



**Non-Paper on the United Arab Emirates' Goals and Objectives
for the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly**

The global challenges that humanity faces require action-oriented multilateralism. We are stronger when we are united. Whether it is providing critical support to the response against COVID-19, advancing women's empowerment, addressing nuclear proliferation, promoting energy transformation and sustainability, or countering terrorism and extremism, the UAE continues to invest time and effort in bringing about positive change in the multilateral system.

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the need to promote international cooperation to respond to present and future challenges. The UAE is a strong believer in the importance of future preparedness and, as it approaches its 50th Jubilee, continues to promote innovation and creativity. In July, the UAE launched *Hope*, its first mission to Mars and a good example of the UAE's forward-looking approach. We want to promote examples of excellence, aspiration and positivity that inspire our region and show the world what Arab countries can achieve with a progressive, global outlook anchored in inclusion and human development.

As we mark the 75th anniversary of the UN Charter, its principles and purposes continue to be our collective roadmap to maintain international peace and security, drive sustainable development, and promote coexistence. Our strong belief in multilateralism has led the UAE to submit its candidacy for the UN Security Council in 2022-2023. The UAE, which was endorsed by the League of Arab States in 2012 and by the Asia-Pacific Group in June 2020, is committed to building bridges in the Security Council and with the broader membership to strengthen the multilateral system.



Priorities for UNGA 75

As we celebrate the UN's 75th anniversary, the General Assembly will be an important platform to reflect on the state of multilateralism, its challenges, and the way forward. While we continue to respond to COVID-19, Member States are expected to share lessons learned from the measures against the pandemic, including the need to prepare for future pandemics and how to rebuild more resilient societies. Other global challenges cannot be forgotten. We need collective responses to address nuclear proliferation, terrorism, climate change and inequality. The 75th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 75) should be an opportunity to continue to find areas of convergence in addressing these global issues.

The UAE will concentrate its efforts, in partnership with Member States, on the following seven priorities at the UNGA 75:

1. Supporting regional stability in the Middle East and North Africa. The UAE is deeply committed to the stability and security of our region. The historic signing of the peace accord between the UAE and Israel represents a diplomatic breakthrough that can unlock the great potential in the region. The UAE continues to support efforts to de-escalate conflicts and prioritizes the pursuit of political solutions. Earlier this year, the UAE wholeheartedly supported the Secretary-General's appeal for a global ceasefire.

The UAE rejects terrorism in all its forms and will continue its efforts to address the root causes of extremism, including through education, sustainable development and the promotion of tolerance, peaceful co-existence, and cultural diversity. We will work with Member States, the UN, and its agencies in pursuit of this goal, as we have done during the 74th session when we co-hosted a regional conference in Abu Dhabi with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism on the role that youth can play against radicalization and recruitment. The UAE continues to amplify moderate voices, support religious leaders in our communities, and counter



extremist propaganda online. The need for progressive, moderate leadership is made abundantly clear by the instability in our wider region, as illustrated by ongoing conflicts in Syria, Yemen, and Libya.

In a region confronted by the threat of nuclear proliferation, the UAE remains committed to the Middle East becoming free of weapons of mass destruction. The UAE is proud to be the home of the first nuclear power plant in the Arab world, built using the gold standard for civilian nuclear power and non-proliferation. The facility at Barakah was given the green light to start operations earlier this year.

2. Promoting tolerance, coexistence, and interfaith dialogue. A critical element of the UAE's approach to regional stability—and a core component of the UAE's foreign policy—is the promotion of peace and security through a rejection of sectarianism, as well as through interfaith harmony and moderation. We continue to build on the historic visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to the UAE in 2019 and his signing of the document on “Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together” with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Dr. Ahmed El Tayeb. On 14 May 2020, millions of religious people of all faiths around the world responded to the call of the UAE's Higher Committee of Human Fraternity for a day of fasting, prayers, and supplications for the good of all humanity and for an end to the pandemic. The UAE will continue its efforts for religious freedom and peaceful coexistence, including through the construction of the Abrahamic Family House, a place of learning, dialogue, worship, and the future home of gatherings that will bring world leaders together.

In a region that struggles with a lack of religious and ethnic tolerance, the UAE upholds the rights of others irrespective of their beliefs and backgrounds, and rejects all ideologies that promote violence and discrimination. There are more than two hundred nationalities living and working in the UAE, and this diversity has been a core pillar of our stability and economic growth.



3. A responsible global citizen – Helping the most vulnerable in response to COVID-19. As the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, the UAE has been a major contributor to the global response, focusing its efforts on delivering direct, in-kind contributions to other countries, including personal protective equipment, testing kits, ventilators, and other medical equipment. As of August, the UAE has contributed \$235.2 million worth of medical aid to 108 countries. Furthermore, the UAE contributed \$10 million of testing kits to the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as three aircraft for the World Food Programme's (WFP) global air bridge operation.

The UAE is also host to the Dubai International Humanitarian City (DIHC), a critical hub for UN partners. Some 80% of the personal protective equipment distributed by the WHO in its global response to COVID-19 has been managed through the DIHC.

