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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



2024
**ANNUAL
RESULTS
REPORT**

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ACRONYMS

CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP28	28th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC
DIHAD	Dubai International Humanitarian Aid & Development Conference and Exhibition
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MOCCEAE	Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
SCMC	Supreme Council for Motherhood & Childhood
SDGS	Sustainable Development Goals

UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNESCO	United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN TOURISM	United Nations World Tourism Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

FOREWORD

From the UN Resident Coordinator,
Ms. Bérangère Boëll



The 2024 Annual Report highlights the collective achievements of the United Nations in the UAE, showcasing our commitment to fostering partnerships, advancing sustainable development, and addressing global challenges. Together with our UAE counterparts, we have had significant achievements across the 5 Ps—People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity, and Partnerships— while reinforcing multilateral cooperation and innovation.

Throughout the year, the UN in the UAE contributed to both local and global SDG-aligned initiatives, including delivering life-saving humanitarian assistance through Dubai Humanitarian, empowering youth, advancing women's leadership, and deepening private sector engagement. The presence of 34 Under-Secretary-Generals and Assistant Secretary-Generals in the UAE throughout the year reflects the growing recognition of the country as a key partner for international cooperation and global engagement. These high-level interactions reinforced the UAE's role as a strategic platform for advancing multilateral dialogue and UN priorities. Notably, the invitation of a UN Special Rapporteur for the first time in over a decade marked a renewed commitment to human rights dialogue.

A key milestone this year was the formalization of a strategic partnership between the UN in the UAE and the Global Climate Finance Centre, a legacy initiative of COP28 aimed at mobilizing resources for climate action and accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Additionally, the completion by the UNCT of the Common Country Analysis update, integrating insights from 23 UN entities and UAE government counterparts, now serves as a strategic foundation for deeper collaboration and alignment with national priorities.

Recognizing the critical role of youth in shaping the future, the UN in the UAE engaged in a series of consultations with young people, fostering dialogue on the transition from learning to earning, future skills development, and sustainable economic opportunities. These discussions underscored the importance of equipping youth with the knowledge and tools needed to drive innovation and contribute meaningfully to sustainable development.

With just five years left to achieve the 2030 Agenda, accelerating SDG progress remains a top priority. The Pact for the Future, adopted at the Summit of the Future, provides a framework for collective action on global challenges, and the focus must now shift to its implementation. In 2025, the UNCT will prioritize translating the Pact into action, while also laying the groundwork for major UN conferences on Crime and Water in 2026 and strengthening the UAE's role as a global hub for dialogue and cooperation.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the Government of the UAE, the UN Country Team, and all our partners for their collaboration and shared commitment. Together, we remain steadfast in our mission to build a sustainable, just, and prosperous future for all.

UN COUNTRY TEAM OVERVIEW



UN Country Team members at the 2024 Strategic Planning Retreat in Dubai, joined by H.E. Sultan Al Shamsi, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Development Affairs and International Organizations, working together to strengthen collaboration and accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in the UAE is composed of over 30 agencies, funds, and programs that either have a physical presence in the country or operate from regional or subregional hubs with a mandate that includes the UAE. This unique configuration aligns with the principles of UN Reform, ensuring tailored support and expertise to address the UAE's national priorities and strategic ambitions.

The UN's extensive footprint in the UAE highlights a robust partnership with both the public and private sectors, emphasizing shared commitments to multilateralism and cooperation on sustainable development, humanitarian relief, and peace and security. Through this collaborative approach, the UN and the UAE continue to work together to address global challenges and advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

To ensure seamless collaboration, the UNCT operates through inter-agency working groups and task forces that enhance coordination and strengthen partnerships with government counterparts. These mechanisms not only amplify the UN's collective impact but also enable the alignment of efforts with the UAE's vision for global leadership and innovation.

