



UNITED NATIONS
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
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2025 Annual Results Report

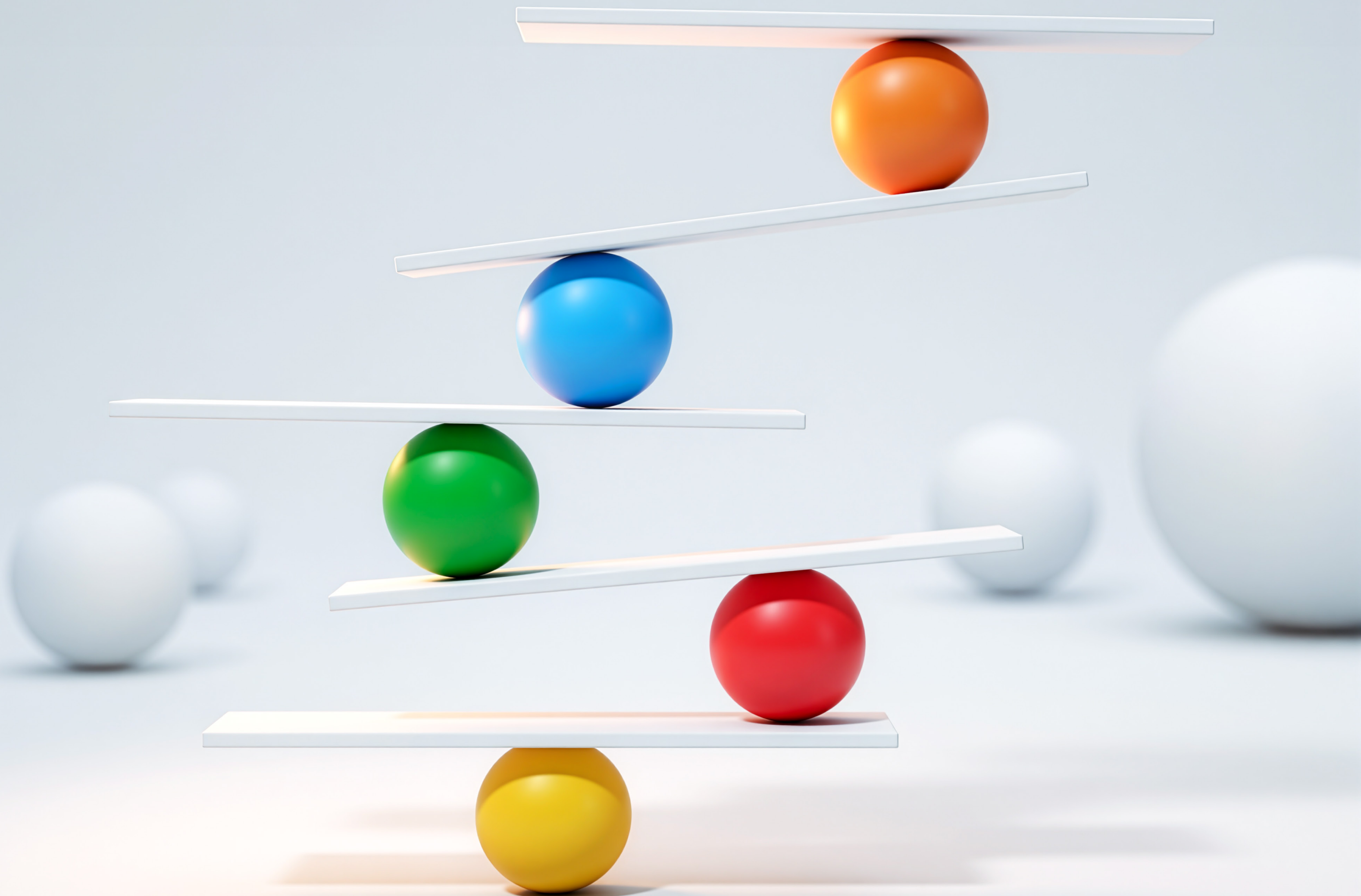


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United Nations - United Arab Emirates Country Annual Results Report 2025.

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Acronyms

A2RL	Autonomous Racing League	OHCHR-ROMENA	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa
ADAFSA	Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority	SCMC	Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood
ADPHC	Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre	SDG / SDGs	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
AGDA	Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy	STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
AGF	Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation	UAE	United Arab Emirates
AI	Artificial Intelligence	UAEAID	UAE Aid Agency
API	Application Programming Interface	UN	United Nations
AUS	American University of Sharjah	UN80	United Nations 80th Anniversary initiative/process
CDA	Community Development Authority	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
CEPA / CEPAs	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement(s)	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
CGE	Computable General Equilibrium	UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
DCL	Drone Champions League	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
DP World	Dubai Ports World	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
EVAC	Ending Violence Against Children	UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
FTS	Financial Tracking Service	USD	United States Dollar
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council	WEPs	Women’s Empowerment Principles
GCC-STAT	Statistical Center for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf	WFP	World Food Programme
GWU	General Women’s Union	WPS	Women, Peace and Security Initiative
MARS	Monitoring Application for Reporting on the SDGs		
MBRSG	Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government		
NMIRF	National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up		
NRTD	National Recommendations Tracking Database		
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs		

Foreword



In 2025, the United Nations in the United Arab Emirates continued to deepen a partnership that is both distinctive in its nature and increasingly relevant in a complex global context. The UAE's role as a centre for diplomacy, innovation, and humanitarian logistics offers more than a national setting. It provides a platform through which multilateral cooperation can translate into tangible outcomes with reach beyond its borders.

This past year unfolded against a backdrop of heightened global uncertainty. Pressures on development financing, rising geopolitical tensions, and widening gaps in progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals have placed renewed strain on collective action. As the United Nations Secretary-General has underscored, restoring trust requires not only reaffirming commitments, but delivering on them in ways that are visible and measurable.

Within this context, the United Arab Emirates continues to demonstrate strong development outcomes, reflected in its high level of human development and sustained investments in social and economic transformation. At the same time, the country is playing an increasingly active role in multilateral processes, including through leadership positions in United Nations bodies and contributions to global policy dialogue on sustainable urban development, disaster risk reduction, and transnational challenges.

What emerges clearly is the ability to connect ambition with implementation. Across sectors, the UAE continues to act as a humanitarian partner, a

convenor for policy dialogue, and a platform for advancing solutions. This includes sustained support to UN-coordinated humanitarian responses, as well as investments in knowledge, innovation, and data systems that strengthen evidence-based policymaking and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

These pages reflect that engagement across the five dimensions of the 2030 Agenda: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnerships. They bring together efforts spanning sustainable urban development, food systems, child protection, gender equality, human rights, digital transformation, and global governance. They also highlight preparations for major global processes to be hosted in the United Arab Emirates, including the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the 2026 United Nations Water Conference.

Beyond programmes and partnerships, this account points to a broader shift in how development is approached. The United Nations is increasingly called to deliver with greater integration, stronger use of data and digital tools, and a clearer focus on measurable outcomes. This direction is reflected in the UN 2.0 agenda and the wider renewal efforts captured in the Pact for the Future and the UN80 process.

I extend my appreciation to the members of the United Nations Country Team, as well as to our government counterparts, development partners, civil society, academia, and private sector collaborators. The progress reflected here is the result of sustained collaboration and shared purpose.

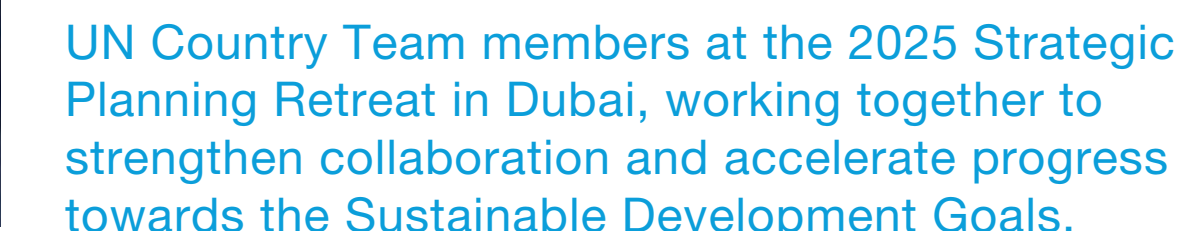
With five years remaining to 2030, the task ahead is clear. Progress must accelerate, partnerships must deepen, and delivery must remain at the centre of our collective efforts.