The UAE is one of the largest providers of humanitarian and development assistance in the world, consistently ranked among the top 10 by the OECD as a share of gross national income. We are committed to aiding communities and individuals in need globally, regardless of political circumstances.

4. Addressing climate change – Mitigation and adaptation. The UAE is known at the UN as a champion for climate action based on its aggressive implementation of renewable energy at home and abroad, as well as its early recognition of climate's impact on diverse issues, including security and public health. The UAE also believes that there is a clear and attractive economic case for promoting climate action.

Domestically, the UAE has set the record for the world's cheapest solar power, bringing it below the price of all other options. The UAE also committed to 44% of its energy mix coming from renewables and 6% from nuclear by 2050 – the most ambitious MENA commitment under the Paris Agreement. Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week is the largest annual sustainability event in the world and a regular milestone for UN processes. The UAE is also the host of the International



Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), now with 183 members, and Masdar, a leading investor in renewables.

In the UN sphere, the UAE in May 2019 hosted the preparatory meeting for the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit, the ambitious commitments of which will be reviewed at this year's UNGA. Earlier this year, the UAE was appointed to the advisory committee of the Secretary-General's 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, which will simultaneously address hunger and climate change.

The UAE is also a champion of anticipatory finance – the concept of releasing funding in advance of credibly predicted disasters, such as drought and extreme weather.

5. Championing women's empowerment. Women's empowerment is a key principle of the UAE's domestic and foreign policy. The UAE is also one of the most prominent gender champions at the UN and has been a core contributor to UN Women since its establishment in 2010, totaling \$36 million. In February 2020, the UAE organized the Global Women's Forum in Dubai with more than 3,000 attendees, including global leaders, experts, academics, entrepreneurs, and students. The Forum was an important milestone in the UAE's ongoing journey to elevate the status of women across all sectors, both domestically and globally. The UAE will contribute this perspective to Generation Equality, the global conference to galvanize civil society and multi-stakeholder efforts to remove barriers to women's rights that UN Women will be co-organizing with France and Mexico in 2021.

The UAE is working to advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda, emphasizing that women must be equal partners in peace and security efforts and promoting their participation in senior leadership and decision-making roles. The UAE continues to work closely with UN Women, and its liaison office in Abu Dhabi in particular, in organizing the Women, Peace and Security Training Programme at the Khawla bint Al Azwar Military Academy in the UAE. Since 2018, there have been more than 350 graduates from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.



Ahead of two landmark anniversaries later this year – the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Conference and the 20th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 – the UAE has co-hosted a panel series with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security on the role of women in post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding. The recommendations emerging from this series will contribute to multilateral policy-making efforts. At the UN, the UAE continues to ensure that UN programs consider the needs of women and girls and actively involve them in program design and implementation.

The UAE continues to lead international efforts to prevent sexual violence in conflict. This has included supporting relief for Yazidi women, promoting the reconstruction of Sinjar, and funding the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh (UNITAD) to enhance the work of the team with respect to the investigation of sexual and gender-based crimes.

6. Investing in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs have been integrated into both the UAE's national planning framework (Vision 2021) and foreign aid. According to the 2019 Arab Region SDG Index, the UAE was one of only five countries in the MENA region with a total score of 65 or above – meaning that it was two-thirds of the way to achieving the SDGs. While most of the world was already not on track to deliver on the SDGs when COVID-19 hit, the impact of the pandemic on lives and livelihoods is now threatening to reverse decades of progress. The UN is labeling 2020-2030 as the "Decade of Action" to deliver the SDGs, and the UNGA will focus extensively on "building back better" from COVID-19 to meet the SDGs' 2030 deadline.

The World Expo in Dubai will be one of the most important upcoming moments of global solidarity, taking place between October 2021 and March 2022. It will be a unique space for sharing ideas, accelerating practices, and piloting new solutions supporting the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



7. Promoting innovation and future preparedness. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that constant horizon scanning is required to identify future opportunities and challenges and prepare for them through technological and policy innovation.

A good illustration of the UAE's approach to problem solving is the Mars probe that was launched in July. This marks the first planetary science mission led by an Arab country and is the culmination of years of innovative programs to help Emirati youth pursue careers in science and technology. A third of the Emirati team working on the Mars satellite are women, and 90% of the team is under 35.

The UAE supports the Secretary-General's efforts to foster a global conversation on digital cooperation, particularly his roadmap's vision to connect, respect, and protect people in a digital age. The UAE remains committed to harnessing emerging technologies for the benefit of all and helping Member States take advantage of digital technologies to accelerate the SDGs.

In the face of growing global challenges, the UAE remains a strong proponent of a results-oriented multilateralism that focuses on what we have in common, rather than what divides us. Global cooperation is critical to save lives and to ensure that all countries impacted by COVID-19 can build back stronger in the years to come. Whether it is by hosting Expo or serving as an elected member of the Security Council, we look forward to working with the whole UN membership to secure peace, spur innovation, advance inclusion, and build resilience for all.