OCHA	WFP World Food Programme	unicef	World Health Organization
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency	ITU	UNFPA	UNITED NATIONS المجلس ESCWA
UN environment programme	ILO International Labour Organization	UNDP	UNICRI United Nations International Crime and Justice Research Institute
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	IOM UN MIGRATION	United Nations Climate Change	UNOSSC United Nations Department of Safety & Security
UNRWA الأونروا	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	UN VOLUNTEERS	UN GLOBAL COMPACT
unesco	UN WOMEN	UNDRR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	UN-HABITAT
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER	CMS	International Trade Centre	UNIDO
UN Tourism UNITED NATIONS WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION			

PARTNERSHIPS

THE UN IN THE UAE COLLABORATES WITH A WIDE RANGE OF PARTNERS ACROSS SECTORS—FROM GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS TO ACADEMIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY—FOSTERING INNOVATION AND COLLECTIVE ACTION TO ADVANCE THE 2030 AGENDA.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

- The UAE National Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and UN-Habitat, organized a series of capacity-building workshops to enhance national agencies' expertise in SDG reporting and data analysis. The sessions focused on SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), supporting UAE efforts to align with global methodologies and strengthen urban policy and infrastructure planning. Bringing together government entities, municipalities, and statistical agencies, the initiative reinforced international collaboration in tracking SDG progress and advancing sustainable urban development.
- The ARISE Symposium on Climate and Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, co-organized by UNDRR and held in Dubai on 25 November, brought together over 120 leaders from government, business, international organizations, and academia. The event advanced the global agenda for resilient infrastructure in the face of mounting climate and disaster risks, with a strong focus on extreme heat. In line with the Sendai Framework and the SDGs, discussions emphasized the need for scaled-up resilience tools, harmonized regulatory standards, and stronger public-private collaboration. The symposium reinforced global momentum toward risk-informed, climate-adaptive infrastructure development.



The ARISE Symposium on Climate and Disaster Resilient Infrastructure brought together over 120 leaders from public and private sectors to strengthen global resilience efforts.



UN-Habitat and Dubai Municipality conclude the 13th cycle of the Dubai International Best Practices Award for Sustainable Development at the World Governments Summit 2024.

- At the World Governments Summit 2024, Dubai Municipality and UN-Habitat signed a cooperation agreement to launch the project 'Artificial Intelligence in Dubai: Pioneering Urban Intelligence for a Comprehensive and Sustainable Future.' This partnership aims to strengthen urban policies and programs through the integration of cutting-edge technologies, reinforcing their joint commitment to data-driven, sustainable city planning. UN-Habitat also participated in high-level dialogues on sustainable urbanization, innovation, and multilevel governance, and joined Dubai Municipality in recognizing five winners of the 13th Dubai International Best Practices Award for Sustainable Development, highlighting impactful solutions for inclusive and resilient urban futures.
- UNITAR partnered with the Arab Youth Center for the third edition of the Young Arab Diplomatic Leaders program in Abu Dhabi, delivering a three-day online workshop focused on assertiveness, public diplomacy, and digital engagement. The training aimed to enhance youth participation in international affairs and policymaking, equipping emerging diplomats with essential skills to navigate complex global dynamics.
- The ITU partnered with the UAE to advance its iCodi initiatives promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. A Global iCodi Workshop was held in collaboration with the UAE to support the Global Alliance on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, bringing together key stakeholders to exchange insights. To strengthen ongoing efforts, ITU signed a collaboration agreement with TDR to host one regional and one global workshop annually over two years. A subsequent Regional iCodi Workshop focused on strategic foresight for the Arab region, identifying six regional priorities and engaging 30 representatives from governments, international organizations, the private sector, academia, and youth and women leaders.
- UN Tourism and the UAE Ministry of Economy continue their collaboration to enhance the National Tourism Statistical System, with funding from the Ministry. Following initial assessments and system improvements, the next phases will focus on developing visitor and establishment surveys and compiling Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) tables to strengthen tourism data and analysis in the UAE.
- ESCWA enhanced UAE's capacity for SDG monitoring by deploying the Monitoring Application for Reporting on the SDGs (MARS) and establishing a national network for its use. Training sessions with relevant ministries focused on improving SDG data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- ESCWA provided technical assistance to the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Center for the 2024 Household Income and Expenditure Survey, ensuring compliance with international standards. Discussions also focused on integrating census data across emirates for a more comprehensive national demographic assessment.