Bérangère Boëlle

United Nations Resident Coordinator
United Arab Emirates

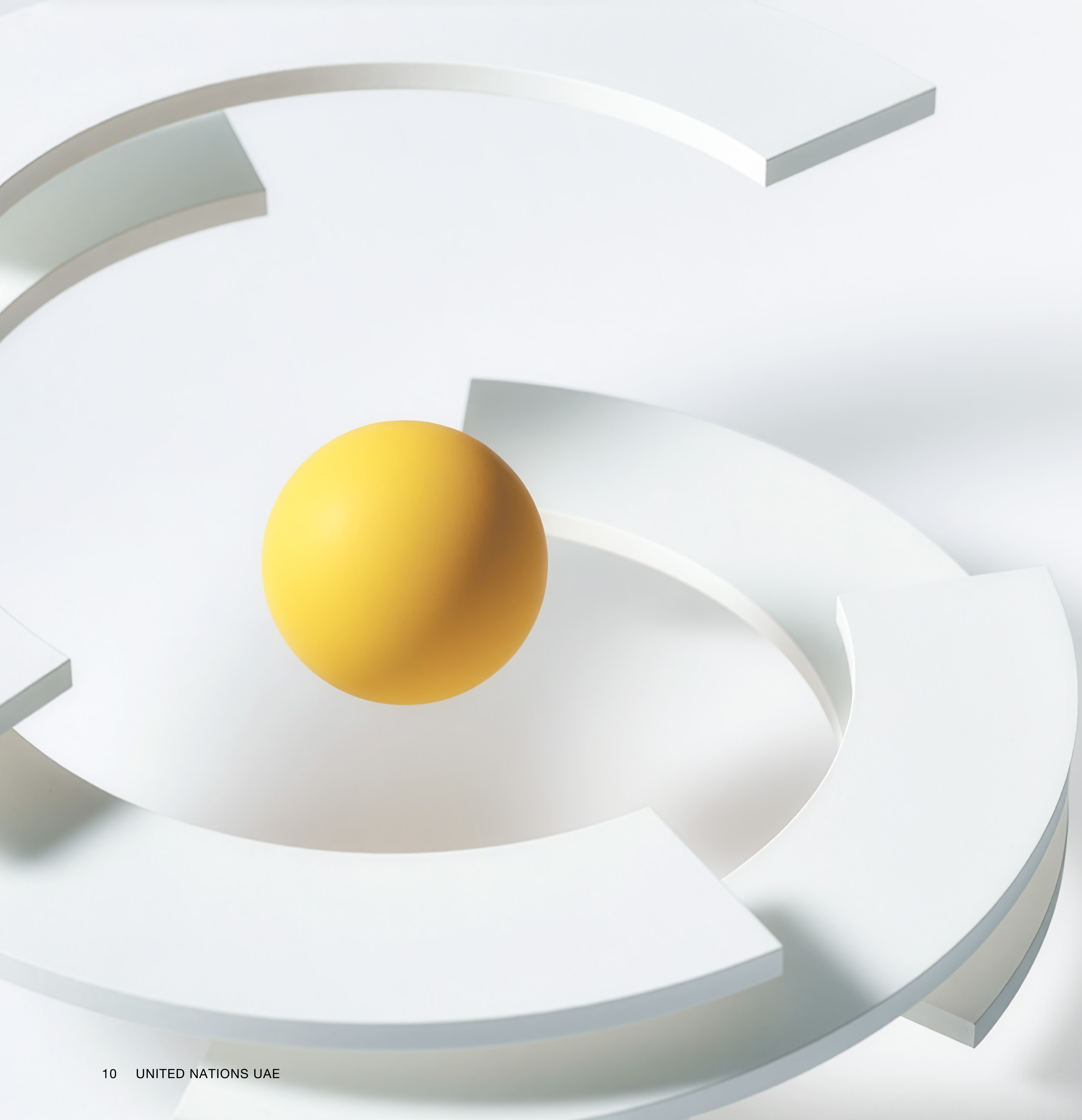
30+

UN engagement in the UAE is primarily focused on strategic partnerships and the country's role as a platform for global action. UN entities work closely with national counterparts, philanthropic actors, and the private sector to advance policy dialogue, mobilize partnerships, support humanitarian operations, and connect UAE-led initiatives to global UN priorities. This enables the UN system to extend its impact beyond the national context, including by advancing the Pact for the Future and UN80 reform agenda, supporting preparations for the 2026 15th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the 2026 UN Water Conference, and engaging on emerging priorities such as digital transformation and AI, leveraging the UAE's convening power, logistics capacity, and growing role in multilateral cooperation.



The image displays a collection of 25 logos for various United Nations specialized agencies and programs, arranged in a grid. The logos are as follows:

- OCHA** (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)
- UNIDO** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)
- FAO** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)
- ILO** (International Labour Organization)
- IOM** (International Organization for Migration)
- unesco** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
- UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER**
- United Nations Global Compact**
- UN Tourism** (United Nations World Tourism Organization)
- UNDRR** (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction)
- ITU** (International Telecommunication Union)
- UNDSS** (United Nations Department of Safety & Security)
- UNDP** (United Nations Development Programme)
- UN environment programme**
- World Health Organization**
- unicef** (United Nations Children's Fund)
- UNITED NATIONS UNCTAD** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)
- UNFPA** (United Nations Population Fund)
- UN-HABITAT** (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)
- UNHCR** (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)
- United Nations Climate Change**
- unicef** (United Nations Children's Fund)
- UNHABITAT** (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)
- CMS** (Convention on the Conservation and Management of Migratory Species)
- UN VOLUNTEERS**
- unrwa** (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East)
- WFP** (World Food Programme)
- ESCWA** (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia)
- UN WOMEN**
- International Trade Centre**
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**



Partnerships

Partnerships are essential to addressing today's interconnected development challenges. In 2025, the United Nations in the UAE continued to strengthen collaboration across government institutions, international organizations, academia, civil society, and the private sector, leveraging the UAE's role as a global convening hub and partner in multilateral cooperation. Through technical assistance, policy dialogue, innovation, and strategic partnerships, the UN and its partners advanced solutions with impact in the UAE and beyond.



Group photo of participants from the ADAFSA and experts from FAO during the technical workshops held at FAO Headquarters in Rome.

FAO

Multilateral Leadership

- In May, the UAE was elected President of the UN-Habitat General Assembly and was appointed to its Executive Board, marking the country's first time holding both leadership roles. The election reflects international recognition of the UAE's contributions to sustainable urban development and housing and positions the country to strengthen cooperation with Member States and advance inclusive, resilient cities aligned with SDG 11.
- The UAE was elected to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs for the 2026–2029 term, representing the Asia-Pacific Group. Membership in this central UN policy-making body positions the UAE to contribute to shaping international drug control policies and strengthening multilateral cooperation to address transnational crime.

- The UAE was endorsed as Chair of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Support Group for the 2025–2026 term, becoming the first Arab country to hold this role. The UAE chaired its first Support Group meeting in Geneva in October, spotlighting water-related disaster risks and advancing priorities including implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, integrating climate action with disaster risk reduction, and enhancing global resilience to hazards intensified by climate change. The meeting also reinforced links with the forthcoming 2026 UN Water Conference, underscoring the UAE's commitment to global resilience and risk-informed development.

