



The UAE's Pioneering Journey in Promoting Security and Peace

Members of the Geneva Call: «The Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together» has inspired new partnerships for peace and global coexistence.

Workers' Rights in the UAE: Advanced National Legislation reflecting International Commitments and Global Labor Standards.

Grave violations against children in armed conflict have become «bleak»!

Despite the 25 years since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution No. 325, the search is still ongoing for "genuine" support for women's participation in international peace and security.



Richard Bennett

UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan:

The UAE is a global humanitarian model for refugee protection through the «Humanitarian City» in Abu Dhabi.



Adama Dieng

Former UN Assistant Secretary-General:

Today, genocides are scandalous because they occur in full view of everyone, in an age of global media, and yet the world fails to support their victims.



Biro Diawara

Principal Representative of the African Meeting for the Defense of Human Rights (RADDHO) to the United Nations - Geneva:

Africa, a continent of contradictions between resource wealth and the loss of rights in a cycle of conflict.



Mona Rishmawi

Member of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan:

Protecting every right is the essence of "the rule of law."

Peace as a pillar of human rights in the UAE and the world



Dr. Fatma Khalifa Al Kaabi

Editor-in-Chief

Today, peace has become more urgent than ever in our world, which is rife with conflicts and challenges. Wars and disputes bring nothing but destruction, poverty, hunger, and the displacement of millions from their homes, making the achievement of peace an imperative necessity to ensure human dignity and basic rights. Humanity has long recognized that peace and human rights are two sides of the same coin; if peace and security are absent, the realization of rights becomes impossible, and if rights are violated, the spark of conflict ignites. As the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan – may God rest his soul – said, «We look forward to a bright tomorrow; its foundation is strength, its support is truth, its essence is solidarity and cooperation, and its base is brotherhood, solidarity, and justice, with the slogan of doing good and achieving peace.» From this perspective, the fourth edition of the Emirates Human Rights Magazine is dedicated to the topic of peace to affirm the fundamental linkage between peace and human rights, conveying the message that establishing peace is the way to guarantee human dignity and comprehensive development.

Peace and Human Rights: A Mutual Relationship

It is clear that war is the ultimate violation of human rights. When conflicts erupt, violations multiply and civilians become targets of violence, displacement, and serious abuses. In contrast, peace forms the nurturing environment for human rights and prosperity. Without security and stability, one cannot speak of the right to live in safety, education, or health. International officials have repeatedly affirmed that «there can be no peace without development, no development without peace, and no sustainable peace without respect for human rights and the rule of law.» Therefore, peace is a prerequisite for empowering

rights; where peace prevails, communities can build systems that protect freedoms and human dignity, and where rights are respected, opportunities for lasting peace flourish. This mutual relationship means that the protection of human rights is an entry point to achieving peace, just as peace is the solid ground upon which the values of rights and justice stand.

The current challenges to achieving peace

Despite the international efforts made, global peace remains confronted with a complex system of intertwined challenges. Reports from the United Nations and research centers indicate that the number of active armed conflicts in the world surpassed 60 conflicts in 2023, the highest level recorded since World War II, ranging from civil wars to regional conflicts and internationally characterized confrontations, accompanied by significant human losses, widespread violations of human rights, and the displacement of millions of civilians. Perhaps the most prominent of these challenges are:

- **Ongoing armed conflicts:** from Palestine and the humanitarian tragedies left by the war in Gaza, to the conflict in Sudan and the repercussions of the war in Ukraine, along with other hotspots of tension.
- **Climate change:** with its competition for resources and the multiplication of environmental disasters leading to tension and displacement.
- **Terrorism and violent extremism:** a global scourge that undermines the stability of communities and hinders paths to development.
- **Social and economic disparity:** The widening gap of inequality that fuels marginalization and increases political polarization even in stable countries.
- **Transnational organized crime:** which exploits legal loopholes to finance violence and undermine the rule of law.
- **Weakness of the effectiveness of international institutions:** particularly the urgent need to reform the Security Council and the structures of the international system.
- **The geopolitical competition among major powers:** and the serious threats it poses to international security and the risks of broader conflicts.

The accumulation of these challenges makes establishing peace a complex and urgent task at the same time. The International Day of Peace, observed worldwide on September 21 each year, emphasizes that peace is not a distant dream, but a collective responsibility that requires tangible actions. The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed this by saying, 'We need peace today more than ever; war and conflict unleash destruction, poverty, and hunger, driving tens of millions to flee their homes, while chaos driven by climate change, inequality, and political polarization engulfs even safe communities.' These words encapsulate a burning reality and affirm that there is no alternative to peace to save humanity from this vortex.

From here, the role of peace-loving countries, led by the UAE, along with civil society and individuals, becomes more significant in pushing towards just solutions, enhancing international law, and building bridges of dialogue. The voice of peace starts from every individual who believes in it, echoing until it reaches the circles of decision-making.

The role of the UAE in supporting peace regionally and globally

Since its establishment, the United Arab Emirates has adopted a consistent approach based on peace and tolerance, making support for regional and international stability a cornerstone of its policy. It has actively contributed to international peacekeeping missions and provided humanitarian and developmental aid in conflict areas from the Balkans to Africa and Asia, carrying its moral message in support of humanity wherever it may be.

On the diplomatic front, the UAE has succeeded in building a strong network of relationships based on mutual respect and peaceful conflict resolution, becoming a global model for tolerance and coexistence, embodied in the establishment of the Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence, and the signing of the Document of Human Brotherhood in Abu Dhabi in 2019, in addition to launching global peace awards such as the Zayed Award for Human Brotherhood and the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Global Peace.

In the political arena, the UAE has strengthened its presence as a rational voice calling for de-escalation and diplomacy. His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates - may God protect him - affirmed that «the gains of peace far outweigh the losses,» adding that the UAE does not settle for peace as a political option but aspires to a broader and deeper peace, one that serves the public good for all peoples and ensures a more stable future for generations to come. Based on this vision, the UAE supported the two-state solution in Palestine and proposed a draft resolution for the full membership of the State of Palestine in the United Nations in 2024. It also continued its humanitarian efforts in Sudan by providing hundreds of millions of dollars in relief support, and in Russia and Ukraine where it facilitated successful prisoner exchange operations that brought nearly two thousand prisoners back to their homelands.

Believing that peace requires everyone's participation, Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak ,Mother of the Emirates' has given special attention to the role of women in security and peace. She launched pioneering initiatives in this field, foremost of which is the Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak Program for Women, Peace, and Security in collaboration with the United Nations, with the aim of empowering women to play active roles in peace and security processes and building a more stable future.

With this integrated approach – diplomatic, humanitarian, and developmental – the UAE affirms that peace is not a political slogan but a strategic and humanitarian vision aimed at establishing security and stability for the peoples of the region and the world.

Together towards establishing a culture of peace

In conclusion, it is clear that peace is not merely the absence of war, but the presence of justice, mercy, and development. It is the necessary environment where human rights flourish and individuals live with dignity. From the land of the Emirates, a land of tolerance and coexistence, we call in this issue for the necessity of making peace a common goal and a global project that cannot be deviated from. The Emirati experience has proven that a commitment to the values of peace in word and deed can make a real difference in the lives of people. It is right for the countries of the world to follow this approach, replacing the sound of bullets with the language of dialogue, and prioritizing the well-being of humanity wherever it may be.

In the Emirates Magazine for Human Rights, as we dedicate this issue to the topic of peace, we send a message of hope and responsibility together: hope that tomorrow can be safer and more prosperous for future generations if we work hand in hand to establish peace; and a responsibility on the shoulders of every individual, institution, and leader to contribute to the making of this desired peace. There is still much for us to achieve, from ending ongoing wars to addressing their deep-rooted causes such as injustice and poverty, to instilling values of tolerance in people's hearts. But it is not an impossible task if genuine willpower combines. As the experiences of the United Nations and the international community have affirmed, **building peace begins with respecting human rights and ensuring justice and dignity for all.**

In this context, we affirm that establishing a culture of peace is a collective responsibility that goes beyond political decisions to reach individuals, institutions, and communities. From this standpoint, we call in the Emirates Journal for Human Rights to make peace a present value in our homes, schools, media, and institutions, and to draw inspiration from the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God rest his soul, who believed that a better tomorrow for humanity is forged through dialogue and understanding, not through conflict. With this optimistic spirit, we conclude our opening article, looking forward to a future blossoming with peace and where human dignity is preserved, for through peace, life flourishes, and through justice, societies are built.

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Colors of childhood.. messages of hope bloom for peace



Voices that inspired the world «The Right to Peace»



The late **Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan**
Founder of the United Arab Emirates

"We look forward to a bright tomorrow; its pillar is strength, its support is justice, its essence is cooperation and unity, its foundation is brotherhood, solidarity, and justice, and its motto is doing good and achieving peace".



His Highness **Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan**,
President of the United Arab Emirates, **may God bless him**.

«The UAE's policy will continue to support peace and stability in our region and the world, to assist our brothers and friends, and to advocate for wisdom and cooperation for the good and progress of humanity".



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

"The UAE is a friend to all, and peace is the foundation of our foreign policy. Contributing to international development efforts and assisting the poor, the needy, and the vulnerable are at the forefront of UAE diplomacy".



His Highness **Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**
Vice President of the State, Deputy Prime Minister,
and Head of the Presidential Court of the United Arab Emirates.

The «Light & Peace» Museum at the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque represents a qualitative addition to the UAE's efforts to highlight the common human values that bind us as diverse peoples, and to make heritage, art, science, and literature platforms for dialogue and rapprochement. We are committed to supporting initiatives that contribute to building a future that promotes the values of understanding and peace".



His Highness **Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan**
Minister of Foreign Affairs

The UAE is committed to achieving peace, stability, and development in the Middle East for the good and prosperity of its people.

António Guterres
(Secretary-General of the United Nations)

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



Jane Goodall
UN Messenger of Peace

"We can have a world of peace. We can move toward a world where we live in harmony with nature. Where we live in harmony with each other. No matter what nation we come from. No matter what our religion. No matter what our culture. This is where we're moving towards".



Martin Luther King Jr.
American civil rights leader

"True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice".



Pope Francis (Head of the Catholic Church) + **Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif**
From the Human Fraternity Document signed in Abu Dhabi, February 4, 2019

We call upon ourselves, the world's leaders, and international and global economic policymakers to work diligently to spread a culture of tolerance, coexistence, and peace, and to intervene immediately to stop the shedding of innocent blood and to put an end to the wars, conflicts, climate decline, and cultural and moral deterioration that the world is currently witnessing.



Eleanor Roosevelt
First Lady of the United States from 1933 to 1945

Peace requires heroic effort and extremely difficult sacrifice. It requires greater heroism than war. It requires greater devotion to truth and a higher purity of conscience.
«For it isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it.»





The UAE's Support for the Right of Peace A Pioneering Journey in Promoting Peace and Security

**From Zayed's Vision to
Today's Diplomacy: How
the UAE Became a Global
Symbol of Peace**

Since its establishment in 1971, the United Arab Emirates has undertaken the principle of achieving peace and spreading love and goodness in the world. The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan established these values since the founding of the Union, affirming that the UAE's foreign policy is based on supporting just causes and strengthening bonds of friendship with all peoples on the basis of the United Nations Charter and noble international ethics. Sheikh Zayed emphasized in his famous saying the principles of truth, justice, and peace, stemming from a firm belief that «peace is an urgent necessity for all humanity». This historic vision has made peace part of the UAE's national and cultural identity, where the values of tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and human fraternity are deeply rooted in Emirati society. The daily Islamic greeting "As-salamu Alaikum" reflects a culture of peace rooted in Arab and Islamic heritage, which the UAE has embodied in its policies since the era of the Founding Fathers until today.



Official Initiatives and Political Positions to Spread a Culture of Peace Regionally and Globally

The United Arab Emirates has adopted a series of official initiatives and political positions that reinforce a culture of peace at both the regional and global levels. Regionally, the UAE has taken courageous steps to achieve reconciliation and peace, most notably through the signing of the historic peace treaty with Israel (the Abraham Accords) in 2020, which paved the way for other Arab countries to join the path of peace and laid the foundation for a new era of stability in the Middle East. The UAE's leadership has also played a mediating role in Africa, with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed personally intervening to defuse the longest conflict in Africa between Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2018, resulting in a historic peace agreement between the two nations that was praised by the international community. Additionally, the UAE sponsored the Sudan Peace Agreement in October 2020 between the government and armed opposition movements, putting an end to years of internal conflict. The conflicting parties in Sudan found hope in the UAE's efforts to mediate due to its integrity, goodwill, and tireless pursuit of bloodshed prevention and the promotion of the culture of tolerance and dialogue.

On the broader political level, the United Arab Emirates consistently reaffirms in international forums its commitment to resolving conflicts through dialogue and peaceful negotiations. At the United Nations, the UAE has called for strengthening international mediation efforts to prevent and peacefully resolve conflicts, and has clearly stated that there is no military solution to disputes, emphasizing that a political solution is the sustainable path forward. It has reiterated its support for United Nations efforts in the crises in Yemen, Syria, Libya, and Palestine, affirming that the political process is the only effective and viable solution. In this context, the UAE welcomed the Secretary-General's approach of "diplomacy for peace" and deemed it essential for preventing and ending conflicts. The UAE has also highlighted the importance of including women in peace negotiations, based on the belief that women's participation enhances the chances of success and sustainability of peace agreements. These official positions of the UAE, whether through quiet diplomatic initiatives or public actions, reflect a steadfast commitment to promoting a culture of peace regionally and globally.

The UAE and the Right to Peace: A Nation Forging Stability and Building Bridges

Soft Power with Profound Impact: The UAE's Humanitarian Efforts and Diplomacy in Service of Global Security

Humanitarian Aid and Diplomacy as Instruments for Supporting Peace

The United Arab Emirates has believed that effective diplomacy and humanitarian action are instruments of soft power that contribute to supporting peace, particularly in conflict zones. At the diplomatic level, the UAE adopted a policy of non-alignment with violence and has consistently called on all parties to come to the negotiating table. In regional crises, such as Yemen and Syria, the UAE has supported the efforts of the United Nations and its envoys, repeatedly affirming that a political settlement is the preferred option. Through its active diplomacy, the UAE has worked to mediate prisoner exchanges and alleviate suffering, as demonstrated recently between Russia and Ukraine, where Emirati mediation successfully facilitated 13 prisoner-of-war exchanges involving 3,233 detainees since the beginning of the crisis in 2024. The UAE also facilitated a historic prisoner exchange between the United States and Russia in December 2022, reflecting the international community's confidence in the UAE's diplomatic ability to build bridges of peace even between major powers.

On the humanitarian aid front, the United Arab Emirates stands at the forefront globally as one of the largest donor countries in support of development and relief, recognizing that development is sustainable peace. The UAE has repeatedly ranked first worldwide as the largest donor of humanitarian aid relative to its national income, with the total amount of foreign aid it has provided since 1971 reaching over 100 billion US dollars by mid-2025. This aid includes development programs, infrastructure projects in dozens of countries, and emergency relief during wars and disasters. For example, the UAE played a significant role in supporting the Yemeni people during their crisis, becoming the largest international donor of emergency aid to Yemen in 2018. By 2015,

it had provided approximately AED 6.65 billion to Yemen through initiatives encompassing reconstruction and the rehabilitation of essential facilities and services. The UAE also led an early humanitarian response to the Syrian crisis starting in 2012, providing support to Syrian refugees in neighboring countries through housing, education, and healthcare projects that benefited more than 1.5 million refugees and displaced persons. Beyond direct aid, the UAE established international platforms for humanitarian coordination, such as the International Humanitarian City in Dubai, to facilitate global disaster response. This humanitarian approach has strengthened a culture of peace by alleviating poverty and crises in troubled regions, demonstrating that the UAE considers aiding afflicted populations a moral obligation, free from any political, religious, or ethnic considerations.

Diplomatically, the United Arab Emirates has also participated in peacekeeping operations under the umbrella of regional and international organizations. As part of the Arab Deterrent Force in Lebanon (1976), it deployed troops to help end the civil war there, and it also joined the GCC Peninsula Shield Force to liberate Kuwait (1991) as part of the international coalition. These limited military contributions were primarily aimed at deterring aggression, protecting civilians, and restoring stability, in line with the UAE's commitments to just causes. Overall, the UAE's policy combines soft power, through relief and development, with active diplomacy, through dialogue and mediation, to promote peace in fragile environments, save lives, and achieve human security.

The UAE's Role in the International and Regional Organizations to Promote the Right of Peoples to Peace and Security

Based on its belief that peace is an inherent right for all peoples, the United Arab Emirates plays an active role in international and regional organizations to promote this right and translate it into reality. At the level of the United Nations, the UAE has been an active participant in the Security Council and served as an elected member for the 2022–2023 term, during which it focused on issues of advancing inclusivity, building resilience, and ensuring peace across all levels. The UAE emphasized in its campaign for the Council its commitment to building bridges among member states and restoring confidence in the UN's central





role in maintaining international peace and security. The UAE has also used its position within the UN to introduce initiatives supporting the rights of vulnerable peoples; for example, in May 2024, it submitted a draft resolution to the General Assembly to grant the State of Palestine full membership in the United Nations, a resolution that received majority support as a historic step toward achieving just peace for the Palestinian people.

Moreover, Emirati diplomacy is active in the United Nations Human Rights Council and in global human rights forums, based on the belief that peace, development, and human rights are interconnected pillars. The UAE has consistently supported international initiatives that affirm “the preservation and promotion of the right of peoples to peace as a fundamental obligation of every state”. This vision aligns with the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Peace (2016), which emphasized that peace is an essential prerequisite for the enjoyment of all human rights. From this perspective, the UAE has supported UN resolutions rejecting violence and promoting a culture of peace and has participated in the Universal Periodic Review processes that link stability with respect for human rights.

Regionally, the United Arab Emirates is a key pillar of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the League of Arab States, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and it works through these frameworks to promote the right of Arab and Islamic peoples to security and peace. The UAE advocates resolving disputes in the Gulf region through dialogue and unifying positions to support regional stability. It also contributes to Arab initiatives aimed at ending civil conflicts and supports the efforts of the Arab League and the African Union in fostering national reconciliation, as seen in the Sudanese case. Furthermore, the UAE is one of the leading proponents of the idea of making the Middle East a region free of weapons of mass destruction, to ensure collective security for the peoples of the region. It has acceded to all international treaties related to international peace and security, reaffirming its commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter, which are based on the non-use of force, respect for state sovereignty, and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

The UAE’s international contributions to establishing peace have not been

limited to the political sphere but have also extended to supporting cultural and developmental initiatives under the umbrella of the United Nations. The country hosts the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi, reflecting its belief that environmental sustainability contributes to community stability. It has also participated in the UN Peacebuilding Commission and provided financial contributions to UN relief funds, such as the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the World Food Programme (WFP), which address the humanitarian consequences of conflicts, recognizing that building peace requires addressing the root causes of crises, including poverty, hunger, and marginalization. All these efforts have placed the UAE among the world’s top ten countries in terms of global influence and the strength of its diplomatic relations, reflecting international recognition of its contributions to reinforcing the right of peoples to security and peace.

The National Legal and Constitutional Framework for Peace and Human Rights

The United Arab Emirates reinforces the right to peace within its legislative and constitutional framework, in harmony with its international commitments in the field of human rights. The UAE Constitution (1971, as amended) sets forth the objectives and policies of the Union, with Article (12) affirming that the UAE’s foreign policy is founded on supporting Arab and Islamic causes and strengthening bonds of friendship and cooperation with all countries and peoples, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and noble international ideals. This constitutional provision enshrines the State’s commitment to a policy of peace and respect for international law as a cornerstone of governance. Furthermore, Article (14) of the Constitution emphasizes that establishing safety and security, and achieving justice and equality among citizens, are fundamental pillars of society, meaning that the preservation of civil peace and domestic stability is a constitutional duty to protect the rights of individuals and groups alike.

From a legal perspective, the United Arab Emirates has enacted legislation to promote a culture of tolerance and reject violence and hatred as a solid foundation for societal peace. In 2015, the country issued the Anti-Discrimination and Hate Speech Law, which criminalizes all forms of religious contempt, hate speech, and discrimination based on religion, ethnicity, or color. The aim of this law is to “enrich the culture of global tolerance and confront all manifestations of discrimination and racism, regardless of their nature”, thereby safeguarding social harmony by addressing the root causes of discord and conflict. In addition, the government established the Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence in 2016 to entrench these values and launched the National Tolerance Program, which works to promote moderate discourse and peace values in educational curricula and media. At the institutional level, 2021 witnessed the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution as an independent state-based institution with the responsibility to protect and promote human rights, including the right to live in peace and safety. UAE legislation also guarantees the protection of fundamental rights closely tied to peace, such as the right to life and personal security, and criminalizes domestic violence and terrorist crimes, reaffirming the State’s commitment to achieving human security for its citizens and residents. In addition, the United Arab Emirates adopts national strategies that promote



Legislation, Culture, and Institutions: An Integrated Emirati Framework for Advancing Sustainable Peace



social peace and sustainable development. The Principles of the 50 are a set of guidelines adopted by the UAE in 2021 to outline the country's direction for the next 50 years, affirmed in its tenth principle that "calling for peace, harmony, negotiations and dialogue to resolve all disputes is the basis of the Emirates' foreign policy. Striving with regional partners and global friends to establish regional and global peace and stability is a fundamental driver of our foreign policy". Another principle emphasized that "the Emirates' foreign humanitarian aid is an essential part of its vision and moral duty towards less fortunate peoples". These officially declared principles reflect a political and legal framework that guides decision-makers toward placing peace and human rights at the core of legislation and public policies. Indeed, the UAE translates this into action through initiatives, such as the "Zayed Humanitarian Legacy Initiative", with a value of AED 20 billion to support humanitarian efforts worldwide, linking the State's legal and moral legacy with its international responsibility in promoting peace.

Educational Institutions and Civil Society Initiatives to Promote a Culture of Peace

The promotion of a culture of peace in the United Arab Emirates has not been limited to official entities alone; civil society and educational institutions have also played a key role in embedding the values of tolerance and peace. These values have become an inherent part of the fabric of Emirati society thanks to collective efforts by civil associations and popular initiatives. For example, local human rights associations play an important awareness-raising role; the Emirates Human Rights Association has affirmed that the UAE has made the principles of peace, tolerance, and coexistence a fundamental component of daily life and is committed to sharing these values with the world. The country also marks the International Day of Peace and the International Day for Tolerance annually through events organized by civil society institutions and universities, with the aim of engaging all segments of society, particularly youth, in efforts to build community peace.

Distinctive initiatives, supported both officially and by the community, have also positioned the UAE as a global beacon of tolerance and intercultural dialogue. Since 2014, Abu Dhabi has hosted the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim

Societies, bringing together scholars and religious leaders from around the world to promote messages of moderation and balance. In February 2019, Abu Dhabi witnessed the signing of the Document on Human Fraternity by the Pope of the Vatican and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, a historic event that the UAE hosted to reaffirm its mission of fostering peace among followers of different faiths. These efforts culminated in the opening of the Abrahamic Family House in Abu Dhabi in 2023, a complex that includes a mosque, a church, and a synagogue with the goal of "promoting values of mutual understanding, harmonious coexistence, and peace among different religions and cultures". This landmark has become a global symbol of interfaith rapprochement and an educational destination hosting seminars and programs that promote intercultural dialogue.

In addition to religious and cultural initiatives, educational institutions in the UAE have played a key role in promoting a culture of peace through curricula and student activities. Values of tolerance and moral education have been incorporated into school curricula at all levels to raise a generation that embraces peace and diversity. Universities and schools also regularly organize Model United Nations conferences and competitions on dialogue and peace to equip youth with skills in conflict resolution and cultural appreciation. The UAE also takes pride in launching pioneering initiatives such as the Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak Women, Peace and Security Initiative, in collaboration with the United Nations, aimed at training and empowering women from various countries to participate in peacekeeping operations and increase female representation in military and peace-related fields. Since 2019, this program has graduated multiple cohorts of female officers and professionals capable of contributing to peacebuilding in their respective regions.

Think tanks and local civil society organizations are also leading creative initiatives to promote social peace. Hedayah, the International Center of Excellence for Countering Extremism & Violent Extremism, hosted in Abu Dhabi since 2012, specializes in conducting research and facilitating knowledge exchange to combat extremist ideologies that threaten peace. Complementing its efforts is the Sawab Center, a bilateral initiative between the UAE and US that counters extremist propaganda and terrorist messaging in the online space and promotes messages of tolerance. Other unique community initiatives include the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for World Peace, which recognizes individuals and projects contributing to peace promotion, and the UAE International Award for Poets of Peace, which encourages literary creativity in service of a culture of peace. The Zayed Award for Human Fraternity also honors outstanding contributions to fostering solidarity and peace among people. Collectively, these awards and initiatives inspire individuals and institutions to adopt sustainable projects for building peace locally and globally. In conclusion, under the leadership of its government, with the support of its civil society and educational institutions, the United Arab Emirates has successfully built a civilizational model that makes the right to peace a fundamental pillar of its developmental and humanitarian journey. A deep-seated conviction has taken root among the Emirati people that peace is the path to prosperity, and that the protection of human rights and dignity can only flourish in an environment of security and stability. This comprehensive model, combining political will, a robust legal framework, and active community participation, has made the UAE a haven of peace in the region and a global beacon in defending the right of peoples to live in peace and safety.

In Conclusion...

In conclusion, the United Arab Emirates' journey in supporting the right to peace presents a multidimensional picture of a nation that has made peace a constitutional principle, a political doctrine, and a way of life. From its deep historical roots in a culture of tolerance, to its foreign policies that favor dialogue over conflict, its pioneering international and humanitarian role, and its civil society and educational initiatives, the UAE has remained true to its guiding principle that "peace is a right and a goal for all". The Emirati experience has proven that commitment to peace is not mere rhetoric, but a sustained effort requiring a comprehensive framework: active diplomacy, generous humanitarian aid, just legislation, a positive social culture, and education that plants the seeds of tolerance. Through this holistic approach, the UAE has offered the world an inspiring example of how a young nation, only recently independent, has become in just a few decades a platform for promoting a culture of peace and a steadfast advocate for peoples' right to safety and security. The UAE's active participation in international organizations and its tireless efforts in conflict zones stand as clear evidence of its profound belief that peace is a universal human right, and of its role as a trusted partner to all who strive for it. This is the UAE's lesson to the world: through peace, nations are built, and civilizations thrive, a message the country will continue to champion in every forum, in defense of humanity, dignity, and every person's right to live in peace and safety.

It includes 5 goals and 12 measures to ensure international solidarity

Key features of the UN's «New» Agenda for Peace

In March 2025, the UN Security Council called for the modernization of peacekeeping missions to mitigate the growing armed conflicts around the world. In this context, the Council emphasized the existence of a number of challenges that hinder the achievement of the right to global peace. These challenges include the promotion of extremist ideas, the spread of hate speech, and organized crime through modern technological means. In addition, there is the return of the arms race between countries using unprecedented methods and techniques, and the emergence of advanced weapons based on modern technology and artificial intelligence applications. Furthermore, there are challenges related to climate change, which has made it difficult to achieve the sustainable development goals in a fair and comprehensive manner. Therefore, cooperation and collective action among countries have become an indispensable necessity to restore the chances of peace, which has become more difficult to achieve than ever before.



(United Nations Photo)



(United Nations Photo)

The UN Security Council's discussion of this matter came within the framework of the comprehensive review currently being conducted by the United Nations regarding its role in promoting the right to peace at the global level, through implementing the goals of the «New Peace Agenda» launched by the UN Secretary-General in July 2023. This Agenda included (five) main goals, which are being achieved through (twelve) specific measures, as follows:

Objective 1: Addressing strategic risks and geopolitical divisions:

The Agenda seeks to achieve this goal by intensifying international efforts to prevent the negative impacts resulting from increasing global fragmentation and escalating divisions in the political, economic, and digital spheres, which have led to a resurgence of fears of war or even nuclear annihilation, which are no longer unlikely under the current circumstances. Accordingly, the United Nations is committed to working to prevent conflicts between major powers, while urging member states to manage and resolve their differences peacefully through the following actions:

- First Action: Elimination of nuclear weapons:

The world is currently witnessing a renewed and dangerous race to develop advanced nuclear weapons, requiring a concerted international effort to strengthen the protective barrier against their use. The New Peace Agenda calls on states to renew their commitment to working toward a world completely free of nuclear weapons, with states possessing them affirming their commitment not to use them under any circumstances and to take all

necessary measures to avoid mistakes or miscalculations. The Agenda also calls for practical measures to enhance transparency and build confidence, and to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in national security strategies, based on the realization that nuclear war is unwinnable and that its catastrophic repercussions will affect all of humanity. In parallel, the Agenda recommends that the Security Council impose strict punitive measures in the event of the use of these weapons, while strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime to ensure the sustainability of international peace and security.

- Second Action: Consolidating Preventive Diplomacy in an Era of Divisions. The Agenda emphasizes the importance of strengthening preventive diplomacy and encouraging open dialogue among states to address



(United Nations Photo)

differences, through the adoption of practical protocols and mechanisms aimed at building mutual trust and reducing tensions. It calls for transforming relations between states from competition to integration and constructive cooperation, emphasizing the vital role the United Nations can play in keeping diplomatic channels open, especially in times of crisis, to prevent escalation. It also calls for strengthening the organization's capacity to launch effective diplomatic initiatives to promote global peace and stability.

Objective 2: preventing the outbreak of conflicts and violence and maintaining peace:

The New Peace Agenda recognizes that achieving stability requires addressing the underlying factors that drive the outbreak of violence and strengthening the resilience of communities and countries to challenges. Therefore, the Agenda focuses on building an integrated prevention system based on comprehensive development, equal participation, and addressing emerging threats, ensuring sustainable peace that protects future generations. This is achieved through the following actions:

- Third Action: Transformation of the conflict prevention and peacekeeping system.

This action aims to bring about a fundamental shift in the system of conflict prevention and peacekeeping by adopting comprehensive national prevention strategies that address the factors and drivers leading to violence within societies. These strategies include strengthening national peace infrastructures, supporting state institutions and the rule of law, strengthening the role of civil society in promoting a culture of tolerance and solidarity, and protecting human rights as a cornerstone for building more stable societies capable of facing challenges.

- Fourth Action: Accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to address the underlying drivers of violence and insecurity.

This action emphasizes that accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a fundamental pillar for addressing the root causes of violence and insecurity. Inclusive and balanced development strengthens the social compact, supports human security, and paves the way for building more cohesive and resilient societies. The action also underscores the importance of developing new solutions to protect livelihoods and provide social protection, particularly in post-conflict or emerging societies, thus breaking the cycle of violence and paving the way for sustainable peace. In this context, international financial institutions have a responsibility to redouble their efforts to support stability through inclusive sustainable development that achieves justice and equal opportunity for all.

- Fifth Action: Transforming Power Dynamics in Peace and Security:

This action aims to reshape power dynamics in peace and security issues by empowering women and involving them fully, meaningfully, and equally at all levels of decision-making. It also emphasizes the need to achieve gender parity in national governments and parliaments, which will enhance equitable representation and strengthen policymaking effectiveness. The action emphasizes a full commitment to eliminating all forms of gender-based violence, enacting comprehensive legislation prohibiting gender-based hate speech, and ensuring that perpetrators do not go unpunished. It also emphasizes providing necessary services and support to survivors, as

Empowering Women in Decision-Making... Towards a More Just and Inclusive Peace.

Climate and Security: Two Sides of the Same Coin: A Political Priority on the UN Agenda.

a pivotal step toward building safer and more equitable environments that contribute to sustainable peace.

- Sixth Action: Addressing the Links Between Climate, Peace and Security: This action highlights the profound interconnectedness between climate change, peace, and security, as a turbulent climate has become a major factor exacerbating crises and conflicts around the world. The Agenda calls for recognizing this relationship as a political priority and enhancing coordination among various multilateral bodies to ensure the integration of climate efforts with peacebuilding efforts. It also emphasizes the need for the Security Council to systematically address the impacts of climate change on its agenda, while establishing a new international financing window to support climate-related peace-related measures. In addition, the action proposes establishing joint regional centers to monitor climate and security issues and harness specialized expertise to accelerate progress toward sustainable solutions capable of enhancing global stability.

- Seventh Action: Reducing the Human Cost of Weapons: This action highlights the seriousness of armed conflicts increasingly occurring within populated areas and their disastrous and indiscriminate impact on innocent civilians. To address this humanitarian catastrophe, the Agenda calls for enhancing civilian protection as a top priority and moving combat operations completely out of urban areas. It also emphasizes the importance of achieving universality of international treaties prohibiting the use of indiscriminate and inhumane weapons, such as the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines. Furthermore, the Agenda urges an end to the use of improvised explosive devices by terrorist groups and non-state armed groups, thus contributing to reducing human casualties and putting an end to the cycle of violence that claims innocent lives.

Objective 3: Strengthening peace processes and addressing peace enforcement.

Recognizing the complexity of contemporary armed conflicts, the New Peace Agenda seeks to enhance the effectiveness of peace operations and make them more flexible and responsive to changing challenges. It also emphasizes the importance of combining political tools with field operations, ensuring that UN peace operations remain inclusive, supported by international and regional partnerships, and adapted to the realities of conflicts in different regions of the world. This is achieved through the following actions:

- Eighth Action: Strengthening Peace Operations and Partnerships: This action focuses on fully leveraging the potential of data and digital technology to accurately track conflict trajectories and understand their societal dynamics, enabling inclusive dialogue among various parties, monitoring impacts on the ground, and informing evidence-based decisions. It also emphasizes the need to adopt a digital transformation strategy within the peacekeeping and peacemaking system to ensure greater resilience and anticipation of crises. It also emphasizes the importance of continuing to reform and modernize UN peacekeeping operations to ensure they are more adaptable to the complex and changing nature of conflicts in today's world.

- Ninth Action: Addressing the issue of peace enforcement: This action underscores the need for peace enforcement to remain an

exceptional option, resorted to only with a clear mandate from the Security Council, through the establishment of a multinational force to intervene when needed. It emphasizes that any such operation must always be accompanied by comprehensive political efforts, including the disarmament of the warring parties, addressing grievances and the root causes of the conflict, and a strict commitment to avoiding any actions that harm civilians or violate human rights, ensuring that peace enforcement remains a tool for achieving stability rather than prolonging the conflict.

- Tenth Action: Support African Union operations and non-regional peace support operations.

This action underscores that the growing threat posed by non-state and transnational armed groups on the African continent requires a new approach to peace enforcement missions and counterterrorism operations. The agenda emphasizes that these efforts should be led by African states and partners themselves and legitimized by a clear mandate from the Security Council. It also clarifies that these missions should be integrated into the

Africa at the Heart of the Plan: New Missions to Counter Terrorism and Cross-Border Violence.

Technology in the Service of Peace: Digital Transformation to Overcome Complex Conflict Crises.



(United Nations Photo)

Cyberspace and Artificial Intelligence... Between Innovation Opportunities and Conflict Risks.

The United Nations Seeks an International Treaty to Protect Space from the Arms Race.

Building Just Collective Security: Security Council Reform and Veto Accountability in the New Peace Agenda.

international community's toolkit of responses to crises in Africa, ensuring a more integrated and effective approach to the continent's evolving security challenges.

Objective 4: Adopting new approaches to peace and potential areas of conflict:

This goal highlights the emerging challenges associated with modern technology and new areas of conflict, such as cyberspace, outer space, and artificial intelligence. The agenda recognizes that these areas hold great promise for innovation and development, but at the same time, they can become sources of serious threats if misused. Therefore, it emphasizes the need to establish international governance and oversight frameworks that ensure that innovation is used to serve peace rather than exacerbate conflict. This can be achieved through the following actions:

- **Eleventh Action:** Encourage the use of emerging fields as a weapon and encourage responsible innovation:

This measure warns of the grave risks that could arise from the uncontrolled use of emerging technologies, including cyberspace, artificial intelligence, and outer space, especially given their easy access to terrorist groups and non-state actors. The agenda emphasizes that the benefits of innovation cannot be reaped at the expense of global security, necessitating the establishment of robust international governance frameworks to mitigate these risks. It also calls for the establishment of an independent multilateral accountability mechanism for malicious cyber activities, strengthening criminal justice capacities to prosecute perpetrators, establishing rules and standards to prevent an arms race in outer space, and negotiating a new international treaty. The agenda also emphasizes the prohibition of lethal autonomous weapons systems through a legally binding instrument by 2026, and the establishment of precise standards for the use of artificial intelligence in the military field, with the participation of civil society and experts, to ensure that innovation is used to advance peace rather than fuel conflict or terrorism.

