dedication to promoting human values and sustainable development.

## A great awareness is being shaped by small, creative hands.

As part of its efforts to promote a culture of human rights across all segments of society—particularly among the younger generation—the Union Association for Human Rights received a wide range of artistic drawings created by children and youth from various emirates of the country. Through these artworks, they expressed their deep understanding of fundamental human values such as tolerance, diversity, sustainability, justice, and human rights.

These drawings were not merely lines and colors, but conscious visual messages that embodied the new generation's vision of the world around them and reflected a growing awareness of international human rights, environmental, and social issues. These works demonstrate that artistic expression is not exclusive to professionals; rather, it is a right for every individual and a genuine means of expression that carries within it profound intellectual and human potential.

### Among the most prominent of these drawings are the following:

#### The Painting of "Diversity and Tolerance"

Fatima Ahmed Musabah Khalifa Al Neyadi, an 18-year-old twelfth-grade student from Abu Dhabi city, submitted a painting rich with human and symbolic details. It conveys a profound message about the inherent beauty in the diversity of daily life, tolerance among individuals, and humanity's harmony with nature. The elements of the drawing are distributed across scenes depicting education, sports, family communication, and green nature, reflecting a comprehensive vision of a cohesive and coexisting society.

Regarding what the painting means to her, Fatima expressed clearly: «Life is beautiful

with diversity and tolerance,» affirming the values that resonate within the Emirati environment. Fatima enjoys both hand-drawn and digital art, and she has a passion for creating geometric designs that highlight her sense of beauty and harmony.



Ayan Reef Cardoza

### The Painting of

#### «My Environment and Sustainability»

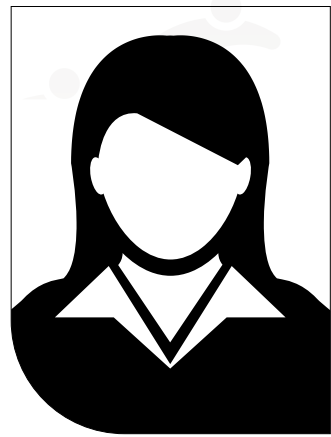
Ayan Reef Cardoza, a 9-year-old fourth-grade student from Al Ain city (Abu Dhabi Emirate), submitted an artwork titled «My Environment and Sustainability.» In his piece, he visually depicted a clear contrast between a clean, green environment and a polluted one suffering from desertification, waste, and emissions. At the top of his drawing, he wrote: «Stop Pollution, Save Earth,» a direct message expressing his awareness of the importance of protecting our planet from environmental degradation. When asked what the drawing meant to him, he simply said: «My Environment and Sustainability,» a straightforward and honest expression reflecting his understanding of the importance of protecting planet Earth.

Ayan loves to draw and enjoys playing football. He also likes participating in competitions and interactive activities that develop his skills and broaden his horizons.

### In conclusion

These artworks, masterfully created by their young authors, offer us a sincere glimpse into their deep awareness of human rights and their ability to express these concepts through a vibrant visual language rich with meaning and message. They aren't just drawings; they are testimonies to a growing consciousness and visions that articulate values of tolerance, environment, identity, and belonging.

Stay tuned to the pages of Emirates Magazine for Human Rights for more upcoming contributions from various age groups, reflecting our children's awareness of human rights and their belief in their role in shaping a more just and humane future.



Fatima Al Neyadi



The Painting of "Diversity and Tolerance"



The Painting of «My Environment and Sustainability»

## Celebration of the Creativity of 30 Winners in the «Color and Write Sustainability» Competition



**Victory of two contestants with disabilities: third place within the first category «Children,» and second place within the second category «Youth.»**



The Union Association for Human Rights concluded the activities of the «Color and Write Sustainability» competition, which was launched concurrently with the release of the second issue of Emirates Magazine for Human Rights, through a cartoon supplement titled «The Emirates and the Journey of Sustainability.» The competition aimed to highlight the UAE's efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by involving various age groups in creative activities that combine coloring and writing.

The competition witnessed widespread engagement, with 578 participants, both citizens and residents, submitting entries. Following evaluation by a specialized judging committee, 347 eligible entries were approved. The participations were distributed across three age categories: Children, Youth, and Adults.

### Celebrating Creativity and Social Inclusion

The Association celebrated the victory of 30 contestants who secured the top ten positions in each age category, while all other participants received digital certificates of participation. This step reflects the judging committee's appreciation for their talents and aims to encourage their participation in future editions.