Technical Cooperation

- The long-standing partnership between UN-Habitat and Dubai Municipality continued through the Dubai International Best Practices Award 2025, a global call recognizing innovative urban solutions that advance inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities. The award reinforces Dubai's role as a global platform for sharing scalable urban innovations and reflects sustained institutional collaboration with UN-Habitat.
- FAO supported capacity strengthening for officials from the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority through technical workshops in their Rome headquarters, enhancing capacities for evidence-based analyses, and planning of Abu Dhabi's 10-year Master Plan for Sustainable Agriculture. The initiative contributes to stronger institutional frameworks for resilient agrifood systems and improved agrifood governance at the emirate level.
- UNCTAD, in partnerships with the UAE's Ministry of Investment and Ministry of Finance, convened a capacity-building workshop to strengthen national

First Arab country

to chair the UNDRR Support Group (2025–2026)

10-year Master Plan

for Sustainable Agriculture in Abu Dhabi supported by FAO

expertise on negotiating bilateral investment treaties and investment chapters in CEPAs, helping align international investment commitments with best practices and the UAE’s wider economic and development objectives. The workshop formed part of a broader UNCTAD–UAE partnership on international investment agreements and dispute settlement issues.

- Abu Dhabi hosted a regional technical workshop led by ESCWA and partners to strengthen statistical capacity on implementing the System of National Accounts 2025 and compiling digital supply-and-use tables, supporting more robust, comparable economic statistics for evidence-based policymaking in the region.
- ESCWA supported the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre in deploying and officially launching the Monitoring Application for Reporting on the SDGs (MARS) in April 2025, including technical coordination for establishing the national MARS network. Online training sessions delivered in January and April strengthened national capacity for SDG monitoring and reporting.
- ESCWA provided advisory support to the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre to review labour force, health, and household income and expenditure surveys and map their indicators against relevant SDGs. The technical review, completed in October 2025, supports more systematic integration of SDG monitoring into national statistical systems.

Knowledge and Innovation Platforms

- The Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation and UNDP hosted the second edition of the AGF–UNDP Thought Leadership Series, “Philanthropy in Action: Catalyzing Resilience and Sustainable Impact in the Arab Region.” The dialogue convened philanthropies, development partners, youth- and women-led initiatives, social enterprises, and private sector actors to examine how strategic philanthropy can drive resilience, inclusive financing, and systems change amid overlapping crises. Discussions focused on scaling community-level solutions, strengthening accountability, and mobilizing financing tools to accelerate sustainable impact, with speakers underscoring the shift from fragmented giving toward coordinated, systems-oriented philanthropy.



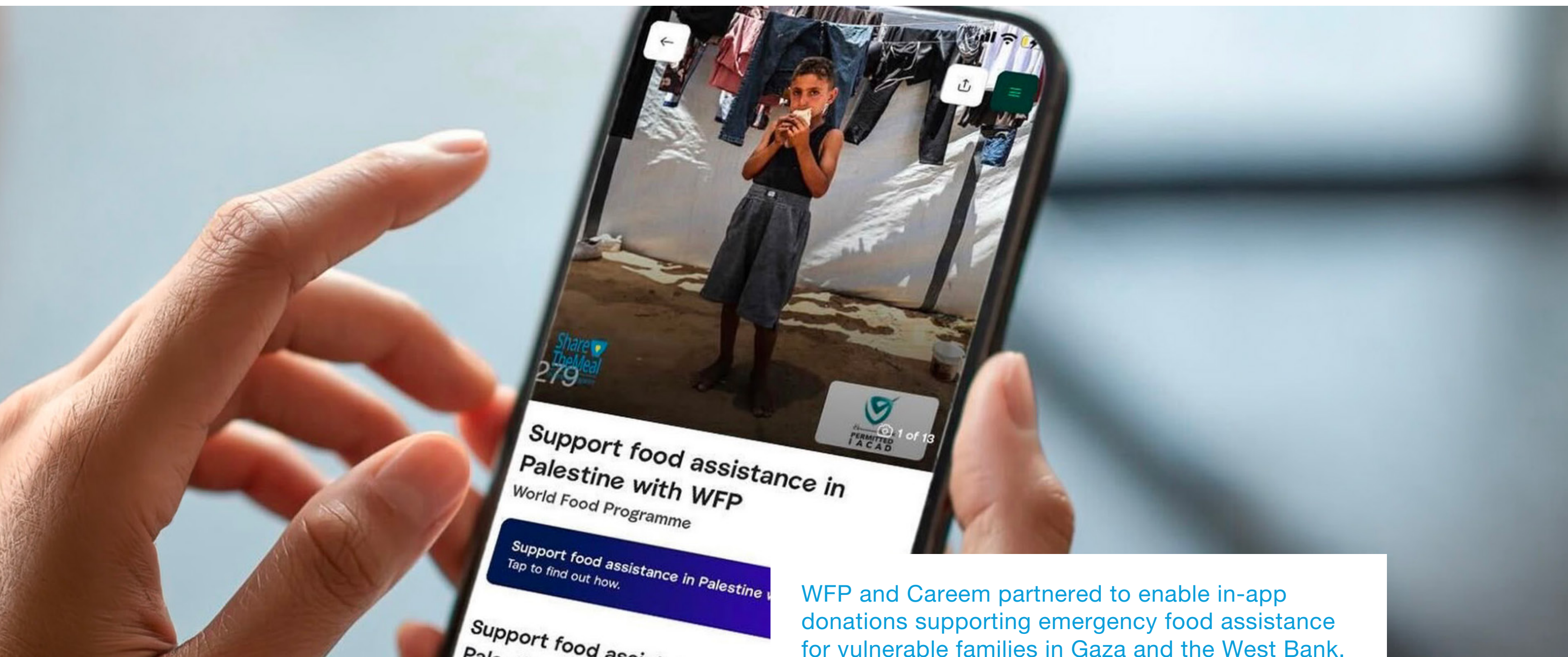
Abu Dhabi was the global host city of International Jazz Day in 2025.

UNESCO

190+

countries celebrated UNESCO International Jazz Day 2025

- UNDP, in partnership with the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation, continued to anchor a suite of knowledge initiatives in the UAE that advance evidence-based development and innovation. The 10th Knowledge Summit in Dubai convened global policymakers and experts around knowledge-driven solutions for sustainable communities, and the 2025 Global Knowledge Index reaffirmed the UAE as the top Arab performer. Building on the ongoing Knowledge Project, more than 30 volunteers contributed to data, digital engagement, and community outreach, strengthening knowledge governance and policy dialogue across the region.
- Abu Dhabi was selected as the Global Host City for UNESCO’s International Jazz Day, celebrating the global impact of jazz in more than 190 countries. The event featured concerts, workshops, residencies, and educational programmes throughout the city, highlighting jazz as a medium for cultural exchange, creative expression, community dialogue, and peace. As a UNESCO Creative City of Music, Abu Dhabi’s hosting reinforced the UAE’s role in advancing the creative and cultural sectors.



WFP and Careem partnered to enable in-app donations supporting emergency food assistance for vulnerable families in Gaza and the West Bank.