Objective 5: Strengthening international governance.

This goal emphasizes that promoting global peace will not be achieved without a comprehensive reform of international collective security structures. Foremost among these reforms is updating the role of the Security Council to make it more equitable and representative of international balances, while enhancing accountability and transparency, and developing UN institutions to keep pace with the nature of current and evolving challenges. This is achieved through the following measures:

- **Twelfth Action:** Building a stronger collective security mechanism

This measure emphasizes the need to build a stronger and more just mechanism for collective security, through reforming the Security Council to reflect contemporary international balances and be more representative of developing countries. It also calls for strengthening accountability regarding the use of the veto by permanent members, thus preventing the obstruction of vital decisions related to international peace and security. Furthermore, it emphasizes the importance of developing the United Nations' administrative structures to become more efficient and flexible in dealing with current and evolving challenges.



In Conclusion...

The new UN peace Agenda represents more than just a technical document; it is a comprehensive vision for rebuilding international solidarity at a time of growing risks and intersecting crises. More than seven decades after the founding of the international organization, it has become clear that current global challenges—from armed conflict, extremism, and the arms race to climate change and rapid technological developments—require a redefinition of the UN's role and an evolution of its working mechanisms to align them with the realities of the twenty-first century.

The agenda presents itself as a political and ethical framework that balances prevention, development, and governance. It calls for shifting the world's focus from managing conflicts after they erupt to preempting them through more effective diplomatic and development tools. It emphasizes that global security is no longer possible through unilateral efforts or traditional approaches, but rather requires genuine international cooperation and a collective will to confront the geopolitical divisions that threaten the international order.

Despite the Agenda's great ambition, it is also realistic, emphasizing that its success depends on the commitment of member states to its implementation on the ground. The 12 measures are not merely headlines; they represent a call to rethink the structure and workings of the international system, from reforming the Security Council and developing peacekeeping mechanisms to establishing frameworks for technological governance and protecting human rights in light of the digital revolution. Ultimately, the Agenda is not an end, but rather the beginning of a long journey that requires a genuine global partnership. It is an opportunity to re-establish the concept of peace as a fundamental human right and a condition for sustainable development. If nations respond to this collective call, the world may finally be able to move beyond its current state of fragmentation and take a practical step toward a more just, secure, and supportive international order.



Adama Dieng, the former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations:
Today, genocides have become scandalous because they are in full view, and in the age of global media, yet the world is failing to support their victims.

In a world where crises are accelerating and human rights challenges are intensifying; the voice of the victims is in dire need of someone to convey their suffering and defend their right to justice and dignity. From the heart of Geneva, where international voices meet to discuss the future of human rights, Adama Dieng, the African Union's Special Envoy on the Prevention of Genocide and other Atrocities, and former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, presents a bold testimony and a sincere vision on the need to shift from reaction to prevention, and from slogans to actual action.

The Union for Human Rights Association conducted this exclusive interview with Adama Dieng, with the aim of highlighting the mechanisms for protecting human rights and emphasizing the importance of early prevention and accountability for perpetrators of crimes against humanity. This is part of



the association's ongoing efforts to raise international awareness of issues related to justice and the rights of victims, as well as to shed light on human experiences that can serve as a reference for countries in the region and the international community in addressing major crimes, ensuring the protection of human dignity, and promoting a culture of peace and accountability. Below is the text of the interview:

• Your Excellency, today you stood before an international audience that includes ministers, diplomats, and human rights defenders on the first day of the Human Rights Council session. At a time when human rights are being widely violated around the world, how do you see the development of human rights mechanisms?

• If we are serious about preventing serious violations of human rights, we must move from reaction to prevention. Early warning and proactive monitoring are essential. The early indicators are always similar: hate speech, dehumanization, identity-based tensions. These are the first steps towards horrific crimes, and we must address them promptly. In my opinion, the development of protective mechanisms requires stronger national legal systems, regional frameworks, and even hybrid judicial bodies, all capable of prosecuting perpetrators of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide. The African Union has made a significant normative shift from the principle of non-intervention to the principle of non-indifference. This principle forms the basis of the responsibility to protect in Africa. But we need more than principles; we need operational capacities and political will. It should be understood that protection is a shared responsibility among states, regional organizations, and civil society. Governments alone cannot ensure vigilance. The actors of society... Civil society actors, survivors, and human rights defenders are essential guardians and educators, as they promote inclusivity and resilience in the face of violence.

If we are serious about preventing serious violations of human rights, we must move from reaction to prevention.

The indicators of violations begin with hate speech, dehumanization, and identity tensions, and if not confronted with awareness and responsibility, they can turn into crimes that threaten international peace and security.

I do not see myself as a special envoy for the African Union, but rather as a humble guardian of our collective conscience.

The Rwandan genocide in 1994: a dark chapter that has transcended its borders to the entire Great Lakes region.

Nevertheless, the gaps remain deep. Early warning systems often exist, but they are either inadequately funded, underutilized, or simply ignored by political leaders. The implementation of international humanitarian law and international human rights standards is also inconsistent. Impunity is often the norm rather than the exception. Some crises receive prompt attention, while others are overlooked, with severe consequences. Impunity cannot be tolerated if we want peace and reconciliation to be credible. What I call for is the development of protective mechanisms towards proactive action, strong legal accountability, and the inclusive participation of all actors. Without this shift, the cost of inaction will remain unbearable, measured not in words but in human suffering.

• In light of this rapidly changing international system, how do you see your personal role?

•• I see myself not only as a special envoy of the African Union, but as a humble steward of our collective conscience. We are not meeting merely to recount history, but to confront it. We are not here to reopen wounds, but to ensure they do not deepen in silence. We cannot surrender. More than ever, we must support efforts to prevent genocide and condemn collective atrocities. My appointment reflects the commitment of the African Union and the United Nations to take early action before risks escalate into widespread human rights violations.

• You often say that «justice is not just judicial.» What do you mean by that?

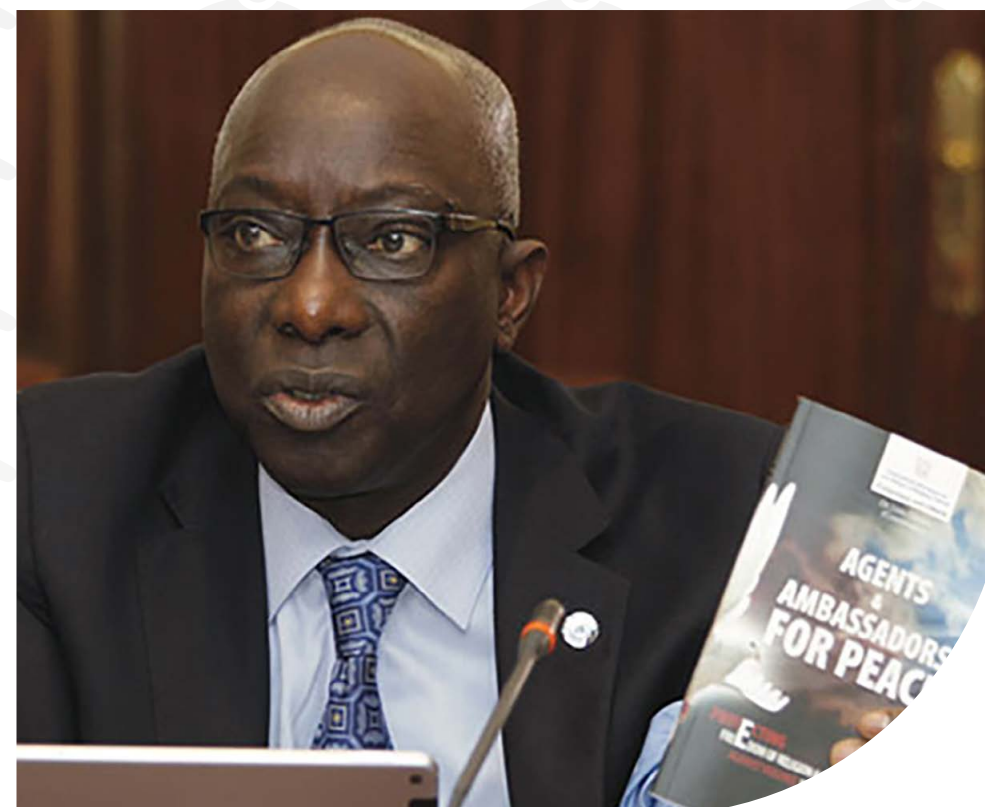
•• Indeed, justice is also social, economic, and institutional justice. There can be no justice without peace, and no peace without truth. Courts are unique venues where atrocities can be reassessed in light of human dignity. Political settlements may silence the guns temporarily, but they rarely stop the demonization of the enemy. It is essential to pursue crimes even after decades have passed. This restores the victims' trust in institutions. It also preserves testimonies and evidence for use in justice mechanisms and transitional justice. Most importantly, it enables reconciliation by acknowledging the suffering of the victims. Otherwise, the wounds remain open, and cycles of violence continue.

• You spoke today about the atrocities that the Democratic Republic of the Congo has suffered from for more than three decades. What is your main message?

•• The cycle of violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been so continuous, cruel and complex that it defies both the world's attention and its moral response. The scars of this conflict are etched in the lives of millions: women who have been raped, children orphaned, and entire communities destroyed. The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda share a painful and intertwined history. The genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda in 1994 remains one of the darkest chapters of humanity, but its consequences have far exceeded Rwanda's borders. As a result, only the Great Lakes region has adopted a Protocol on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity and All Forms of Discrimination.

• You warn against politicizing history. Why?

•• Because when we use history as a weapon, we put the victims in opposition to each other. Instead, we must uphold the dignity of every human group and the sanctity of every human life. The African Union condemns all acts of



genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, regardless of the identity of the perpetrators or the victims.

• After decades of working in this field, what lessons have you drawn?

•• Freedom of expression is not protected by allowing hatred to spread freely. I regret to say that the international community has often failed to condemn and prevent genocide in a clear and decisive manner. The phrase 'never again' has been repeated to the point that it is threatened to become hollow. Today's genocides provoke outrage precisely because they occur in full view, in an age of global media, yet the world still fails to stand up for their victims.

• What are the concrete steps you recommend for the future?

•• First and foremost, the international community must assist the most affected countries in strengthening their institutions and rebuilding the rule of law, particularly the judiciary. Transitional justice mechanisms should be victim-centered, locally owned, and internationally supported. In this context, states, international organizations, and civil society must provide technical, financial, and diplomatic support in pursuit of justice. The spirit of cooperation should replace confrontation. Compensation should be meaningful, trials should be fair, and truth commissions should be empowered. As I mentioned earlier, prevention and early warning mechanisms are essential, as is inclusive governance and economic justice.

• How do you see the way forward for Africa?

•• I am convinced that we share the same goal: an Africa governed by peace, where there is no tolerance for genocide, and where the lessons of the past guide our steps towards a dignified future for all. Silence is complicity. Apathy is betrayal. And the truth: the truth is the beginning of justice.

In Conclusion...

With these sincere words, Adama Dieng points his finger at the essence of the matter: that justice begins with the acknowledgment of truth, and that protecting human dignity is a shared responsibility that cannot tolerate procrastination. In a world where genocides continue to repeat, his voice remains an urgent call to move beyond silence and indifference towards just and courageous international action.

Freedom of expression does not mean unleashing hatred.

The international community has often failed to clearly and decisively condemn and prevent genocide.

True transitional justice starts from the victims... with local ownership and international support.



Despite 25 Years Since the Adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325

Search Shall Continue for Genuine Support for Women's Participation in International Peace and Security



Between United Nations slogans and negotiation realities, women's participation in peace and security remains hostage to unfulfilled promises.

A quarter of a century after Resolution 1325, facts reveal a gap between commitments and outcomes: low female representation, limited funding, and gains that remain far below expectations — despite clear evidence that involving women shall produce more durable and inclusive peace.

In October 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325, a landmark recognizing the vital role of women in preventing conflict and building peace. The resolution calls upon Member States to increase women's representation at all levels of decision-making in peace and security processes. This was not merely a theoretical demand; substantial evidence shows that including women in peace negotiations shall yield more sustainable results. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), in its global study on the implementation of Resolution 1325, noted that to include women in peace processes increases the likelihood of a peace agreement lasting at least two years by 20%, and the likelihood of it lasting fifteen years by 35%. In other words, the presence of women at the negotiating table is not just a matter of gender equity; it is also a strategic necessity to strengthen the prospects for lasting peace. Subsequent analyses of 40 peace processes demonstrated that the greater the influence of women in negotiations, the higher the



chances that conflicting parties shall reach an agreement. These indicators prompted the international community to establish the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, which recognizes that sustainable peace requires the full and equal participation of women at every stage of conflict resolution and peacebuilding. However, 25 years after the resolution's adoption, women's participation in international peace and security efforts remains worryingly limited. For many states and institutions, Resolution 1325 has remained more a symbolic declaration than practiced reality, amid silent resistance to the genuine inclusion of women in global peace processes.

Numbers Reflecting Reality

International statistics show that women's representation in peace processes remains extremely modest despite all rhetorical commitments:

- In 2022, 18 peace agreements were signed worldwide, and only one included a woman among the signatories. In other words, women were completely absent as negotiators or signatories in 17 out of 18 peace agreements.
- The United Nations launched the «Investment in Women Initiative» to mobilize USD 300 million by 2025 to support women's work in peacebuilding, but the amount raised by mid-2025 did not exceed USD 125.5 million, less than half of the announced target. This funding shortfall raises serious questions about the actual commitment to empowering women peacebuilders.
- Women constitute only 16% of mediators, negotiators, and envoys in active peace processes led or supported by the United Nations. This figure has declined from 23% recorded in 2020, reflecting regression rather than progress.
- Local women's organizations in conflict-affected areas receive only 0.3% of international funding allocated in these contexts (according to official aid statistics for 2021–2022). This extremely low figure indicates a structural imbalance in international funding priorities, as support directed toward

From Resolution to Reality: Where Does Women's Participation in Peacebuilding Stand?

25 Years Since Resolution 1325... The Absence of Women Threatens the Sustainability of Peace.

Alarming Statistics: Only 0.3% of Funding Shall Reach Women’s Organizations in Conflict Zones

women’s peace initiatives remains marginal compared to expenditure on other sectors. These numbers reveal not only a shortfall in international awareness but also a malfunction in decision-making mechanisms and resource monitoring. Women’s participation remains more a promotional slogan than a tangible reality on the ground. The negligible percentage of funding and partnership granted to women’s efforts indicates that the international community has yet to translate its promises into concrete actions.

UN Warnings and Testimonies

In 2023, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres warned that the world today stands «on a knife’s edge» due to escalating conflicts, tensions, climate chaos, and an accelerating arms race, emphasizing that enhancing women’s participation in peacebuilding has become an urgent security necessity rather than merely a rights-based demand. Guterres explicitly stated that the unprecedented challenges undermining international peace and security mean that «there shall be no room for further delay» in involving women as essential actors in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. However, these repeated UN warnings have yet to be translated into sufficient practical commitments. The Oslo Women, Peace, and Security Conference held in May 2025 reaffirmed that women’s participation in peacebuilding remains dangerously low. The conference called for concrete steps to bridge the gap between commitments and reality, including:

- To enhance women’s participation in mediation and peace negotiations at all levels through intensified diplomatic efforts, to include women in both formal and informal negotiating teams, and to leverage women’s networks in humanitarian work to open channels of dialogue with all parties.
- To support women’s alliances and coalitions to formulate women-specific peace agendas and to select their representatives prior to official negotiations, ensuring that women’s perspectives and priorities are systematically present at the negotiation table from the outset.

Oslo 2025: Women’s Participation in Peace Processes Remains Dangerously Low

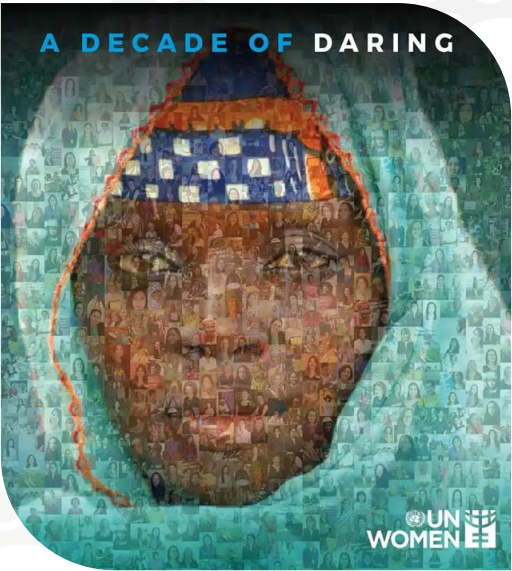


- To establish accountability mechanisms and political guarantees to ensure women’s political representation in governance structures and decision-making during transitional and post-conflict phases, for example, to mandate a specific quota for women’s representation in governments and institutions formed after peace agreements.
- To fully implement Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions (such as 1820, 1889, 2122, 2242, and others) and to follow up with updates to the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda beyond 2025, ensuring that this agenda remains responsive to evolving global challenges (such as climate change, pandemics, and technology) and incorporates their gender dimensions.

In October 2024, during the annual open debate held by the Security Council on the 24th anniversary of Resolution 1325, numerous civil society representatives expressed deep concern about the deteriorating conditions of women in conflict zones. A total of 628 women’s organizations from 110 countries sent an open letter to the United Nations to demand decisive action to activate women’s roles in ending conflicts, preventing their recurrence, and protecting the rights of women and girls during crises. The letter emphasized that failure to fully implement the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda has cost the world dearly, measured in destruction, loss of lives, and deprivation of rights. It stressed that the time has come to translate commitments into actions and to prevent another quarter-century anniversary from passing without tangible progress.

International Efforts to Enhance Women’s Role in Peace

Recent years witnessed multiple initiatives to address the underrepresentation of women in peacebuilding processes. At the national level, many countries adopted National Action Plans to implement the Women, Peace, and Security agenda; currently, more than 105 countries have such plans. These plans provide a framework to translate the commitments of Resolution 1325 into tangible actions on the ground. Additionally, international mechanisms were established to finance and support women’s participation, including the United Nations Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF). This fund provides flexible and urgent financing for women-led initiatives in conflict-affected areas and has supported since its establishment in 2016 over 1,600 local women’s organizations in approximately 50 crisis-affected countries. Furthermore, UN Women and its partners implement programs to build the capacities of women as mediators and peacebuilders and to develop regional and international networks of women mediators. Despite these efforts, UN reports emphasize the need to enhance political and material investment in the Women, Peace, and Security agenda and to increase the involvement of women’s civil society organizations in formal peace processes. Studies indicate that the participation of women’s organizations and civil society in peace negotiations reduces the likelihood of agreement failure by 64% compared to negotiations lacking these voices. Moreover, the inclusion of a gender perspective in peace agreements has been improving, albeit slowly; the percentage of agreements containing provisions addressing women’s needs rose from 14% in 1995 to approximately 23% in 2020. These combined steps represent gradual progress but remain insufficient to close the gap between the ambitions of Resolution 1325 and the reality of implementation.





Analysis of the Causes

Why does women's participation in peace processes remain stalled despite all resolutions and plans? A set of interrelated factors underlie this evident shortfall, the most prominent of which are:

1. The mentality of "deals among male elites" still predominates among many governments and warring parties. Agreements are made behind closed doors between leaders of fighting factions (who are mostly men), deliberately excluding women from negotiation tables, considering peace exclusively a matter for militia leaders or political elites. This exclusionary political culture deprives the peace process of half the society and marginalizes voices essential for building inclusive peace.
2. Women's organizations and activists in conflict-affected areas suffer from resource scarcity and weak sustainable funding. These initiatives often rely on emergency and temporary financing through short-term grants or sporadic donations, which hinders their continuity and effective engagement in long-term peace processes. We have seen that their share of international funding is nearly nonexistent (less than 1%), indicating the absence of structural support necessary for their empowerment.
3. In many conflict-affected societies, gender stereotypes still constitute a barrier to women's participation. A false belief persists that issues of security, war, and peace are "exclusive" to men, and that women lack the experience or toughness required to handle the complex task of peacebuilding. This narrow perspective diminishes women's possible contributions and discourages decision-makers (and even some women themselves) from demanding seats at the negotiation table for women.
4. Despite the issuance of a series of Security Council resolutions complementing Resolution 1325 — such as Resolution 1820 (2008) on sexual violence in conflict, Resolution 1889 (2009) on women's empowerment in post-conflict phases, Resolution 2122 (2013) to enhance participation, and Resolution 2242 (2015) to strengthen the Women, Peace, and Security agenda — follow-up and accountability mechanisms remain weak and practically non-binding. There are insufficient pressures or clear consequences for non-compliance, allowing concerned parties to default without embarrassment or penalty. Although periodic reports by the Secretary-General document progress and failures, they do not translate into strong corrective actions on the ground.

The Importance of Women's Participation

Studies and accumulated field experience confirm that involving women is not merely a matter of justice and equality, but rather a fundamental prerequisite for the success and sustainability of peace efforts. International research has found that peace agreements involving women are at least 35% more likely to be sustainable compared to those concluded without any role for women. For example, the likelihood of a peace agreement lasting 15 years increases by nearly one-third if women participate in its formulation. In other words, women's presence is not symbolic; it is a documented factor of stability, supported by data. In addition, the presence of women in humanitarian work and post-conflict relief and reconstruction efforts makes a tangible difference on the ground. Women are often the first responders to needs within their communities during crises and are able—thanks to local solidarity networks—to reach the most vulnerable groups that may remain inaccessible through traditional official channels. Moreover, due to their social roles, women often hold the keys to building trust

between divided communities; they are capable of bringing perspectives closer and opening channels of dialogue where others fail. Accordingly, excluding women deprives not only the women themselves of their rights and roles, but also the entire community of a constructive energy and a unique ability to weave reconciliation and build bridges of trust in fragile environments. In short, excluding women hinders the chances of achieving genuine, inclusive peace and renders agreements less likely to endure.

Recommendations for Change

To move beyond treating Resolution 1325 as merely a well-worded theoretical framework and to transform it into a genuine tool for change on the ground, bold steps shall be taken at the international level. The following are practical recommendations that have emerged from United Nations reports and from demands raised by women's organizations over the past years:

1. The United Nations and international mediators shall require a minimum inclusion of 30% women in any negotiating delegation or drafting committee involved in peace processes. While the quota itself is not the ultimate goal, it serves as a guaranteed mechanism to break the male monopoly over negotiations and to compel parties to include women. Experience has shown that exceeding this percentage and moving towards balanced participation leads to more inclusive and legitimate agreements.
2. International donors, including states and financial institutions, shall commit to significantly increasing the share of funding allocated to women's organizations within peace and relief budgets—well beyond the current meager share (less than 1%). Flexible funding mechanisms shall be established to channel resources directly to grassroots organizations without being hindered by layers of bureaucracy and intermediaries. Every dollar invested in building women's capacities on the ground constitutes an investment in sustainable peace and a more resilient society.
3. Initiatives to build regional and international networks among women leaders shall be supported in order to enable women to exchange expertise and coordinate their positions before and during formal negotiations. When women speak with greater unity and consensus on peace priorities—such as accountability for crimes, victims' rights, and gender-responsive reconstruction—it becomes more difficult to ignore or marginalize their demands in final agreements.
4. A gender perspective shall be integrated at the core of security and institutional decision-making processes, so that women's participation becomes an inherent part of governance and peacebuilding structures, rather than an exception dependent on shifting political will. This includes training security personnel to engage with women and value their expertise, appointing gender advisers in peace missions, and establishing performance indicators related to women's participation within the operational plans of both international and national institutions.
5. Finally, funding and advocacy shall not be considered sufficient unless they are accompanied by genuine political will from state leaders and international bodies. The United Nations Secretary-General and heads of member states shall actively push to ensure that women's voices are present wherever critical decisions are made—from Security Council sessions, to peace negotiation tables, to post-conflict constitution-drafting committees. This includes appointing more female UN special envoys to conflict zones and supporting women's access to leadership positions in peacekeeping missions and international mediation efforts.





**The UAE as a Model:
From Resolutions to
Achievements in Women’s
Empowerment and Peace.**

These five recommendations are not exhaustive of all that needs to be done, but they represent essential starting points to turn the “Women, Peace, and Security” slogan into an actual reality. The world is now facing a genuine test: either to move from the stage of vague commitments to the stage of implementation and accountability in relation to women’s participation, or to remain trapped in a vicious cycle of repetitive conferences and statements with little to no change on the ground.

The UAE as a Model Supporting Women’s Participation

A high-level international conference on Women, Peace, and Security was hosted by Abu Dhabi in September 2022, with the attendance of international leaders, at both the regional and national levels, the United Arab Emirates stands out as a leading model working to translate the commitments of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda into tangible achievements. The UAE has adopted a comprehensive approach to enhancing women’s participation in peace and security through several prominent initiatives and efforts, most notably:

- Launching the First National Action Plan in the Gulf Region to Implement Resolution 1325: The UAE was the first Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) country to launch a national program to support the Women, Peace, and Security agenda, reaffirming its commitment to increasing women’s participation in peace efforts both domestically and internationally.
- Hosting an International Conference on Women and Peace (Abu Dhabi 2022): In September 2022, the UAE organized the first high-level international conference on Women, Peace, and Security in the Middle East and North Africa, underscoring its regional leadership in advancing the implementation of Resolution 1325 and supporting the inclusion of women in decision-making.
- Training Women in Peacekeeping and Military Service: The UAE launched the Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak Women, Peace and Security Initiative in collaboration with UN Women. This is an international training program aimed at building the capacities of women in the military and peacekeeping sectors.

Through this initiative, nearly 500 women from various countries across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia have been trained to date, through specialized courses held at the Khawla bint Al Azwar Military School in Abu Dhabi. This diversity reflects the UAE’s belief in the importance of including women from different nations and communities in global peacekeeping.

- Advancing the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in International Forums: The UAE used its membership in the United Nations Security Council (2022–2023) to actively promote women’s empowerment. It called for increased funding and support for women-led peacebuilding organizations and advocated for the appointment of more women to leadership roles in conflict resolution, mediation, and UN peacekeeping operations. During its presidency of the Security Council in March 2022, the UAE held a ministerial-level meeting dedicated to strengthening partnerships for the Women, Peace, and Security agenda, affirming that women must be “in the driver’s seat” of peacebuilding and sustainability efforts.
- Empowering Women in Domestic Decision-Making: The UAE has adopted pioneering policies to promote gender balance in governance and institutions, resulting in unprecedented levels of women’s political participation both nationally and regionally. Women currently hold 50% of the seats in the Federal National Council (parliament) and approximately one-third of ministerial positions in the UAE government—among the highest rates in the region. These domestic achievements are coupled with the UAE’s high standing in international women and peace indexes. The UAE ranks first among Arab countries in the Women, Peace, and Security Index (2023/24), seventh globally and first in the Arab world in the 2024 Gender Inequality Index (GII), and has advanced further while maintaining its top Arab and regional ranking in the 2025 Global Gender Gap Report (WEF) issued by the World Economic Forum. Furthermore, the 2024 Women, Business and the Law report issued by the World Bank confirmed the UAE’s regional leadership as the highest-rated country in the region. Collectively, these results reflect the UAE leadership’s commitment to creating an environment that enables women to play their full role in building a safe and stable society.

In Conclusion

Twenty-five years after the adoption of Resolution 1325, the urgent question remains: Will women’s participation in peace and security processes continue to be a «resounding phrase» that decorates international documents and speeches, or will it become a standard practice that reflects the reality that women constitute half of society and hold an equal stake in both peace and war? The answer to this question shall no longer be delayed. A world burdened by wars and humanitarian crises requires the mobilization of all capable forces for peacebuilding. Women have repeatedly proven to be among the most capable actors in defusing conflicts and weaving the threads of reconciliation and justice within their communities. The continued marginalization of women does not merely represent an injustice and exclusion against them; it also undermines the prospects of sustainable peace and strips Resolution 1325 of its core value, reducing it to a mere symbolic anniversary. It is time to move from words to action, and to ensure that women’s participation in peacebuilding becomes a reality on the ground—both as a tribute to a quarter-century of promises and as a necessary step to recover the opportunities lost over those years. A comprehensive peace shall not be possible without women.



More than 50 official events and activities within three months UAE Peace Diplomacy: A Humanitarian Vision and a Sustainable Stability Approach

The UAE is a global model that makes peace a pillar of stability and development.

The UAE embodies its vision of a peaceful world through diplomatic efforts and effective partnerships that reflect its unwavering commitment to supporting development and international stability. The country has translated this vision by launching large-scale development and humanitarian initiatives that promote the prosperity and progress of peoples, earning it an advanced position in various international indicators. According to the 2025 Global Soft Power Index, the UAE ranked fourth globally in generosity and giving, eighth in international influence, ninth in international relations and diplomacy, and tenth in global public engagement with its affairs and achievements.

The country also achieved the largest global advance on the 2024 Global Peace Index issued by the Sydney-based Institute for Economics and Peace, climbing 31 places to top the regional ranking, reflecting a significant improvement in the level of peace and stability. In terms of human rights, the UAE ranked 24th globally and first regionally in the 2023 Women, Peace and Security Index issued by Georgetown University, affirming its position as

a country that supports coexistence and stability and champions women's rights in peace and development processes.

Peace diplomacy and a sustainable stability approach

Since its founding in 1971, the UAE has adopted a diplomatic approach based on promoting global peace and bringing viewpoints closer, coupled with extending a helping hand to victims of humanitarian crises around the world. The call for dialogue to resolve disputes is a cornerstone of its foreign policy, as affirmed by the Fifty Principles announced in 2021, which serve as a strategic framework for the country's journey toward building a sustainable economy and a prosperous society based on the values of tolerance, coexistence, and respect for human rights.

Initiatives and projects to promote a culture of peace

The UAE has placed special importance on promoting the principles of peace through mediation initiatives, resolving disputes, and encouraging diplomatic dialogue. The issuance of the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together on February 4, 2019, was the culmination of these efforts, becoming a global reference for consolidating the values of tolerance and coexistence.

The state has also launched several international awards to promote a culture of peace, most notably:

- UAE International Award for Poets of Peace
- The \$1.5 million Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for World Peace is the most valuable of its kind in the world, reflecting the leadership's vision and firm belief that peace is the most precious of human values.

**The Human Fraternity
Document and the Peace
Awards: An Emirati Legacy
That Inspires the World**



\$50 billion in humanitarian investments confirm the UAE’s leadership in global relief efforts.

Humanitarian investments to support global stability

The UAE has invested nearly \$50 billion to support countries suffering from economic crises resulting from conflicts, enhancing stability and supporting the economies of affected populations. This support was widely praised by the International Monetary Fund during the World Government Summit 2025, where its Director-General affirmed that the UAE is an effective partner in mitigating the effects of crises and accelerating global recovery, reflecting its pioneering position in humanitarian and development work.

55 activities to promote world peace

Between June and August 2025, the UAE strengthened its international presence by organizing and participating in 55 official events and activities, distributed as follows:

- 13 international meetings and forums to deepen dialogue and resolve conflicts peacefully.
- 13 welcoming statements in support of peace processes.
- 18 statements condemning practices that threaten the stability of peoples.
- 7 humanitarian and security initiatives that enhanced the protection of lives and social stability.

This tally was documented by data from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and official coverage by the Emirates News Agency, providing a comprehensive picture of the country’s contribution to supporting peace and consolidating international stability.

First: Participation in international meetings and forums

The UAE’s active participation in 13 international meetings and forums reflects the country’s unwavering commitment to supporting global peace and security efforts. These included high-level political meetings, parliamentary



and intellectual conferences, and humanitarian and development initiatives, all of which embodied the UAE’s commitment to promoting dialogue, resolving conflicts, and consolidating the values of tolerance, coexistence, and human rights. Prominent among these participations were:

- **June 5 – Abu Dhabi:** The sixth round of UAE-Swiss consultations emphasized strengthening cooperation and supporting mediation and peacekeeping, while emphasizing respect for international humanitarian law and diplomatic solutions.
- **June 5 – Abu Dhabi:** The COSPAS-SARSAT Organization Search and Rescue meeting concluded, with discussions focusing on developing international cooperation in disaster response, reaffirming the UAE’s commitment to humanitarian efforts and saving lives.
- **June 20 – Rome:** Participation in the Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, promoting understanding, peaceful coexistence, and countering extremism.
- **June 20 – Rome:** The Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace delivered a speech at the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference, emphasizing the importance of protecting the rights of religious minorities and promoting the values of religious freedom and coexistence.
- **July 14 – Rome:** Support for Ukraine’s reconstruction through the announcement of humanitarian aid, social, and educational projects, with a call for enhanced international cooperation for stability and development.
- **July 24 – New York (Security Council):** The UAE affirms the priority of conflict prevention through early warning, the involvement of women and youth, support for mediation, and the protection of international humanitarian law.
- **July 30 – Jakarta:** The International Conference on Human Fraternity, organized by the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity, witnessed a global commitment to promote the values of dignity, compassion, and coexistence, and to make human fraternity a framework for international partnerships.
- **July 30 – Jakarta:** The Abu Dhabi Peace Forum participated in the Religions for Peace meeting, where it emphasized the ethical and religious dimensions of addressing global challenges and instilling the values of tolerance and peace.

Second: Condemning statements for disturbing the peace

The same period witnessed intense diplomatic activity, reflected in 18 official statements, all of which affirmed the UAE’s commitment to peaceful resolutions to conflicts, the protection of civilians, and support for international cooperation. These statements were divided into three main axes:

1. Regional crises and internal conflicts

- **June 4:** The UAE condemned the attack on a relief convoy in North Darfur, affirming its commitment to protecting civilians, supporting a peaceful resolution to the Sudanese crisis, and promoting stability.
- **July 17:** The UAE, along with 10 Arab countries, affirmed its support for Syria’s unity and rejection of interventions, and welcomed the end of the Sweida crisis to enhance stability.
- **August 5:** The UAE rejected the Port Sudan Authority’s false allegations, considering them a maneuver to obstruct the peace process and evade efforts to end the conflict in Sudan. The UAE reiterated its commitment to supporting international and regional efforts to achieve an immediate ceasefire, protect civilians, and promote a comprehensive and sustainable



From Darfur to Ukraine: Emirati diplomacy protects civilians and supports people.



peace process.

2. Combating terrorism and extremism

- **June 11:** The UAE condemned the terrorist attack on a military site in Chad, affirming its support for regional security and stability.
- **June 17:** Condemned the terrorist attack in Nigeria that resulted in a large number of civilian casualties, affirming support for international peace and security efforts.
- **June 22:** Condemned the bombing of a church near Damascus, affirming its commitment to confronting extremism and supporting regional stability.
- **June 27:** Condemned the attack on the UN mission in the Central African Republic, affirming support for UN peacekeeping efforts.
- **June 30:** Condemned the terrorist attack on a military convoy in Pakistan, calling for combating extremism and strengthening international cooperation for peace.
- **July 29:** Condemned the terrorist attack on a church in eastern Congo, calling for combating terrorism and promoting the values of tolerance and peace.
- **July 30:** Condemned the terrorist attack in Plateau State, Nigeria, stressing the need to strengthen international efforts to protect civilians and consolidate coexistence and peace.

3. Israeli escalation and the Palestinian issue

- **June 13:** The UAE condemned the Israeli military targeting of Iran, calling for restraint, dialogue, and de-escalation to preserve security and peace. It also called on the Security Council to take the necessary measures to achieve a ceasefire and protect international peace and security.
- **June 17:** In a joint statement with 19 Arab and Islamic countries, the UAE condemned the Israeli attacks on Iran and called for a region free of weapons of mass destruction, the protection of freedom of navigation, and the promotion of peace.
- **June 23:** The UAE condemned the targeting of Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, in the context of the mutual escalation between Iran and Israel, affirming its rejection of hostile acts and calling for calm and the adoption of diplomatic solutions to preserve regional stability and international security.

- **July 4:** The UAE rejected Israel's statements regarding the annexation of the West Bank, affirming its rejection of any change to the legal status of the occupied Palestinian territories and its support for peace efforts.
- **July 18:** Condemned the targeting of the Holy Family Church in the Gaza Strip, and called for the protection of holy sites and the achievement of a comprehensive peace based on a two-state solution.
- **July 18:** Condemned the Israeli plan to change the management of the Ibrahimi Mosque, calling for respect for the status quo and support for peace efforts.
- **July 24:** The UAE, along with other Arab and Islamic countries, in coordination with the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, condemned the Israeli Knesset's approval of the annexation of the West Bank, affirming its commitment to the two-state solution and support for a just peace.