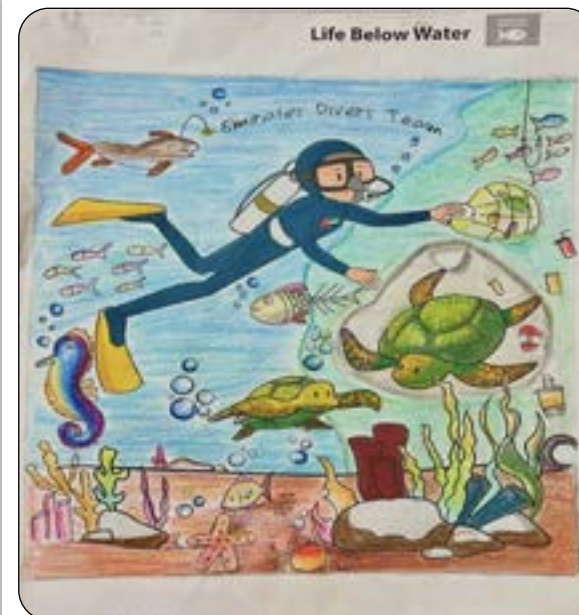
The total value of the financial prizes allocated to the competition reached AED 40,000, underscoring the Association's commitment to supporting and encouraging community creativity and promoting environmental awareness through contemporary artistic and educational tools.

One of the most remarkable aspects of this competition was the distinguished participation of People of Determination. Some of them provided an audio description of the cartoon supplement's drawings as an alternative to written expression, in an innovative sensory approach that garnered the appreciation of the judging committee. Two of them achieved advanced positions: one winning third place in the Children's category and the other securing second place in the Youth category.

### Enhancing Community Awareness of the UAE's Sustainability Journey

The competition was held within the framework of the Association's commitment to dedicating the arts as an awareness tool that contributes to instilling the concepts of sustainability and environmental rights in the minds of new generations. This aligns with the national vision of the UAE and promotes a community culture based on inclusion and interaction.

Furthermore, this competition serves as a living example of the ability of civil society organizations to stimulate community participation and link it to national development paths through initiatives that aim to build a conscious, creative generation that believes in its role in shaping a more sustainable future.



**Afza Azar Azharudeen Azharudeen**

Children category



**Obiad Abdulla Obaid Al Suwaidi**

People with disabilities category



**Noura Mohammed Hashel Ali Alnuaimi**

People with disabilities - Youth category

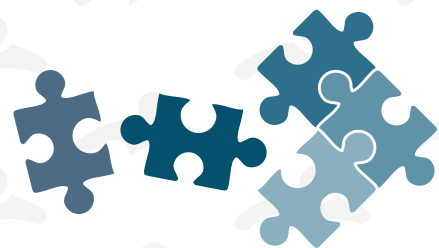
The winner, Noura Mohammed Hashel Al Nuaimi, expressed the content of her drawing in a voice message, saying: «An image that conveys a significant moment of cooperation between the representative of the UAE and the United Nations to achieve sustainable development, reflecting the UAE's commitment to supporting international partnerships for a better future.»



**Amira Abdelmoaty Amin Metwally Salem**

Adult category

The cartoon depicts the concept of the integrated role of the economy in supporting the UAE's sustainable development journey. It showcases a diverse group of individuals representing various economic sectors, such as business, industry, agriculture, engineering, labor, and administrative roles, indicating the integration of roles in achieving sustainable development goals. Furthermore, the ascending arrow symbolizes the progressive economic advancement of the UAE, driven by collective work and innovation. This reflects the UAE's commitment to achieving sustainable economic development by empowering the overall workforce, promoting diversity in sectors, and encouraging the participation of women in the workforce. Additionally, it highlights the importance of modernizing work environments that encourage innovation and vocational development. This aligns with the state's vision, particularly the UAE Vision 2030, which focuses on economic diversification, innovation, and investment in human capital. This journey is not just a numerical progression; rather, it is an inspiring story of how to shape dreams into tangible achievements, paving a future filled with opportunities for future generations.