Careem

Private Sector Engagement

WFP partnered with Careem

enabling direct humanitarian donations for Gaza and the West Bank

- In July 2025, WFP partnered with Careem to enable food aid contributions in support of emergency operations in Gaza and the West Bank via the Careem app. The initiative empowered users in the UAE and Jordan to donate directly to WFP's delivery of wheat flour, hot meals, and nutrition supplements, reaching vulnerable families amid ongoing crisis conditions.
- The UN Global Compact Network UAE convened a Decent Work Forum at the DP World Pavilion, Expo City Dubai, bringing together leaders from government, business and sustainability sectors to explore practical pathways for advancing fair, safe and sustainable workplaces across organisations and supply chains. The forum discussed approaches to decent work, workforce resilience, sustainable procurement and equitable compensation, reflecting multi-stakeholder commitment to enhancing labour standards in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

UN80: Eight Decades of the United Nations, A Strengthened Partnership with the UAE

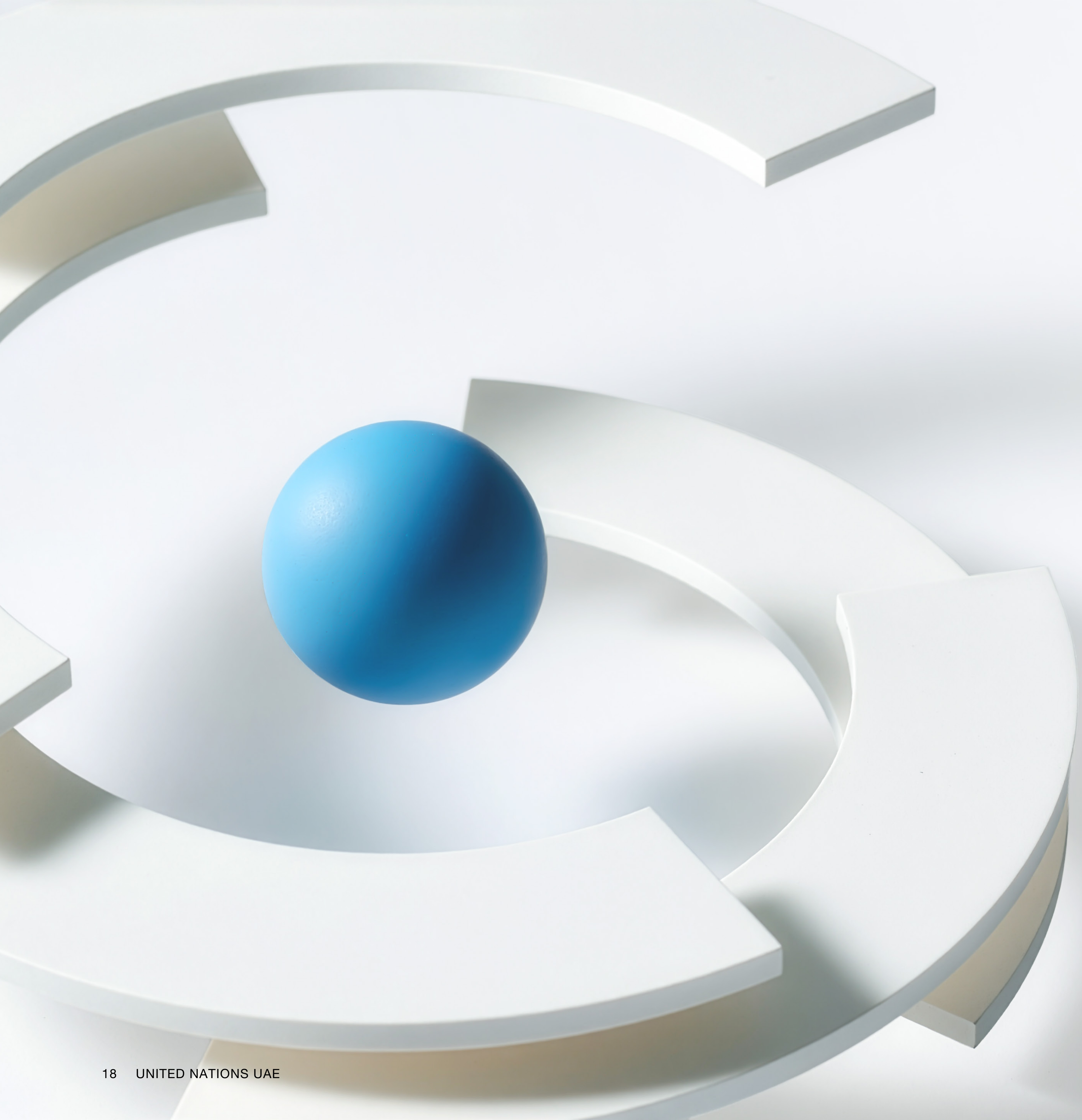
The United Nations in the UAE partnered with the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA) to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the United Nations through a special UN80 event that brought together diplomats, partners, and members of the wider community to reflect on the enduring value of multilateralism and international cooperation.

The celebration featured a curated exhibition highlighting key milestones across eight decades of UN action for peace, development, and human rights, alongside the evolution of the UN's partnership with the United Arab Emirates since 1971. The exhibition also showcased the UAE's growing role in advancing humanitarian action, climate leadership, and global dialogue through the multilateral system.

A high-level panel discussion explored the continued relevance of multilateralism in an increasingly complex global context. Discussions focused on the importance of international cooperation, inclusive diplomacy, and renewing collective action to address shared challenges and accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

The event underscored the UAE's role as a valued partner of the United Nations and reaffirmed the importance of dialogue, solidarity, and shared responsibility as the Organization looks to the future.





Peace

Peaceful, just, and inclusive societies are essential for sustainable development. In 2025, the United Nations in the UAE contributed to efforts that strengthen human rights, reinforce the rule of law, support humanitarian action, and promote cooperation to address shared regional and global challenges.

18

countries represented in the Sheikhha Fatima Women, Peace and Security Initiative.

International Peace and Security

- Under the patronage of H.H. Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak, the General Women's Union, in partnership with the UAE Ministry of Defence and the UN Women Liaison Office for the GCC, launched the fifth cohort of the Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak Women, Peace and Security Initiative in 2025. The programme brought together women from 18 countries for targeted training in peacekeeping, leadership, diplomacy, and emerging security domains, strengthening women's participation in peace and security at national and global levels.
- UNODC, in partnership with Wajeb Voluntary Association (UAE), delivered capacity-building for national experts on community-based prevention of violent extremism, strengthening local capacity to design and implement prevention initiatives that empower communities to reject violence and address pathways to radicalization.

Human Rights and Rule of Law

- The Regional Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for the Middle East and North Africa (OHCHR-ROMENA) partnered with the Permanent Committee for Human Rights, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the UAE Ministry of Interior to deliver a nine-month national human rights training programme. The programme brought together 46 participants from 13 ministries and government entities, building a national cadre of experts and strengthening capacity to integrate international human rights standards and rights-based approaches into public governance.
- OHCHR-ROMENA partnered with the Permanent Committee for Human Rights and the General Women's Union to deliver 16 days of in-person

46

participants from 13 ministries completed a national human rights training programme



Participants at a UNODC-led workshop on applying artificial intelligence to combat trafficking in persons in the UAE.

UNODC

training on women's rights for 71 participants from ministries, entities, and civil society organizations across the UAE. The programme strengthened knowledge of international human rights frameworks and mechanisms and included a training-of-trainers component for 20 participants, enabling continued outreach and awareness raising. It also supported the development of a five-year advocacy action plan on equality in national laws and policies.

- OHCHR-ROMENA also supported representatives of the Permanent Committee for Human Rights and the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs through focused workshops on the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF). This included support for installation of the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD), strengthening national systems to better track and follow up on recommendations from international human rights mechanisms.

71

participants trained on women's rights and international human rights frameworks



National stakeholders convened to advance the UAE's fifth CEDAW report, strengthening inclusive reporting on progress toward gender equality and women's rights.

GWU UAE

- The General Women's Union, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with technical support from the UN Women Liaison Office for the GCC, convened a national preparatory meeting to support the development of the United Arab Emirates' fifth periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The meeting brought together representatives from federal and local government and civil society to strengthen institutional capacity for reporting and ensure comprehensive documentation of legislative, policy, and institutional progress in advancing gender equality, reflecting the UAE's commitment to global human rights frameworks.
- UNODC, in collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Interior's Human Rights Department, delivered a two-day technical workshop in Dubai on the use of artificial intelligence for investigating trafficking in persons.

The workshop strengthened the capacities of 27 officials from across the UAE to apply emerging technologies to trafficking investigations, reinforcing national efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to human trafficking in line with international standards.