4. Other international events

- **June 10:** The UAE condemned the school shooting in Austria, affirming its rejection of violence and support for international efforts to consolidate peace.

Third: International data supporting peace

During the same period, the UAE issued 13 international statements, affirming its unwavering commitment to peaceful resolutions of conflicts, supporting the rule of law, and promoting dialogue between conflicting parties, while also combating hate speech and adhering to the two-state solution as a just and lasting option. These statements covered several topics, most notably:

1. Regional de-escalation (Iran - Israel - Qatar)

- **June 24:** The UAE welcomed the ceasefire between Iran and Israel, considering it an important step toward de-escalation and enhancing regional stability.
- **June 24:** A phone call between the UAE President and the Iranian President





affirmed the UAE's support for the ceasefire agreement as a step towards promoting peace and security in the Middle East.

- **June 25:** In a phone call with the Emir of Qatar, the UAE President affirmed his full support for Qatar following the Iranian attack on Al Udeid Air Base. Both sides agreed that the ceasefire agreement between Iran and Israel is an important step towards promoting peace and stability in the region.

2. Enhancing security in Africa

- **June 28:** The UAE welcomed the signing of the peace agreement between Congo and Rwanda in Washington, praising international mediation efforts and affirming its support for enhancing security and stability in Africa.
- **June 29:** The UAE stressed to the UN Security Council the importance of establishing a civilian government in Sudan, urging a ceasefire and the opening of humanitarian corridors to ensure peace and stability.

3. Supporting dialogue and cooperation in the Caucasus

- **July 11:** The UAE hosted a meeting between Azerbaijan and Armenia, aimed at enhancing dialogue and cooperation and supporting peace in the South Caucasus.

4. Establishing a culture of peace globally

- **June 4:** The UAE and Ireland issued a joint statement affirming their cooperation in combating organized crime and promoting the rule of law to achieve security and peace.
- **July 13:** The UAE participated in commemorating the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, stressing the importance of confronting hate speech and instilling values of tolerance to promote global peace.
- **July 18:** The Albanian Prime Minister praised the UAE President's role in supporting peace and development after the earthquake, considering his efforts a model of wisdom and international cooperation.

These statements reflect the state's commitment to protecting civilians and preserving their dignity in accordance with international humanitarian law.



Fourth: Qualitative humanitarian and security initiatives

The UAE reflects its unwavering commitment to promoting global peace through seven unique humanitarian and security initiatives that have contributed to supporting social stability and protecting lives. These initiatives range from providing humanitarian assistance to residents, to rescuing people in maritime corridors, to combating organized and environmental crime. Prominent among these initiatives are:

- **June 17:** Conflict-affected Sudanese are allowed to renew their residency permits and issue visas and identity cards with limited-validity passports, with fines waived until the end of 2025.
- **June 17:** Iranians affected by exceptional circumstances shall be exempted from late fees resulting from their failure to leave the country.
- **July 7:** The crew of a commercial ship (22 people) was rescued after it was targeted in the Red Sea, confirming the UAE's commitment to international maritime security.
- **July 8:** Leading the international «Green Shield» operation to dismantle criminal networks in the Amazon, seizing assets valued at \$64 million and rescuing thousands of animals, to protect the environment and preserve natural resources.

Strategic dimension and human rights

These efforts fall within the context of the UAE's strategic vision, «UAE Vision 2071,» which emphasizes building a prosperous society based on peace and sustainable development. They also intersect with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions.

While placing human rights at the core of its policy, the State affirms that protecting civilians, supporting refugees, engaging women and youth in peacebuilding, and combating terrorism are essential pillars for building a safer and more just world.

In Conclusion...

The UAE's achievements in promoting the right to peace confirm that the pursuit of peace and stability is at the core of its political and development journey, stemming from its genuine commitment to human rights, foremost among them the right to life. For there can be no peace without stability, and no peace without development and international solidarity that uplifts all of humanity.

With every initiative, every statement, and every diplomatic or humanitarian move, the UAE, under its wise leadership, renews its message that peace is not a luxury, but rather the will and approach of a state that is making every effort to consolidate the values of human solidarity and enhance opportunities for sustainable development, so that the right to peace remains a fundamental pillar of a more secure and prosperous future for the entire world.

Afghanistan between human rights and humanitarian challenges: A vision of the UN Special Rapporteur



In light of the challenges facing Afghanistan since 2021, the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Afghanistan has become more important than ever. To highlight these issues, the Emirates Human Rights Magazine sought to meet with His Excellency the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Afghanistan, Mr. Richard Bennett, in light of his participation in the sixtieth session of the UN Human Rights Council meetings, to learn about his vision regarding the human rights situation, current challenges, and future aspirations related to his UN tasks.

This dialogue highlights the scale of human rights challenges in Afghanistan and the efforts of the United Nations to address them, as well as showcasing the leading humanitarian role played by the United Arab Emirates in supporting refugees, reflecting a message of global solidarity in the face of rising challenges.

United Nations mandate to monitor human rights in Afghanistan: Duties and responsibilities of the special rapporteur.

• Dear Special Rapporteur, first of all, how do you assess the mandate established by the Human Rights Council in 2021? And what are the key responsibilities assigned to you?

• The Human Rights Council established a new mandate for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan in October 2021, with the aim of ensuring that the human rights situation in Afghanistan remains a priority for the international community. In April 2022, I was appointed to this position and officially took on my duties on May 1 of the same year.

My mandate includes a wide range of responsibilities, including the continuous

monitoring and assessment of the human rights situation, providing periodic reports that include actionable recommendations, following up on Afghanistan's commitment to the international agreements it has joined, and documenting and preserving any evidence of violations to support future accountability efforts. Finally, cooperating with civil society, adopting an approach centered around the presence of any victims, considering gender issues, and paying particular attention to children's rights.

Challenges of accessing Afghanistan and their impact on information gathering

• In the past few months, have you faced challenges in performing your tasks? How has that affected your ability to gather information?

• The special procedures of the Human Rights Council represent an important tool in the UN system; they are independent mechanisms whose holders enjoy full independence from governments and the secretariat. This independence grants the ability to speak the truth without flattery, while at the same time allows for building bridges for cooperation. Since the beginning of my professional career in 1987, I have held many positions with the United Nations in countries such as Sierra Leone, Nepal, East Timor, and South Sudan. I also worked in Afghanistan twice: (from 2003 to 2007) and (in 2018 and 2019). These experiences reinforced my conviction that civil society, particularly women's organizations, is a cornerstone of any genuine rights reform.

International Accountability Mechanisms: Strengthening Justice Against Perpetrators of Violations

• You have repeatedly called for the establishment of an international accountability mechanism to ensure that perpetrators of violations are not granted impunity. How do you envision the features of this mechanism?

• Despite the challenges, I continued to perform my mission through extensive partnerships with Afghan civil society organizations, and by leveraging modern technology to collect and analyze information. These tools contribute to enhancing the work of international bodies even in the absence of direct field visits.

As for accountability, there have been strong calls to establish an independent international criminal mechanism to complement my mandate. The most suitable model is the independent mechanism for investigating Myanmar established by the Council in 2018, where violations are documented according to strict criminal standards and files are prepared for submission to courts. Such a mechanism would contribute to ending the policy of impunity and represents a practical step towards peace based on justice.



International Accountability: The Path to Justice and Ending Impunity.



United Nations Photo

Afghan refugees: 2.4 million forced repatriations in one year.

The Humanitarian City in Abu Dhabi: An Emirati Model for Protecting Refugees.

**Humanitarian crises and Afghan refugees:
The responsibility of the international community
and the regional role.**

- With millions of Afghan refugees abroad, how do you assess the international community's response to their suffering?
 - Estimates indicate that there are eight million Afghans in neighboring countries, and in the last year alone, nearly 2.4 million people were forcibly returned, including severely vulnerable groups such as judges, lawyers, journalists, human rights activists, and former security personnel. These forced returns represent a clear violation of international law.
- Despite the fact that neighboring countries have borne a significant burden for decades, the wealthy countries that have been politically and militarily involved in Afghanistan are now required to take on their responsibilities by providing greater financial and political support, and opening safe channels for the resettlement of the most vulnerable groups.

**The Emirati model in protecting refugees:
The experience of the 'Humanitarian City' in Abu Dhabi.**

- How do you view the role of the United Arab Emirates and its experience in hosting Afghan refugees?
 - The UAE played an important role when it hosted thousands of Afghans in the 'Humanitarian City' in Abu Dhabi as a temporary solution until they can be resettled in other countries. This experience reflected a clear humanitarian commitment and reinforced the UAE's position as a leading model in protecting refugees and supporting their issues globally.



United Nations Photo



United Nations Photo

**Enhancing international cooperation:
the rapporteurs and supporting countries**

- In your opinion, how can cooperation be enhanced between special rapporteurs and supporting countries like the UAE?
 - I see that the Gulf countries, especially the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, have a central role in supporting humanitarian and rights efforts by providing successful models in education, health, and women's empowerment, and by cooperating with United Nations mechanisms. These models present an alternative and bright picture that can be compared to the situation in Afghanistan, and affirm that Islamic values are consistent with the promotion of human rights.

**Global solidarity with Afghanistan:
A call for the international community to continue support**

What is your message to the international community, civil society organizations, and the media?

What Afghanistan is facing today is a complex crisis: a rights crisis, a political crisis resulting from the lack of inclusivity and pluralism, and a worsening humanitarian crisis. What is required is the continuation of international engagement, ensuring accountability, and providing support to the civil society that still resists. Global solidarity is not just an option, but a moral and legal duty towards a people striving for freedom and dignity despite all challenges.

In Conclusion...

Afghanistan today remains a true test of the international community's ability to adhere to human rights principles amidst overlapping crises, ranging from severe violations and the absence of political inclusivity to the worsening humanitarian disaster. However, this reality does not negate hope; rather, it highlights the importance of continuous UN efforts and the crucial role of international partners, including the United Arab Emirates, which has provided an advanced humanitarian model in protecting refugees and supporting UN efforts.

The message of the special rapporteur is clear: accountability, support for civil society, and global solidarity are not just slogans, but practical commitments that must be transformed into tangible reality. Legal protection, ensuring justice, and opening doors of hope for millions of Afghans is a shared responsibility that transcends borders and politics. Ultimately, investing in human dignity is the truest investment in a just and sustainable peace, which forms the foundation for stability in the region and the world.

The Afghan civil society. a resilient voice despite the challenges.



(United Nations Photo)

An international campaign to demand their right to peace, and a large art exhibition in 2026.

The grave violations against children in armed conflicts have become «bleak»!

The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recommended in his mid-2024 report on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts that countries and parties to the conflict intensify their efforts to enhance compliance with international humanitarian law and ensure accountability for violations. He also called on UN actors, international organizations, and civil society organizations to strengthen and support the implementation of international human rights law in situations of armed conflict. The report revealed a dangerous increase in the number of civilian casualties during 2023, with the United Nations recording at least 33,443 deaths, a 72% increase compared to 2022, while the proportion of women among the victims doubled, and the percentage of children tripled.

The report indicated that the armed conflicts that erupted in populated areas during 2023 alone resulted in the killing and wounding of about 30,000 civilians due to the use of explosive weapons in six major conflicts: Gaza, Myanmar, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen, with civilians accounting for 90% of the total victims of those weapons.

The rise of violence against children in armed conflicts by 25% during the year 2024.

Despite the recommendations included in the UN Secretary-General's report to world countries aimed at reducing armed conflicts and protecting civilians,

these recommendations have not received the necessary response. The Secretary-General's report on «Children and Armed Conflict,» published in June 2025 and focusing on violations in 2024, revealed an unprecedented increase in serious violations committed against children by 25% compared to 2023, with the UN verifying 41,370 serious violations, affecting 22,495 children.

The six grave violations (according to the monitoring and reporting mechanism - Security Council Resolution 1612):

- 1. Killing and mutilation:** targeting children or injuring them, including due to the use of explosive weapons.
- 2. Recruitment and use:** Involvement of those under 18 years old in armed forces or groups in any way.
- 3. Rape and sexual violence:** all forms of sexual violence committed against children.
- 4. Kidnapping:** The forced separation of children from their parents or their detention.
- 5. Attacks on schools or hospitals:** including their use for military purposes.
- 6. Depriving children of humanitarian aid:** by preventing or obstructing access to aid or targeting humanitarian workers.

The report attributed the high number of child victims of armed conflict to the prevalence of abduction, recruitment and sexual violence at brutal levels, as well as the killing and maiming that often causes permanent disabilities to children due to the use of explosive ordnance, such as landmines and explosive remnants of war, as well as as incidents of exchange of fire between parties to the conflict. The report also noted that attacks on schools and hospitals continued, which compounded the suffering of children and the number of their victims.

A dangerous increase in violence against children in conflict areas by 25% during the year 2024.

The UN Secretary-General warns: Serious violations against children have reached 'brutal' levels.



(United Nations Photo)

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Denying children humanitarian aid is escalating globally during 2024.

A darker year for children's rights in armed conflicts

In this context, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba, stated in a report released in early 2025 and reviewed during the 58th session of the Human Rights Council, that the year 2024 will remain one of the darkest years for children living amidst armed conflicts around the world, as the first half of the year witnessed unprecedented numbers of children killed and maimed. According to the report, the year 2024 saw a 35% increase in cases of sexual violence compared to 2023, with a significant rise in cases of gang rape being one of its most prominent manifestations, reflecting the systematic use of sexual violence as a deliberate method of war, along with the continued abduction of girls for the purpose of recruitment and sexual exploitation. It was pointed out that large-scale military operations using explosive weapons in densely populated areas, along with the presence of unexploded ordnance from war, have made children more vulnerable to grave violations, causing widespread suffering among children around the world from horrific violations of their basic rights, such as the right to life, education, and health, which represents a shame that calls for immediate and decisive international action.

Deprivation of humanitarian aid

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict called in her report on all parties to fulfill their obligations under international law and to take all necessary measures to protect children during military operations, and to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches them without obstacles. She noted a significant worsening of the



(United Nations Photo)

phenomenon of depriving children of humanitarian aid in recent times, in addition to the continued attacks on schools and hospitals at high and alarming rates, which has severely hindered children's access to education, particularly for girls' education, which remains repeatedly targeted. The Special Representative also affirmed that the ongoing barriers to registering children at birth pose a significant challenge to protecting the fundamental rights of children affected by armed conflicts, as unregistered children are more vulnerable to serious violations such as recruitment and sexual exploitation, due to their inability to prove they are under the age of eighteen, and thus worthy of special protection. They are also more likely to be excluded from essential services such as education and healthcare.

A new international campaign to protect children in armed conflicts: a massive artwork in 2026

Coinciding with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC), which prohibits the recruitment and use of all children under the age of eighteen as soldiers, and the twentieth anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1612 of 2005 which established the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba, launched an international campaign under the slogan „Children Have Rights, Children Want Peace. It's Time To 'Prove It Matters'“ in March 2025.

The campaign urges member states to publicly reaffirm their commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to take immediate steps to protect children's fundamental rights to life, health, education, and safety. The campaign also calls on children around the world, especially those affected by conflicts, to participate in a symbolic initiative and create a shape of a peace dove to convey their messages to the world. These doves will be collected throughout the year to form a massive collective artwork to be displayed at the United Nations in New York in 2026.

In Conclusion...

Statistics and reports issued by the United Nations regarding children victims of armed conflicts confirm that existing international treaties and agreements urgently need to shift from a theoretical framework to effective implementation mechanisms that make a tangible difference on the ground. In light of the multitude of these violations, the issue of protecting children in armed conflicts has become in urgent need of international support and cooperation; it is indeed a humanitarian and ethical duty that the international community must commit to. This is particularly true given the increase in violations and their spread to the extent that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict described 2024 as the darkest year, confirming that global solidarity to end the suffering of children and ensure their right to life leaves no room for retreat. This must be achieved through coordination and actual commitment among all to reshape a new future for children suffering from the horrors of war and its devastating effects.

«Doves of Peace»..
Thousands of messages from children in armed conflicts to the world at a grand international exhibition in 2026.



(United Nations Photo)



From Wadeema to the Best Interests of the Child: An Analytical Reading of the Evolution of Legislative Protection for Children in the UAE in Light of Its International Commitments

From Wadeema's Tragedy to Pioneering Legislation: How Has the UAE Changed the Course of Child Protection?

Over the past decade, the UAE has witnessed radical transformations in the field of child rights protection. The most significant turning point was the 2012 incident of the eight-year-old girl, Wadeema, who was tortured by her father and his partner, leading to her death in a tragic incident that shook the community's conscience and revealed clear gaps in the protection system at the time. The crime sparked widespread public outrage and urgent legal and legislative calls to fill the legal vacuum and strengthen tools for monitoring child abuse and intervening to protect children. The UAE leadership responded to this demand by launching legal workshops that culminated in the issuance of Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 regarding the rights of the child (Wadeema Law), in commemoration of the victim and to constitute a landmark shift in national legislation, based on the principle of the best interests of the child in line with the principles of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The fundamental rights established by the «Wadeema» Law

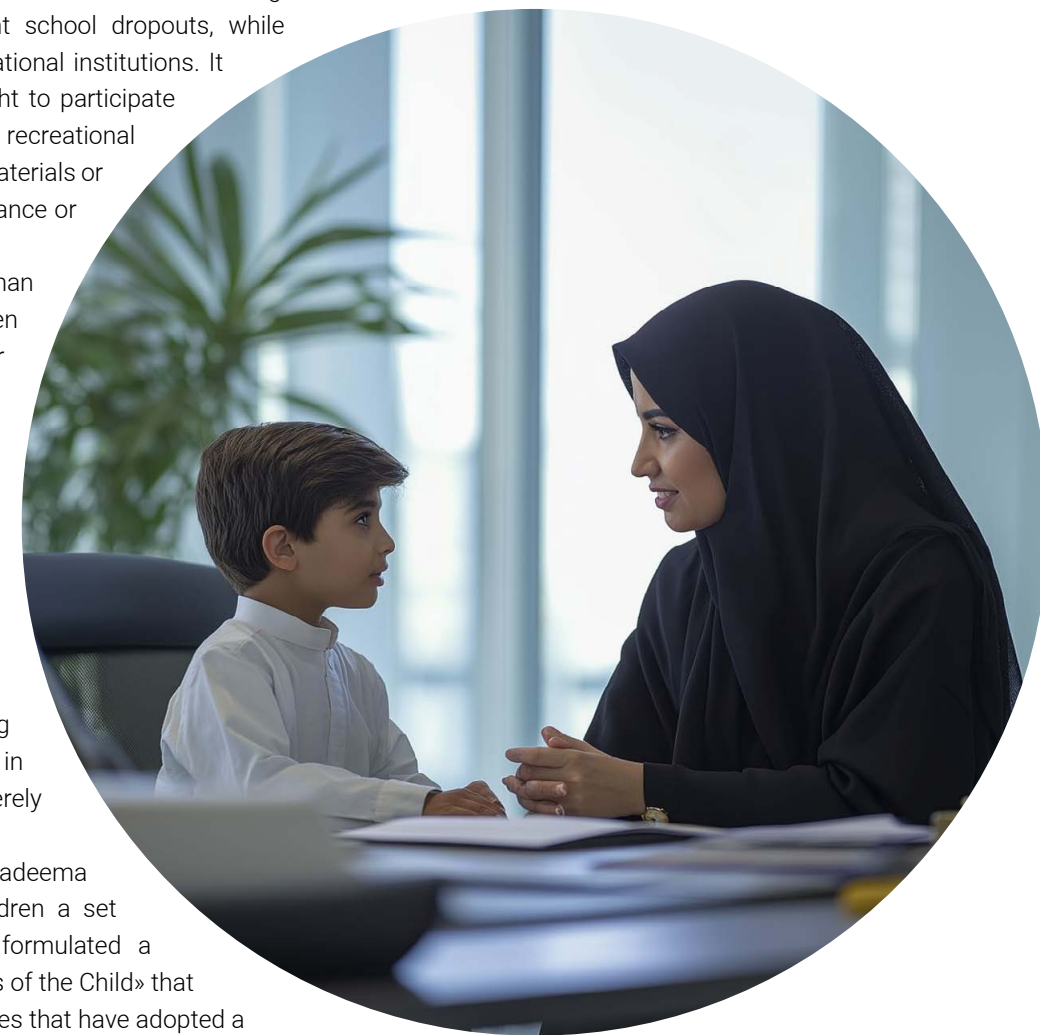
Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 did not limit itself to addressing legislative gaps that emerged in the wake of the tragedy of the little girl, Wadeema. Rather, it established a comprehensive rights system that places children at the center of protection, care, and development. It can be said that the law combines four fundamental pillars of children's rights: survival and development, protection,

participation, and identity. These pillars are consistent with the provisions of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- At the level of identity and legal existence, the law guarantees every child the right to a name from the moment of birth, immediate registration in the birth registry, national citizenship, and lineage to their legal parents. These guarantees put an end to any legal or social marginalization that the child may face, and grant him a full legal identity that protects his dignity.
- In terms of protection from harm and exploitation, the law includes a wide range of guarantees, ranging from protection from physical, psychological, and sexual violence, to prohibiting economic exploitation and the employment of children in hazardous work, and criminalizing the exploitation of children in begging, pornography, or human trafficking crimes. The 2018 Executive Regulations emphasized this protection by establishing precise controls for the employment of minors and identifying areas where children are prohibited from entering, reflecting a comprehensive vision for their protection in both the physical and digital spheres.
- In the health and social sphere, the law stipulates the provision of preventive, therapeutic, and psychological healthcare services, basic immunizations, and a ban on the sale of tobacco and alcohol to children or smoking in their presence. It also guarantees every child a decent standard of living and alternative care in the event of the loss of their natural family, whether through a foster family or through public and private care institutions.
- Regarding education and culture, the law affirmed that education is a fundamental right for every child, and that the state must guarantee equal opportunities and prevent school dropouts, while prohibiting violence within educational institutions. It also guarantees children the right to participate in cultural, scientific, artistic, and recreational activities, while prohibiting any materials or games that may encourage deviance or conflict with public morals.
- In terms of participation and human dignity, the law grants children the right to freely express their opinions, in accordance with their age and maturity, and to participate in decisions affecting them. He also stressed the importance of protecting children from any arbitrary interference in their lives or any infringement on their dignity and reputation, which reflects the state's commitment to making children active participants in their social environment, not merely recipients of protection.

Thus, it can be said that the Wadeema Law did not come to grant children a set of scattered rights, but rather formulated a «National Declaration of the Rights of the Child» that places the UAE among the countries that have adopted a

Children's rights between survival, development and identity: What did the Wadeema Law establish?



Protection Mechanisms: Specialized Units and Broad Law Enforcement Powers

comprehensive and integrated approach to child protection, in accordance with the highest international standards.

Institutional Mechanisms for Enforcement

The UAE legislator has realized that laws alone are insufficient to protect children unless they are supported by practical mechanisms to ensure their implementation on the ground. Therefore, the Wadeema Law (2016) devoted entire chapters to establishing an integrated institutional protection system, supported by precise details in the Executive Regulations (2018).

1. The law stipulated the establishment of specialized child protection units within the relevant authorities, staffed by qualified personnel with judicial police status. Child protection specialists are responsible for providing preventive and therapeutic interventions in cases where a child is likely to be at risk, with broad powers including access to child locations, gathering evidence, and coordinating with judicial authorities. The executive regulations set precise conditions for selecting these specialists, such as requiring them to be UAE citizens, hold a university degree in social, psychological, or family sciences, and complete specialized training programs.
2. The law makes reporting cases of abuse or danger a duty for everyone, not just a voluntary option. It requires educators, doctors, and social workers to report any threat to a child's safety. It also prohibited revealing the identity of the informant or victim, and required the protection of witnesses in child abuse cases. The executive regulations support this commitment by establishing approved reporting forms within educational institutions and defining the responsibilities of school staff in monitoring violations and reporting them to the relevant protection units.
3. The law grants the child protection specialist the authority to take immediate



measures in coordination with the caregiver, such as keeping the child within his family with periodic supervision, or temporarily transferring him to an alternative family or appropriate social or health institution. In cases of extreme or imminent danger, the law allows the immediate removal of a child from a dangerous environment without prior judicial authorization, with the specialist being required to issue a judicial order within 24 hours. These powers reflect a trend towards rapid intervention to protect children, while ensuring judicial oversight.

4. The law established a strict punitive system to protect children, ranging from fines to imprisonment and even long prison terms. For example, anyone who exploits a child in pornographic material is punishable by imprisonment for a period of not less than ten years, and penalties are increased for sexual and physical assaults, and for employing children in hazardous work. It also allows courts to suspend guardianship of the child or require perpetrators of violations to undergo treatment and rehabilitation programs. The executive regulations support these penalties with preventative measures, such as requiring those convicted of sexual assault crimes to undergo psychological examinations before their release, or to place them in a treatment facility when necessary.
5. In addition to individual penalties, the law requires the state to establish safety standards for public and recreational places and means of transportation, and to specify controls for marketing advertisements directed at children, to ensure a safe and hazard-free environment. The executive regulations also specify places children are prohibited from entering, such as nightclubs, hazardous factories, and war and disaster sites, with limited exceptions for organized school visits.

This system demonstrates that the Wadeema Law did more than simply declare rights, but rather formulated a comprehensive institutional and legal protection network whose responsibilities are distributed among the state, society, and family. The law thus ensures that the child's best interests remain a practical reference that is reflected in every procedure, from the moment a risk is identified until the stage of accountability and treatment.

Legislative Amendments of 2024 – Enhancing Protection and Closing Gaps

Eight years after the issuance of the Wadeema Law, the need to update it has emerged to keep pace with practical and societal developments, particularly the challenges associated with the digital space, child safety in public places, and protecting them from forms of incitement or exploitation that affect their physical or psychological well-being. Based on this, Federal Decree-Law No. (33) of 2024 was issued to amend some provisions of Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 regarding children's rights, in response to the growth of electronic threats, the requirements of broader protection, the tightening of penalties, and the introduction of rehabilitation and guidance programs, ensuring that national legislation is consistent with international obligations and international standards.

The 2024 amendments focused on four main axes.

- First, updating Article (2) by expanding the role of the competent authorities and concerned parties in developing more comprehensive policies and programmes to protect children, with an explicit provision for raising awareness of the dangers of crimes, especially cybercrimes.



2024 Amendments: Responding to Digital Challenges and Tightening Penalties



- Second, amending Article (27), which tightened controls related to places where children are prohibited from entering, to prevent them from being exposed to environments that threaten their physical or moral health.
- Third, amending Article (36), which confirms the prohibition of inciting or exploiting a child to assault his physical safety or involve him in any act that may affect his psychological, emotional, or moral security.
- fourth is represented by adding Article (50 bis) and increasing the penalties in Articles (69) and (69 bis), which allows the judiciary to oblige the child or his guardian to undergo rehabilitation and guidance programs, in addition to increasing the penalties for crimes targeting children, especially those related to exploitation or electronic crimes.

The amendments reaffirmed that the best interests of the child remain the governing standard for any legislative intervention. The updated articles strengthen the authorities' ability to protect children from emerging threats, whether online, in public and entertainment venues, or by preventing any incitement or exploitation that would harm their physical or psychological well-being. The amendments also added new tools, such as rehabilitation and guidance programs, alongside traditional penalties. This makes the 2024 amendments a qualitative leap in making the Wadeema Law more integrated with the complementary legislation issued in 2021 and 2023 to combat cybercrime and human trafficking, and more appropriate to the needs of contemporary reality.

Aligning the Wadeema Law with the UAE's International Obligations

The Wadeema Law on Children's Rights (2016) was not issued in isolation from the international context. Rather, it constituted a legislative step aimed

at aligning national legislation with the UAE's international obligations in the field of children's rights. This is clearly demonstrated by the law's connection to the principles of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and related international protocols and agreements, reflecting the state's drive toward effective engagement in the UN system for child protection.

1. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1989: The UAE joined the Convention in 1997, which required it to align its legislation with its basic principles: the right to survival and development, protection, non-discrimination, and participation. The Wadeema Law reflected these principles in its substantive provisions, guaranteeing the right to life, identity, education, health, and protection from violence, neglect, and exploitation. It also explicitly adopted the principle of the best interests of the child as the governing criterion for all decisions relating to him.

2. Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child:

- Protocol on the Sale, Sexual Exploitation and Use of Children (2000): The UAE joined in 2016. This was reflected internally through provisions of the Wadeema Law, which criminalized the exploitation of children in prostitution or pornography, and required telecommunications companies to report any child pornographic content.
- Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (2000): The UAE has not yet joined the Protocol, but during its 2023 Universal Periodic Review, it announced its intention to join soon, and affirmed the prohibition on recruiting those under 18 into the armed forces. This highlights the consistency of national practice with international standards.

3. International Labor Organization (ILO) Conventions: The UAE supported the international framework for combating child labor by acceding to the Minimum Age Convention (No. (138) of 1973 (1998), which set 15 years as the minimum age for employment, with strict requirements for those between 15 and 18 years old, and prohibited their employment at night or in hazardous work. In 2001, the UAE also acceded to Convention No. (182) concerning the worst forms of

The UAE and International Conventions: Global Commitments Translated into National Legislation



child labor, which prohibited slavery, sexual exploitation, and hazardous labor. These conventions were directly reflected in the Wadeema Law by prohibiting the employment of children under 15 years of age and criminalizing economic exploitation.

4. Other United Nations Conventions: The UAE is a party to the Palermo Protocol (2000) supplementary to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which deals with trafficking in persons, especially women and children (accessed in 2009). The Wadeema Law is consistent with this protocol by criminalizing the sale and trafficking of children for any purpose, and providing legal and institutional protection for victims.

5. International partnerships and emerging commitments: The UAE has collaborated with UNICEF and the United Nations Center for Research (UNICRI) on programs aimed at protecting children from exploitation in the digital space, including tracking online child sexual exploitation crimes. The National Strategy for Motherhood and Childhood (2017–2021) also adopted an approach that complements these commitments, ensuring that laws are aligned with international standards and the state's obligations before the Human Rights Council.

The Complementary National and International Framework for Child Protection in the UAE

The UAE's commitment to child protection is not limited to the enactment of the «Wadeema» Law (2016) and its subsequent amendments. Rather, this law is part of a broader context of national legislation, policies, and international initiatives aimed at building an integrated system for child care and ensuring their well-being.

1. National legislation and policies: The UAE has established a package of laws and policies that enhance the legal and social protection of children, including: Federal Law No. (13) of 2024 regarding protection from domestic violence, Federal Decree-Law No. (24) of 2023 regarding combating human trafficking, Federal Law No. (6) of 2022 regarding juvenile delinquents and those at risk of delinquency, in addition to laws protecting persons of unknown parentage, combating cybercrimes (2021), and the Crimes and Penalties Law. It also adopted qualitative policies such as the National Policy for Child Protection in Educational

Institutions (2022), the National Policy for Digital Quality of Life (2021), the National Family Policy (2018), and the National Strategy for Motherhood and Childhood (2017–2021). This integrated system reflects a legislative approach that links child protection to the family, community, school, and digital space.

2. National institutions promoting children's rights: The state has established specialized entities to support children's participation in public life and protect their rights, such as the UAE Children's Parliament, the Children's Advisory Council, and the Sharjah Children's Shura Council, in addition to specialized units affiliated with the Ministry of Interior, such as the Child Protection Center, the hotline (116111), and the «Himayati» application. In Abu Dhabi, the Early Childhood Authority plays a pivotal role in developing policies and legislation. The National Academy for Childhood Development was established to train staff, and the Child Center was established to enhance protection programs under the «Damm Al Aman» policy.

3. Specific initiatives to enhance child well-being: The UAE has adopted innovative measurement tools and policies, such as the Abu Dhabi Child Thriving Index (2025), the world's first for measuring children's health, social, and educational well-being, and the Child Safety at Home Guide to combat unintentional injuries based on the recommendations of the World Health Organization. It also adopted a policy to protect children in sports facilities, ensuring a safe and inclusive environment in a vital sector directly linked to the development of their physical and social abilities.

4. International role and global contributions: The UAE has established its international presence as a major supporter of children's rights, having joined the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children and signed the «Children's Digital Wellbeing Charter» (2025) in cooperation with major technology companies. In education, the country's contributions to global education programs exceeded \$1.55 billion by September 2020, supporting more than 20 million children in 59 countries in partnership with UNICEF and other international organizations. In the health sector, the Reaching the Last Mile initiative has contributed to the distribution of hundreds of millions of doses of polio vaccine in Asia and Africa. Emirati institutions, such as Dubai Cares and the Emirates Red Crescent, have also contributed to large-scale humanitarian projects to support children's education and health around the world.

An Integrated National System: Policies, Institutions, and Initiatives that Establish the Status of Children

In Conclusion...

tracing the progress of the «Wadeema» Law demonstrates that the UAE has moved from responding to an individual tragedy to building a comprehensive legal and institutional system for child protection. The law established a comprehensive framework for rights and guarantees, reinforced by strict enforcement mechanisms. The 2024 amendments confirmed the vitality of the legislation and its ability to keep pace with the challenges of the times, particularly in the digital space. The law also emerged as part of a broader network of national legislation and policies, and is consistent with the state's international obligations, making it a regional model for harmonizing national legislation with international standards. The essence of the UAE's experience in this area is based on the fact that the best interests of the child are not merely a legal principle, but rather a philosophy of governance and a state approach, reflecting its vision that investing in the protection and care of children is the worthiest investment in building a safe and sustainable society.





He was able to transform a humanitarian value into an institutional work.

Nahyan bin Mubarak: A symbol of human tolerance

In his speech at the opening of the open meeting sessions – July 2025 – to introduce the «Our Life in the Emirates» community initiative, His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, emphasized that peace, when based on mutual respect and shared values, becomes capable of transcending all religious, cultural, and social differences.

This vision is no longer just a slogan; it has become a tangible reality in the UAE, where more than 200 nationalities live in harmony and respect, free from discrimination based on origin, religion, or culture.

Nahyan bin Mubarak: How did he transform tolerance from a humanitarian slogan into a national policy and daily practice in the UAE?

His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan has emerged as one of the most prominent national and international figures who have contributed to formulating and implementing this vision on the ground. He contributed to transforming the concept of tolerance from a slogan and ethical approach into an integrated system of programs, initiatives, and practical policies that have become a model to be emulated regionally and globally. These initiatives combine academic and educational work with community, artistic, and cultural programs, making tolerance an inherent value in the daily lives of Emirati society.

Sheikh Nahyan and Education: Making universities incubators for tolerance

Since the founding of the UAE, the wise leadership has recognized that education is the first bridge to building a cohesive society, and that investing in national minds is the cornerstone of the development process. Among the figures who have effectively contributed to this path is His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, who led higher education institutions for three consecutive decades, through his presidency of the United Arab Emirates University (1983–2013), the Higher Colleges of Technology (1988–2013), and Zayed University (1998–2013).

His role was not limited to developing academic knowledge alone, but he also



worked to establish the concept of the university as an integrated national institution, combining education, research, and community service. Under his leadership, these universities have become incubators of human values and coexistence, with classrooms and campus facilities becoming spaces that foster tolerance and nurture a spirit of openness and dialogue among different cultures.

From values to public policy

Since His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan assumed the Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence in 2017, tolerance has transformed from a social and moral value into an integrated institutional framework managed through public policies and practical initiatives. He launched unique programs such as Knights of Tolerance, Knights of Tolerance, Orbit of Tolerance, and Our Life in the Emirates, and established strategic partnerships between universities and community institutions to make coexistence a daily practice reflected in the lives of individuals.

His role was not limited to launching initiatives, but rather he worked to reframe the concept of tolerance as a tool for community security and political stability, and a means to confront global challenges such as extremism and cultural division. In his vision, tolerance was no longer a theoretical discourse, but rather a working methodology and a pillar of good governance, embodied in practical steps that included:

- Organizing dialogue and cultural events that bring together religious leaders and thinkers to promote cross-cultural dialogue.
- Supporting education as a strategic tool for spreading human values among young generations.
- Linking the values of tolerance to the concepts of human rights and sustainable

From university halls to interfaith dialogue platforms: What is the secret behind Sheikh Nahyan's leadership in making education and diversity a bridge to global coexistence?

Can human values be transformed into institutional public policies? Sheikh Nahyan's experience presents the world with a unique Emirati model.



development, so that they become part of the state's institutional structure and not just seasonal initiatives.