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

- The UN Global Compact Local Network for UAE, in partnership with the National Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, hosted a workshop on the private sector's role in advancing the SDGs. Bringing together over 80 companies, the session focused on SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16, and 17, highlighting public-private collaboration as a key driver of sustainable development. Discussions covered challenges, best practices, and innovative solutions, with insights feeding into the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York. UN Resident Coordinator Béangère Boëll participated alongside business and policy leaders, reinforcing the importance of private sector engagement in achieving the 2030 Agenda.



Participants of the private sector SDG workshop co-hosted by UN Global Compact UAE and the National Committee on SDGs, to strengthen public-private collaboration for the 2030 Agenda.

- UNHCR has sustained its collaboration with private sector entities to support critical sectors, including education, WASH, healthcare, shelter, and emergency response across Asia and Africa. Partnerships with organizations such as Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, The Big Heart Foundation, the Sheikha Fatima Fund for Women Refugee, and the Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair Refugee Education Fund have enabled the successful implementation of essential projects, furthering UNHCR's dedication to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution.
- WFP collaborated with Dubai-based retailer Choithrams to launch the "ShareTheMeal" campaign, aiming to combat global hunger through private sector engagement. This initiative underscores the vital role of corporate partnerships in addressing food insecurity.



WFP and Choithrams joined forces in a regional campaign to raise awareness and support for SDG 2 - Zero Hunger.

- As part of its collaboration with the Annual Investment Congress (AIM), UN Tourism organized a special session in Abu Dhabi on "Investing in Innovation" and "Enabling Women Entrepreneurs." Experts highlighted strategies to empower women in tourism and technology, driving sustainable growth and investment in the sector.
- The UAE, in collaboration with UN Tourism, became the first country in the Middle East to fully adhere to the International Code for the Protection of Tourists (ICPT), reinforcing its commitment to safeguarding travellers. The ICPT provides a comprehensive framework to protect tourists in emergencies, enhance consumer rights, and restore confidence in travel, offering greater legal clarity for the tourism sector. The UAE's adoption sets a regional benchmark for strengthening tourist protections.

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

- In June 2024, the United Arab Emirates was elected to serve on UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage for the 2024–2028 term. This prestigious appointment underscores the UAE's commitment to preserving cultural heritage and fostering international cooperation. With 15 elements of intangible cultural heritage already inscribed on UNESCO's lists, the UAE continues to play a pivotal role in promoting global cultural dialogue and sustainable development.



H.E. Sheikh Salem Al Qassimi, UAE Minister of Culture and Youth and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, co-chairs the UNESCO World Conference on Culture and Arts Education in Abu Dhabi alongside H.E. Mohamed Al Mubarak, Chairman of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi, and Mr. Ernesto Ottone R., UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture. The conference convened global leaders to advance inclusive and future-oriented policies for culture and arts education.