Humanitarian Action

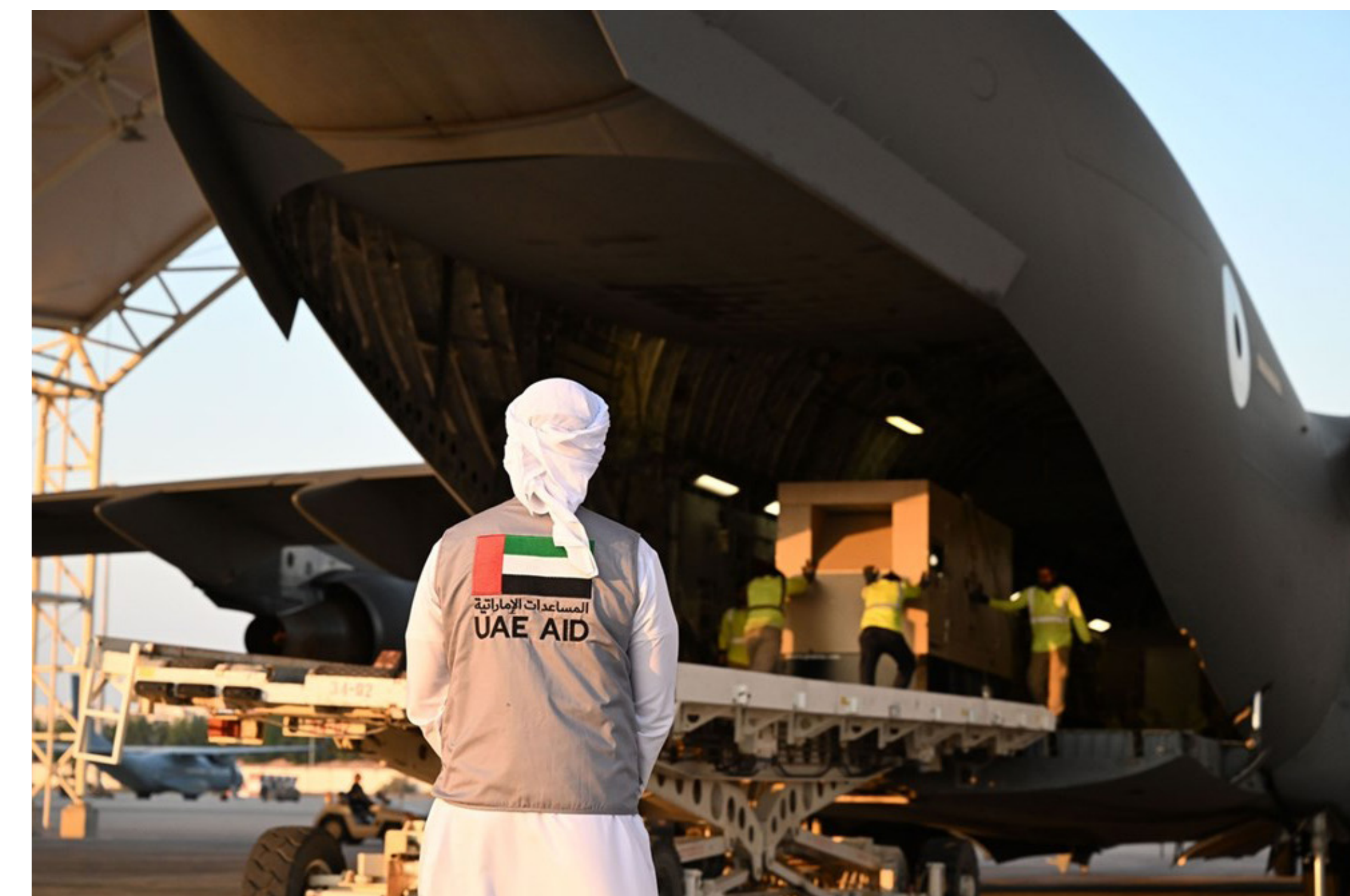
- The UAE Aid Agency signed a USD 20 million grant agreement with WFP to accelerate food assistance for populations affected by conflict in Sudan and neighbouring host countries. Complementing this, the UAE Aid Agency also concluded a USD 15 million cooperation agreement with UNHCR to support protection and life-saving assistance, including shelter, healthcare, and education, reinforcing the UAE's coordinated, multi-agency humanitarian response to one of the world's most acute hunger and displacement crises.

\$20M

WFP food assistance agreement for Sudan and neighbouring host countries

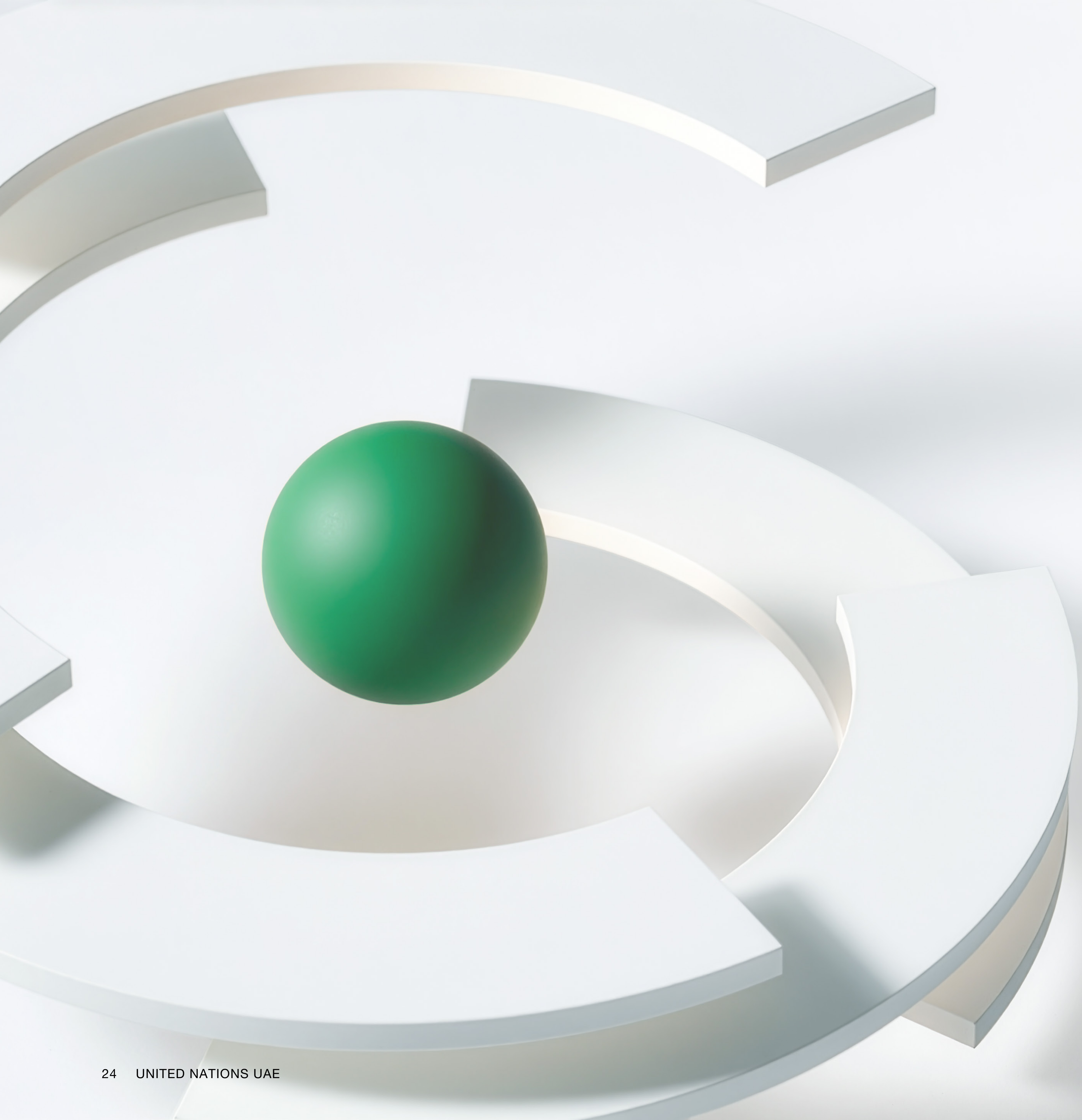
\$15M

UNHCR agreement supporting shelter, healthcare, and education



The United Arab Emirates ranked among the world's leading humanitarian donors, according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS), reflecting sustained large-scale contributions to UN-coordinated humanitarian operations. Building on this role, the UAE announced an early pledge in support of the 2026 Global Humanitarian Overview, reinforcing its commitment to predictable, timely financing for life-saving assistance in major humanitarian crises.