Thus, under his leadership, the value of tolerance has moved from theoretical principles to a deeply rooted public policy, translated into daily practice and positioning the UAE as a global model for transforming human values into practical reality and effective policies.

Interfaith dialogue

His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan is a prominent supporter of interfaith dialogue and rapprochement between sects and cultures. The Abrahamic Family House in Abu Dhabi is one of the most prominent symbolic projects of this trend, bringing together under one roof places of worship for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, embodying the UAE's mission to make dialogue and coexistence a tangible reality.

Through his ongoing meetings with representatives of religious communities and spiritual leaders around the world, His Excellency has contributed to consolidating the UAE's image as a global model for promoting the values of tolerance and coexistence. These efforts were not merely symbolic diplomatic, but were also closely linked to the legal dimension, contributing to strengthening the state's position as a defender of religious freedom, a fundamental right enshrined in international human rights conventions.

Thanks to this role, the UAE has become a recognized international platform for interfaith dialogue, not only through local initiatives, but also through its hosting of global events and conferences that bring together religious leaders under one umbrella to emphasize that differences in faith do not preclude the possibility of cooperation for peace and development.

International recognition of his pioneering role

The efforts of His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan have received widespread international recognition, reflected in a series of prestigious awards that affirm the UAE's status as a model of tolerance and coexistence. Among the most notable are:

- Interfaith Dialogue Appreciation Award (2014) – G20 Interfaith Dialogue Forum in Australia, as the first Arab figure to receive this honor, a clear indication of the world's appreciation for the UAE's role in spreading the culture of coexistence.
- Interfaith Harmony and Tolerance Award (2015) – United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week Committee, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Appreciation Award for the Advancement of Education (2015) – International Islamic University Malaysia, in recognition of his contributions to the development of education and the promotion of dialogue between peoples.
- Most Creative Personality Award (2022) – Arab Creators Union, in recognition of launching pioneering events such as the Global Alliance for Tolerance as part of Expo 2020 Dubai.
- UAE Education Day Award (2025) – United Arab Emirates University, in recognition of his long academic career and role in empowering youth.
- World Sikh Communities Award (2025) – in recognition of his efforts to promote tolerance, coexistence and constructive interfaith dialogue.

The accumulation of these awards represents not only individual recognition, but also reflects the world's urgent need for leaders of a unique caliber, leaders who uphold shared human values and reaffirm the notion of coexistence as a prerequisite for sustainable development and peace. In this context, Sheikh

In a time of global divisions, why has Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak become a symbol of tolerance and an inspiration to international leaders?





His Progression through Ministerial Positions

His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan joined the federal government in 1992 and held several positions, including:

- **1992:** Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, where he laid the foundations for distinguished education and linked scientific research to national development policies.
- **2004:** Minister of Education, enhancing the quality of education and developing national curricula.
- **2013:** Minister of Culture, Youth, and Community Development, where he worked to support Emirati national identity and societal values.
- **2017:** Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, a position that embodies His Excellency's life philosophy of spreading the culture of tolerance widely within the country and abroad. During these years, His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan contributed to the development of educational, cultural, and social policies, focusing on building bridges of Interfaith Dialogue and cultures, emphasizing that tolerance and peace begin with the individual and society.

Nahyan remains a symbol of a unique Emirati approach that views tolerance and coexistence not merely as a social or political choice, but as an urgent humanitarian necessity in an era of increasing polarization and division.

Supportive international indicators

These awards are a reflection of the UAE's standing and the world's appreciation for its approach to tolerance and coexistence, a finding also confirmed by international reports and indicators. The country topped the world in the Tolerance of Foreigners Index, according to the INSEAD Global Talent Competitiveness Report 2023, confirming its position as a leading global platform for coexistence. This index is not limited to this. International competitiveness reports have shown that the UAE is among the countries most attractive to global talent, thanks to its environment of diversity and social integration. This reflects its success in transforming the values of tolerance into a pillar of sustainable development and human rights.

The UAE as a global platform for coexistence

The approach to tolerance embraced by His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan has been and continues to be a practical embodiment of the UAE's national project, which has made tolerance one of its fundamental pillars since the founding of the country by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan «may God rest his soul in peace». This value has been deeply ingrained in the structure of Emirati society, where a broad global community of diverse nationalities and cultures lives, united within a cohesive social fabric governed by mutual respect and peaceful coexistence.

This practical reality has made the UAE a unique platform for global coexistence, not only offering a successful local experience, but also presenting a model that can be emulated internationally. His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan's efforts have contributed to bringing this experience to the international stage through conferences, partnerships, and cross-border initiatives, consolidating the UAE's position as a nation that views diversity as strength and tolerance as the foundation for societal security and sustainable development.

Youth and National Identity

His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan has given special attention to youth, as they are the true guarantors of the sustainability of the values of tolerance. He launched a number of pioneering programs, most notably the National Identity Pioneers Program and the Watan Fund's summer initiatives, which embody the state's belief that instilling the values of coexistence in the souls of new generations is a long-term investment in the nation's future.

The National Identity Pioneers Program concluded in August 2025 with the participation of more than 450 male and female students from various universities across the country. Meanwhile, Sandoq Al Watan's activities extended to 56 schools, five cultural centers, and five youth centers, with the active participation of more than 93 partner organizations and 78 Emirati writers and artists. These figures reflect a holistic approach that goes beyond academic education, but also extends to culture, arts, and community work, making the values of tolerance part of young people's daily experience.

Here the analytical dimension of his career appears; His Excellency believes that national identity is not a matter of isolation or exclusion, but rather a comprehensive framework that preserves diversity and transforms it into a source of collective



strength. It is an identity that embraces others and is based on justice and mutual respect, making it more consistent with international human rights principles.

The legal and humanitarian dimension

His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan believes that tolerance is not a social choice left to the will of societies, but rather a fundamental human right guaranteed to every individual and a basic condition for protecting human dignity. This vision makes tolerance an integral part of the justice and rights system, alongside issues of equality, freedom of religion and belief, freedom of expression, and the fight against all forms of discrimination.

From this legal perspective, tolerance has moved from being a moral or cultural value to an issue on the international community's agenda, requiring governments and civil society institutions to cooperate together to ensure its universal application, just as is the case with other fundamental rights stipulated in international conventions.

A forward-looking message for the future

In his speeches and international engagements, His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan emphasizes that coexistence is not a fleeting initiative or a temporary response to a crisis, but rather a sustainable path that requires integrated cooperation between governments, institutions, and civil societies alike.

Its central message is that the world will not achieve true development or comprehensive peace unless it is built on solid foundations of mutual respect, justice, and recognition of diversity as an intrinsic human value. It is a vision that looks to the future and places tolerance in its proper place: not as a temporary social or political option, but rather as an existential condition for humanity's continued ability to confront common challenges and preserve human dignity wherever it may be.

In Conclusion...

The journey of His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan has proven that tolerance in the UAE is no longer merely a cultural value or social choice, but rather a national policy and institutional practice with impacts extending locally, regionally, and internationally. From education to interfaith dialogue, from youth empowerment to international recognition, a vision has emerged that makes tolerance a prerequisite for sustainable development and peace. Thus, the UAE's experience, under the leadership of inspiring national figures such as His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan, remains a unique global model. It demonstrates that human values, when transformed into public policies and concrete initiatives, can shape a more just and secure future for all of humanity.

The World Food Programme: A Humanitarian Success Story Crowned with the Nobel Peace Prize



The right to food is not merely a slogan echoed in international covenants; it is the foundation of human dignity and the cornerstone of life. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966, affirmed that access to food is an inherent human right. Nevertheless, this right is subjected daily to violations caused by armed conflicts, natural disasters, and economic crises, leaving millions facing hunger and destitution. Here arises the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the largest humanitarian organization combating hunger worldwide, as a lifeline extending a helping hand to those in need, and as a humanitarian success story spanning more than six decades, crowned with the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020 in recognition of its role in safeguarding food security as a prerequisite for achieving peace.

Establishment and Humanitarian Beginnings

In 1961, the Programme was established by a joint resolution of the United Nations General Assembly and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to become the leading relief arm in responding to humanitarian disasters. From its very first operation in Iran in 1962 following the devastating earthquake, the Programme affirmed a core message: food is an inherent right, not a commodity to be compromised. Thus began a long journey that carried hope to hungry hearts.

Evolution of Response Tools: From Food Aid to Digital Innovation

Since its inception in 1962, the World Food Programme has evolved from being merely a mechanism of urgent relief into a comprehensive

humanitarian institution adopting innovative tools to combat hunger. In the 1970s, the Programme focused on supporting agricultural production and “food-for-work” initiatives, and in the 1990s it expanded its activities to include school feeding, disaster preparedness programmes, and the building of early warning systems. At the beginning of the new millennium, it adopted modern tools such as electronic vouchers and cash transfers, which grant families the freedom to choose their food in a way that preserves their dignity and supports local markets.

With the aggravation of humanitarian challenges, the Programme added new approaches, most notably:

- Urgent emergency assistance to secure immediate food for those affected by conflicts and disasters.
- School feeding programmes benefiting millions of children annually, enhancing education and child health.
- Building local capacities and supporting national supply chains, thereby strengthening rural economies and local production.
- Technology and innovation, such as the use of drones for mapping and damage assessment, and artificial intelligence to analyze data and forecast hunger hotspots, through platforms such as HungerMap Live.

Through this trajectory, the Programme moved from the image of “trucks carrying food” to that of a global institution employing science and technology to deliver more sustainable and dignified solutions to beneficiaries, affirming that combating hunger requires the combination of immediate relief and long-term innovation.

Humanitarian Objectives: Towards Zero Hunger

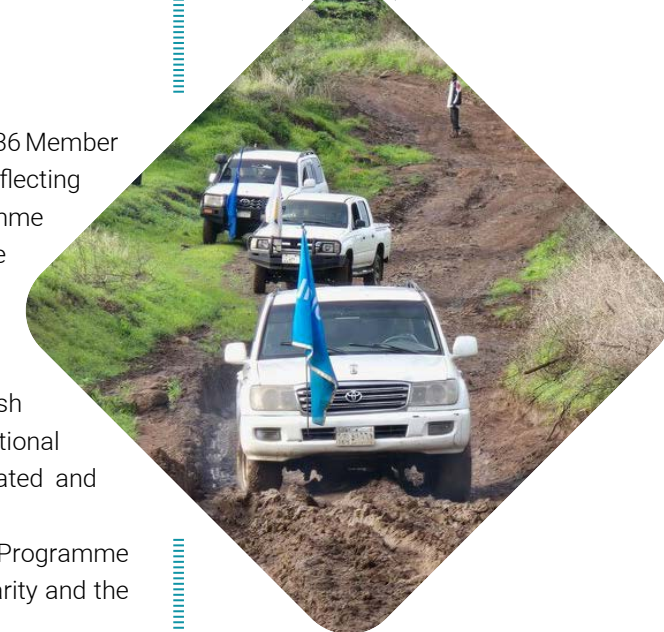
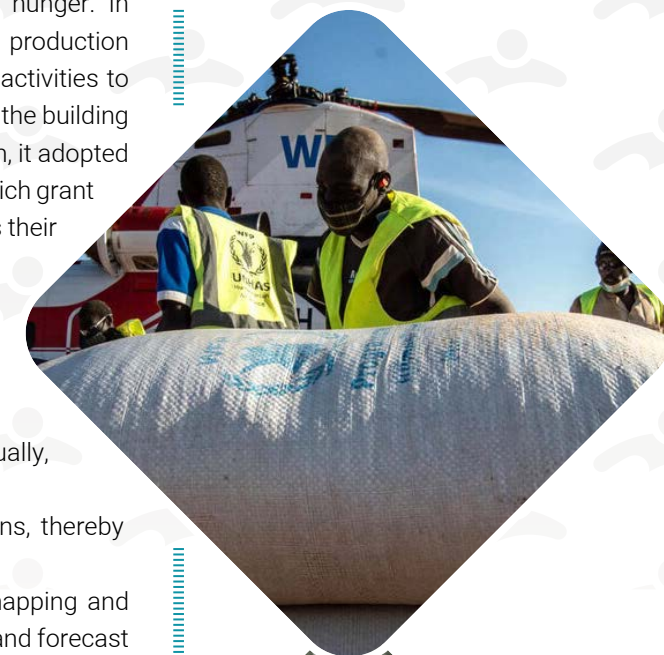
The World Food Programme proceeds from firmly established humanitarian objectives, namely:

1. Eradicating hunger and malnutrition through direct assistance.
2. Enhancing global food security by supporting sustainable production and distribution systems.
3. Enabling communities to withstand conflicts and disasters.
4. The Programme assumes a pivotal role in achieving the second Sustainable Development Goal: “Zero Hunger by 2030,” as the principal United Nations arm leading this global endeavour.

Governance and Wide International Cooperation

The Programme is overseen by an Executive Board composed of 36 Member States, which sets general policies and monitors performance, reflecting the joint international will to confront hunger. The Programme relies entirely on voluntary contributions from donor States, the private sector, and individuals for its funding, which grants it flexibility and independence in directing its resources to the most needy areas. The Programme also represents a broad platform for international cooperation, enabling it to establish close partnerships with governments, regional, and international organizations to coordinate humanitarian efforts in an integrated and effective manner.

Through this voluntary institutional and financial framework, the Programme ensures that its work remains a reflection of international solidarity and the will of the international community to combat hunger.





Shocking Figures Revealing the Tragedy

According to the Global Report on Food Crises 2025 (GRFC 2025), issued in May 2025 by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) and the Global Network Against Food Crises, about 295.3 million people in 53 countries/territories faced high levels of acute food insecurity during 2024, an increase of 13.7 million over the previous year, with confirmed famine in Sudan and a similar risk in Gaza. This figure reflects the magnitude and complexity of the humanitarian crisis, in which multiple factors intersect, including armed conflicts, climate change, and economic collapses, thereby imposing the necessity of unprecedented international cooperation.

A few weeks later, the World Food Programme's report "WFP 2025 Global Outlook – Mid-Year Update" issued in June 2025 revealed a worsening of the crisis, as the number rose to about 319 million people in 67 countries according to mid-year estimates, while the Programme aims to reach 98 million people with humanitarian assistance by the end of 2025, with an urgent need for USD 5.7 billion to cover funding requirements for the period from July to December 2025.

In a parallel context, projections of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI 2024) report indicate that more than 582 million people may suffer from chronic undernourishment by 2030, half of them in Africa, while a significant portion of the World Food Programme's activities is concentrated in conflict zones, where malnutrition rates are recorded at far higher levels compared to stable regions.

The gravity of these figures is manifest in the field; from Sudan, which is experiencing confirmed famine, to besieged Gaza, to war-stricken Ukraine, and Haiti engulfed in political and economic crises – the Programme's staff and trucks are present on the frontlines despite the risks. By upholding the banner of neutrality and humanity, the Programme refuses to allow hunger to be used as a weapon of war, turning food into a bridge for peace and stability in the most fragile parts of the world.

The Nobel Peace Prize: Recognition of Humanitarian Achievement

In October 2020, the World Food Programme was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its tireless efforts in combating hunger, its contribution

to improving conditions for peace in conflict areas, and its work to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war. The Prize was not merely an honour bestowed upon the Programme alone, but the fruit of partnerships with governments, international organizations, and the private sector, all united by the same passion to serve the most vulnerable groups.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee affirmed that food security is not only a means of preventing hunger but also a fundamental factor in promoting stability and peace. When people are deprived of food, the likelihood of tensions rises, while ensuring food constitutes a bridge towards stability. Thus, the fight against hunger became a strategic project for the preservation of global peace, and the right to food was placed at the heart of the international agenda as a condition for achieving peace and security.



In Conclusion...

The experience of the World Food Programme demonstrates that the defense of human rights is not confined to laws and treaties, but is also embodied in feeding the hungry and saving lives. In a world of mounting challenges, the Programme represents a bridge between international aspirations and field realities.

If the Nobel Peace Prize constituted the culmination of its journey in 2020, the continuation of its efforts today proves that its mission transcends awards and numbers; it is a story of determination to make food a guaranteed right, not a privilege, and a hope that one day the global goal may be achieved: a world free from hunger.



(United Nations Photo)

He began his career as the president of a public benefit association, leading international efforts in peacekeeping.

Antonio Guterres... the «Voice» of international peace

In a world suffering from recurring conflicts and increasing humanitarian crises, Antonio Guterres stands out as one of the most important international figures advocating for peace and security, dedicating his life to promoting human rights around the globe.

Since its establishment in 1945, the United Nations has placed utmost importance on maintaining international peace and security, and promoting cooperation among nations to support human rights. The creation of the organization was a necessary international response following the failure of the 'League of Nations', which was established in 1920 after World War I with the aim of preventing the outbreak of future conflicts, but it was unable to effectively fulfill its role, leading to its collapse at the beginning of World War II in 1939.

United Nations Charter: A historic commitment to maintaining international peace and security.

The United Nations Charter has defined in its first article the main objectives for which the organization was created, foremost among them:

- To maintain international peace and security, and to this end, the body takes effective joint measures to prevent and eliminate the causes that threaten peace, suppress acts of aggression and other forms of disturbance to the peace, and resorts to peaceful means, in accordance with the principles of justice and international law, to resolve international disputes that may lead to disturbances of peace or to settle them.
- The development of friendly relations between nations based on the principle of equality in rights among peoples, and that each has the right to self-determination, as well as taking other appropriate measures to promote general peace.
- Achieving international cooperation to address international issues of an economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian nature, and to enhance respect

for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all people, encouraging this without any discrimination based on gender, language, or religion, and without distinction between men and women.

The tasks of the United Nations Secretary-General

Antonio Guterres is the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations, having officially taken office in 2017 and was re-elected for a second term in 2021. Since the beginning of his tenure, Guterres has focused on the importance of preventive diplomacy and working to avoid conflicts by addressing the root causes that lead to their emergence, with special attention to issues of human rights and supporting the participation of women and youth in peace efforts.

The Secretary-General is regarded as the highest global diplomatic figure, representing the principles and values upon which the United Nations was founded. He speaks on behalf of the world's peoples and issues an annual report assessing the organization's performance while setting its priorities and future plans.

The Secretary-General also holds the position of Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, which is a council that meets twice a year with the participation of heads of programs and specialized agencies of the organization, aiming to enhance cooperation and unify efforts towards various fundamental and administrative issues.

One of the most prominent roles played by the Secretary-General is the use of preventive diplomacy, also known as 'good offices,' leveraging his complete independence, neutrality, and integrity to avoid the outbreak of conflicts, to de-escalate them, or to prevent their spread to other regions of the world.

The CV

Prior to assuming the position of UN Secretary-General, António Guterres served as UN High Commissioner for Refugees from June 2005 until December 2015. During this period, Guterres led one of the world's largest humanitarian organizations, at a time when humanity has witnessed some of the most serious and complex displacement and migration crises in decades.

Armed conflicts and wars in countries such as Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and Yemen have contributed to a significant and unprecedented increase in the number of displaced persons and refugees, rising from about 38 million people in 2005 to over 60 million in 2015. This has posed serious challenges to the international community and its humanitarian efforts, with Guterres at the forefront of managing this crisis.



(United Nations Photo)

The Good Efforts: The Diplomacy of the Secretary-General to Prevent International Conflicts



(United Nations Photo)

How does the Secretary-General of the United Nations fight the battle for defending world peace?

Call on the international community to confront the painful reality of civilians who are exposed to death, injury, and displacement in conflict zones.

The beginning through the presidency of a public benefit association.

Antonio Guterres began his public service career early in Portugal, where he chaired a civil society organization in the early 1970s that focused on implementing developmental and social projects to improve living conditions in the poorest neighborhoods of Lisbon. During his career, he also founded the Portuguese Council for Refugees and the Portuguese Consumers' Association (DECO), contributing to the establishment of values of social solidarity and advocating for the rights of the most vulnerable groups.

In 1976, Guterres was elected as a member of the Portuguese Parliament, serving for 17 consecutive years until 1993, during which he chaired several prominent parliamentary committees, including the Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs and Planning, as well as the Special Committee on Regional Administration, Environment, and Municipalities. He was also a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe between 1981 and 1983, during which he was elected Chairman of the Committee on Migration and Refugees.

Between 1995 and 2002, Guterres served as Prime Minister of Portugal, and during that time, he played a prominent diplomatic role through his active participation in international efforts that eventually led to the resolution of the political and humanitarian crisis in East Timor.

Guterres' march in support of international peace and security.

Since his first day in office as Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2017, Antonio Guterres has been keen to emphasize the importance of peace as a top priority for the international community, highlighting the need to stop the humanitarian suffering caused by ongoing conflicts. From the very beginning, he expressed his deep concern for the millions of people suffering due to wars and conflicts that seem endless, resulting in killing, displacement, and starvation.

Guterres focused on the humanitarian aspect of conflicts, calling on the international community to confront the painful reality of civilians who find themselves trapped in conflict areas, where they face death, injury, or displacement, and where even health facilities and humanitarian aid become targets for attacks. He pointed to the enormous cost of these conflicts that destroy nations and drain their economic resources, instilling fear and hatred, and creating cycles of distrust that may last for generations.

Guterres also drew attention to new and increasing challenges, most notably the threat of terrorism, which is no longer limited to a specific region or country, but has become a global threat that demands international solidarity and unified efforts to contain and confront it.

The United Nations' tasks to uphold the right to peace

During his tenure as Secretary-General, in both his first and second terms, Antonio Guterres continued to make significant efforts to enhance the role of the United Nations in protecting international peace and security, through the issuance of a series of reports and strategic plans, the most prominent of which is the new peace plan for 2023, which emphasized the need to develop and strengthen the organization's capacity in the areas of peacekeeping.

This plan defined the organization's responsibilities in three key areas, starting from early warning of any potential conflict, then using what is known as preventive diplomacy, all the way to contributing to peace-making by supporting negotiation processes and monitoring the implementation of peace agreements on the ground, and protecting civilians in conflict zones.

In this context, the efforts of the United Nations to protect the right to peace can be summarized as follows:

- Before the outbreak of conflict: The Secretary-General, in accordance with the powers conferred upon him by the United Nations Charter, monitors and observes early indicators of any potential threat to international peace, and takes the initiative to inform the Security Council of these potential threats. He also works to promote dialogue among parties that show signs of tension, by dispatching special envoys to bridge views and prevent the escalation of disputes into armed conflict.
- During the conflict: The Secretary-General swiftly initiates urgent diplomatic appeals and actions to urge the international community to intervene to stop the armed conflict, highlighting the scale of human and material losses resulting from it through detailed reports and statements. He also oversees the coordination of humanitarian and relief efforts carried out by the organization through its specialized bodies and institutions, to alleviate the impact of the conflict on civilians.
- After the end of the conflict: The organization, under the supervision of the Secretary-General, strives to raise awareness of the importance of sustaining peace and implements programs and initiatives to promote a culture of dialogue and reconciliation within communities that have emerged from conflicts, to ensure that violence does not recur, and to establish the foundations of stability and sustainable development.



(United Nations Photo)

In Conclusion

The role of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has not been limited to merely taking preventive measures to avoid conflicts and maintain international peace, but his efforts have extended to ensuring the sustainability of peace and protecting people's lives, considering that peace is an inherent right for every human being, and that human dignity and security are at the core of all international efforts.

Guterres's deep commitment to peace and human rights does not stem only from his position as Secretary-General of the United Nations, but is derived from his early human experiences, which began with leading a civil association aimed at development and supporting the poor in the Portuguese capital, Lisbon. This experience gave him a deep understanding of the importance and value of each individual, and the necessity of working to protect and uphold their rights wherever they may be.

Therefore, Guterres has always been keen to highlight numerous key issues directly related to the human right to security and peace, including the cessation of armed conflicts, gender equality, the protection and promotion of human rights, addressing climate change, and achieving sustainable development goals in a just manner that includes all peoples of the world without discrimination.

It is based on a firmly held conviction that global peace and human progress can only be achieved through genuine global solidarity and the unification of efforts and wills for the sake of all humanity.



Freedom of Association in the UAE: A Legal Approach Between Rights and Regulation



Since its founding, the United Arab Emirates has been committed to supporting and strengthening the role of public benefit organizations as a fundamental pillar in building a cohesive society based on the values of cooperation and solidarity, and as a major contributor to education, culture, health, environmental protection, and humanitarian and human rights work. This national commitment culminated in the wise leadership's declaration of 2025 as the «Year of the Community,» under the slogan «Hand in Hand.» This reflects a strategic vision aimed at promoting community participation, volunteering, and public service as a shared responsibility among all who call the UAE home.

In this context, the government system witnessed a significant institutional transformation with the launch of the Ministry of Community Empowerment in December 2024, emphasizing the transition from the concept of development to sustainable empowerment. The ministry's strategic vision is based on the «empowerment triangle»: unleashing the potential of individuals, activating the «third sector» (public benefit institutions), and strengthening community cohesion. The ministry's ambitious goals include empowering tens of thousands of families, increasing the third sector's contribution to development projects, and increasing the base of volunteers registered on the national platform.

This strategic vision has been reflected in the growth and expansion of public

The Right to Form Associations: A Reading of the Emirati Experience Between the Constitution and International Law

benefit organizations across the country, as evidenced by the updated official statistics of the Ministry of Community Empowerment (July 2025). The number of public benefit organizations reached 436, divided among 382 public benefit associations, 43 civil society organizations, 8 federations, and 3 social solidarity funds. The past nine years have witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of associations, rising from 166 in 2016 to 382 in 2025—an increase of more than 130%. This remarkable growth not only reflects the state's support and wise leadership for public benefit organizations as an effective partner in supporting the journey of a unified society, but also affirms the UAE's commitment to guaranteeing the right to form associations as a fundamental civil and political right. This is achieved by providing an advanced legislative and regulatory environment that enables citizens and residents to exercise this right within a framework of transparency and governance, enhancing community participation in sustainable development.

Legislative system for public benefit institutions

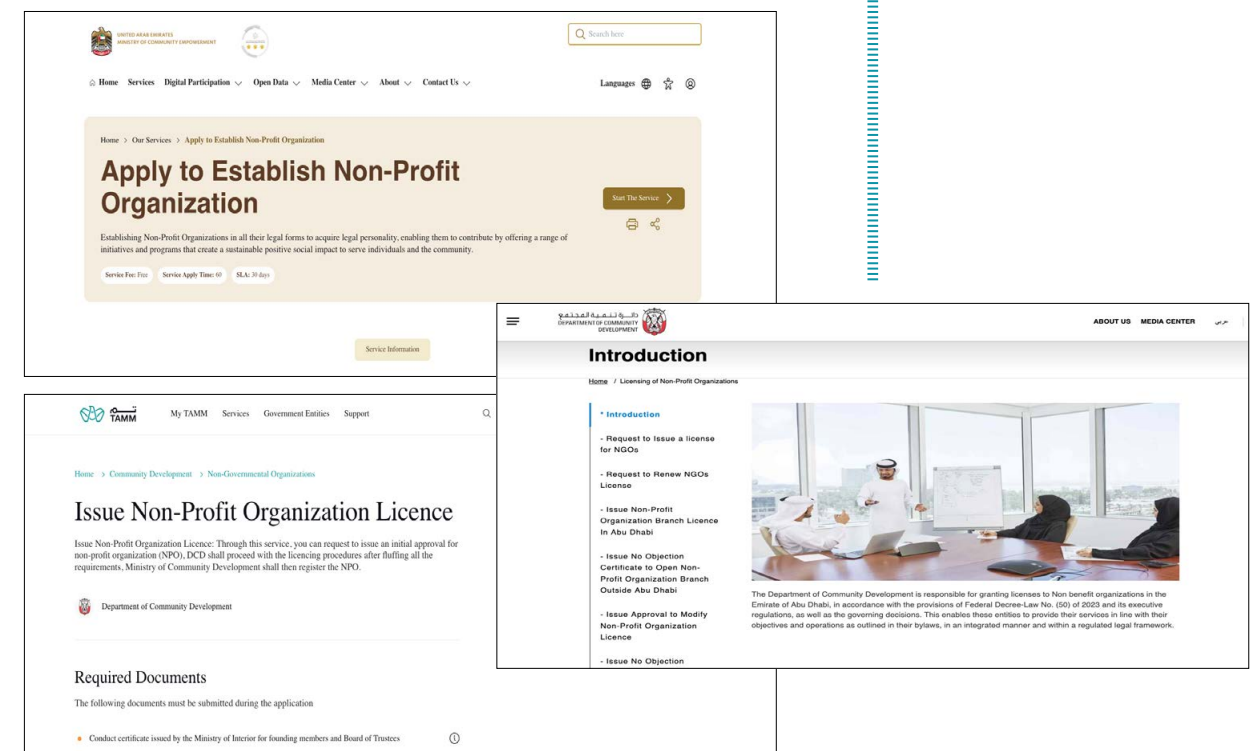
• A gradual legal system that guarantees the right to form associations.

The legislative system for public benefit organizations in the UAE has witnessed gradual development, reflecting the state's commitment to establishing a legal environment that guarantees the right to form associations and regulate their work efficiently. Since the issuance of Federal Decree-Law No. (6) of 1974 and its amendment by Law No. (20) of 1981, through Federal Law No. (2) of 2008 and its amendments, and up to Federal Decree-Law No. (50) of 2023, legislation has been directed towards tightening administrative and financial controls, enhancing transparency and governance, ensuring the safety of resources, and preventing their exploitation for purposes other than those for which they were designated, especially in light of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing legislation in line with international standards in integrity and combating financial crimes. The latest Law No. (50) of 2023 represents a qualitative shift, as it combines expanding the scope of community work,



The number of public benefit associations has increased by 130% over nine years...unprecedented growth that enhances community empowerment.

From the Constitutional Text to Federal Law No. 50 of 2023... How did the UAE guarantee freedom of association?



The Evolution of the Legislative Framework for Public Benefit Organizations in the UAE (1974–2023): Towards the Consolidation of the Right to Form Associations

adopting a national classification guide for activities, and tightening financial and technical oversight, which confirms the state’s commitment to ensuring the exercise of the right to form associations as an authentic civil and political right, within an organized and transparent framework that is consistent with the specificity of the national environment and the requirements of sustainable development.

• An analytical reading of Federal Decree-Law No. (50) of 2023 regarding the regulation of public benefit institutions in the Emirates

Federal Decree-Law No. (50) of 2023 was issued in the United Arab Emirates to comprehensively regulate public benefit institutions (associations and foundations with charitable or community purposes). This new law aims to enhance governance, transparency, and accountability in the work of these institutions, ensuring their effective contribution to social and humanitarian development. The decree replaces the previous Law No. (2) of 2008, introducing fundamental changes to the definition of associations and the mechanisms for their establishment, management, and oversight.

Legislative development compared to the previous law (No. 2 of 2008)

Decree-Law No. 50 of 2023 represents a significant development from Federal Law No. 2 of 2008 (on Public Benefit Associations) in several respects, most notably:

- **Easing establishment requirements and increasing inclusiveness:** The previous law required a minimum of 20 founders to establish an association, and limited the right to establish and join to UAE citizens only, with the exception of community associations. The new law reduced the minimum number of founders to just 7, facilitating the establishment of associations, and allowed non-citizen residents to participate at a rate of up to 30% of the founders. This openness represents a qualitative shift towards involving all segments of society in civil society work. Thus, the legal framework has become more consistent with the principle of inclusiveness of the right to form associations without discrimination based on nationality, and within specific limits and controls.
- **Enhancing governance and financial transparency:** The 2008 law lacked some of the details introduced in the new law. For example, the previous law did not clearly prohibit cash transactions or require bank accounts for each association. The new decree explicitly prohibits receiving or paying cash and requires transactions through banks, in order to comply with modern anti-money laundering requirements. The new law also emphasized mandatory annual financial audits by an accredited auditor and linked the periodic renewal of an association’s license to meeting financial disclosure and governance requirements. These enhancements reflect a response to emerging international challenges and the legislator’s desire to raise the level of transparency and accountability compared to the previous law, which had less detailed regulatory requirements.
- **Expanding the scope of oversight and involving local authorities:** Previously, the Ministry of Social Affairs (currently the Ministry of Community Empowerment) was the sole federal entity responsible for licensing and oversight of associations. Under Decree 502023/, powers were distributed so that the competent local authorities in each emirate are responsible for issuing initial approvals and monitoring associations at the local level, in coordination with the ministry. This decentralized approach allows for

oversight closer to the reality and circumstances of each emirate. It also ensures the existence of a central federal registry at the ministry to ensure greater oversight and information exchange. In addition, Cabinet Resolution No. (78) of 2025 complemented the decree-law, establishing a clear list of violations and administrative penalties ranging from warnings to financial fines, and even temporary suspension or removal of the board of directors in some cases. This was not as detailed in previous legislation. Thus, the regulatory framework has become more disciplined in dealing with any violations.

- **Establishing new entities and activities:** The new law incorporated organizational forms not explicitly mentioned in the 2008 law. It introduced the concept of a «federation,» an entity comprising five or more civil society organizations or institutions with similar activities, to coordinate their efforts under one umbrella. The federation is licensed as a legally independent entity subject to the same governance and oversight rules. It also regulated «social solidarity funds,» which are established by groups (of no less than 25 members) with the aim of providing financial or social support to a specific group. The inclusion of these forms reflects the legislator’s orientation toward expanding the scope of civil society work to include social solidarity initiatives and professional associations, while providing them with a legal framework to avoid any legislative vacuum. In contrast, the 2008 law focused primarily on traditional associations, without detailing such specialized entities.
- **Aligning the provisions of the law with international requirements:** Since 2008, major international developments have occurred in the field of combating the financing of terrorism and money laundering, necessitating the updating of national legislation. Indeed, the old law was amended by Federal Decree No. 35 of 2020 to address some of these requirements. The new Law 502023/ is comprehensive and detailed in integrating anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CTF) standards into the core of associations. It also emphasizes the need to appoint a compliance officer and internal auditor within the association, and to report suspicious transactions, in implementation of FATF recommendations and others. This represents a qualitative shift compared to the previous law, which did not include explicit provisions regarding associations’ commitment to these policies, but rather relied on general punitive legislation.

Overall, it appears that the 2023 law seeks to modernize the civil society system to be more flexible in terms of establishment and, at the same time, more stringent in terms of oversight, in line with international best practices and addressing the gaps that existed in the 2008 law. The new legal framework is more detailed and clear, eliminating previous ambiguity and presenting associations with clear responsibilities and requirements that must be met to ensure continued licensing.

The extent to which the new law is compatible with the UAE’s international obligations

Through this law, the UAE has been keen to balance the right to form associations with international security and transparency requirements. The following is an assessment of the extent to which Decree-Law 502023/ complies with the most relevant international obligations and standards:

- **Freedom of association (Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights):** Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stipulates that everyone has the right to freedom of

From Law 2008 to Decree 2023: Legislative developments enhance freedom of association and governance in the UAE.



association with others. No restrictions may be imposed on this right unless such restrictions are provided by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. Although the UAE has not yet acceded to this covenant, its constitution guarantees freedom of association within the limits of the law, demonstrating a national commitment to these standards. The new law strengthens this right by allowing the establishment of associations according to clear procedures. The law does not prohibit any group from establishing associations, taking into account sovereignty considerations. The restrictions imposed by the law on the work of associations are also consistent with the legitimate reasons set forth in the aforementioned Article 22. The prohibition of political activities or activities that threaten public order and morals, and the requirement to obtain a permit before cooperating with foreign entities, are all aimed at protecting national security and public order in the country, reasons permitted by the International Covenant. Accordingly, it can be said that Decree-Law 502023/ is a legislative framework that balances the right to form associations with the maintenance of order and security. On the one hand, it grants individuals the ability to freely exercise their right to civil organization under the law, while on the other hand, it sets controls to prevent this right from being diverted toward what might harm the public interest. This approach takes into account what is known as «legitimate restrictions» according to international standards, whereby restrictions may only be imposed by law and for a specific, legitimate purpose.