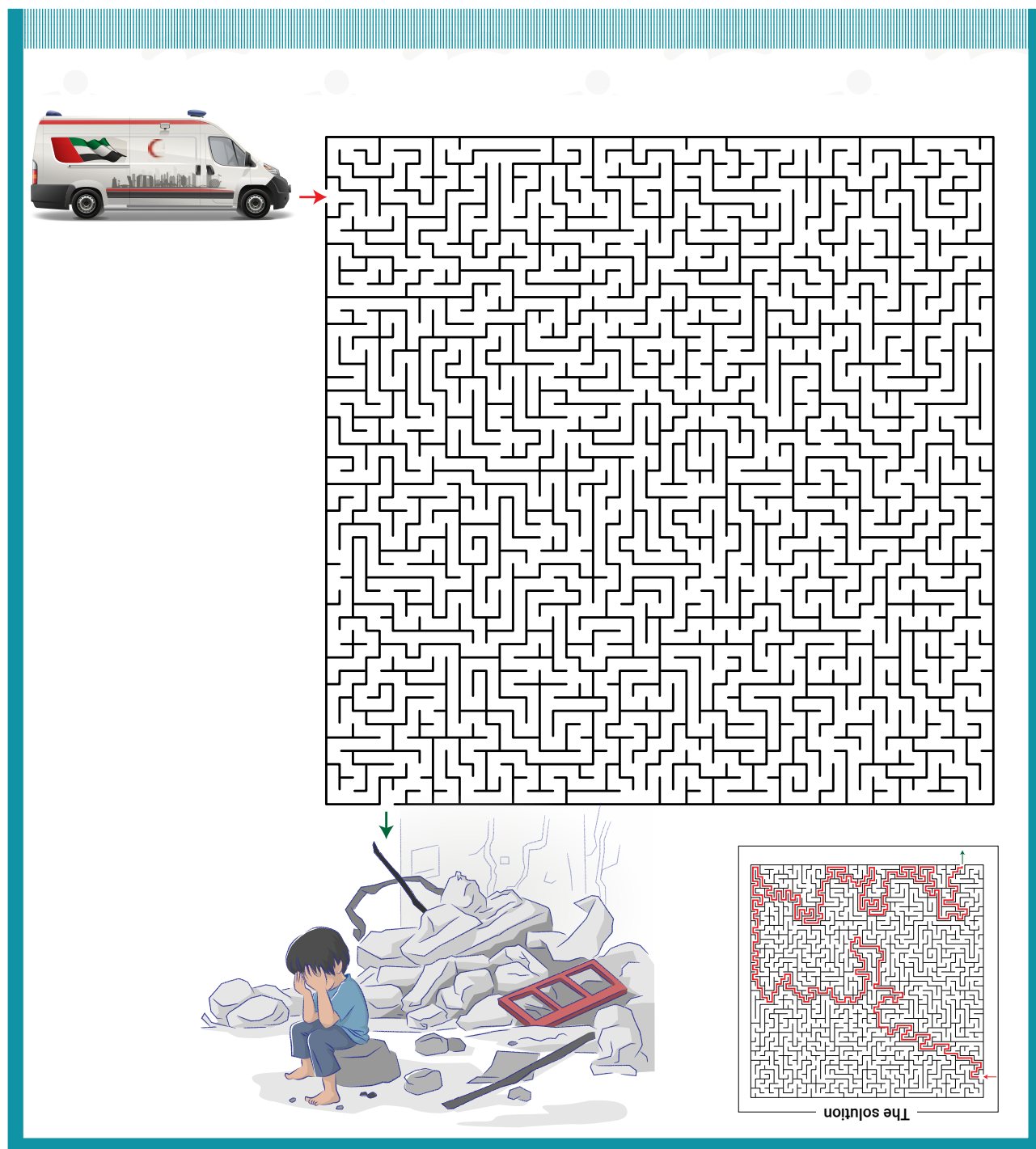


In this section, we offer you a lighthearted break filled with a fun spirit, blending enjoyment with knowledge, Through games, puzzles, and fascinating facts, we aim to enrich your awareness in an entertaining way.

In each issue, we'll present information on various topics- because you have the right to know... and the right to have fun! Let's begin our journey of entertainment and amusement in this issue with Humanitarian Relief.

### Earthquake Maze:

Help the Emirates Red Crescent reach the earthquake victims.