UAE AID



Planet

Protecting the environment and strengthening resilience remain central to sustainable development. In 2025, the United Nations in the UAE supported efforts that advance climate action, safeguard natural and cultural heritage, promote sustainable resource management, and encourage pathways toward a more resilient and environmentally sustainable future.

Climate Action

- ESCWA provided advisory support to the UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure on the national energy report, contributing technical inputs following an online consultation in November 2025. The engagement strengthened the report's analytical depth and policy relevance, supporting evidence-based energy planning.

Nature, Heritage, and Sustainable Tourism

- UNESCO officially inscribed Al Faya Palaeolandscape in Sharjah onto the UNESCO World Heritage List, marking the second World Heritage site in the United Arab Emirates. The site's archaeological record documents more than 200,000 years of human history and early adaptation to desert environments, underscoring the UAE's global contribution to understanding human evolution and heritage preservation. The inscription reflects long-term scientific research and international cooperation in archaeology, conservation, and heritage management.
- Masfout in the emirate of Ajman was recognised by UN Tourism as one of the World's Best Tourism Villages, highlighting the UAE's progress in sustainable, community-based tourism that preserves cultural and natural heritage while strengthening inclusive local development.



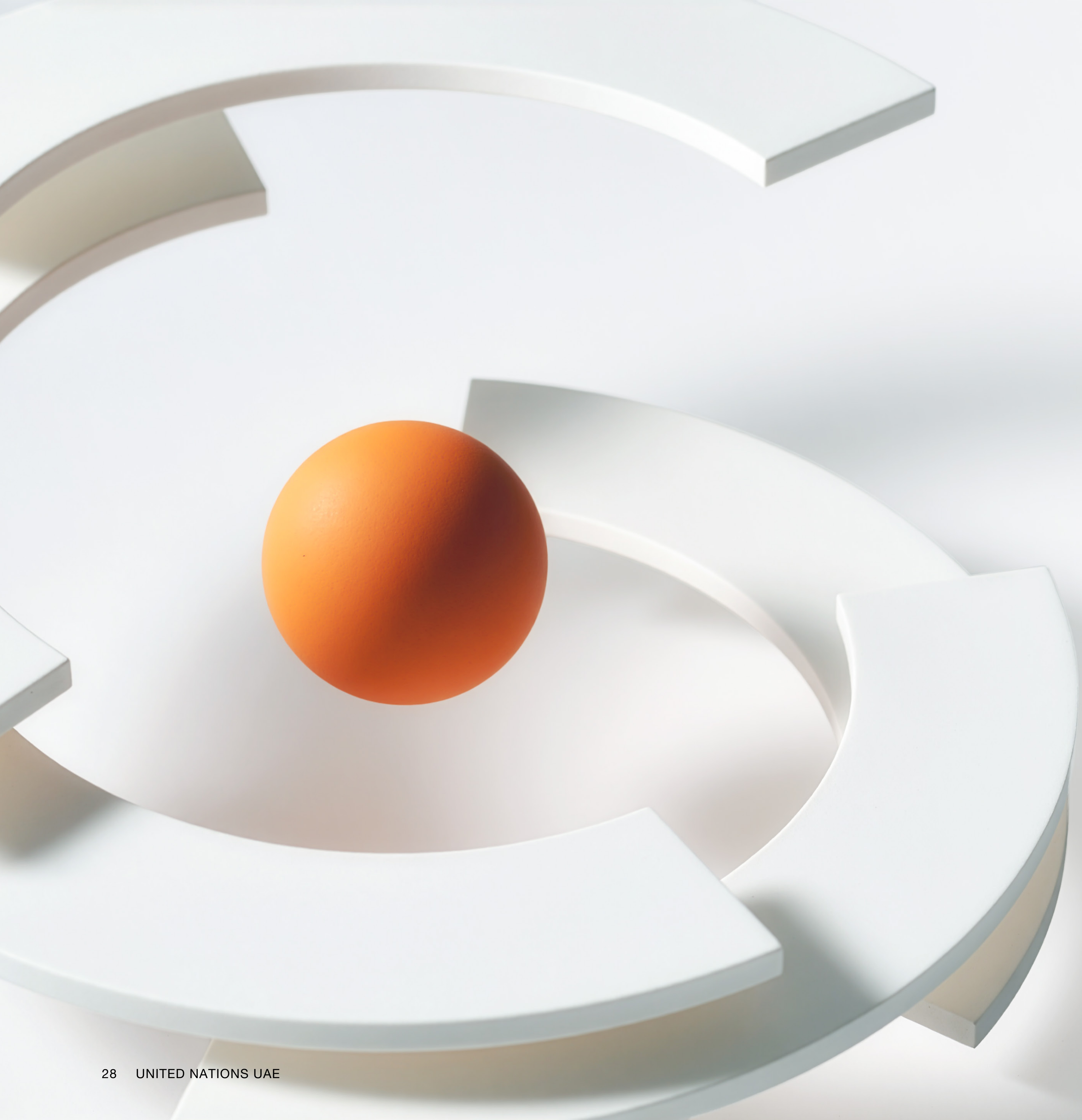
Photo © Muhasin Pallikkal / Institute for Heritage Management

200,000

years of human
history preserved
through the Al Faya
Palaeolandscape in
Sharjah

UAE's Second UNESCO World Heritage Site

Al Faya inscribed onto
the UNESCO World
Heritage List



People

At the heart of the 2030 Agenda is the commitment to improve lives, expand opportunities, and ensure dignity for all. In 2025, the United Nations in the UAE continued to support initiatives that promote inclusion, strengthen essential services, advance gender equality, and invest in the well-being and potential of people across all stages of life.

Food Systems

- At Abu Dhabi Global Food Week 2025, FAO marked its 80th anniversary with a high-level celebration, bringing together government officials, UN agencies, and international partners to reaffirm shared commitments to transforming agrifood systems, emphasising sustainability, innovation, and resilience in the face of climate changes. The event highlighted the depth of the FAO–UAE strategic partnership and facilitated dialogue on climate-smart agriculture and innovative approaches to building resilient agrifood systems.
- In collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, FAO led a regional dialogue in Dubai on food safety governance for Gulf Cooperation Council countries, enhancing exchange of expertise and regulatory frameworks to support safer, more resilient food systems in the region.



FAO 80th Anniversary commemoration.

FAO



FAO Head of Mission presenting the Recognition Award to H.E. Noura Al Suwaidi on behalf of Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak, the “Mother of the Nation,” in honor of her exceptional contributions to food security and sustainable agriculture.

FAO

- The UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, with technical support from FAO, launched a comprehensive food control system assessment to strengthen national food safety governance and align with international standards. The assessment will underpin improvements in food safety, public health protection, and market access, enhancing the UAE’s participation in global trade while safeguarding consumer wellbeing.
- FAO and WFP participated in the 19th Dubai International Food Safety Conference alongside government and international partners, engaging global experts on food safety systems, risk assessment, and regulatory frameworks. The conference strengthened cooperation on food control, standards, and public health protection, and underscored the UAE’s role in shaping regional and global food safety dialogue.