- **Transparency and Anti-Money Laundering Requirements (in accordance with international standards):** The world faces an ongoing challenge in preventing the exploitation of non-profit organizations as a front for terrorist financing or money laundering. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has issued international recommendations, particularly Recommendation No. (8), which



requires countries to take focused and proportionate measures to protect the association sector from the risks of abuse. These measures include: imposing financial transparency requirements, periodic risk assessments, and subjecting non-profit organizations to risk-based oversight. The new law is largely consistent with these standards. It explicitly requires public benefit organizations in the country to comply with Federal Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism Law No. 20 of 2018 and its implementing regulations. It requires associations to follow internal policies to prevent money laundering, appoint a financial compliance officer, and submit to on-site and field inspections conducted by the Ministry in coordination with the relevant authorities based on a risk assessment. It also prohibits cash transactions in association activities, an effective measure to ensure transparency and prevent the transfer of suspicious funds outside the banking system. Furthermore, the law requires the disclosure and prior approval of any donations or foreign financial resources, in implementation of the principle of financial transparency. All of these controls bring the legal environment for associations in the UAE in line with international standards for combating money laundering and terrorist financing. The FATF's latest monitoring report commended the UAE's enhancement of its legal framework in this area. Thanks to these steps, the UAE has made progress in international assessment reports and was removed from the list of countries subject to monitoring in 2024. The transparency of associations' financial operations and the implementation of due diligence measures regarding donors and beneficiaries will also contribute to raising the country's ranking and fulfilling its obligations under the United Nations Convention against Corruption and relevant World Bank and International Monetary Fund standards. In short, Decree-Law 502023/ demonstrates the UAE's clear commitment to international financial integrity standards by closing loopholes that could be financially exploited in the charitable and volunteering sector.

In Conclusion...

Federal Decree-Law No. (50) of 2023 confirms the UAE's determination to regulate the right to form associations in a manner that serves society and protects state security. On the one hand, the new law strengthens this constitutional right by facilitating the procedures for establishing associations, expanding their membership base, and establishing a clear legal framework that encourages organized civil society work. On the other hand, it surrounds the exercise of this right within a framework of the rule of law and security requirements by requiring licensing and oversight, and by establishing strict controls that prevent associations from deviating from their noble goals or being exploited illegally. With this delicate balance, the law is in principle consistent with international human rights standards and also meets the international community's requirements in the field of financial transparency and the prevention of financial crimes across the non-profit sector. The proper implementation of this law will enrich the societal landscape in the UAE, providing a conducive environment for the growth of civil society institutions and community participation under a fair legal umbrella. At the same time, it reassures the state that civil society activity will take place within an organized and accountable framework that preserves national security and protects the public interest. Thus, Law No. 50 of 2023 represents an advanced step towards empowering the right to form associations as a fundamental right exercised within a state governed by the rule of law, in line with the UAE's international obligations and sovereign responsibilities alike.



Workers' Rights in the UAE: Advanced National Legislation Translating International Obligations and Global Labor Standards

The United Arab Emirates attaches great importance to protecting workers' rights within its national legislative system. Recent years have witnessed the issuance of new federal laws regulating labor relations and defining workers' rights more comprehensively. The most prominent of these legislations are: Federal Decree-Law No. 33 of 2021 regulating labor relations (private sector workers), Federal Decree-Law No. 9 of 2022 regarding support service workers (domestic workers), and Federal Decree-Law No. 49 of 2022 regarding human resources in the federal government (civilian employees in federal entities). These laws come within the framework of modernizing the labor legal system, and in line with the state's international obligations regarding workers' rights.



Labor Rights in the UAE's National Legislation

First: Federal Decree-Law No. 33 of 2021 Regulating Labor Relations

Decree-Law No. 33 of 2021 is the primary legal framework regulating workers' rights in the UAE's private sector. It replaces the previous Labor Law (Federal Law No. 8 of 1980). The new law affirms a set of rights and guarantees for workers, most notably: prohibiting discrimination and equal opportunity and treatment. It explicitly prohibits discrimination in employment and employment continuity on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, social origin or disability, in a manner that ensures equal opportunity and fair treatment. It also affirms the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, reflecting a commitment to the internationally recognized principle of equality (such as ILO Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration of 1951, which the UAE acceded to on February 24, 1997).

The law pays special attention to protecting workers from any form of abuse or violation of their human dignity. It explicitly prohibits forced labor and prohibits employers from using coercion or the threat of any penalty to compel workers to work. This article criminalizes forced labor and is consistent with the UAE's obligations under ILO Conventions relating to forced labor (Conventions No. 29 of 1930 and No. 105 of 1957, both of which the UAE has acceded to). The law also prohibits sexual harassment, bullying, and all forms of violence (verbal, physical, and psychological) against workers by employers, supervisors, or colleagues. It also prohibits the withholding of workers' official documents or forcing them to leave the country after the end of the employment relationship, a very important provision for protection. The worker's freedom of movement and the ability to retain his identity documents. This ruling is consistent with the substantive requirements of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in Article (21), which reflects legislative alignment with the international standard, even though the state is not a party to that

international convention.

Decree-Law No. 33/2021/ also included detailed rights related to working conditions and terms. It requires the employer to conclude a written employment contract that specifies rights and duties, and it also states that the rights stipulated therein represent the minimum rights for workers. The law sets the minimum working age at 15 years and prohibits the employment of minors (aged 15 to 18) in hazardous work or at certain times and under certain conditions to ensure their safety, in line with International Labor Organization standards on child labor (Conventions Nos. 138 and 182, which are conventions to which the country has acceded). The law also regulates working hours (6 hours for minors) and (8 hours per day for other categories of workers, usually, with the possibility of increasing it in exchange for additional pay according to the executive regulations) and the worker's right to a paid weekly rest day and paid official holidays. The worker is entitled to 30 days of paid annual leave for each year of service, in addition to other leaves such as sick leave, bereavement leave, study leave, national service leave, maternity leave, and maternity leave for female workers. It is worth noting that the new law increased the duration of maternity leave for female workers in the private sector to 60 days paid, (45) days with full pay and (15) days with half pay, followed by the possibility of obtaining an additional 45 days without pay if necessary, in addition to a daily paid breastfeeding hour for 6 months after returning from maternity leave. This UAE legislation complies with international standards for maternity protection. The law also introduces five days of paid parental leave for parents during the first six months after a child's birth, making it the first legislation of its kind in the region to grant paid leave to fathers working in the private sector. The law also requires the employer to provide suitable housing for the worker or pay a cash housing allowance if housing is not included in the wage.

The law also guarantees the worker's right to an end-of-service gratuity for a non-citizen worker with a full-time pattern. Full, at the rate of 21 days'





pay for each year of service in the first five years, and 30 days' pay for each year in excess of that, as entitlement upon the end of his service after completing at least one year (without reduction in the event of resignation, unlike the previous law). He stipulated that the bonus should not exceed two years' salary in total. As for citizens working in the private sector, they are covered by the federal pension and social insurance systems instead of an end-of-service gratuity. Among the important rights affirmed by the law are exemption from court fees for labor lawsuits that do not exceed a certain amount (currently AED 100,000), and facilitation of procedures for resolving labor disputes quickly through the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization committees and then the courts, to ensure the worker's right to effective litigation in the event of a dispute with the employer. These mechanisms enhance the enforcement of rights on the ground and are consistent with the State's general obligations to protect the right to litigation and effective redress (as called in international human rights conventions).

Second: Federal Decree-Law No. 9 of 2022 regarding support service workers.

This law regulates the conditions of support service workers (domestic workers). Decree-Law No. 92022/ repeals Federal Law No. 10 of 2017 on domestic workers and strengthens the rights of this group in line with the basic standards of decent work. The scope of the law includes 19 domestic professionals (such as drivers, cooks, nannies, etc.) whose owners work for families and individuals. The most prominent rights and guarantees stipulated in this law are:

- **A unified employment contract:** The law requires the conclusion of a written employment contract with the domestic worker specifying the terms

and conditions of employment, according to a template approved by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization, to ensure transparency and ensure that each party is aware of their rights and obligations before beginning work. It also regulates the work of recruitment agencies and their licensing requirements and prohibits the practice of recruiting or temporarily employing domestic workers without a license, in order to combat irregular recruitment. Recruitment agencies are prohibited from charging workers any commissions or charging them recruitment costs. The law places these costs on the employer, in accordance with the executive regulations. This protects workers from exorbitant recruitment fees that could lead to debt.

- **Working hours and weekly rest:** The law specifies daily working hours and rest periods so that actual working hours do not exceed a maximum (determined by the system, often 12 hours per day as a maximum with rest periods), while obligating the employer to grant the auxiliary worker (12) continuous hours of daily rest of no less than 8 hours. It also recognized the right of the auxiliary worker to a paid day off per week (24 consecutive hours). If the employer needs to work on the worker's weekly day off with the worker's consent, the worker is entitled to either an alternative day off or cash wages for that day, as agreed upon. These provisions meet the minimum requirements set by international labor standards, as ILO Domestic Workers Convention No. 189 of 2011 recommends at least one day of rest per week.

- **Annual and sick leave:** The law stipulates that the support worker is entitled to paid annual leave of no less than 30 days for each year of work (or a proportional portion thereof if the length of service is less than one year, of no less than two days for each month after completing 6 months). The leave may be postponed by agreement of both parties to the following year, depending on the interests of the business. If work circumstances require the worker to work during his annual leave with his consent, he shall be entitled to additional pay (equal to his pay for the days worked plus an allowance for it), and the leave may not be postponed more than once every two years. The law also guarantees the worker's right to sick leave: he is entitled to 30 sick days per year (which can be divided or taken consecutively) based on an approved medical report. The first 15 days are paid full pay, the next 15 days at half pay, and any excess are unpaid - the same levels of sick leave stipulated in the Labor Relations Regulation Law. In addition, the support worker is entitled to paid leave in personal cases, such as bereavement leave (5 days for the death of a first-degree relative and 3 days for a second-degree relative), in accordance with the regulations, exam leave if he is affiliated with an educational institution, and other leave regulated by the executive regulations.

- **Wages and financial dues:** The law requires that the assistant worker's wages be paid monthly in UAE dirhams within 10 days of the due date, in accordance with the applicable wage protection system. It also prohibited deducting any amount from the worker's wages except in limited cases (such as paying an advance or implementing a court ruling and not exceeding a certain percentage). He stressed the worker's right to an end-of-service gratuity upon the termination of his contract if he has completed one year or more. In addition to the domestic worker's right to terminate her employment and obtain her entitlements, the law requires an employer who terminates a contract for an unlawful reason to bear the cost of the worker's



return ticket to his or her country and any other financial entitlements due to the worker. Conversely, if the worker resigns before the end of the contract after the probationary period, the cost of his return shall be borne by the employer unless he is unable to pay, in which case the cost shall be borne by the employer.

• **Comfort, luxury, and decent treatment:** The law recognizes the right of the domestic worker to adequate housing, appropriate food, and medical treatment as determined by regulations, and the employer's obligation to treat him well and respect his privacy and human dignity. The employer is prohibited from employing the worker for others or in tasks other than his job duties except in accordance with the regulations (for example, a temporary loan with the approval of the worker and the Ministry). It also prohibits any form of physical or psychological harm to the worker. The worker has the right to keep his or her identification documents (passport and ID), and the employer may not seize them. This provision also exists, as we mentioned earlier, in the Labor Relations Regulation Law and also applies to domestic workers. The support worker also has the right to contact his family and relatives, receive visits at his place of residence within reasonable limits, and the right to move around during rest periods. The employer is obligated to provide suitable accommodation for the domestic worker that is appropriate to the nature of his work and preserves his dignity.

In general, the Domestic Workers Law has strengthened many guarantees to ensure that domestic workers are treated on a par with other private sector workers. The issuance of this law is considered an important step towards providing legal protection for this often-vulnerable group. Although the United Arab Emirates has not joined the International Labor Organization Convention No. (189) on Decent Work for Domestic Workers, its national legislation has taken into account the application of the standards contained therein, such as the obligation of a written contract, guaranteeing a weekly day of rest, annual leave, prohibiting the worker from charging any recruitment or recruitment fees, and other guarantees that ensure the protection of the rights of this group.

Third: Federal Decree-Law No. 49 of 2022 regarding human resources in the federal government.

This law regulates the status of civil servants in federal ministries and entities and serves as the labor law for the federal government sector. Replaced Federal Decree-Law No. 11 of 2008 (and its amendments) regarding government human resources. Although many of the rights and principles are similar to those stipulated in the Private Sector Labor Law, Law 492022/ includes special provisions that are appropriate to the nature of government work. Among its most prominent decisions:

• **Appointment, promotion, and wages:** The law established a unified system of grades and salaries in the federal government, applied equally to all employees without discrimination. Upon appointment, the employee is given the starting salary for the grade, with the possibility of being given a higher salary within the grade range depending on his qualifications and experience, to ensure attracting qualified talent. The law also regulates performance evaluation mechanisms and the awarding of annual bonuses and rewards based on performance, thus reinforcing the principles of



meritocracy and transparency. This system ensures fairness among state employees and is consistent with International Labor Organization standards on equal employment.

• **Working hours and holidays:** Federal employees are subject to the official working hours determined by the Cabinet (currently 8 hours per day, with remote work available for some days according to modern regulations). They enjoy official holidays scheduled for all sectors. As for leave, the law guarantees a comprehensive package of benefits, including: annual leave (30 days for employees in special grades "B" and above, and 22 days for lower grades), sick leave (15 days with full pay, followed by periods with half pay or without pay, with the exception of work-related injuries, which are fully paid), maternity leave for working women (90 days with pay, in addition to two hours per day for breastfeeding, up to six months after birth), parental leave for the father or mother (5 days paid during the first months after birth, a pioneering practice in the Arab world), bereavement leave (5 days for the death of a first-degree relative and 3 days for a second-degree relative), study leave, and leave for performing national and reserve service. These leaves reflect the state's commitment to decent work standards, especially maternity protection and non-discrimination, and are consistent with International Labor Organization agreements such as Convention No. (183) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

• **Pensions and end-of-service benefits:** The law stipulates that citizen employees are subject to the pension and social insurance system (Federal Law No. 7 of 1999), which provides them with a retirement salary or retirement benefit upon termination of service. Non-citizen employees are entitled to an end-of-service gratuity calculated on the basis of 21 days for





each of the first five years and 30 days for each subsequent year, provided that the total does not exceed two years' salary. This is the same principle applied in the Labor Relations Regulation Law. These provisions ensure a basic social safety net and are in line with international standards for end-of-service protection.

- **Grievance and objection mechanisms:** The law requires every federal entity to establish a grievance committee to consider employee objections to decisions or disciplinary penalties. In the event of dissatisfaction, the employee has the right to resort to a central appeals committee with binding decisions, before resorting to the courts. The lawsuit will not be accepted until these stages have been exhausted. This system provides two levels of administrative review and reduces litigation, which is consistent with the principles of international administrative justice.
- **Work environment:** The law obliges federal entities to provide a positive, healthy and safe work environment that takes into account cultural diversity and equal opportunities and encourages creativity and innovation. He also stressed the commitment to occupational safety and health standards, which are equivalent to International Labor Organization Convention No. (155) on Safety and Health at Work.
- **Disciplinary protection:** The law establishes a gradual system of administrative penalties that begins with a warning and reprimand and ends with dismissal from service, with guarantees of investigation and the right to defense. No more than one penalty may be imposed for the same violation. The effects of penalties shall be erased from the employee's record after a specified period if the violation is not repeated. This strikes a balance between management's power to maintain discipline and the employee's right to a fair trial.
- **Rights of working women:** The law affirmed the principle of equal pay for equal work, prohibited gender discrimination in hiring and promotion, and provided special protection for maternity through maternity leave longer than in the private sector (90 days instead of 60) and paid breastfeeding hours. It also enhanced women's participation in public service, in line with the state's obligations under the Equal Remuneration Convention (100) and

the CEDAW Convention.

This demonstrates that the Federal Human Resources Law of 2022 is not limited to internal administrative regulation but rather represents a comprehensive legislative framework that translates the UAE's international Obligations in the areas of decent work, equality, and social protection, and strengthens its position as a regional model for developing labor legislation in line with international standards.

Labor Legislation and its Impact on Global Competitiveness Indicators

The importance of legislative development in the UAE is not limited to meeting international obligations, but also directly impacts the country's position in global competitiveness indicators. The IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2025 confirmed this interconnectedness, with the UAE achieving first place globally in ten key indicators, most notably: low labor disputes, low severance costs, workforce growth, labor market efficiency, and working hours. All of these are direct reflections of modern legislation that precisely regulates end-of-service rights, ensures flexible dispute resolution mechanisms, and defines working and rest hours in accordance with international standards. The country also ranked second globally in four indicators, including the percentage of foreign labor and foreign skilled labor. This is linked to the flexibility of new labor laws that allow for multiple employment patterns and facilitate job mobility. In contrast, it ranked third globally in indicators such as the availability of qualified engineers and positive unemployment rate expectations, reflecting the effectiveness of the training and qualification policies stipulated in the three laws.

The UAE's ranking fourth globally in labor regulations is a direct testament to the effectiveness of the updated legislative framework (Laws 33/2021, 9/2022, and 49/2022). The country has also strengthened its global presence in indicators of unit labor costs, youth unemployment, and low brain drain. This demonstrates that the UAE's labor legislative developments are not only consistent with its international Obligations but also translate into tangible achievements in global competitiveness reports, enhancing its position as a magnet for both investment and labor.



In Conclusion...

after this comparative review, it is evident that the current UAE legal framework for workers' rights—comprising the Decree Law Regulating Labor Relations 2021 (for the private sector), the Decree Law on Domestic Workers 2022 (for domestic workers), and the Federal Human Resources Law 2022 (for government employees)—has demonstrated a high degree of development and modernization over the past few years. These laws introduced rights that were previously absent or unclear, such as wage protection through the electronic wage protection system, setting working hours for domestic workers, granting paternity leave, criminalizing workplace harassment, ensuring prompt payment of end-of-service benefits, and prohibiting practices such as document confiscation, forcing workers to work for others, or incurring recruitment costs. It also promoted equality and non-discrimination between men and women and between categories of workers and provided effective platforms for settling individual and collective labor disputes (such as labor dispute settlement centers and specialized labor courts). All these improvements are consistent in spirit with many international obligations set out in core ILO conventions and relevant human rights standards. For example, the right to occupational safety and health for workers has become more strongly present in legislation and practice, and the right to receive wages without delay is guaranteed by strict oversight (the wage protection system). Additionally, the worker's right to leave his job and terminate his contract voluntarily has been made easier under the new labor law, in line with the principle of freedom at work and not forcing anyone to work against their will.

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.



The rule of law, justice, and equality ensure the protection of the right to peace.

Through your extensive experience in the field of justice and the rule of law, how can this contribute to enhancing human rights and upholding the right to peace?

There is no peace or protection of human rights without the availability of justice and equality before the law; indeed, there is no life without justice, as it is the foundation that provides individuals with the ability to live in societies where the law secures their present and future. The law also guarantees and protects the right to peace, as it represents a deterrent against any act that may disrupt public order in societies or between them. I can affirm that the broader goal of the law is to promote human dignity, which is the basis of shared living, as it prevents abuse and violation of rights, with everyone



subject to the same rules without exception.

With the rule of law, there is comprehensive care for the right to peace, and thus conflicts are resolved peacefully. If they escalate into armed conflicts, inhumane violations are highlighted, and legal rules are enforced through international justice institutions, whether by compensating victims or punishing perpetrators, which ultimately contributes to supporting the right to peace.

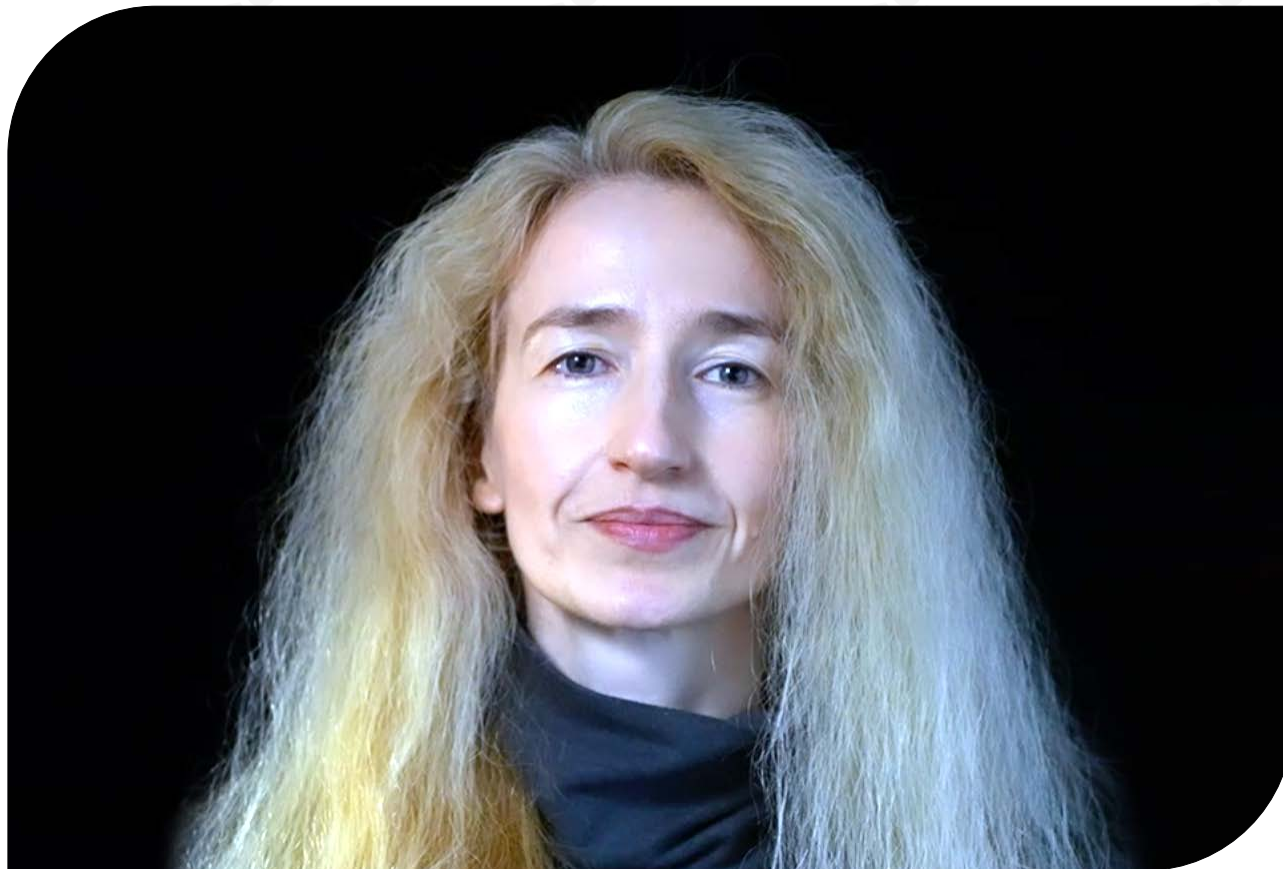
Undoubtedly, with the right to peace and a commitment to it, there will be fruitful cooperation among the countries of the world, which ultimately benefits humanity. However, the starting point in upholding every right is 'the rule of law' and a commitment to justice for all.

In Conclusion

The rule of law and justice are the foundation for protecting human rights and supporting the right to peace. There can be no future without justice; otherwise, humanity would turn into a jungle where the powerful dominate the weak, and thus a person cannot feel secure in their life. Therefore, 'if you want peace and life, there is no alternative to the rule of law.'

Mona Rashmawi

- Currently a member of the United Nations Independent Fact-Finding Mission in Sudan.
- A former expert at the United Nations, from 2004 to 2005, held the position of Executive Director of the Secretariat of the United Nations International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur, which was established by Security Council Resolution 1564.
- From 2009 to 2022, she was the head of the Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch at the United Nations Human Rights Commission.
- She also held the position of independent expert on the human rights situation in Somalia from 1996 to 2000.
- From 1991 to 2000, she held the position of Director of the Center for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers at the International Lawyers' Committee in Geneva.



This is the reality that the world is witnessing in various regions around the globe at this time, and from there came the launch of the OneGoal Initiative for Governance (OGI), which is a global research and intellectual initiative aimed at developing new methods in governance and decision-making, and then crisis management both within communities themselves and externally between countries; and thus ensuring risk reduction and enhancing the ability of human and institutional systems to sustain and grow.

The initiative is based on a core vision centered around the Resilience-to-Robustness Equilibrium (RRE), which is a methodological approach aimed at transforming traditional thinking in crisis and risk management into an integrated framework that is characterized by flexibility and the ability to find solutions that prevent the escalation of crises into a heated conflict between the parties.

The initiative is based on disseminating advanced research and studies in the fields of international governance, and it offers training programs and specialized courses in systemic and critical thinking. Through this approach, it aims to empower individuals and decision-makers to build more accurate and realistic models that help make responsible decisions to reduce the human and material costs of potential risks.

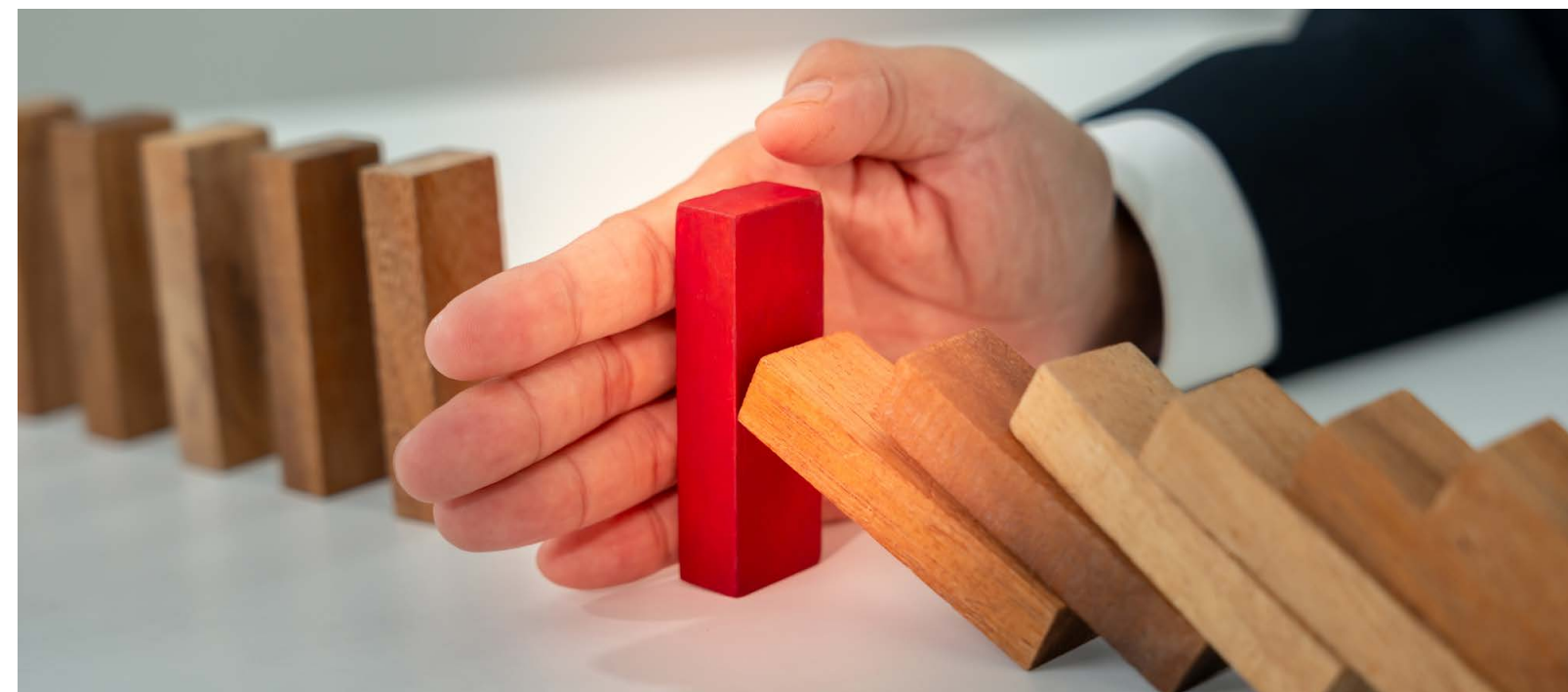
Alève Mine

- Founder of the OneGoal Initiative for Governance (OGI).
- Obtained a Master's degree in Microengineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL).
- The first consultant specialized in concepts such as recursive risk, risk arrow, and the transitions from resilience to robustness (Resilience-to-Robustness Equilibrium - RRE). She has also worked in various fields including technology, politics, arts, and media.

The efficiency of crisis management is the way to end international and non-international conflicts.

In 2021 in Geneva, the «One Goal for Governance Initiative» was launched. What is its objective and what is its relation to international conflicts and crises?

We must all realize that crises and armed conflicts are the result of a failure to manage the crisis by both parties to the conflict, which leads to negative consequences and violations of international law and human rights. The problem becomes greater when it concerns crises between countries, which results in inhumane violations.





The Four Geneva Conventions: A «Wall» of Protection for Human Rights During Armed Conflict



In light of the continuous increase in armed conflicts and the complexity of humanitarian crises, the four Geneva Conventions, signed on August 12, 1949, emerge as a legal and humanitarian safety valve to protect human beings in their most vulnerable moments. These conventions established an international legal framework to reduce human suffering during wars and constitute a “wall” of protection for persons who do not take part in armed conflicts (civilians, doctors and relief workers) and for those who are no longer able to participate in them, (such as the wounded, the sick, prisoners of war, and those injured in operations).

The UAE and the Geneva Conventions: A Firm Legal and Humanitarian Commitment.

In this context, the United Arab Emirates has embodied its unwavering commitment to humanitarian principles and international law by acceding to the four conventions of May 10, 1972, and the protocols of March 9, 1983, and by implementing its obligations by developing a national legislative system to combat serious violations of international humanitarian law, pursuant to Federal Decree-Law No. 12 of 2017, concerning international crimes punishable by national law.

Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols

First: The Four Geneva Conventions (1949)

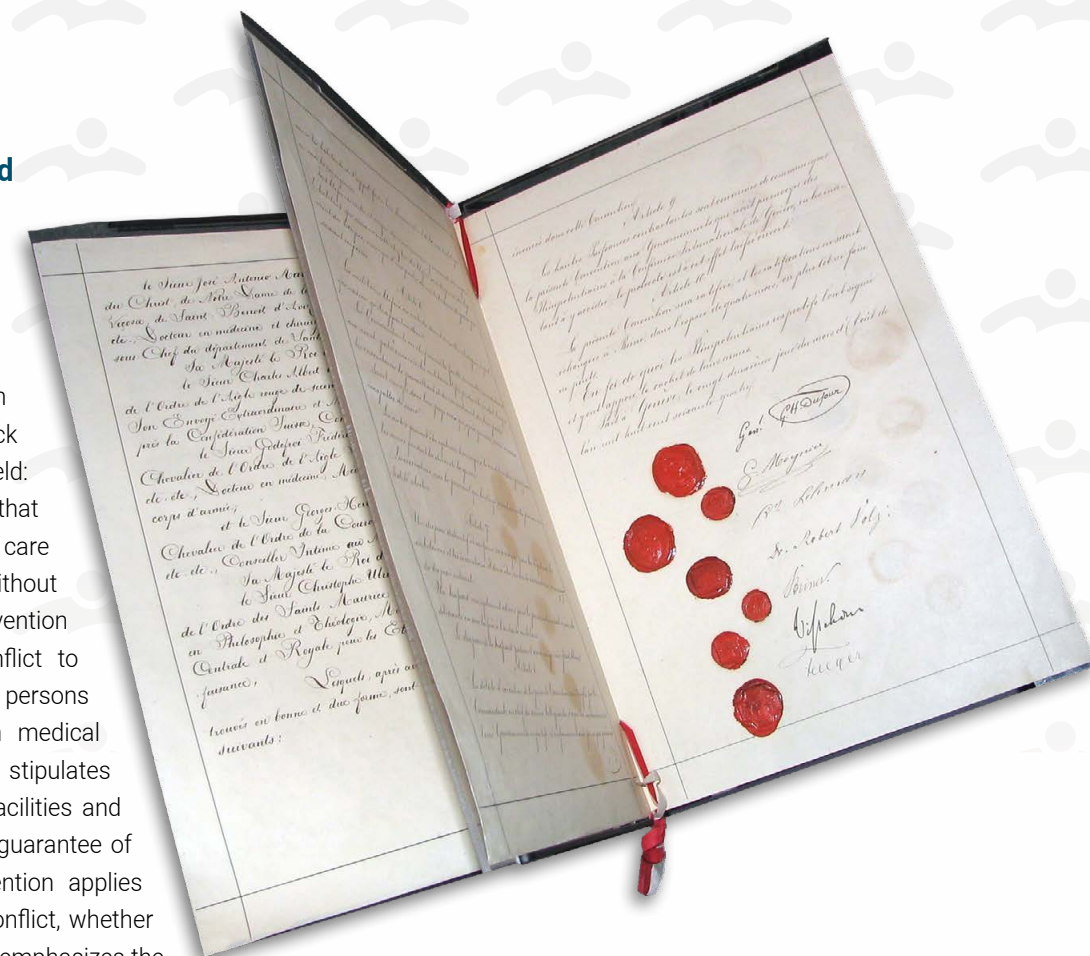
1. The First Convention: The

Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field: This Convention ensures that these persons receive care and humane treatment without discrimination. The Convention obliges parties to the conflict to respect and protect these persons and to provide them with medical care without delay. It also stipulates the protection of medical facilities and medical personnel and the guarantee of their neutrality. The Convention applies in all situations of armed conflict, whether declared or undeclared, and emphasizes the necessity of humane treatment of the injured, prohibiting murder, torture, and degrading treatment, while recognizing the role of neutral humanitarian organizations such as the Red Cross and the Red Crescent in providing assistance.

2. **The Second Convention:** Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea: This convention protects wounded, sick, or shipwrecked members of armed forces during maritime conflicts. It obliges its parties to respect, rescue, and treat them humanely and without discrimination. It also prohibits hostile acts against them, such as murder, torture, or executions without a fair trial. Protection also extends to medical ships and craft, provided they are clearly marked and the neutrality of their personnel is guaranteed. The convention authorizes humanitarian organizations, such as the Red Cross, to provide assistance under the supervision and consent of the parties concerned, in furtherance of the convention's humanitarian objectives.

3. **The Third Convention:** The Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War: This convention protects the rights of prisoners of war from the time of their capture until their release, and establishes a set of basic provisions to ensure their humane and proper treatment. The convention guarantees a broad range of rights, beginning with respect for their lives and living conditions, extending to the obligation to provide medical care and treatment, ensuring decent conditions of detention such as adequate food, clothing, and shelter, and ending with establishing fair mechanisms for compensation when necessary.

4. **The Fourth Convention:** Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War: This convention aims to ensure humanitarian protection for civilians during armed conflicts, including occupation cases. Its provisions include the protection of the lives and dignity of civilians, and prohibit murder, torture, degrading treatment, collective punishment, and forced displacement.



From the provisions of Law to the Battlefields: How Do the Geneva Conventions Protect Human Dignity?

It obliges States Parties to respect civilians without discrimination, ensure their basic needs of food and medicine, and ensure the continuity of medical services. It also provides special protection for children, women, and the elderly, and grants hospitals and humanitarian aid legal immunity provided they are clearly distinguished and not used for military purposes. The convention recognizes the role of impartial humanitarian organizations, such as the Red Cross, in providing aid.

Second: Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions

1. Additional Protocol I (1977): Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts: This Protocol is a supplement to the four Geneva Conventions and aims to strengthen the legal protection of civilians and combatants in international armed conflicts, including situations of foreign occupation and the struggle against colonial domination and racist regimes. The Protocol affirms that its provisions and those of the Geneva Conventions must be respected and implemented without discrimination, and that international humanitarian law applies in all circumstances. The Protocol also sets out general principles, such as the obligation of the parties to respect it and not to use it to justify any act of aggression. It expands the scope of protection to include new categories of persons, and stipulates the role of protecting powers and humanitarian organizations as alternatives to ensuring the implementation of the Conventions. It emphasizes medical protection, respect for health and religious personnel, imposes restrictions on weapons and means of warfare, criminalizes perfidy, and codifies the status of combatants and prisoners of war in accordance with international humanitarian law.

2. Additional Protocol II (1977): Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts: This protocol was adopted in response to the shortcomings of Common Article 3 of 1949 Geneva Conventions. Although it represented a minimum level of humanitarian protection in non-international conflicts, it was insufficient in practice due to its general nature and lack of legal and operational details. This shortcoming posed significant challenges to the application of protection rules in internal conflicts, particularly in light of the escalation of this type of conflict. International data indicate that more



than 70% of armed conflicts that have erupted since 1945 have been non-international conflicts, and they are often characterized by higher levels of brutality and violations.