### Scattered Letters:

Find the word «The Noble Knight» in the puzzle grid.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | K | U | T | R | P | C | X | F | G | H | M | N | B | L | E | C | V | A | D | L |
| Y | T | H | E | N | O | P | L | C | U | I | R | P | F | N | V | V | C | D | F | A |
| E | Y | G | H | K | N | T | K | S | A | W | Q | V | Z | M | M | C | E | M | L | K |
| K | S | M | C | T | B | H | N | I | G | H | S | C | Y | V | Z | M | M | R | O | H |
| N | I | B | O | K | H | E | U | O | S | S | H | J | K | D | R | C | L | O | D | G |
| U | O | G | H | M | N | H | S | D | H | K | I | G | H | M | G | B | I | N | P | H |
| S | D | T | K | S | A | W | H | R | J | R | L | V | Z | M | R | U | H | B | O | J |
| M | P | S | B | K | M | Q | R | F | D | G | S | Q | T | J | K | W | M | H | C | K |
| S | O | M | V | T | H | E | N | O | B | L | E | K | N | I | G | H | T | O | W | Q |
| A | X | O | K | B | H | F | L | I | G | H | T | J | K | W | N | W | R | S | O | L |
| B | H | F | N | M | D | T | K | S | A | W | F | K | B | H | E | N | V | O | C | A |
| J | R | M | W | S | G | S | N | M | B | N | C | J | K | G | U | R | B | C | Q | U |
| F | S | W | A | S | D | R | C | B | L | E | K | N | I | G | U | Y | T | K | N | I |
| A | N | B | V | Z | M | C | M | J | K | S | M | H | F | D | A | Q | U | Y | T | O |

### Test Your Awareness..

- Humanitarian relief during times of disaster affecting some communities is:  
A) Essential.      B) Not essential.      C) I don't think it's important.
- The Noble Knight 3 is an Emirati initiative to support \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) African countries      B) Asian countries      C) Gaza Strip
- The United Arab Emirates cooperates with UNICEF to ensure a decent life for:  
A) Adults      B) Women      C) Children
- One of the leading humanitarian relief institutions in the UAE is:  
A) Emirates Red Crescent      B) Union Association for Human Rights  
C) Ministry of Education
- The United Arab Emirates ranked 9th globally out of 142 countries in the 2024 World Giving Index due to:  
A) Its relief and humanitarian aid to countries around the world  
B) Hosting Expo  
C) Sustainability efforts and the success of COP28

### In Conclusion...

Because we believe that entertainment is a powerful tool to reinforce knowledge and promote awareness and positive thinking about major issues such as relief and humanitarian work.

We'll see you in the next issue with new entertainment and content that enriches your mind.

And don't forget: (You have the right to know, and the right to enjoy!)

### Rate Yourself!

- (1) Answer: (A)      (2) Answer: (C)  
(3) Answer: (C)      (4) Answer: (A)  
(5) Answer: (A)

4 correct answers – You're a champion!

3 correct answers – You're on the right track.

2 correct answers – It's time to learn more!



## The UAE and Humanitarian Work From Relief to Sustainability (1971 - May 2025)

Since the inception of the Union in 1971, the United Arab Emirates has carved a unique humanitarian path, establishing itself as a global model of generosity and relief work.

The humanitarian aid provided by the UAE has never been merely an immediate response to crises and disasters. Instead, it has been an integral part of its foreign strategy and a consistent approach since its founding, continuing to this day. This commitment is an extension of the ethical and humanitarian values established by the Founding Father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may he rest in peace. As a result, this aid is not constrained by considerations of religion, race, geography, or politics; rather, it is granted based on the purely humanitarian principle of «people first.»

In alignment with the Union Association for Human Rights' commitment to documenting the nation's journey through information obtained from official sources regarding humanitarian and relief aid, an appendix titled «The UAE and Humanitarian Work: From Relief to Sustainability (1971 - May 2025)» has been prepared.

You can access the appendix via the following barcode:





## Photographer Fatima Al Hammadi

Fatima Al Hammadi is an Emirati photographer who began her academic journey by studying Applied E-commerce at the Higher Colleges of Technology. She then obtained a Bachelor's degree in Advertising from the College of Mass Communication at Al Ain University.

She entered the field of photography in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, where she started practicing photography as a hobby. She later specialized in fashion and beauty photography. She developed her skills by participating in specialized training courses on photography fundamentals, lighting techniques, and the use of Adobe programs.

Over time, her work expanded to include photographing events, theatrical performances, weddings, conferences, and public figures, with a special focus on the humanitarian documentation of personalities.

Fatima believes that continuous learning and keeping pace with technological updates are two essential elements in her professional career.



UAHR En.



UAHR AR.



SOCIAL MEDIA