Children and Youth

- UNICEF Gulf, in partnership with the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood (SCMC) and the UAE Ministry of Education, advanced the scale-up of a national anti-bullying programme in schools across the UAE. Building on evidence and global best practices tailored to the UAE context, the initiative strengthened prevention, early intervention,



FAO and WFP participation in the 19th Dubai International Food Safety Conference.

FAO

and systemic responses to bullying by equipping educators, social workers, and school leaders with training and tools to create safer, more inclusive learning environments. A 2023 formative evaluation showed measurable declines in bullying incidents and improved perceptions of school safety, providing a robust foundation for national expansion of the programme in 2025.

- In November 2025, UNICEF Gulf joined the Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre (ADPHC) and the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood to convene a high-level roundtable on preventing childhood overweight and obesity. The forum brought together government, education, health and youth representatives to review the latest evidence and identify multi-sector strategies to reshape food environments, embed prevention measures across policies, and empower families and young people to make healthier choices. ADPHC highlighted comprehensive prevention programmes, including initiatives to improve access to nutritious food and strengthen youth leadership in health advocacy, while UNICEF

contributed global expertise to support evidence-based, collaborative action for child health and wellbeing.

- In collaboration with the UAE’s Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, the League of Arab States, the Arab Council for Childhood and Development, and UNICEF, the UAE launched the “Safe Internet for Our Children” campaign to strengthen online safety for children. The initiative promotes responsible digital use and resilience against cyberbullying, digital addiction, and misinformation, supported by the multilingual animated series “Alpha and Zain.”
- UNICEF Gulf, in partnership with Dubai’s Community Development Authority (CDA), supported child rights training across 70 schools in 2025, extending coverage to over 60 percent of schools in Dubai. The initiative strengthens school-level capacity to embed child rights in education policies and practice, with a roadmap to reach full coverage in 2026 and create a scalable national model.
- Following the Inter-ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children in Bogotá, and in line with its commitment as a member of the Global Pathfinding Initiative 2.0, the UAE launched the development of a national Road Map on Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC), alongside a national parenting vision. Expected to be completed by mid-2026, these frameworks will guide coordinated, evidence-based action to strengthen child protection systems, promote positive parenting practices, and safeguard the well-being of children across the country.

Safe internet
for our
children

national campaign
promoting online safety
and resilience against
cyberbullying

70

schools received child
rights training across
Dubai

60%

of schools in Dubai
reached through
UNICEF-supported
child rights initiatives

Gender and Inclusion

- In 2025, the UN Women Liaison Office for the GCC marked one year of implementing the UAE–UN Women Strategic Partnership Framework (2024–2027) with the UAE, reinforcing cooperation to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment at regional and global levels. The partnership, backed by significant UAE support, positions the UAE as a leading contributor to UN Women’s work in the Arab States.
- FAO honoured Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak in recognition of her leadership in advancing women’s empowerment and rural development. The recognition highlighted the UAE’s long-standing commitment to promoting women’s participation in agriculture and food systems, and FAO’s partnership with national institutions to advance inclusive, gender-responsive agrifood development.
- On Emirati Women’s Day 2025, FAO, in partnership with the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, highlighted women’s



UNDP and the American University of Sharjah collaborate to advance disability inclusion in climate adaptation and sustainable development planning.

UNDP

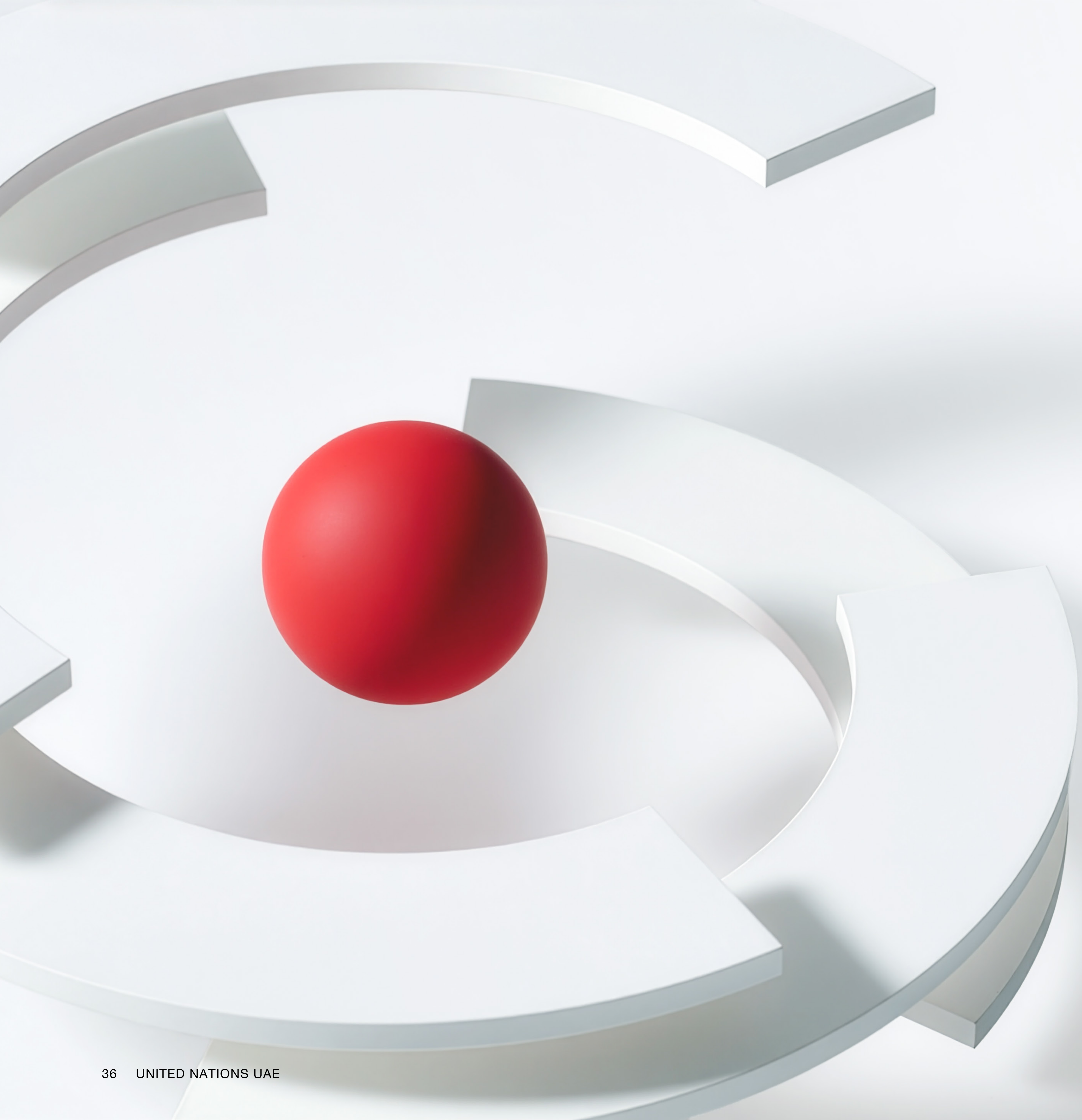


UN Women convened the EmpowerHer Conference in Abu Dhabi, bringing together more than 330 participants from over 220 private sector companies to advance the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs). The conference spotlighted corporate gender equality practices and tools to strengthen women’s economic participation and leadership in the workplace and marketplace.

UN Women Gulf Liaison Office

leadership in agriculture, including the UAE’s first women-only Farmer Field School. The event recognized the role of women in advancing resilient agrifood systems and marked 50 years of the General Women’s Union in promoting women’s participation in rural and agricultural development.

- UNDP partnered with American University of Sharjah (AUS) on an initiative to advance disability inclusion and climate-resilient development. The collaboration focused on inclusive policy frameworks, awareness raising, and capacity building to ensure that people with disabilities are fully included in climate adaptation and sustainable development planning.
- ESCWA supported GCC-STAT and UAE partners to strengthen national capacity in disability statistics, including through a national workshop in Dubai in November 2025 co-organized with the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre. The initiative advanced national expertise in disability data collection, production, and use, aligned with international standards.