In light of this reality, Protocol II complements Article 3 and provides an advanced legal framework regulating conflicts occurring within the territory of states, between their armed forces and dissident armed groups exercising effective control over part of the territory. The Protocol affirms the prohibition of all forms of violence against persons not directly participating in hostilities and guarantees them humane treatment without discrimination. It also criminalizes murder, torture, hostage-taking, terrorism, and degrading treatment, along with special protection for children and women. It also guarantees fair treatment for detainees and trials in accordance with fundamental judicial guarantees. The Protocol emphasizes the need to respect and protect the wounded and sick, medical transports, and their personnel, and not to target or use them for military purposes. It also prohibits the starvation of civilians, the forced displacement of populations, and attacks on cultural and religious objects. It calls for the facilitation of humanitarian relief operations in accordance with the principles of neutrality and non-discrimination, and encourages the wide dissemination of its provisions and the adoption of implementing measures in national legislation.

3. Additional Protocol III (2005): Concerning the Adoption of an Additional Protective Emblem: The Protocol introduces a new protective emblem into the framework of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. The purpose of this Protocol was to expand the internationally recognized symbols for the protection of medical and religious personnel during armed conflicts by adopting the red crystal emblem as an alternative neutral emblem alongside the red cross and red crescent. This emblem is accorded the same legal and symbolic protection as the traditional emblems under the Conventions, reinforcing the neutrality of humanitarian emblems and allowing their use in situations where the traditional emblem might raise cultural or political objections.

The legal framework of the Geneva Conventions within the system of international humanitarian law

The 1949 Geneva Conventions and their three Additional Protocols form the backbone of what is known as international humanitarian law, a branch of public



international law that regulates the rules of war and armed conflict with the aim of limiting their devastating effects on people and property. These conventions are an extension and development of the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, which established the first rules for the conduct of armed forces during conflict, particularly with regard to the use of weapons and restrictions on means of warfare. Meanwhile, the Geneva Conventions focus on protecting victims of armed conflict who are not directly participating in hostilities.

International humanitarian law – as embodied in the Geneva Conventions – is based on four basic legal principles that govern the conduct of parties to the conflict and define the scope of their obligations:

- 1. The Principle of Distinction:** Requires parties to a conflict to always distinguish between civilians and combatants, and between civilian objects and military objectives, and prohibits targeting civilian persons or property.
- 2. The Principle of Proportionality:** Requires parties to refrain from using excessive or indiscriminate force, ensuring that attacks are proportionate to a legitimate military objective and avoid excessive civilian harm.
- 3. The Principle of Military Necessity:** Permits only hostilities deemed militarily necessary to achieve a legitimate objective in the conflict, without exceeding the limits imposed by humanitarian law.
- 4. The Principle of Humanity:** Prohibits the use of any means or method of combat that causes unnecessary suffering or excessive harm, and emphasizes the need to respect human dignity in all circumstances.

The Geneva Conventions are applicable in all types of armed conflicts—both international and non-international—and oblige their parties, whether states or armed groups, to respect humanitarian rules regardless of the nature or motivations of the conflict. These conventions have acquired the status of binding international custom even in conflicts where not all parties are contracting states, making them part of generally applicable international law, including in international courts such as the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice.



In Conclusion...

Despite the passage of 76 years since the conclusion of the four Geneva Conventions, they still constitute the cornerstone of the international humanitarian law system, as legal and humanitarian documents that embody the moral conscience of the international community in times of war. These conventions established decisive rules that prohibit attacks on life and physical integrity, protect human dignity, guarantee fair trial, and provide a framework for the protection of the most vulnerable groups, including civilians, the wounded, and prisoners.

As armed conflicts escalate and their nature shifts from conventional wars to complex asymmetric conflicts, the world is facing increasing challenges in respecting and implementing the Four Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, particularly with the introduction of unprecedented military tools and technologies onto the battlefield. The most prominent of these challenges include:

- The legal difficulty of adapting to modern military technologies, including autonomous aircraft, combat algorithms, and artificial intelligence systems, raises significant issues related to distinguishing between civilian and military targets and determining criminal liability.
- The expansion of asymmetric conflicts and the emergence of cross-border non-state armed groups that are not subject to military discipline or international legal rules.
- Permissive and selective interpretations of legal provisions, especially when vague concepts such as “military necessity” or “combating terrorism” are used to justify violations.
- Serious and systematic violations of international humanitarian law without accountability or effective deterrence, perpetuating a culture of impunity.
- The lack of political will on the part of some states to implement their international obligations, whether by not joining the Convention, cooperating with international investigative mechanisms, or by not prosecuting perpetrators domestically.
- The deficiencies of national legislation in some states or their incompatibility with international obligations, hinders the implementation of the provisions of the conventions domestically.
- Legal restrictions in non-international conflicts, where protection remains limited in some contexts to Common Article 3 without sufficient protocol extension.
- The repeated targeting of medical facilities and relief teams, despite the special protection granted to them by the conventions, hinders humanitarian action and increases the suffering of civilians.
- The lack of dissemination and awareness of the provisions of international humanitarian law among armed forces, particularly irregular forces, and the absence of specialized training in conflict.
- The limited effectiveness of international compliance mechanisms, as institutions such as the International Criminal Court and the Commission of Inquiry suffer from political or legal constraints that limit their ability to investigate or impose sanctions.

In light of these intertwined challenges, the Geneva Conventions remain the most important legal and humanitarian framework for protecting human beings in armed conflicts. This requires states to activate national implementation mechanisms, enhance legal awareness among warring parties, and support international accountability efforts to ensure that these conventions remain an effective tool for protecting human dignity, not merely a theoretical obligation.

Challenges of Implementation in the 21st Century: Do the Geneva Conventions Stand Up to Artificial Intelligence?

Supporting Women's Participation in Peace building

The UN Women's Committee «Embedded» an International Resolution through Documentary Films



Documentary films have emerged as an effective means of spreading community awareness of human rights principles, as they are a tool capable of conveying human experiences in a visual language that transcends language barriers and cultural and political boundaries. This reality has led the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to make supporting these types of films and human rights film festivals part of its international efforts to promote a culture of human rights. This began in 2010 when it sponsored the Best Human Rights Content Award at the Millennium Film Festival in Brussels.



In the same context, the UN Women's Committee has focused on using awareness-raising documentaries to emphasize the importance of women's participation in international peacekeeping efforts and ending armed conflicts. This is in line with the UN's vision, which emphasized that women's participation in conflict resolution enhances the chances of achieving sustainable peace. This vision was embodied in the issuance of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women's participation in this regard in 2000. The resolution transformed from a UN resolution into an interactive discourse that influences and aims to persuade international public opinion on this issue, while simultaneously serving as a tool for educating and raising awareness about women's participation in the international peace process. The UN Women's Committee has produced a series of documentaries aimed at creating international public opinion in support of women's participation in promoting the right to peace. The most prominent of these films are:

- «Side by Side — Women, Peace and Security,» the first film produced by the UN Women's Committee in collaboration with the Australian government in 2012. It included education on the role of women in supporting international peace, in addition to training and education on their role in peacekeeping missions in conflict zones around the world.
- The film has duration of 30 minutes and was introduced by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who highlighted the importance of supporting women's participation in defusing armed conflicts. He emphasized women's capabilities in negotiation and presenting visions that empower communities, which in turn ensures that peace agreements meet the aspirations of these communities, thereby strengthening the agreements and shortening the duration of conflicts.
- The film also included an interview with former High Commissioner for Human

Can women's participation in conflict resolution enhance the chances of achieving sustainable peace?

How did the United Nations use documentaries to create international public opinion in support of women's right to peace?



Rights Michelle Bachelet, who emphasized the importance of women's participation in negotiations to end conflicts around the world. It also featured interviews with UN staff, peacekeeping forces, policymakers, and survivors of armed conflict.

The film helped transform the United Nations' vision of women's participation in international peace and security into creative content that serves as a means of education and, subsequently, raises awareness of women's partnership in supporting the right to peace, and sustains the international momentum to support this partnership.

«We Are Here» Film Series

It appears that the positive impact of the documentary «Side by Side» has been a reason for UN Women's continued production of this type of film. Through its Regional Office for Arab States, it launched a series of short documentaries in 2016 titled «We Are Here.» The six short documentaries highlight the social work, peace building, and conflict resolution work led by women living in challenging



environments across the Arab region.

The films showcase the stories of activists caught up in conflict, highlighting the threats to their security and the risk of displacement they face. However, their suffering is exacerbated by existing gender inequalities that lead to greater deprivation of education and the deterioration of reproductive health services. The message of the aforementioned films was to emphasize that women are the foundation of life and freedom; peace cannot grow without women; and they are the most motivated toward peaceful solutions because they have the greatest stake in achieving them, because they lose the most in wars, and because they desire societal stability.

The film: How Women Can Help Bring Peace to Their Communities

The film «How Can Women Help Bring Peace Back to Their Country» is one of the films in the «We Are Here» series. Serving as an engaging introduction to the role of women in bringing peace to their communities, the film points out that contemporary history includes numerous examples of women's participation in peace building, through their leadership roles in negotiating arrangements to reduce violence. Women successfully reduced violence in Colombia after an armed conflict broke out on its territory, negotiating the establishment of safe zones to ensure the flow of humanitarian aid to conflict-affected areas. In another example, women's organizations pushed warring parties to dialogue in Liberia. The film then emphasized the many successful examples of women's partnership and effectiveness in ending armed conflicts and establishing peace and security in various societies.

In Conclusion...

The UN Women has used documentaries as a means to support women's partnership in ending armed conflicts and bringing peace. It leverages their influence to raise community and international awareness of women's participation in supporting peace and security in their communities, highlighting their role as active players in negotiation processes, and their ability to establish security and ensure the flow of humanitarian aid.

The series of documentaries produced by the Women's Committee has emphasized that although women are the most affected by armed conflicts, they have the power to end them, provided they are given the role and capacity to play their part in this regard.

Have women contributed to ending armed conflict and establishing safe zones for humanitarian aid?



Photo Credit: International Criminal Court

It includes 18 judges and is competent to consider only four crimes.

The International Criminal Court as a Tool for Achieving International Justice



From The Hague Courtroom to the Battlefields: How the International Criminal Court Prosecutes War Criminals?

The adoption of the Rome Statute on July 17, 1998, followed by its entry into force on July 1, 2002 after reaching the required number of ratifications (60 states at the time), marked a historic step toward establishing international criminal justice. The Statute created the International Criminal Court, headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, as the first permanent judicial body with jurisdiction over individuals – including government officials and military leaders – for committing the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.

The preamble of the Rome Statute states that the States Parties are determined to put an end to the impunity of those who commit crimes that threaten peace, security, and the well-being of the world, and to contribute to their prevention. In this context, Article (1) of the Statute provides for the establishment of an independent International Criminal Court, exercising its jurisdiction over individuals for the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. Accordingly, the principle was established that global peace can only be achieved through individual accountability and the eradication of the culture of impunity.

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court defines four categories of crimes considered to be of the most serious concern to the international community, namely:

- **Crime of Genocide:** This includes any act committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, such as killing its members, causing them serious physical or mental harm, subjecting them to harsh living conditions calculated to bring about their destruction, imposing measures to prevent births within the group, or forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.
- **Crimes against Humanity:** These are grave violations committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population. The Statute enumerates fifteen forms of such crimes, including: murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation or forcible transfer of population, imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty, torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence, persecution on political, racial, or religious grounds, enforced disappearance, apartheid, and other inhumane acts intentionally causing great suffering.
- **War crimes:** These are serious violations of the laws and customs of war applicable in armed conflicts, both international and non-international, as set out in the Geneva Conventions. They include, for example, the intentional targeting of civilians, the killing and torture of prisoners of war, the conscription and use of children under the age of fifteen as soldiers, and attacks against protected facilities such as hospitals, schools, places of worship, and cultural sites.
- **Crime of Aggression:** This consists of the use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity, or political independence of another state, in a manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations. Although the Rome Statute did not define this crime upon its adoption in 1998, the Review Conference held in Kampala, Uganda, in 2010 adopted a definition and the conditions for the exercise of jurisdiction over the same, with the amendment entering into force in 2018.

International Justice Put to the Test: Historic Cases that Changed the Course of Human Rights

These definitions have not remained mere words on paper; rather, they have been embodied in real cases before the Court, including:

- The conviction of Thomas Lubanga (Democratic Republic of the Congo) in 2012, the first judgement rendered by the Court, for the conscription and use of children in armed conflicts.
- The conviction of Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi (Mali) in 2016, in the first case concerning the destruction of cultural heritage, where he was convicted of responsibility for the demolition of shrines and historical sites in Timbuktu, the judgement set an important precedent for the protection of cultural property.
- The conviction of Bosco Ntaganda (Democratic Republic of the Congo) in 2019, where he was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for extensive war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder, rape, and the recruitment of children.

These historic cases demonstrated that the Court is not merely a symbolic institution, but a practical instrument for upholding the principle of individual accountability and ending impunity for the most serious crimes.

The Rome Statute constitutes the comprehensive legal framework that defines the Court's jurisdiction, its working mechanisms, and the conditions under which it exercises its mandate. Although membership remains relatively limited at 125 States Parties as of 2025, and the enforcement of its decisions is often constrained by reliance on state cooperation, the Court nevertheless carries significant symbolic aspect, embodying the principle of non-impunity, protecting civilians during conflicts, and promoting a culture of human rights and the rule of law at the international level.

Working Mechanism of the Court

The International Criminal Court exercises its jurisdiction only when one of the four crimes stipulated in the Rome Statute has been committed. In compliance with the principle of complementarity with national jurisdictions, it only intervenes if national courts are unwilling or unable to perform their duties.

The Court's jurisdiction is triggered through three main mechanisms:

1. Referral by a State Party: Any state party to the Rome Statute may refer to the Prosecutor a situation involving crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court that occurred on its territory or were committed by its nationals. For example, Uganda referred the situation on its territory in 2004 concerning the crimes committed by the Lord's Resistance Army, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo also referred in 2004 the crimes committed during its internal conflicts.
2. Referral by the UN Security Council: Pursuant to Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the Security Council may refer any situation to the Court if it constitutes a threat to international peace and security, even if it involves a non-state party. This mechanism was used in Darfur (2005), where the situation was referred to the Court due to crimes against humanity and war crimes, and in Libya (2011) following the outbreak of the crisis.
3. Prosecutor's own initiative (proprio motu): On the basis of reliable information, the Prosecutor may initiate an investigation on his own motion, provided that authorization is obtained from the Pre-Trial Chamber. This mechanism has been invoked on several notable occasions, including Kenya (2007) following post-election violence, Côte d'Ivoire (2011) after the political crisis, Palestine (2021) concerning possible crimes in the Palestinian territories, and Ukraine (2022) following the Russian invasion, where the investigation was opened with the support of more than 40 states parties.

As an independent judicial institution, the Court does not possess its own international police force or law enforcement body; rather, it relies on the cooperation of states for the execution of arrest warrants, the transfer of suspects to the detention center in The Hague, the freezing of assets, and the enforcement of the rendered judgments.

Although the Court is not a United Nations organ, it concluded a cooperation agreement with the UN in 2004 to facilitate the coordination of efforts. In situations where the Court does not have inherent jurisdiction, the Security Council may refer situations to it, as occurred with Sudan and Libya, reflecting the interconnection between international justice and the maintenance of international peace and security.

Crimes Against Humanity, Genocide, and Aggression: Why the International Criminal Court was Established?

Administrative and Judicial Structure of the International Criminal Court

First: Judges and Judicial Divisions

- Number of Judges: 18 judges, elected by the States Parties to the Rome Statute on the basis of competence, integrity, and experience.
- Term of Office: 9 years, non-renewable.
- Structure: Three main divisions:

Pre-Trial Chamber:

- Reviews the Prosecutor's requests to open investigations.
- Issues arrest warrants and summonses.
- Holds confirmation of charges hearings before referring Case to trial.

Trial Chamber:

- Conducts trials and public proceedings.
- Hears witnesses and examines evidence.
- Renders judgments and determines sentences and reparations.

Appeals Chamber:

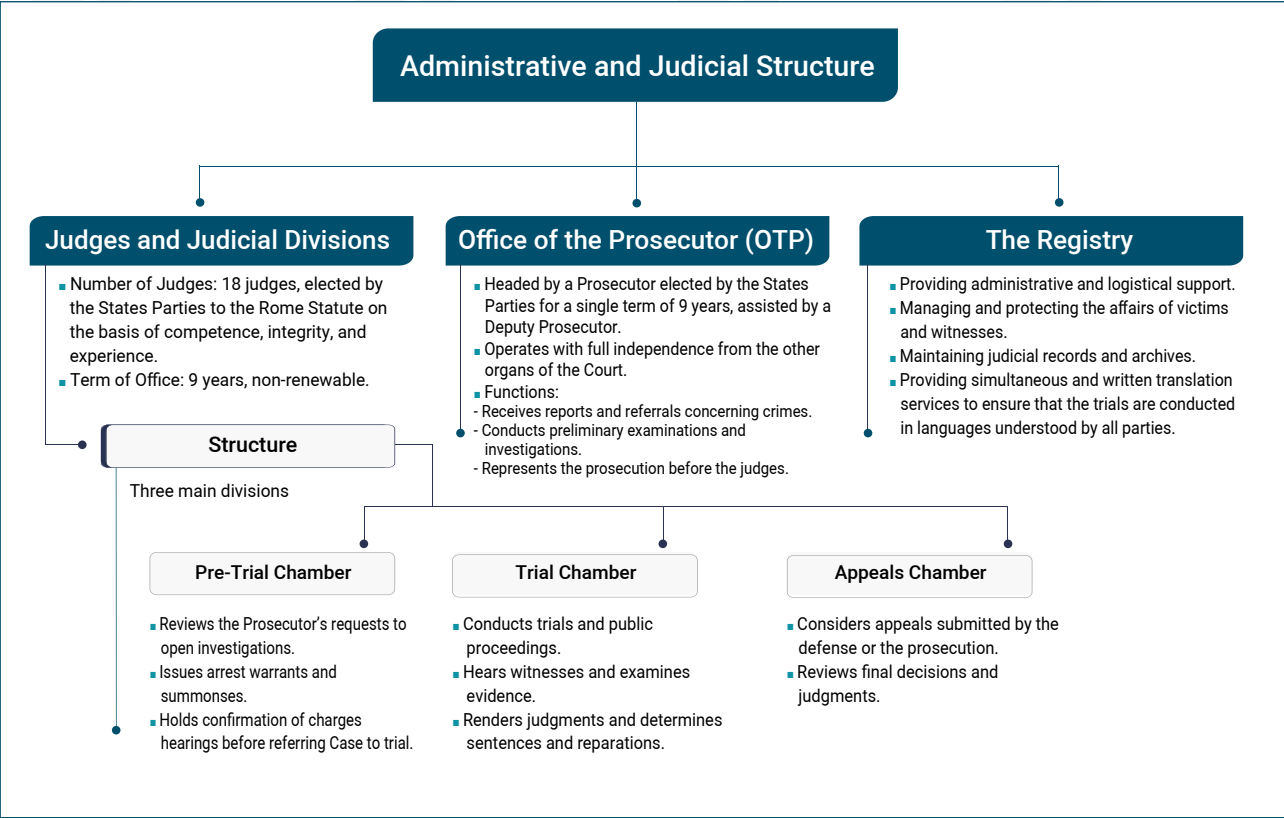
- Considers appeals submitted by the defense or the prosecution.
- Reviews final decisions and judgments.

Second: Office of the Prosecutor (OTP)

- Headed by a Prosecutor elected by the States Parties for a single term of 9 years,



Photo Credit: International Criminal Court



assisted by a Deputy Prosecutor.

- Operates with full independence from the other organs of the Court.
- Functions:
 - Receives reports and referrals concerning crimes.
 - Conducts preliminary examinations and investigations.
 - Represents the prosecution before the judges.

Third: The Registry

- The administrative organ of the Court, responsible for:
 - Providing administrative and logistical support.
 - Managing and protecting the affairs of victims and witnesses.
 - Maintaining judicial records and archives.
 - Providing simultaneous and written translation services to ensure that the trials are conducted in languages understood by all parties.

Defense and Fair Trial Guarantees

The right to defense constitutes a cornerstone of the justice system of the International Criminal Court. The accused is appeared before the Court through defense counsel of his own choosing, or, if unable to bear the costs of representation, one appointed by the Court free of charge. The Rome Statute (Article 67) guarantees the accused a set of fundamental rights, most notably:

- The right to be informed in detail of the charges against him, in a language the accused fully understands.
- The right to be present at all stages of public trial, and to be granted adequate time and facilities to prepare a defense.
- The right to communicate confidentially with counsel, to summon defense witnesses, and to cross-examine the prosecution witnesses on an equal basis.
- The right not to be compelled to confess, and the presumption of innocence until conviction is proven beyond reasonable doubt.

To further ensure the integrity of the legal profession before the Court, the Court adopted in December 2005 a Code of Professional Conduct for Counsel, comprising 46 articles regulating:

- Counsel's duties toward their clients and the Court.
- Professional conduct required in the courtroom.
- Counsel's rights to access information and communicate with their clients.
- Disciplinary mechanisms and procedures for complaints regarding misconduct or breaches of the rules.

Therefore, justice before the International Criminal Court does not only entail holding accused persons accountable, but also ensuring that they are afforded a fair and impartial trial, thereby reinforcing the Court's legitimacy and credibility in the eyes of the international community.

Victims and their Rights before the Court

One of the distinctive features of the International Criminal Court is that it grants victims an active role in judicial proceedings, unlike previous international courts that focused solely on prosecuting perpetrators. The Victims are entitled to:

- Participate in judicial proceedings through legal representatives.
- Present their views and claims before the judges at all stages of the Case.
- Submit requests for reparations for the harm they have suffered as a result of crimes under the Court's jurisdiction.

The judges of the Court may not order any form of compensation or reparation unless a final judgment of conviction has been rendered against the accused. In such cases, orders may be issued for individual or collective reparations, which are implemented in practice through the Trust Fund for Victims.

125 Countries and 11 Convictions... Numbers Reveal the International Criminal Court's Role in Combating Impunity



The Trust Fund for Victims (Reparations)

- The Trust Fund assists in upholding the rights of victims and their families by providing reparations and assistance. The Fund’s staff works with victims to provide vital programs related to mental health, physical rehabilitation, and material support, with the goal of achieving lasting peace for individuals, their families, and their communities.

The Trust Fund for Victims (Reparations)

The Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) was established by a decision of the Assembly of States Parties in 2002 and became operational in 2007, serving as the humanitarian arm of the International Criminal Court in providing justice to victims. Its primary objective is to provide reparations for harm resulting from crimes under the Court’s jurisdiction, either by implementing reparation orders issued against convicted persons or through its own programs funded by voluntary contributions.

The Fund carries out key functions, which include the following:

- Psychological and social support: Programs addressing psychological trauma caused by individual or mass violence.
- Physical rehabilitation: Provision of medical care and reintegration services for victims and survivors of crimes.
- Material support: Direct financial support or projects to improve the livelihoods of victims’ families and affected communities.
- Implementation of reparation orders: Upon a final judgment of conviction, the Fund manages the process of reparations for victims, whether on an individual or collective basis.

The Fund has carried out several assistance programs in countries such as Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, and Mali. Among its most notable recent achievements is the implementation of a record reparation order in the case of Dominic Ongwen (Uganda) in 2023, amounting to EUR 52 million, which included symbolic payments to victims and collective projects for community reconstruction.

Therefore, the Fund embodies the humanitarian dimension of the Court, ensuring that justice is not limited to punishing perpetrators but also extends to healing victims’ wounds and restoring hope in their lives.

Between Challenges and Achievements: Can the International Criminal Court Serve as a Global Deterrent?

Challenges and International Cooperation

Despite the achievements of the Court, its work continues to face a number of challenges, most notably:

- **Lack of Universality:** Major powers such as the United States, Russia, and China remain outside the Court’s membership, which limits the scope of its jurisdiction.
- **Weak Enforcement of Arrest Warrants:** The Court relies on state cooperation to carry out arrests, and some States Parties have failed to detain high-profile persons subject to arrest warrants during visits to their territories.
- **Political Pressures:** The Court has faced criticism, restrictions, and even sanctions from certain states when its investigations touched upon sensitive situations, such as Afghanistan or Ukraine.
- **Slow proceedings:** The complex nature of the cases (multiple accused persons, witnesses, and languages) has at times prolonged the duration of trials.

Notwithstanding these challenges, the International Criminal Court remains a central mechanism for establishing international criminal justice, deterring perpetrators of serious crimes, and strengthening the culture of human rights and the rule of law.

The ICC’s Procedural Journey



Rights of the Accused before the International Criminal Court

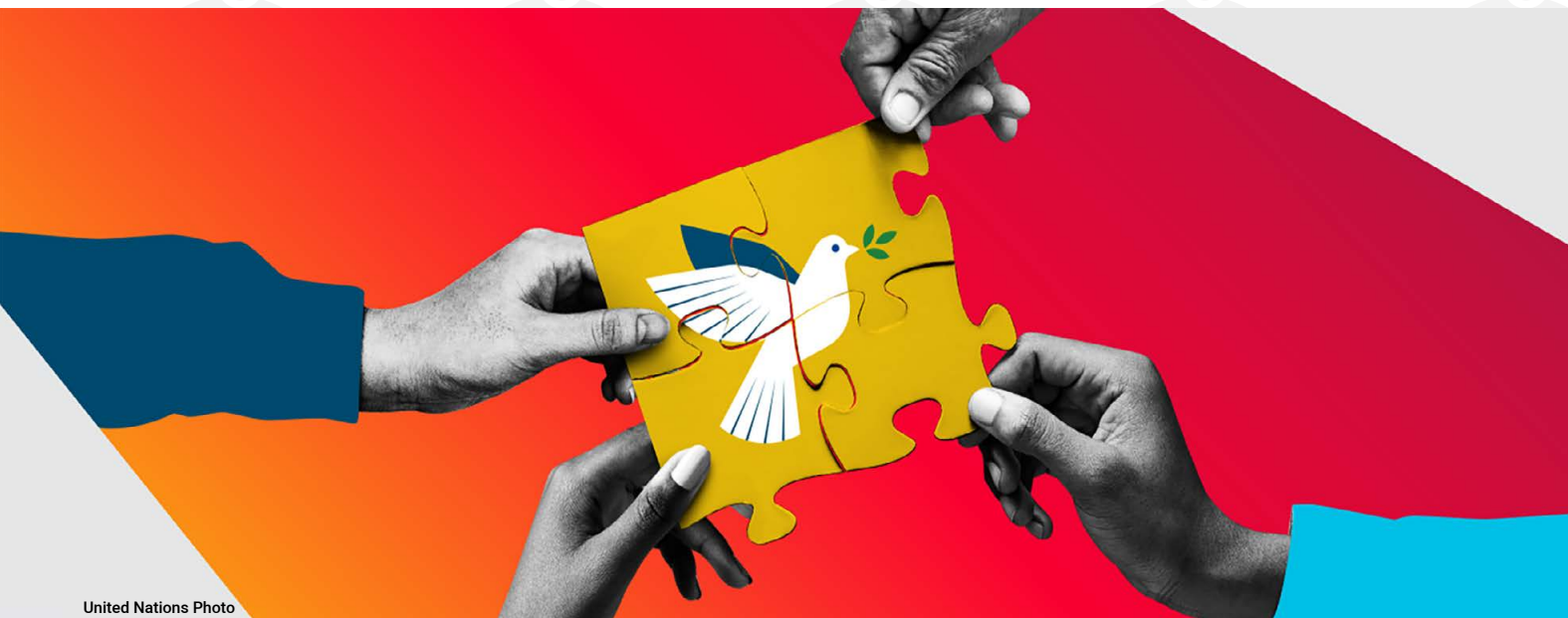
- The accused shall be informed of the charges in a language they understand.**
- The right to be present at all stages of the public trial.**
- Adequate time and facilities to prepare the defense.**
- The right to choose an attorney, or to have one appointed free of charge if unable to afford expenses.**
- Confidential communication with attorney without interference.**
- Summoning defense witnesses and cross-examining prosecution witnesses on an equal basis.**
- The right to remain silent and not be compelled to confess.**
- The presumption of innocence until conviction is proven beyond reasonable doubt.**

In Conclusion...

The International Criminal Court represents one of the most significant institutional milestones in the advancement of international justice. It was established as a permanent mechanism to hold accountable perpetrators of the most serious crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression (the definition of which was formally added and adopted at the Kampala Conference in 2010 and entered into force in 2018).

Despite the political and legal challenges confronting its work—from limited membership to difficulties in enforcing arrest warrants and political pressures—the very existence of the Court serves as a clear deterrent message to anyone who would dare to commit atrocities with impunity. It reaffirms that the principle of non-impunity has become an established norm in the international system, and that the rights of victims cannot be disregarded.

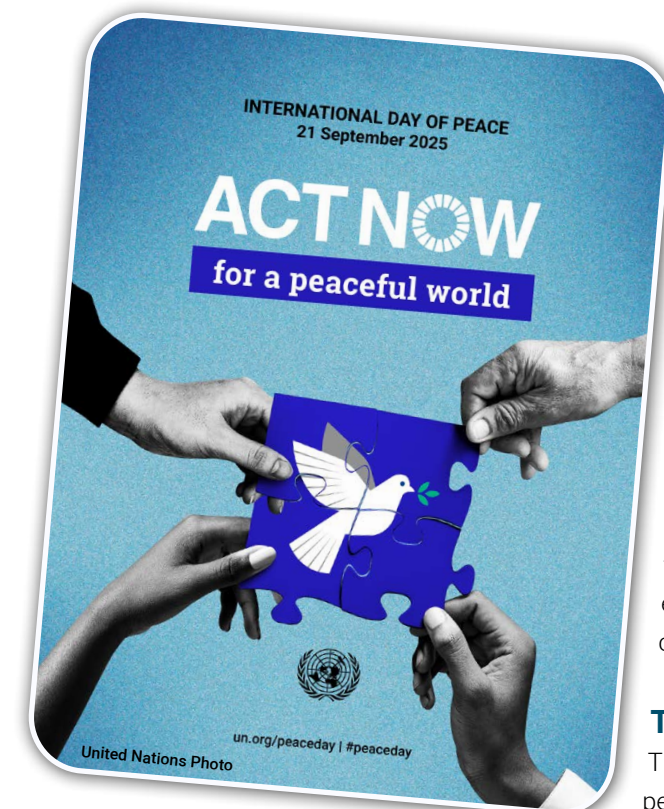
The continued support of the international community for the Court, the development of its mechanisms, and the strengthening of its independence are imperative to ensure its effectiveness in safeguarding international peace and security, promoting a culture of human rights, and building a more just and equitable global order—one in which there is no safe haven for perpetrators of serious international crimes.



A renewed call in support of the right to peace

The United Nations celebrates the International Day of Peace: «Act Now for a Peaceful World»

The United Nations has renewed its call to support peace and promote international stability by choosing «Act Now for a Peaceful World» as the theme for the 2025 International Day of Peace, in response to the waves of turmoil the world is witnessing.



Peace and Human Rights... a close relationship

This day, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981, is an annual occasion celebrated on September 21 of each year to promote a culture of non-violence and affirm the commitment to ending conflicts and silencing the guns. This message has become more urgent in light of increasing global challenges.

The International Day of Peace is directly linked to human rights values, as respect for human dignity, non-discrimination, and the protection of the most vulnerable groups constitute essential foundations for building lasting peace. This occasion affirms that establishing peace is inseparable from adherence to international human rights conventions, including the right to life and security, freedom of expression, and equality before the law. It also highlights the importance of social justice and individual empowerment as key elements for addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting community reconciliation.

The roles of Individuals and Societies

This year's theme, «Act Now for a Peaceful World,» emphasizes that peacebuilding is not the sole responsibility of governments, but rather a collaborative role that extends from peacekeepers in conflict zones to

communities and educational institutions around the world. It also urges us to confront violence, hatred, and discrimination, and to uphold the values of respect and human diversity, whether through dialogue and the rejection of extremism, or through volunteering and community service, or even in the details of daily life, such as consumer choices and responsible digital behaviour.

the UN's role in Leading Global Efforts

The United Nations plays a pivotal role in consolidating the foundations of international peace and security, through its Peacebuilding Commission, which celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year, and through its efforts to address the causes of conflict such as poverty, discrimination, and inequality. Through its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, the organization also seeks to promote prosperity, raise health and living standards, and uphold human rights, thus enhancing global stability and reducing the causes of conflict.

Innovation and Community Engagement

The «Act Now» campaign launched by the United Nations also stands out as a practical platform for empowering individuals to choose causes they believe in and take practical steps that have a tangible impact on peacebuilding. The recently adopted «Pact for the Future» also reflects the international community's commitment to addressing emerging challenges in the fields of technology and innovation, and engaging new generations in shaping a future based on peace and justice.

Peace is Everyone's Responsibility

This occasion demonstrates that peacebuilding efforts are interconnected at all levels: from UN-supported health clinics to youth initiatives, from parliamentary debates to community dialogue in classrooms. Peace is not a slogan raised at special occasions, but rather a way of life that requires collective and individual actions that go beyond rhetoric and translate into a tangible reality that consolidates stability and preserves human dignity.

Suggested Activities to Promote Peace Awareness

The United Nations has identified a range of activities that can be implemented in communities and institutions to support peace goals and spread its culture. These include:

- Launching digital awareness campaigns via social media.
- Organizing marches or races with the theme of peace.
- Hosting art and film nights or exhibitions on the culture of peace.
- Organizing a «Sports Day for Peace» in local communities.
- Volunteering in organizations that promote peace values or protect the environment.
- Organizing concerts or art exhibitions dedicated to peace.
- Participating in environmental cleanup efforts and community gardens.
- Writing poetry or poems dedicated to peace and encouraging young artistic talents to express the values of tolerance.



In Conclusion...

The United Nations' designation of the International Day of Peace as a global occasion sends a clear message to humanity that peace is an urgent option that cannot be postponed, and that achieving peace is a shared responsibility not limited to governments and international institutions, but encompasses every individual in the world. This year's theme, «Act Now for a Peaceful World,» inspires us all to move from wishful thinking to action, to build more just and tolerant societies, and to shape a future worthy of future generations. There is no alternative but to join efforts for a world of peace.



Community Councils... The Beating Heart of the United Arab Emirates Society



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4
عام المجتمع
YEAR OF COMMUNITY
٢٠٢٤ UAE

مجالس
أبوظبي
MAJALIS ABUDHABI

The announcement by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the State, may God protect him, declaring 2025 as the «Year of the Community,» underscores the significance of national cohesion as the foundation of progress. It stems from the belief that the prosperity of nations begins with the unity of their people, the contribution of their individuals, and the investment in their cultural heritage to build a sustainable future. At the heart of this national orientation, community councils hold a pivotal position as one of the most prominent social and cultural symbols that reflect the authentic Emirati heritage, enhance the spirit of dialogue, belonging, and national identity, and support community participation.

A Symbol of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Emirati Majlis is considered a vital manifestation of intangible cultural heritage. In 2015, it was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List as part of a joint Gulf nomination. This inscription reflects the international community's recognition of the Majlis's significance as a space for dialogue, communication, and solidarity. The UAE continues its role as an international partner in safeguarding cultural heritage through strategic partnerships with UNESCO. In 2018, it ranked sixth globally as the largest donor to the organization, contributing \$11,660,621. The nation also holds membership in six specialized UNESCO committees, demonstrating

its firm commitment to promoting international cultural collaboration, solidifying its position as a leading nation in heritage preservation, and dedicating culture as a bridge for dialogue and development.

From the Barzah to State Institutions

Historically, these councils were known by names such as «Barzah,» «Beit Al Sha'er» (house of poetry), and «Mirmas.» They were held in the homes of sheikhs and the elderly and used to discuss people's affairs and listen to their demands. Councils were characterized by a space of openness and trust, and contributed to resolving conflicts and building social cohesion. Specialized Majalis emerged, including the merchants' council for discussing diving and trade affairs, the judges' council for settling legal disputes and providing religious education, and Ramadan Majalis that flourished at night after Tarawih prayers. Over time, the concept of the Majlis has evolved to encompass national institutions such as ministerial councils and advisory councils, affirming its continuity as a platform for dialogue and decision-making.

Known by names like «Al-Barza,» «Bait Al-Sha'ar,» and «Al-Mirmas,» these councils were held in the homes of sheikhs and elders to discuss public affairs and listen to people's demands.



Women's councils provided a space for communication and the transmission of customs and traditions from one generation to the next, reflecting women's pivotal role in strengthening the community fabric.

Abu Dhabi's majlis, through the «Summer of Majlis 2024» program, attracted over 2,000 participants across 380 events, underscoring their role in cultural and community development.

Women and Women's Councils

Majalis were not exclusive to men; women's councils were a fundamental part of social life. Women gathered to exchange greetings during Eid celebrations, participate in events, and share traditional dishes. These councils also provided a space for communication and the transmission of customs and traditions from one generation to the next, reflecting the pivotal role of women in strengthening the social fabric.

Examples of Modern Community Councils

In the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, community councils are an active pillar of social life. There are 69 councils distributed across Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and the Al Dhafra region, hosting diverse activities that include Quran memorization, artificial intelligence workshops, arts, and awareness programs. One of their prominent initiatives is the «Summer Councils 2024» program, which attracted more than 2,000 participants through 380 events, reflecting their role in cultural and community development.

The presence of Majalis in Abu Dhabi is rooted in a rich historical legacy, exemplified by prominent councils such as the Majlis of Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa (Zayed the First) at Qasr Al Hosn, and the Majlis of Sheikha Salama bint Butti. Additionally, there is the renowned Majlis of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan under the Ghaf tree in Al Ain, documented by the traveler Wilfred Thesiger, which stands as a symbol of popular communication. Furthermore, Sheikh Zayed's Majlis at the Kennedy Hospital remains a landmark that chronicles the evolution of healthcare.

In Dubai, Dubai Municipality, in collaboration with the Community Development Authority, has launched a project to establish five neighborhood

Majalis in areas such as Nad Al Sheba, Al Awir, and Al Warqa'a, with each Majlis spanning approximately 1,256 square meters. These Majalis include comprehensive facilities such as halls, prayer rooms, kitchens, and administrative offices. The project aims to support family cohesion and strengthen national identity within the framework of the «Dubai Social Agenda 33,» and to build a happier and more cohesive society.



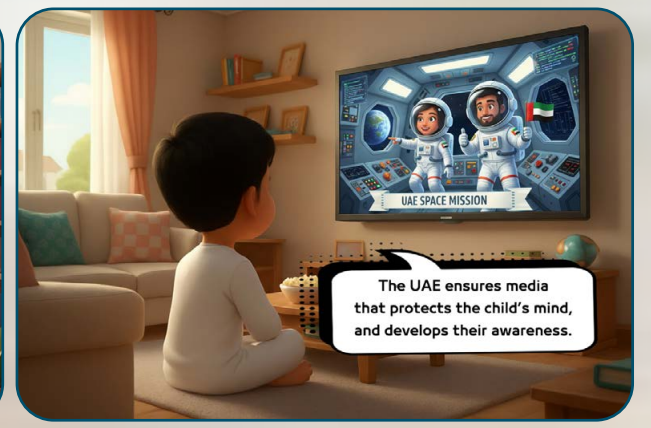
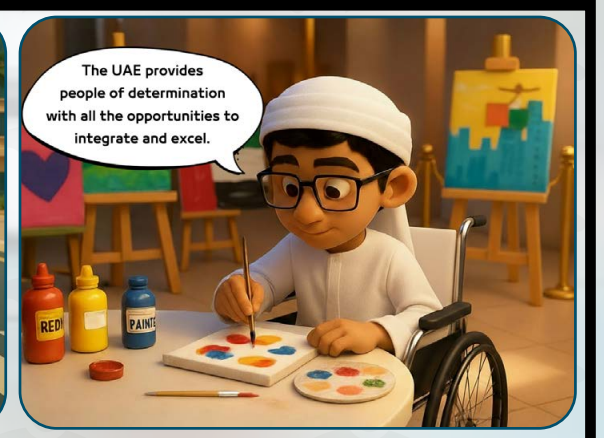
In Conclusion

Community Majalis in the United Arab Emirates represent a unique model of social communication deeply rooted in authenticity and extending towards the future with a wise leadership vision. They are not merely spaces for meeting but platforms that embody Emirati values of cohesion, contribution, and the preservation of national identity. With the declaration of 2025 as the Year of the Community, these Majalis continue their pivotal role in building a cohesive society that embodies the spirit of the Union and expresses the aspirations of a people who have made the Majlis a gateway for dialogue, development, and active participation in shaping the future.





Hello friends!
 I am Zayed, I love to play and have fun,
 and I enjoy studying at school. Do you know
 why we are so lucky in the UAE? Because we
 have rights that make our lives better and happier!
 Come join me and my friend Shama
 to find out how!



Civil Society in the UAE: Abundance, Richness, and a Future Vision

When I speak about civil society, I do not approach it solely from a theoretical perspective—whether represented by laws, regulations, or their societal development—but rather from a profound, practical perspective spanning a long professional and legal career. Experience has taught me that civil society is not merely a collection of organizations or associations, but rather a broad, humane space that unites individuals around shared human values and forms a bridge between state and society.



Consultant:
Maryam Al-Ahmadi

The success of the «Union Association» was not in the number of activities, but in the effective legal impact.

Partnerships between civil society, the private and public sectors, and international bodies open up broad avenues for impact.

Through my experience in civil society organizations for more than 20 years, and my participation in numerous international and regional forums, I have witnessed the pivotal role of civil society in building nations and strengthening the UAE's position as a beacon of humanitarian and human rights work.

Abundance and the right to choose.

Throughout this journey, «abundance» and «the right to choose» have been key features that have defined and shaped its features. The journey of civil society in the UAE has been characterized by richness and diversity, especially with the support of the wise leadership through administrative and legal rules and regulations that have shaped the features of public benefit associations and provided them with numerous avenues for launching into community service, contributing to the diversity of their cultural, professional, and volunteer fields.

Given this abundance, I participated in establishing and serving on the boards of directors of numerous civil society organizations for many years, which enabled me to contribute through a rich practical experience.

In the UAE, civil society has been and remains an integral part of the nation's renaissance and development project. The UAE's rich humanitarian experience has contributed to formulating a new and profound concept of peaceful coexistence among diverse nationalities and cultures. The presence of more than 200 nationalities, representing diverse religions and cultures, living in peace and harmony on one land under the umbrella of the law is tangible evidence of the community's resilience and the presence of wise, humane leadership.

The Emirati experience is deep and rich.

Given my passion and extensive knowledge in the field of human development and self-development, I believe that the Emirati experience is profound and deserves to be focused on, its deep aspects highlighted, and its superficial aspects transcended. According to the United Nations definition of human development, it is the expansion of human choices, meaning that the state creates for the individual numerous, diverse, and open options so that he finds many doors to express himself and find his passion for life, to provide for himself its needs and then provide for his society its needs.

In the UAE, the state has moved the individual from a stage of economic welfare to a stage of intellectual and legal welfare. He is satisfied in securing his basic needs in terms of the economy, education, health, culture, and



others. However, in my opinion, this is where the state's role in embracing its children ends. Here comes the role of the conscious, mature individual to play his role in self-development, whereby the individual exercises the right to choose from among the infinite options provided by the state to find the appropriate place for him, his abilities, potentials, and talents to offer, give, contribute, and become an effective and giving individual.

Here, I believe that volunteering and civil society organizations are the ideal place to practice this noble type of giving in a systematic, organized manner that is directed towards the benefit of all. Whoever neglects this great duty has lost many of the noble meanings in his life and deprived his community of the capabilities and gifts that could have a significant impact in supporting the movement for positive change in human societies.

Union Association for Human Rights; Richness and Vision.

The Union for Human Rights is a living example of this. Through its initiatives and activities, it has contributed to promoting a culture of human rights locally and has conveyed the UAE's voice to regional and international forums. I am proud to be part of this experience, through my participation in the sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva and at the United Nations in New York, as well as my attendance and participation in international meetings related to the United Nations Charter for the Future. I also participated in the activities of the United Nations Civil Society Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2024, where I represented Emirati civil society, with a humanitarian vision that reflects the country's established principles.

I have full confidence that the future of Emirati civil society will be better and more beautiful under the guidance of our wise leadership. I see it moving toward greater professionalism and influence, whether through launching more quality initiatives or continuing to support the role of women and youth in shaping the future of public benefit organizations, as they are the energy of the future and the hope of tomorrow.

In Conclusion...

I write these lines and recall here what I read by the scholar and philosopher Erich Fromm, who said that when a person is born, the umbilical cord that connects him to his mother is cut to begin his journey of independence and the search for a mature and deep meaning for this life. However, he does not mature and his personality is not complete except by extending the bonds of a new cord that connects him to the society to which he belongs. This society grants him acceptance and a sense of belonging and helps in his maturity. Then this mature individual offers his own imprint to his society and the service that contributes to the development, growth and advancement of his society. In doing so, he has fulfilled his mission towards the society to which he belongs. Through humanitarian work, we grow and our societies grow in a healthy way that serves everyone.

I believe that Emirati civil society is making confident strides toward consolidating our nation's position as a pioneer in humanitarian and charitable work. I have a firm conviction that the humanitarian principles instilled by Zayed in our collective consciousness have shaped our character and continue to motivate us to instill the values of love, peace, and human justice, not only in our nation but across the world. We are an integral part of this universe and must be a channel of light, not darkness.

The future of Emirati civil society, thanks to our wise leadership, is moving toward greater professionalism and influence.



Consultant:
Faisal Al-Khoury

The right to silence

The right to silence and legislative development in the UAE

The United Arab Emirates is witnessing a notable shift in legislative trends, especially with its diligent efforts to absorb and accommodate the remarkable demographic on its land, and its belief in the urgent need for coexistence and acceptance of others, which makes it unhesitant to implement changes or amendments to laws that do not serve the public interest.

This is reflected in the various legislative amendments that have occurred in the state's laws, especially those related to personal rights, including personal freedom and its unrestricted. Therefore, we recognize the significant shift in the UAE legislator's approach in this regard by explicitly stating the right to remain silent.

The Emirati legislator added a new paragraph in Federal Law Decree No. 38 of 2022, issuing the Criminal Procedure Law, which contains an important right for the accused and the suspect during the investigation or inquiry phase, and the ruling applies according to the final investigation phase, also known as the trial.

The legal texts between the old and the new

Article (47) of the previous law stipulated the following:

The judicial officer must hear the defendant's statements immediately upon their arrest or detention, and if they do not provide evidence for their innocence, they must be sent to the competent public prosecutor within forty-eight hours.

While Article (148/) stipulated the rights of the accused in the new law.

The judicial officer must inform the accused of the crime attributed to him and his right to refrain from speaking immediately upon his arrest or detention, and before hearing his statements. If he does not provide any evidence of his innocence after giving his statements, he must be sent within 48 hours to the competent public prosecution.

Through the combination of these two texts, it becomes clear that the legislator added in the subsequent article of the new law a new provision that guarantees the right of the accused to refrain from speaking, or what is referred to as the right to remain silent.

The right to silence between theory and practice

People often tend to be silent, whether in positive or negative situations. Is this truly a right or a misuse of it; and consequently, an inappropriate use or one without interest?

The answer to the question leads to an inquiry, which is whether it is established in civil transactions that silence in the face of need is considered acceptance; can this principle be applied in the criminal field?

It is a rule limited to the scope of civil transactions and contracts, and it cannot be applied by analogy in the criminal field.



Justice and the presumption of innocence

It is unfortunate that some workers in the legal or judicial field, in particular, adopt an unjust mindset, which is that a person's silence when questioned is held against them, especially if there is evidence or clues against them. However, justice and logic require that it is the responsibility of the accuser to prove the contrary of the original and established; if the default assumption about a person is innocence, then it is upon the one who claims otherwise to prove that.

Accordingly, the defendant should not have to prove anything or provide a justification, nor should a purely security-based approach rooted in preconceived notions be relied upon, such as claiming that you have placed yourself under suspicion or that you have previously committed this act, or that all evidence points to you. All these common expressions often used by some investigators reflect a lack of justice and professionalism in criminal evidence. Justice must be fair before it can be investigative, and this fairness can only be achieved by preserving the rights of the accused, even at the expense of public rights or societal rights.

Therefore, when a person is in a position of accusation, they have the full right to remain silent, not to respond to any questions, or to justify their position to the investigator. The investigation authority must handle this situation professionally; if they consider it a negative stance from the accused, it is an inherent right of theirs and there is no harm in that. They must work to provide conclusive evidence to refer the accused for a fair trial, otherwise, they should release them due to lack of a crime or insufficient evidence.

The Miranda case and the shift in legal thought

The conditional mentality has prevailed for centuries in dealing with the monitoring of individuals under the pretext of security and safety, and



unfortunately it still exists among some. Suspicion has often overshadowed good intentions in many cases driven by the motive of protecting society, not judicial control, until the Miranda case came about. In reality, it is an ordinary case like any other, but its course and events made it more than that, turning it into a timeless case in contemporary history and a historical reference for a constitutional text that guarantees the right to remain silent and the right to defense.

We must clarify a very important point, which is the shift in thought in civilized societies from a police mentality dominated by suspicion and doubt to a legal security mindset; professionalism lies in applying the law and enforcing it while safeguarding the rights of the suspect or accused. This leads us to the Miranda case, which not only changed the course and operation of policing in the United States but also altered the legal perspective in criminal proceedings worldwide.

Miranda Warning: Content and Formulation

In the United States of America and in many countries of the civilized world, there is something called a 'Miranda warning'.

The Miranda warning is a type of notification usually provided by the police to criminal suspects in custody or before their detention when stopped, informing them of their right to remain silent, and in fact, to protect them from self-incrimination; that is, their right to refuse to answer questions or provide information to law enforcement officials or other authorities.

As we know, the American judiciary, as an (Anglo-Saxon-American) system, is based on judicial precedents, and this legal principle and constitutional

norm were established in American law following the Supreme Court decision in the case of *Miranda v. Arizona* in 1966, which found that the fifth and sixth amendment rights of Ernesto Arturo Miranda had been violated during his arrest and trial for armed robbery, kidnapping, and the rape of a young woman.

-What does the Miranda warning include?

It includes the right to refrain from responding to questions from the investigator or even the judge verbally or through gestures, as well as the right to consult a lawyer and have them present during the interrogation, and the right to appoint a lawyer in case of incapacitation. It is similar to verbal warnings from the law enforcement officer to the stopped or detained person before starting to question or interrogate them.

-The format of warnings:

Each jurisdiction in the United States has its own regulations regarding what must specifically be said to anyone who is arrested or placed in custody, but the typical text is as follows:

- You have the right to remain silent and refuse to answer questions.
- If you give up your right to remain silent, anything you say can be used against you in court.
- You have the right to consult a lawyer before speaking to the police and to have a lawyer present during questioning now or in the future.
- If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be appointed for you before any questioning if you want.
- If you decide to answer the questions now without the presence of a lawyer, you will still have the right to stop answering at any time until you speak with the lawyer.

After issuing Miranda warnings, the police ask standard questions accordingly; they are:

- Question (from the judicial officer, investigator, or a general or specific judicial officer): Do you understand each of the rights I have explained to you?
- Question: Taking these rights into consideration,
- Question: Would you like to talk to us now?

After these warnings have been issued and this opportunity provided to him, the individual may waive these rights knowingly and intelligently and agree to answer questions or make a statement.

What is the meaning of «I invoke my right»?

Many people often cling to a certain phrase regarding the police, meaning that they insist on the right silence and the rights that come with it.

It is important to clarify in this regard that the officer does not assume your desire to exercise these rights, but you must clearly state your wish to exercise them. This means saying something like: 'I want to speak to a lawyer before answering any questions,' 'I wish to invoke my Miranda rights,' or 'I am exercising my rights guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution.'

The effect of not guaranteeing the right to silence

What is the effect of failing to guarantee the right to remain silent?

The failure to guarantee this right constitutes a constitutional violation as it is in the United States, and in other countries it is considered a legal violation as is the case in the United Arab Emirates. In both cases, this results in nullity which can be invoked at any stage of the proceedings, even at the execution stage.

Conclusion:

When restricting the freedom of any person or detaining them by the authorities, and before subjecting them to interrogation, they must be warned and informed of their right to remain silent, whether in an official report or verbally, and that anything they say may be used against them in court, and that they have the right to have a lawyer present, and if they are unable to afford a lawyer, one will be appointed for them before any questioning if they wish, and they must be given the opportunity to exercise these rights throughout the interrogation process.

We realize that the UAE legislator did well when he added the right to remain silent for a person when being questioned or interrogated, and we see that this ruling applies to all stages of the criminal proceedings, whether in the stage of evidence gathering, at the initial stage with the public prosecution, or at the final investigation stage during the trial.

The commitment of companies to sustainability standards and human rights and its impact on economic competitiveness indicators.

The United Arab Emirates as a model



Dr. Walaa Jad Al-Karim

member of the National Council for Human Rights (Egypt), expert in sustainability, governance, and social inclusion issues.

In the last quarter of a century, international organizations and major economic blocs have adopted several initiatives to integrate sustainability standards and human rights into corporate activities and business institutions, aiming for a transition to a globally sustainable and socially responsible economy. Therefore, it has become essential to explore the direct and indirect links and impacts of joining these initiatives on economic competitiveness indicators in various countries. The experience of the United Arab Emirates serves as a model that is tempting for study and analysis, especially in light of the increasing pace of interaction between Emirati companies and business institutions with these initiatives.

The UN Global Compact, launched in 2000, is the most comprehensive framework for encouraging companies to align their strategies and operations with ten global principles related to human rights, labor, the environment, and anti-corruption. Following the adoption of this compact, several initiatives, standards, and specialized guidelines aimed at integrating human rights standards into business practices were introduced. Notable examples include the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI), the two financial initiatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEPFI), which are the Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB) and the Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) initiative for sustainable stock exchanges (SSEI). In 2011, the UN Human Rights Council adopted the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. There are indicators that signify the steps being taken by UAE companies and business institutions towards strengthening their commitment to international standards for sustainability and human rights, and their joining the aforementioned initiatives, which has clearly reflected on the UAE's position in global competitiveness indicators.

The regional leadership of Emirati companies in joining global initiatives.

As of September 15, 2025, 243 Emirati companies and business institutions have joined the United Nations Global Compact, which is the largest number of companies to join the compact in a single country compared to other countries in the Middle East and the Arab region, with Emirati companies and business institutions representing about 25% of the total members in the entire Arab region.i

By tracking the graph line of the membership of Emirati companies and business institutions in the United Nations Global Compact, we will notice the steady increase in the inclination to adopt this influential international initiative.

Note: This article is partially based on a broader study prepared and presented by the author during the «Arab-African Dialogue on Business and Human Rights, Kingdom of Morocco, June 24,25-2025.»



Before 2015, the number of companies and institutions joining the charter was only 21 companies and business institutions. This number then increased by 29 companies during the period from 2015 to 2019, with an average of about 6 new members annually, noting that 2015 saw the establishment of the Emirati network for the United Nations Global Compact. During the period from 2020 to 2022, the number rose to 57 companies and business institutions, representing an increase of only 7 members during this period, with an annual average of about 23- new members.

During the period from 2023 to September 15, 2025, 136 companies and business entities joined the charter, with an average of about 50 new members each year.ii

The business sectors of companies and institutions in the UAE committed to the United Nations Global Compact vary, with specialized companies in the goods and services industry leading at 15% of total members. This is followed by companies specialized in telecommunications and information technology at 10%, companies specialized in energy at 8%, and companies specializing in real estate and construction materials and services at nearly the same percentage. Additionally, there are companies specialized in banking, insurance, and financial services. Together, these sectors account for about 50% of the total members of the UAE network of the United Nations Global Compact, which also includes companies specializing in economic activities where the UAE has a comparative advantage, notably companies in retail trade, tourism and travel, public utilities, food and beverages, healthcare, and media services. iii

Unlike the Global Compact, UAE companies constitute more than 50% of the Arab companies that have joined the Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI), with a total of 17 companies out of 33 Arab companies. The Principles for Responsible Investment aim to understand the impacts of sustainability on investors and support signatories in integrating these issues into their investment decisions and practices related to ownership, while incorporating environmental, social, and governance factors into investment practices. As of the end of 2024, more than 5,000 signatories from over 80 countries,





managing assets and businesses totaling approximately \$128 trillion, have signed the principles. iv

Emirati banks also play an important role in the United Nations financial initiative for responsible banking principles, with 4 Emirati banks joining the initiative out of a total of 24 Arab banks. These principles, launched in 2019, aim to enhance the alignment of banking performance with governance and sustainability standards. So far, 357 banks and financial institutions around the world have joined this initiative, with total assets of 98.7 trillion dollars. v Regarding the United Nations' Sustainable Stock Exchanges initiative, the stock exchanges of Abu Dhabi and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates have joined it. The initiative, which has so far been joined by 136 members, serves as a platform for knowledge acquisition and information exchange, as well as exploring ways to cooperate among stock exchanges, investors, and companies to enhance corporate transparency and apply best practices related to the environment, society, and governance, and to encourage sustainable investment.vi

How does commitment to the Global Compact contribute to enhancing competitiveness? Lessons from the UAE

These figures reveal a significant awareness among UAE companies and businesses of the value of adhering to sustainability and human rights standards in their policies and strategies, and the positive returns of responsible trade practices not only at the level of social impact but also in terms of business growth, expansion, market access, and attractiveness of the investment climate within the country. They also indicate the existence of a regulatory environment that encourages compliance with international standards, which have become influential in economic growth, investment attractiveness, and competitiveness in global markets.

In addition to many regulatory factors supporting economic development, the interest of companies and business institutions in joining global initiatives for sustainability and human rights contributes directly or indirectly to improving



economic development indicators, enhancing social inclusion, and establishing socially and environmentally responsible business practices. Undoubtedly, the United Arab Emirates is currently reaping the benefits of the attention its government and business institutions are giving to integrating sustainability, governance, and human rights standards, which is reflected in the UAE's ranking in global competitiveness indicators, especially the following ones: -vii

- The UAE tops the list of Arab countries in the Global Competitiveness Report for 2024, published by the Global Competitiveness Center of the International Institute for Management Development, and it has also secured the seventh position globally in the same index.
- The United Arab Emirates has achieved the first place globally in four indicators listed in the Annual Competitiveness Report by the International Institute for Management Development for 2024. These indicators are the employment rate, low labor disputes, low costs of severance pay, and the labor force participation rate. According to the same report, the UAE ranked fourth globally in five indicators, including the regulatory framework for labor, while it ranked fifth globally in the indicators of skilled foreign labor and unemployment legislation.
- The UAE has ranked first globally for the third consecutive year in the 20232024/ Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) report. According to the report, the UAE achieved first place worldwide in 12 indicators, including cultural and social criteria, and was also among the top 5 economies globally in supporting women's entrepreneurship.
- The UAE ranked second in the Arab world and 22nd globally in the UN's annual report celebrating the International Day of Happiness for the year 2024.
- The UAE was classified among the leading countries in the Arab world, along with Bahrain and Qatar, in the Economic Freedom Index for 2024, published by the Fraser Institute, which measures the degree of economic freedom based on multiple factors including trade freedom, government size, property rights protection, and the integrity of the legal system.

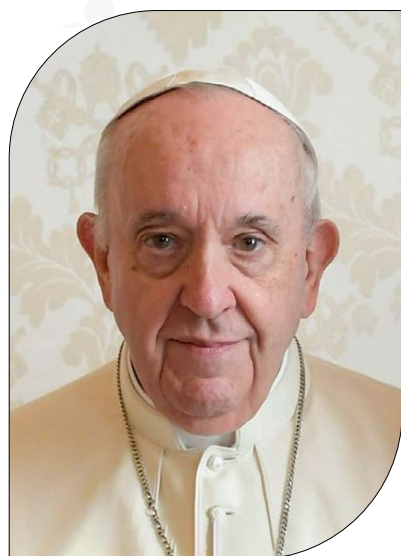
In Conclusion...

It can be said that the expansion of the base for membership and commitment to the Global Compact and other international sustainability, governance, and human rights standards and initiatives is evidence of the 'maturity' of the economic system in countries, and an effective factor in determining their competitiveness level in the global economy, international trade chains, and investment flows, as well as their contribution to achieving the goals of the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030.



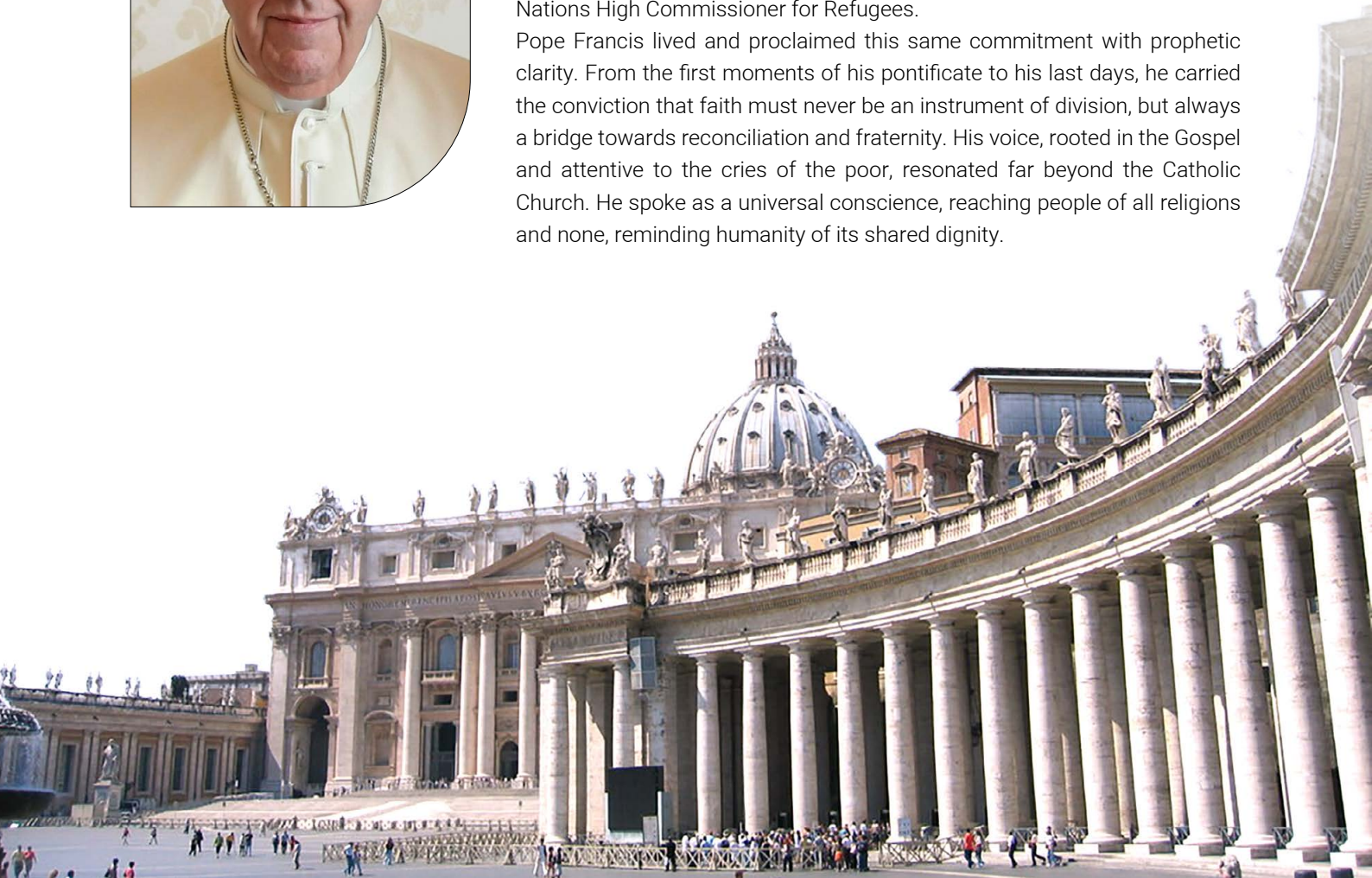
Reflection on the Legacy of Pope Francis: A Craftsman of Peace and Custodian of Human Dignity

We, religious and civil society leaders, members of the Geneva Spiritual Appeal, wish to reflect on the legacy of the late Pope Francis, six months after His passing, and whose life and ministry have embodied the call for justice and dignity we made at the dawn of the new millennium: “a refusal to invoke a religious or spiritual power to justify violence of any kind, to justify discrimination and exclusion, to exploit or dominate others by means of strength, intellectual capacity or spiritual persuasion, wealth or social status” (Geneva, October 24, 1999).



The Geneva Spiritual Appeal was drafted by civil society leaders, diplomats and representatives of all major religions—Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and Bahá’í—who came together to affirm, on the basis of shared values and a common humanity, principles that remain urgently relevant today: “respect for the integrity of humankind, a rejection of hatred and violence, and the hope for a better and more just world”. Among the signatories were some of the most respected leaders of our time: Kofi Annan, then Secretary-General of the United Nations; Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross; and Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Pope Francis lived and proclaimed this same commitment with prophetic clarity. From the first moments of his pontificate to his last days, he carried the conviction that faith must never be an instrument of division, but always a bridge towards reconciliation and fraternity. His voice, rooted in the Gospel and attentive to the cries of the poor, resonated far beyond the Catholic Church. He spoke as a universal conscience, reaching people of all religions and none, reminding humanity of its shared dignity.

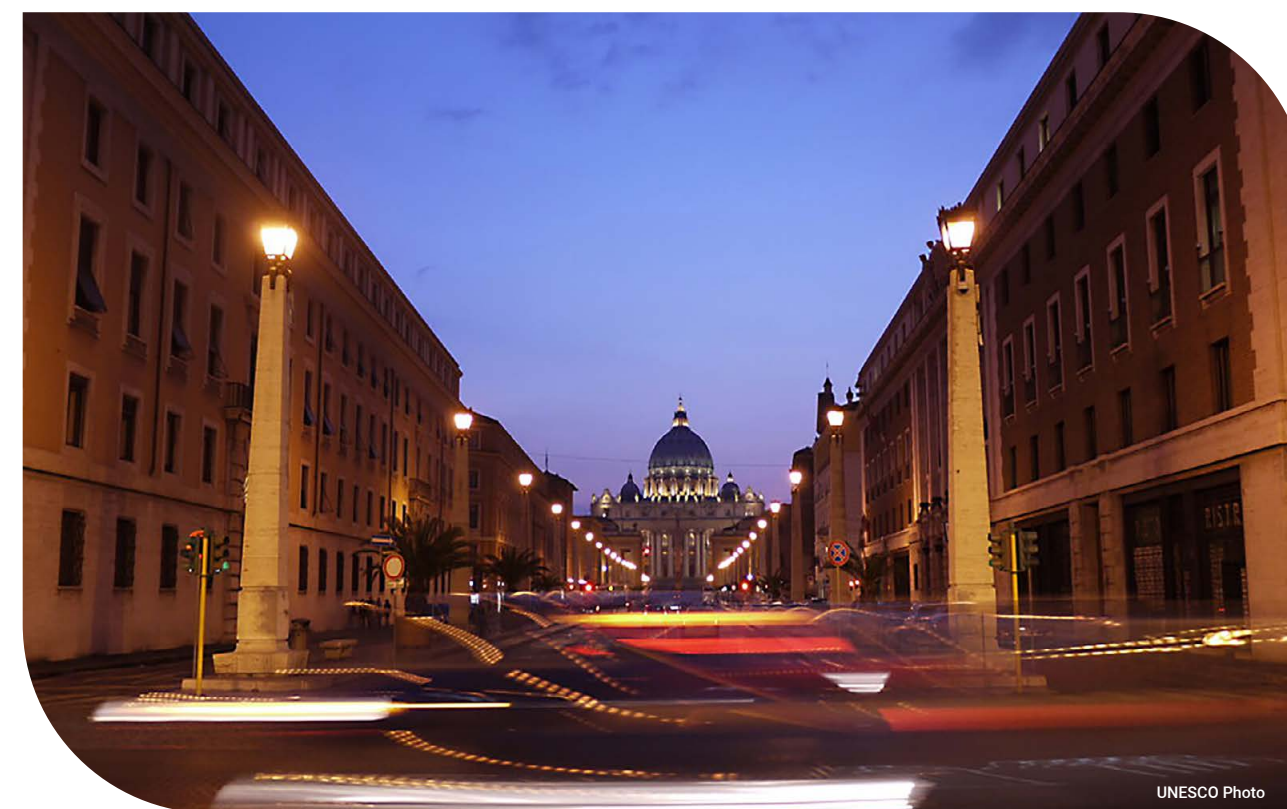


A Global Advocate for Reconciliation and Human Rights

Throughout his ministry, Pope Francis consistently placed human dignity at the center of his mission. His efforts for peace were seen through three interrelated commitments: healing wounds of conflict, standing with the marginalized, and fostering interreligious dialogue.

1. Healing Wounds of Conflict

Pope Francis understood that reconciliation is the path to justice. Wherever divisions and violence had scarred societies, he sought to plant seeds of peace. In the Central African Republic, in 2015, he opened the Holy Door of Mercy in Bangui, turning a nation devastated by civil war into a beacon of reconciliation. In South Sudan, in 2019, he performed the unforgettable





gesture of kneeling to kiss the feet of political leaders, imploring them to persevere in the path of peace. In the Middle East, his prayer amid the ruins of Mosul in Iraq symbolized the possibility of renewal where destruction had reigned.

2. Standing with the Marginalized and the Forgotten

Late Pope Francis consistently made visible those whom the world would rather ignore—victims of persecution, refugees, the poor, and the displaced. He called the Rohingya in Bangladesh by their name, affirming their dignity when others denied it. He reminded the world of the plight of migrants and refugees, making their defense a central pillar of his teaching and his public actions. In Africa, Asia, and

beyond, he urged political leaders to serve the common good and challenged societies to place the most vulnerable at the heart of their policies.

3. Fostering Interreligious Dialogue and Human Fraternity

Francis also understood that no lasting peace is possible without dialogue between religions. His meeting with Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani in Najaf marked a historic moment of mutual respect and opened new horizons for Christian–Muslim understanding. His co-signing of the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together in Abu Dhabi in 2019, together with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar and supported by the leadership of the United Arab Emirates, remains a landmark in modern interfaith relations.



The declaration is a call to action. It affirms that religion must never be a justification for violence, hate, or exclusion, but must be a source of peace and coexistence. Embraced by the United Nations and cited in global fora, it inspires new partnerships between governments, religious institutions, and civil society. With the creation of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity, Pope Francis ensured that the principles of the Abu Dhabi declaration would be translated into concrete initiatives in education, dialogue, and humanitarian action. The Document on Human Fraternity continues to inspire initiatives for education, justice, and reconciliation across the globe. With his consistent emphasis on dialogue, encounter, and the culture of compassion, Pope Francis offered humanity a new hope of peace. This vision was not abstract, as it emphasized that fraternity must be lived in the daily realities, by welcoming the stranger, by healing divisions, by condemning exclusions, and defending human rights.



A Legacy for All Humanity

Pope Francis's life was marked by simplicity, humility, and a profound closeness to those at the margins. His defense of migrants and refugees, his tireless advocacy for the environment in *Laudato Si'*, his insistence that the Church must be "a field hospital" for the wounded - all were expressions of the same conviction: that every human being possesses an inviolable dignity, and that our common home must be protected for future generations.

For us, members of the Geneva Spiritual Appeal, His legacy speaks with particular force in a time of fierce global competition, divisions, conflicts and blatant violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Pope Francis showed, in word and deed, that religion must never be used to justify violence, discrimination, or domination. Instead, it must stand as a bulwark for human dignity, for justice, and for fraternity. Today we recall Pope Francis' prophetic reminder: "Silence in the face of injustice is complicity. Indifference is betrayal." His witness will continue to inspire our own commitment to dialogue, reconciliation, and the protection of human dignity. We affirm that his legacy is not only Catholic, nor even Christian; it is a legacy for all humanity which challenges us, as religious and civil society leaders, to continue building bridges, to foster trust where hatred still lingers, and to defend human rights and dignity where it is under threat.

Members of the Geneva Spiritual Appeal:

- Pierre Farine
(Bishop Emeritus of Geneva)
- François Garai
- Hafid Ouairi
- Jérôme Ducor
- Michel Veuthey
- Ricardo Espinosa
- Ventzeslav Sabev

Plea for Africa to attain the status of a major player on the international stage. Africa a continent of paradoxes



By:
Mr. Biro Diawara
Chief Representative of the African Meeting for the Defense of Human Rights (RADDHO) at the United Nations in Geneva.

Sixty-five years after the independence of African countries, Africa, which has been subjected to the greatest dispossession of contemporary times over the centuries, must rise to the status of a major player on the international stage for itself, as a debt of honor towards its history, in order to break the psychological stereotypes and ideological assumptions fed by the official Western consensus towards its former slaves... and to confront the supposedly civilized World with the vileness of the World.