Prosperity

Sustainable prosperity depends on inclusive growth, innovation, and resilient economic systems. In 2025, the United Nations in the UAE worked with partners to advance evidence-based policymaking, strengthen institutions, promote future-ready skills, and support economic transformation that creates opportunities for all.



Dubai received UN-Habitat's SDG Cities Gold Certification, recognizing measurable progress in governance, innovation, quality of life, and sustainable urban development. The certification reflects sustained collaboration between UN-Habitat and Dubai authorities to advance data-driven urban performance, SDG localization, and evidence-based planning in support of inclusive growth.

UN Habitat

Development Policy

- During the World Government Summit 2025 in Dubai, FAO and Dubai Municipality signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation on sustainable agri-food systems, food safety, and food security. The agreement supports knowledge exchange on regulatory and institutional frameworks and advances joint efforts to build resilient supply chains aligned with international standards.
- ESCWA supported the UAE Ministry of Economy in developing a national Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model, including technical workshops on model updates and cross-entropy estimation techniques. The updated model was shared with national counterparts in October 2025 to support evidence-based economic policymaking.
- ESCWA facilitated access to its Skills Monitor API for Zayed University, enabling real-time labour market data analysis to support alignment between higher education curricula and evolving labour market needs. Technical support was provided in April 2025 to integrate and operationalize the tool.

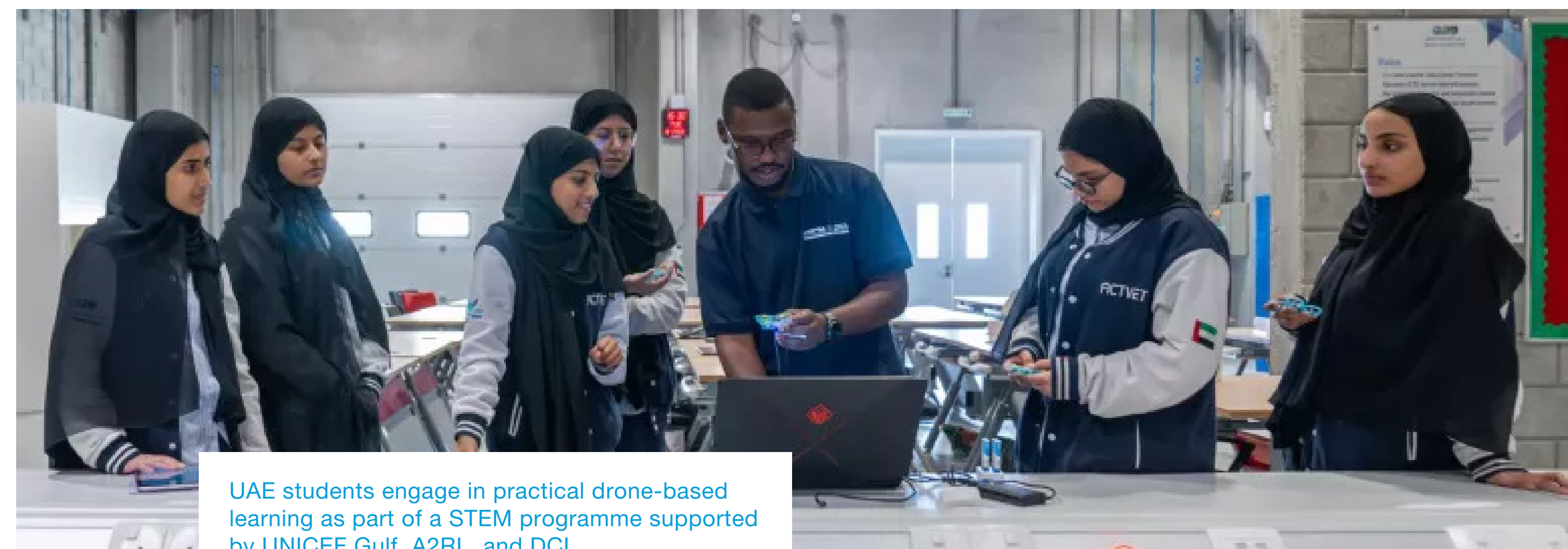
- ESCWA and partners delivered a national training workshop for judges and prosecutors on competition law and economic principles, strengthening capacity to support implementation of the UAE's competition framework.

Science and Technology

- UNICEF Gulf partnered with A2RL and DCL to launch an innovative drone-based STEM training programme that will equip 100 UAE students with future-ready skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The initiative uses hands-on drone technology and cutting-edge curriculum to build digital literacy, problem-solving, and technical competencies among youth, supporting national priorities for workforce readiness and technological innovation. By connecting experiential learning with emerging technologies, the programme strengthens pathways from education to careers in digital and high-tech sectors and promotes inclusive access to STEM opportunities for the next generation.

100

UAE students to receive drone-based STEM training through the UNICEF partnership



UAE students engage in practical drone-based learning as part of a STEM programme supported by UNICEF Gulf, A2RL, and DCL.

UNICEF



UNDP - MBRSG MOU signing at the World Governments Summit.

UNDP

UAE's first game development bootcamp

equipping youth with digital and creative industry skills

- UNDP and the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation launched the UAE's first Game Development Bootcamp, a collaborative initiative that equipped aspiring developers with technical and entrepreneurial skills in game design and digital media. The bootcamp strengthened youth capabilities in creative industries and digital economies, aligning with broader national priorities on innovation and future jobs.
- The UNDP Future Skills Academy demonstrated promising outcomes in equipping learners with competencies relevant for digital jobs, sustainability careers, and emerging sectors. The Academy's initial results highlighted increased participation by youth and women in skills-building modules tied to digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and future labour market needs.
- UNDP and the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to advance digital transformation and AI governance in the UAE and region. The

partnership supports evidence-based digital policy, ethical AI frameworks, and institutional capacity to harness emerging technologies for inclusive development.



- Six Arab women scientists were recognised in Dubai through the 2025 iteration of the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Middle East Regional Young Talents Programme, highlighting regional excellence in STEM. Among the honourees was Aysha AlShehhi, a PhD candidate in robotics engineering at Khalifa University and Dubai Future Labs, recognised for her research in aerospace-related robotics. Awardees from GCC countries were also honoured for work spanning plant immunity, post-harvest food loss, climate resilience, and microbiome research, underscoring women's contributions to addressing pressing scientific and societal challenges.

Six arab women scientists honoured

through the L'Oréal-UNESCO Women in Science programme



Photo © Stephanie Veith / Institute for Heritage Management

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to 2026, the United Nations in the UAE will continue to leverage the country's unique role as a global convening hub to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through policy dialogue, partnerships, and multilateral engagement as the world enters the final stretch of the 2030 Agenda.

Building on the UAE's leadership in multilateral diplomacy, innovation, and development finance, the UN will work closely with government partners to mobilize partnerships and financing for development, strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation, and scale solutions with relevance beyond national borders. Advancing implementation of the Pact for the Future will be a core priority, reinforcing effective multilateralism and coordinated responses to systemic global challenges.

The UAE's role as host of major global platforms will remain central to this agenda. In 2026, the UN will support the convening of the 15th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the 2026 UN Water Conference. working with national counterparts to catalyse partnerships, and help deliver concrete, internationally relevant outcomes.

As digital transformation and emerging technologies reshape development pathways, the UN will deepen engagement on digital public infrastructure, data, and responsible AI, positioning the UAE as a platform for global dialogue and policy innovation on inclusive and rights-based digital transformation.

Together, we will continue to advance a shared vision for people, planet, peace, prosperity, and partnerships by strengthening multilateral cooperation, amplifying collective action, and supporting the UAE's role as a catalyst for global solutions with tangible impact beyond its borders.