Africa, it should be reminded, is the cradle of humanity, this extraordinary moment in history that witnessed the emergence of Homo sapiens in the Omo Valley 195,000 years before our era, and leaving the continent 100,000 years before our time in order to go populate the earth.

Africa is a continent that covers 6% of the Earth's surface and 20% of the land area. Its area is 30,415,873 km² including islands, making it the third largest in the world, behind Asia and America.

A mourning continent

This vast continent is full of natural resources, rich in a multitude of peoples and cultures, contrasting, however, with the misery and human distress that spread across the continent. On its lands, gold, oil, and diamonds coexist with poverty, natural disasters, famine, and the proliferation of pandemics.

Despite its wealth, its lush forests, its majestic rivers, the Nile and the Congo, the continent paradoxically houses millions of human beings trapped in a vicious circle of suffering. This striking contrast between immense potential and painful reality rightly makes it «the grieving continent.»



For centuries, Africa has been the subject of colonial desires that have plundered its riches, fragmented its societies, and sowed the seeds of division and conflict. And although these peoples have gained independence, new forms of domination have continued to persist: economic exploitation of their resources, external political interference, and fueling of armed conflicts.

Thus, since the establishment of the United Nations Human Rights Council by resolution 60251/ on March 15, 2006, despite the representation of 13 member states within this institution, the continent is still marked by massive violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. It should be noted that 12 special sessions of the Human Rights Council have been held concerning Africa (Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo (2), Boko Haram, Libya, Burundi, etc.). The paradox is cruel: Africa holds the world's second largest reservoir of natural resources, fertile land capable of feeding the entire planet, and a youth representing one third of the world's population. Yet, more than 40% of its inhabitants live below the poverty line, while epidemics – from malaria to cholera – ravage already fragile health and education systems. This gap between potential wealth and real misery





embodies the failure of a transformation that has been awaited for decades. In this context, wars and armed conflicts remain a gaping wound. From Sudan to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, from Mali to Somalia, Libya faces extremist violence and the scourge of terrorism tearing communities apart and condemning them to misery.

Today, millions of internally displaced people survive in camps without any protection, while women are subjected to sexual violence as a weapon of war and children are forcibly recruited from their schools. Villages are burning, hospitals are collapsing, schools are disappearing: a brutal reality that illustrates the chasm between the principles of international humanitarian law and everyday life in Africa.

At the heart of these tragedies, women and children are the main victims most exposed. The African woman carries a tenfold burden: caregiver, educator, and pillar of survival, she is at the same time the target of discrimination, early marriages, and sexual violence. As for children, they grow up in extreme poverty, deprived of education, and often forced to fight in wars that are not their own.

These violations compromise the future of an entire generation and turn their fundamental rights into distant chimera.

In addition to this, there is the collapse of educational and health systems and the massive exodus of refugees. Education is faltering, marked by destroyed schools, a glaring lack of teachers, and stark inequalities between urban and rural areas. Health remains an open wound, where epidemics decimate populations left to fend for themselves. At the same time, millions of refugees and displaced persons continue a futile quest for safety, facing closed borders and precarious camps. The issue of forced displacement has become one of the greatest humanitarian and legal challenges on the continent.

For an effective implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Certainly, there are legal frameworks in place: the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Court on Human Rights, and other institutions of the African Union. However, due to a lack of real implementation and firm political will, these mechanisms often remain symbolic. The gap remains wide between

proclaimed legality and lived reality, especially since Africa's relationship with the United Nations and the Human Rights Council remains ambiguous. On one hand, a development partner, and on the other, a playground for political maneuvering, the UN documents violations but struggles to ensure follow-up. This ambiguity fuels the disillusionment of African peoples, although the organization remains an essential platform for victims and a framework for advocacy for international accountability.

This grim picture is compounded by the growing threat of climate change. The recurrent droughts in the Horn of Africa, the floods in South Sudan and Nigeria, and the relentless advance of desertification in the Sahel all threaten the most basic human rights: the right to life, to water, to food, and to a healthy environment. Africa, while being the least responsible for global emissions, bears the heaviest consequences, turning an ecological crisis into a profoundly human tragedy.

In the face of this accumulation of challenges, it is essential to carry out a concrete assessment of the major international initiatives in order to accelerate the effective implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063. This agenda is a vision that places human beings at the center of policies, makes education a lever of empowerment, health a condition of dignity, and justice a guarantee of stability.





UAHR | جمعية الاتحاد لحقوق الإنسان
Union Association for Human Rights

The role of the Union Association in supporting national efforts and reinforcing the civil and human rights presence of the UAE internationally



UN data... a civilian Emirati voice in the Human Rights Council

Since its establishment, the Union Association for Human Rights has committed to being a civil voice that reflects the UAE's commitment to the international human rights system, translating its vision based on justice, equality, and the preservation of human dignity. In the third quarter of 2025, the association intensified its efforts in the international and local human rights arena, through multiple participations in the Human Rights Council, issuing media and awareness statements, contributing to the preparation of national reports, in addition to highlighting national achievements and participating in prominent conferences and events. It also made an effort to spread the culture of international days and connect it to the state's achievements, thus leaving a significant mark on the global and regional human rights scene.

Written data: Enhancing protection and rights in the digital and cultural space

In the third quarter of 2025, the association presented multiple written statements contributing qualitatively to the work of the fifty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council, focusing on interconnected issues affecting the reality of rights and freedoms, particularly in the digital and cultural space. It emphasized:



- Protecting women rights defenders in the digital space, emphasizing the need to activate UN mechanisms to confront digital threats and attacks, and transforming the global digital charter issued in 2024 into a binding international convention that guarantees accountability and justice.
- Ensuring freedom of opinion and expression while respecting cultural identity, and calling for an international legal framework that obliges major technology companies to take responsibility, based on the UAE's pioneering experience in achieving a balance between freedom of expression and safeguarding cultural values.
- Enhancing the rule of law and justice in the digital space, by advocating for international mechanisms to monitor violations against human rights





defenders following their participation in United Nations activities, while highlighting the Emirati model as one of the prominent regional experiences in establishing digital justice.

- Protecting cultural rights and rejecting violence against women and girls, especially in the field of Gulf cultural heritage, where the association condemned the media campaigns that are harmful to participants in folk arts, and called for the launch of an international charter to protect cultural heritage in the media and digital spaces.
- Confronting racism and discrimination related to cultural heritage, by calling for the establishment of an international agreement that criminalizes the symbolic distortion of cultural heritage, while highlighting the UAE's commitment to protecting cultural identity and combating hate speech.

With these contributions, the association has demonstrated its influential presence in promoting the agenda of the Human Rights Council, by advocating for interconnected issues: the protection of digital rights, the preservation of cultural identity, and the guarantee of women's dignity, reflecting its vision of linking human rights, cultural, and developmental dimensions.

The oral statement: The independence of the judiciary in the era of artificial intelligence.

In addition to the written statements, the association made a prominent presence through an oral statement delivered by the Chairman of the Board, Dr. Fatima Al Kaabi, before the Human Rights Council during the interactive dialogue on the independence of judges and lawyers. The statement focused on the challenges posed by artificial intelligence technologies to the justice system, particularly the threat to the confidentiality of litigation and the impact of algorithms in analyzing cases and making recommendations, which could undermine the guarantees of a fair trial if not regulated by clear legal and ethical guidelines.

It highlighted in its statement the Emirati model of ethical and responsible

Justice and artificial intelligence... A verbal statement solidifying the independence of the judiciary.

technology employment, through the Charter for the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence and the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence Guide, which ensure respect for privacy and prevent bias, keeping the judicial decision in the hands of the human element. It also praised leading initiatives such as smart courts, smart public prosecution, and adopting blockchain technology to document evidence, along with specialized training programs for judges and lawyers. It emphasized that artificial intelligence should remain a support tool for justice, not a substitute.

International exhibition in the United Nations square

On the sidelines of its participation in the 59th session of the Human Rights Council, the Union for Human Rights organized an international exhibition at the United Nations Square in Geneva titled «The United Nations and the Promotion of the Rule of Law Globally, and the Emirati Experience in Strengthening the Rule of Law».

The exhibition included more than 35 artworks, divided into two main sections:

- **Section One (United Nations Panels):** It presented fundamental concepts such as the organization's role in establishing international courts to achieve justice, UN mediation in conflicts, protecting children's rights, addressing wars through law, promoting climate justice, giving fair treatment to minorities and indigenous peoples, and the transition towards digital justice.





بيان

صادر عن جمعية الاتحاد لحقوق الإنسان
نشدت بقرار "محكمة العدل الدولية"... وتضمن التزام الإمارات
بالاتفاقيات الدولية

Press Release: Port Sudan allegations are false... Humanitarian facts reveal the truth.



بيان

جمعية الاتحاد لحقوق الإنسان:
إنشاء نيابة أبو ظبي العمالية خطوة نوعية تميز
سيادة القانون وحماية حقوق العمال

أشادت جمعية الاتحاد لحقوق الإنسان بقرار سمو الشيخ منصور بن زايد آل نهيان، نائب رئيس الدولة، نائب رئيس مجلس الوزراء، رئيس ديوان الرئاسة، رئيس دائرة القضاء في أبوظبي، بإصدار "نيابة أبو ظبي العمالية"، مؤكدة في هذه الخطوة تمثل تحسيدا عمليا لالتزام دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة الراسخ بتطبيق مبدأ سيادة القانون وجهودها الهادفة إلى استمرارية تعزيز منظومتها القضائية وفق أعلى معايير العدالة والشفافية.

وأكدت أن تأسيس نيابة متخصصة يعكس نهم الدولة في ترسيخ مبدأ التنحي القضائي، وتسدريم إجراءات التطبيق والسعي في القضاء المرتبطة بالهمم والقضايا المساعده، بما يضمن حماية حقوقهم، ويوفر عدالة نزيهة لجميع الأطراف.

وأوضحت أن هذا القرار يتشكل خطوة مهمة في تطوير سوق العمل على نحو يدعم النهضة الاقتصادية الوطنية، ويمنح الناس من أهداف التنمية المستدامة للأمم المتحدة، لا سيما الهدف الثامن المتعلق بالعمل اللائق والنمو الاقتصادي.

وأشارت الجمعية إلى أن دولة الإمارات وأصلت خلال عام 2024 تحديها مؤشرا سوق العمل العمالية، حيث حققت وفق الكائن للاستشارات الاستشارية العمالية، الجاد عن المصنف الدولي للتميز الإداري (MDI) المركز الأول عالميا في رتبة مؤشرا، كما تلت نسبة التوظيف وفق الزيادة العمالية، وانخفاض تخالف تعرض الهاء الخدمة، ونسبة القوي العاملة كجاذبات الدولة في المرتبة الأولى عربيا في مؤشر نمو القوى العاملة والثانية عالميا في غياب البيروقراطية، والثالثة عالميا في سوق العمل الرئيسي، ومرة أخرى، إضافة إلى مركز متقدمة في مؤشر كفاءة العمالة المتاهرة والتأهيل البطالة.

وفي السياق ذاته، عازت إمارة أبوظبي مكتبها بين أفضل مدن العالم للعمل حيث حصلت على المركز الرابع عالميا وفق تقرير "تحليل المواهب العالمي 2024" (Global Talent Analysis)، مما يعكس البيئة الجاذبة التي توفرها الإمارة للمواهب والكفاءات.

وأكدت الجمعية أن إنشاء النيابة العمالية يساهم في تسريع اليت في القضايا العمالية وتقليص الفترة الزمنية للظفر في العلوي، فضلا عن تعزيز التعاون مع الجهات ذات الصلة لتدليل أي تحديات قد تواجه سائر الإجراءات، بما يضمن استمرار ربح حقوق الدولة في حق الحقوق وتحقيق العدالة.

وأوضحت أن وجود نيابة متخصصة يطور من خبرات الكوادر القضائية ويمزز قدرتها على التعامل مع القضايا النوعية والمعقدة بكفاءة عالية.

وذكرت أن هذا القرار يأتي ضمن مسيرة التطوير التقني والقضائي لدولة الإمارات، ويرسح على دعمها على الالتزام بالمواثيق الدولية ذات الصلة بحقوق الإنسان، بما يعزز مكانتها العالمية كمركز للشفافية والعدالة القضائية، ويؤكد ريادتها في دعم مبادئ العدالة وسيادة القانون.

- **Section Two (the Emirati model):** It discussed the state's journey in reinforcing the rule of law through its constitution, judicial independence, specialized judiciary, women's participation in the judicial authority, juvenile justice, digital and smart transformation in judicial services, laws against human trafficking and cybercrimes, protection of victims and witnesses, combating corruption, and ensuring inclusive justice that considers the rights of people of determination. It also highlighted the UAE's position among the top five countries globally in government efficiency and quality of legislation, and its role in supporting international humanitarian law.

The body of the exhibition, through these panels, a comprehensive vision of the rule of law as a cornerstone for protecting rights and enhancing human dignity is presented, emphasizing the integration between UN efforts and the UAE experience as a pioneering model in the region.

Media data: Keeping up with events and reinforcing the human rights message.

The association kept pace with developments through press releases that reflected the speed of response and clarity of the situation, most notably:

- **Combating human trafficking:** The association praised the launch of the National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking 20252027-, considering it a comprehensive strategic framework that enhances the system of prevention, protection, care, and judicial pursuit. It also appreciated the launch of the smart referral system for victims as an advanced digital model that employs artificial intelligence for early detection and immediate response, in line with the state's orientations towards reducing bureaucracy and integrating services.
- **Response to the allegations of the «Port Sudan Authority»:** The association expressed its regret over the false accusations directed at the United Arab Emirates, confirming that it is an attempt to mislead public opinion about the serious violations documented in Sudan. It highlighted the scale of the humanitarian aid provided by the UAE to the Sudanese people, which exceeded 16.12 billion dirhams, at a time when UNICEF described the crisis as «the largest humanitarian crisis threatening the lives of children and families.» The association called for the protection of civilians, prevention of impunity, and an end to the crisis through comprehensive and sustainable peace.
- **Abu Dhabi Labor Prosecution:** The association welcomed the decision of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President of the State, Deputy Prime Minister, Head of the Presidential Court, and Head of the Judiciary Department in Abu Dhabi, to establish a specialized prosecution for labor cases, considering it a practical embodiment of the UAE's commitment to the principles of justice and the rule of law. It clarified that this step will contribute to speeding up litigation procedures, enhancing the protection of workers' rights and domestic workers, in addition to supporting the competitiveness of the UAE labor market globally, which aligns with the goals of sustainable development.

- **In response to the contents of the United Nations Secretary-General's message on the International Day to Commemorate the Victims of Violence Based on Religion or Belief:** The Union for Human Rights Association issued a statement affirming the UAE's leading role in promoting tolerance and human coexistence, and protecting religious and cultural diversity. It

noted that national efforts, including the launch of the Document on Human Fraternity, and the enactment of pioneering legislation to combat intolerance and violence in all its forms, along with global initiatives in the field of peace and promoting education based on respect and inclusion, represent a practical embodiment of the UN call to protect freedom of religion or belief.

Contributing to national reports on children's rights

In response to the invitation of the Ministry of Family, the association participated in the national consultations for the preparation of the comprehensive UAE report on the third to fifth periodic reports regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the initial report on the optional protocol attached to it concerning the sale of children and their exploitation in prostitution and pornography. It presented proposals and insights that reflect its human rights expertise, enhancing the comprehensiveness and transparency of the reports, and affirming the state's commitment to a participatory approach that consolidates its position as an active state in the international human rights system.

Commending national efforts:

Solid achievements and a sustainable vision

The association highlighted prominent national achievements that reflect the UAE's commitment to the values of justice, dignity, and sustainable development, including:

- The Dubai Municipality has obtained the ISO 53800 certification as the first global entity to achieve gender equality standards and women's empowerment.
- The Ministry of Interior is implementing a UN training course for peacekeeping forces in Nepal with active female participation.
- The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives Foundation has spent more than 13.8 billion dirhams since 2015 to support 788 million



جمعية الاتحاد لحقوق الإنسان تشارك في المشاورات المعنية بالتقارير الوطنية لاتفاقية حقوق الطفل والبروتوكول الاختياري الملحق بها

جمعية الاتحاد لحقوق الإنسان
Union Association for Human Rights

مبادرات محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم العالمية
Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives

788 million beneficiaries... AED 13.8 billion... 118 countries

Since 2015, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives continues to create hope through pioneering humanitarian, developmental, and community initiatives, with:

- 972,000 volunteers
- 35 entities working under 5 main pillars

788 مليون مستفيد... 13.8 مليار درهم... 118 دولة

منذ 2015، تواصل مؤسسة مبادرات محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم العالمية صناعة الأمل عبر مبادرات إنسانية وتنموية ومجتمعية رائدة، بمشاركة:

- 972 ألف متطوع
- 35 كيان يعمل ضمن 5 محاور رئيسية

أبرز الإنجازات النوعية:

1 Dubai Cares: 116 million beneficiaries / 60 countries + major relief campaigns (Gaza in the Heart, UAE With You Lebanon)	2 Digital School: 500,000 students / 14 countries + first global academic accreditation (NEASC)	1 دبي العطاء: 116 مليون مستفيد / 60 دولة + حملات إنقاذ خيري (غزة في القلب، الإمارات معك يا لبنان)
3 Arab Reading Challenge: The largest reading initiative in the Arab world	4 Mother Endowment (Waqf Al-Um): AED 1.4 billion to support sustainable education	3 تحدي القراءة العربي: أكبر مبادرة قرائية في العالم العربي
5 Global Knowledge Project: UAE ranked first in the Arab world in the Knowledge Index 2024	6 Humanitarian and Relief Aid: targeted projects reaching thousands of families and communities worldwide	5 مشروع المعرفة العالمي: الإمارات الأولى عربيا في مؤشر المعرفة 2024
7 Innovation & Entrepreneurship: supporting youth initiatives, inventors, and creative projects in the region	8 Community Empowerment: social sustainability programs and developmental projects improving quality of life and community infrastructure	7 الابتكار وريادة الأعمال: دعم المبادرات والمختبرات الشباب وتمكين المشاريع الإبداعية في المنطقة



beneficiaries in 118 countries.

- Developing integrated workforce cities that provide a decent living and modern facilities for more than two million workers.
- The UAE advances 27 places to rank 16th globally in the Government Support Index for 2025.

The association’s participation in national and international forums

- **Sustainable Water Security:** Dr. Fatima Khalifa Al Kaabi, President of the Association, participated in the fifth Trends Conference on Sustainable Water Security in Abu Dhabi, highlighting that this conference reinforces what was included in reports from the United Nations, the FAO, and the World Bank regarding the water security crisis. She noted that water scarcity threatens billions of people and that the Middle East and North Africa are at risk of economic losses of up to 14% of GDP if innovative solutions are not adopted.
- **Emirates Women’s Day 2025:** The association interacted with this national occasion through a series of messages that affirmed the leadership of Emirati women in various fields, from rights to leadership in space, considering empowerment as an ongoing journey and not just a slogan. The association highlighted its models of national female leadership, Dr. Fatima Al Kaabi, Consultant Mariam Al Ahmadi, and Israa Al Ameri.

Promoting the culture of international days and enhancing the achievements of the state within this framework.

The Union for Human Rights Association, as part of its awareness-raising mission, has been keen to introduce the contexts of the national and international days recognized by the United Nations, by publishing explanatory statements and specific contents related to each occasion, and then highlighting the national achievements connected to them that reflect the commitment of the United Arab Emirates to global values and principles.

- **The International Day to Combat Sand and Dust Storms (July 12)** recognize the day and its goals in protecting the environment and humanity, and highlights the UAE’s efforts in restoring degraded lands and planting 100 million trees by 2030.
- **International Youth Skills Day (July 15),** the association reviewed the United Nations’ goals in empowering youth and highlighted the country’s efforts in supporting digital skills and artificial intelligence.



- **Union Day (July 18),** the background of the national occasion was highlighted and linked to the values of unity, solidarity, and stability established by the founding leaders.
- **Nelson Mandela International Day (July 18)** was published by the association as a global call to promote the rights of inmates, highlighting the UAE’s legislative development in this area.
- **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (30 July):** an introduction to the occasion established by the United Nations, which praised the national legal framework and the UAE national plan to combat human trafficking.
- **International Youth Day (August 12),** explained the meanings of International Youth Day and its objectives, and highlighted the role of Emirati youth in developmental participation and shaping national policies.
- **World Humanitarian Day (August 19)** reviewed by the association highlights the reasons for the day as a tribute to humanitarian workers, and noted the UAE’s leadership in foreign aid which has exceeded 368 billion dirhams since 1971.
- **The International Day of Clean Air (September 7)** published the reasons for the UN event related to air quality protection and linked it to the UAE national projects for monitoring emissions and achieving sustainability.
- **International Day of Charity (September 5)** has clarified the background of the day associated with the anniversary of Mother Teresa’s passing, and pointed out the UAE’s leading position in global foreign aid.
- **International Literacy Day (September 8)** recognizes the occasion as a global call to eliminate illiteracy, and reviewed the UAE’s achievement in reducing its rate to less than 1%, along with quality initiatives such as the ‚Digital School’ and the ‚Arab Reading Challenge’.

And other days, thus, the association contributed to spreading global legal culture associated with international days, while highlighting the role of the UAE in transforming these principles into tangible achievements on the ground.

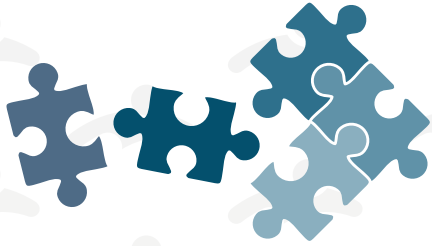
Participation plan for the 60th session of the Human Rights Council

- 25 written statements.
- 25 oral statements.
- 4 international exhibitions at the United Nations square.
- 4 specialized international seminars

In Conclusion...

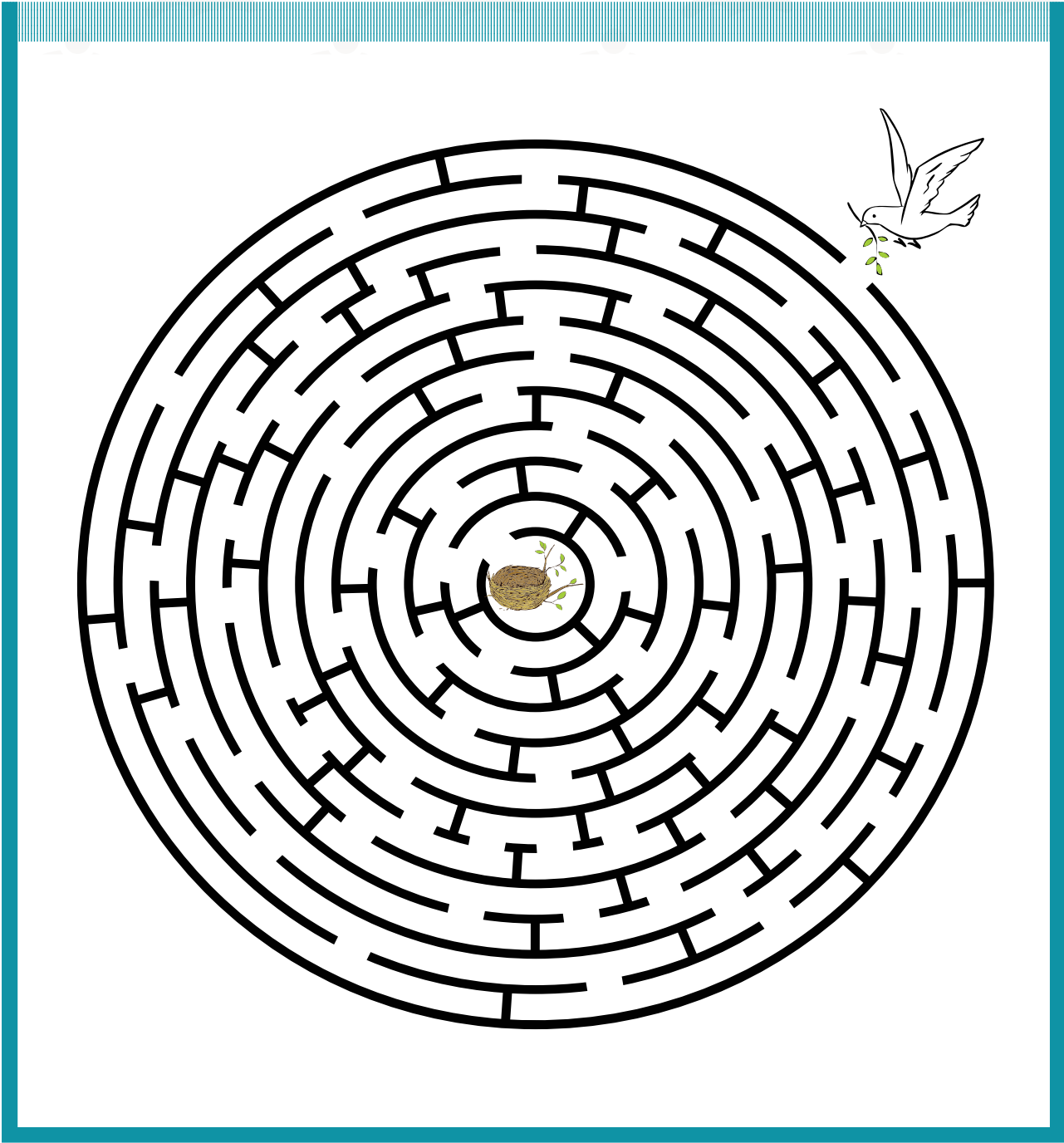
In the third quarter of 2025, the Union for Human Rights Society presented an integrated civic model for human rights work, combining international advocacy, media interaction, community participation, and highlighting national achievements. Thus, the society solidifies its presence as a bridge between the UAE and the world, emphasizing that Emirati human rights work is based on leadership and international partnership in shaping a more just, humane, and sustainable future. The series of documentaries produced by the Women’s Committee has emphasized that although women are the most affected by armed conflicts, they have the power to end them, provided they are given the role and capacity to play their part in this regard.

An ambitious plan for the 60th session of the Human Rights Council: 25 written statements, 25 oral statements, 4 art exhibitions, and 4 international seminars.



In this corner, we take you on a lighthearted break filled with fun and knowledge! We combine enjoyment with learning through games, puzzles, and exciting facts that enrich your awareness in an entertaining way. In every issue, we will present information on different topics—because you have the right to know, and the right to enjoy! Let’s begin our journey of fun and entertainment in this issue with the theme of Protecting the Right to Peace.

Maze:
What is the shortest path to deliver the Dove of Peace to its nest?
Try to guide it through the maze to reach the symbol of peace.



Scrambled Letters:

Find the word «Peace Right».

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

Test Your Awareness..

- 1) What does it mean for a person to live in peace?

a) To be away from conflict and violence
b) To feel safe and plan for the future with confidence
c) To enjoy tranquility with family and community
d) All of the above
- 2) In which year did the UAE leadership declare the “Year of Tolerance”?

a) 2018 b) 2019 c) 2020 d) 2021
- 3) This document represents a UAE initiative to promote peace and coexistence globally. What is it?

a) The Year of Tolerance b) The Document on Human Fraternity
c) The Abrahamic Family House d) The Year of Community
- 4) How do Emirati youth contribute to promoting peace?

a) Volunteering initiatives
b) Spreading respect on social media
c) Innovation and participation in development projects
d) All of the above
- 5) The UAE’s role in maintaining global peace is reflected in:

a) Its humanitarian and relief efforts
b) Economic development
c) Continuous improvement in education and healthcare
d) Preserving cultural heritage
- 6) The UAE supports the culture of tolerance through:

a) Establishing a Ministry of Tolerance and launching global initiatives
b) Protecting the environment from pollution
c) Hosting Expo 2020
d) Supporting and enhancing children’s rights
- 7) What is the landmark of peace in the UAE?

a) The Founder’s Memorial b) Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque
c) The Humanitarian Park d) All of the above
- 8) The UAE community is distinguished by values of tolerance and coexistence because:

a) It is home to over 200 nationalities
b) It preserves and protects the environment
c) It empowers women socially and economically
d) It cares for the rights of the elderly
- 9) The Abrahamic Family House in Abu Dhabi symbolizes:

a) Tolerance and interfaith dialogue
b) Architectural development in the UAE
c) A unique geometric design
d) A place of worship
- 10) Why is peace considered a fundamental human right?

a) Because it is the foundation of sustainable development
b) Because it guarantees dignity and security for every individual
c) Because it opens doors of hope for a better future
d) All of the above
- Correct Answers:**

1. D 2. B 3. B 4. D 5. A
6. A 7. D 8. A 9. A 10. D

Evaluate Yourself:

 - If you scored 8–10 correct answers .. You are a Peace Ambassador
 - If you scored 5–7 correct answers .. You are a Supporter of Tolerance
 - If you scored less than 5 .. it is time to learn more about the UAE’s efforts in promoting peace.

The hidden aspects of humanitarian work.... when it is managed without transparency or commitment to ethics.

Recent data from the World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as reported in parliamentary sessions, indicate that about 20% of foreign aid is lost annually due to corruption, and nearly 30% of the aid does not reach the intended beneficiaries.

Statistics released in this regard during the year 2023 revealed that 22% of the total international aid was spent on activities and costs related to humanitarian relief instead of being directed on the ground.

UN reports have recorded repeated incidents of using aid as a lever of pressure or support for parties in armed conflicts, which deepens crises instead of resolving them. The International Committee of the Red Cross confirmed during a May 2024 meeting of the UN Security Council that humanitarian aid and protection providers, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, are under constant pressure to pursue political or military objectives.

These facts emphasize the urgent need to impose strict oversight and ensure full transparency in the management of humanitarian work, to protect the dignity of those in need and to guarantee that aid reaches those who truly deserve it.



The poor and needy are exploited in the media and fundraising campaigns without regard for their dignity or privacy, through their depiction and presentation in scenes aimed at stirring international sympathy, without any guarantee that those donations will actually reach them.



Despite the flow of aid after the campaigns, what reaches those in need is only a small fraction of it, while the rest is consumed in administrative costs and advertising campaigns, or is wasted due to mismanagement and corruption, or even redirected to one of the conflict parties, or exploited by some entities, which denies the neediest groups their basic rights.

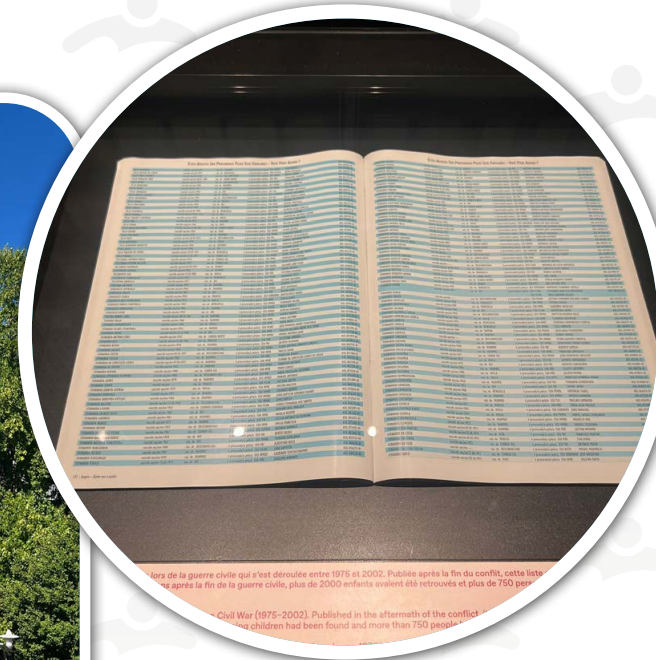
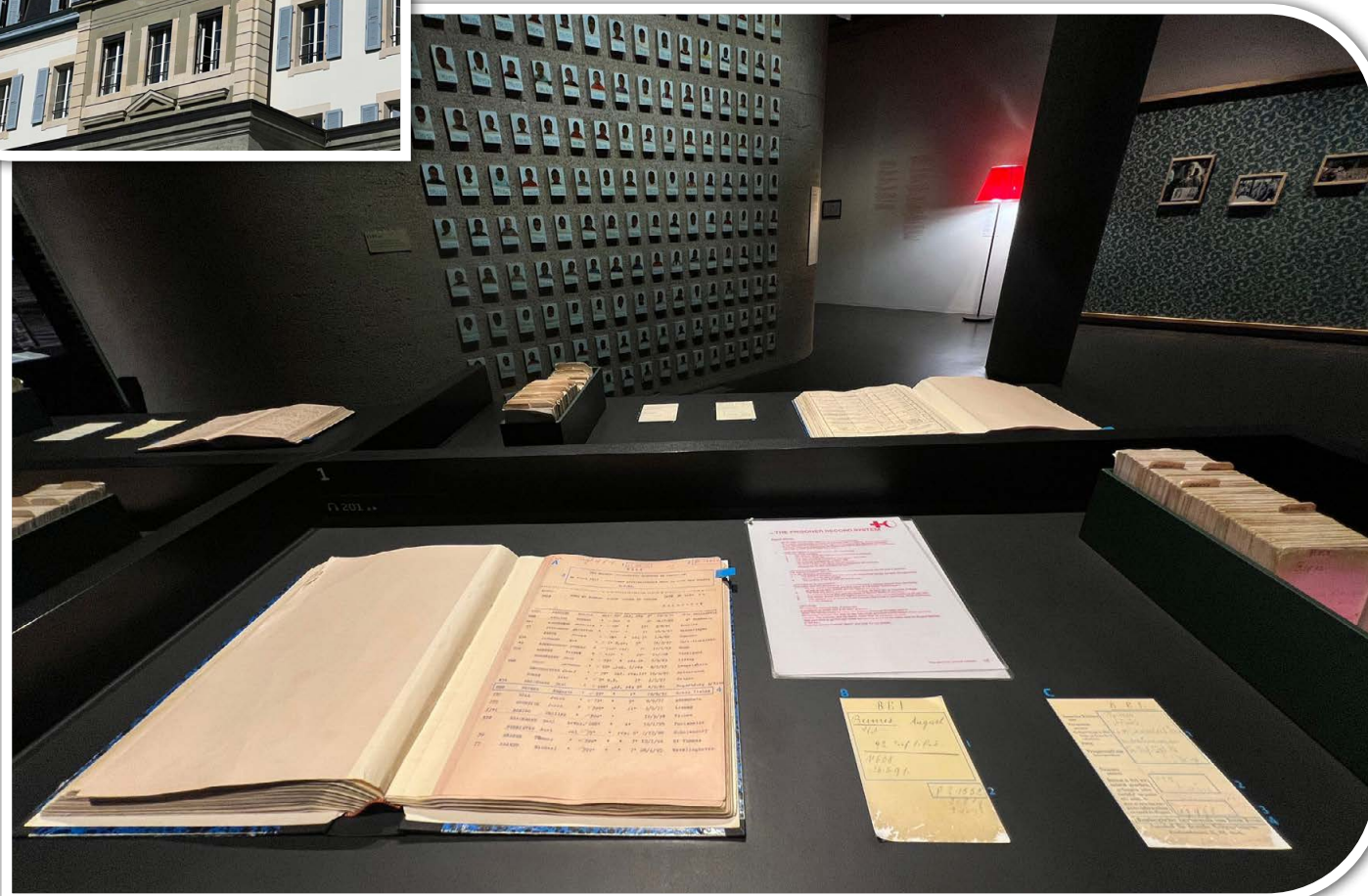
The International Committee of the Red Cross: 162 Years in the Service of Humanity

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is one of the oldest and most important humanitarian organizations in the world. Founded in Geneva in 1863, it serves as an international reference in humanitarian work and assistance to victims in times of armed conflict and violence. One of its most prominent landmarks is the headquarters building in Geneva, which not only manages humanitarian operations worldwide but also houses a museum that captures the history of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and showcases its achievements over the decades.

Photos of the building and museum interior highlight a unique blend of modernity and history; The headquarters reflects the organization's influence on the international stage, while the museum offers a visual and educational journey that introduces visitors to moving human stories, field tools, and historical documents that reflect a journey spanning more than a century and a half in the service of humanity.

The museum also displays historical artifacts such as medical instruments used in conflicts, international documents and treaties, and rare archival photographs that chronicle the organization's history since its inception.

The museum offers visitors an interactive experience that highlights modern humanitarian challenges and illustrates the Committee's role in providing assistance to those in need in conflict and disaster zones.



Information about photographer

- Hanan, 26 years old.
- She has a hobby of photography.
- Participates in activities and initiatives that support women and children through her work in an NGO.

UAHR En.



UAHR AR.



SOCIAL MEDIA