- The UAE, as member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, has been actively engaged in UNESCO's capacity-building efforts. Since 2019, UNESCO has conducted six training sessions for Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism, with a seventh planned for May 2025 in Al Ain.
- UNESCO held two capacity-building workshops in 2024 for the International Centre for Capacity Building in Intangible Cultural Heritage in Sharjah. Established under a 2021 agreement between UNESCO and the UAE, the Category 2 Centre at the Sharjah Institute for Heritage provides training on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Since 2022, UNESCO has delivered annual workshops, including periodic reporting training for Arab States and training of trainers for facilitators from Africa and the Arab world.
- UNESCO convened the World Conference on Culture and Arts Education in Abu Dhabi, bringing global experts together at ADNEC. Building on the Road Map for Arts Education and the Seoul Agenda, the conference shaped the UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education. The UAE is well-positioned to lead follow-up efforts to implement the framework at the national level.
- The UAE played a key role in establishing two new UNESCO International Days—Digital Learning (March 19) and Coding (October 29). Approved during the 42nd UNESCO General Conference in 2023, these global observances were celebrated for the first time in 2024, reflecting the UAE's commitment to advancing digital skills and innovation worldwide.



World Coding Day was celebrated for the first time globally and in the UAE, following a UAE-led initiative adopted at UNESCO's General Conference.

PLANET

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE ACTION, AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ARE KEY PILLARS OF UN ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UAE. JOINT EFFORTS FOCUS ON SCIENCE-BASED POLICY, RESILIENCE, AND INNOVATION TO ADDRESS PLANETARY CHALLENGES AND SUPPORT A JUST TRANSITION.

CLIMATE ACTION

- The UN in the UAE formalized a strategic partnership with the Global Climate Finance Centre (GCFC), a key COP28 legacy initiative aimed at bridging the climate finance gap and accelerating SDG implementation. This partnership will support efforts to mobilize resources, foster innovation, and scale up investments in sustainable development, reinforcing the UAE's role as a global hub for climate action. Through this collaboration, the UN will work alongside GCFC to advance climate resilience, financial solutions, and impactful partnerships to drive sustainable progress worldwide.



UN Resident Coordinator Bérangère Boëll and Mercedes Vela Monserrate, CEO of the Global Climate Finance Centre, sign a strategic partnership to advance climate finance and accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

- There was significant progress this year on the roll out of the trainings of the Environmental Sustainability Cross Curricular Framework (ESF) teacher toolkit, a legacy project launched at the COP 28, with some 700 teachers being trained by the Master Trainers (MTs), already engaged by UNICEF and MOE. UNICEF continued to provide mentoring support to the MTs who are part of the project. The project is intended to have a great impact on how teachers address the issue of climate change in schools. To assess the impact of the programme on the school system, an evaluation has been planned to generate insights on strengthening climate education in the UAE.
- UNDP and the World Green Economy Organization (WGEO) have forged a new partnership ahead of COP29 to accelerate green economic initiatives and climate action. This collaboration aims to mobilize resources, promote sustainable solutions, and drive progress on environmental sustainability goals, reinforcing a shared commitment to advancing the global green economy agenda.
- UNHCR and the UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators (UICCA) hosted a private, moderated roundtable with a select group of representatives from the private, public, and humanitarian sectors. The session focused on identifying gaps and exploring solutions at the intersection of displacement and climate change. Her Highness Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, President and CEO of UICCA, led the discussion with a keynote speech, followed by senior UNHCR officials who set the tone for the roundtable. The roundtable continued with a moderated discussion, allowing participants to share success stories, explore challenges, and brainstorm potential solutions.



UNHCR and the UICCA high-level roundtable on climate displacement.

- In collaboration with The Big Heart Foundation, UNHCR organized the Sharjah International Award for Refugee Advocacy and Support 2024, recognizing outstanding efforts to assist forcibly displaced communities across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. UNHCR’s Special Advisor on Climate Action, Andrew Harper, emphasized the importance of climate-focused, sustainable solutions for refugees. The 2024 award winner, LightEd Impact Foundation, was recognized for its innovative approach to renewable energy, transforming electronic and plastic waste into affordable, clean energy for underserved communities in Nigeria, including displaced populations.
- On the sidelines of COP29 in Baku, Lt. General H.H. Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Executive Director of UNODC, presided over the high-level ministerial forum “Mobilizing Law Enforcement for Enhanced Climate Action” in the Blue Zone, gathering prominent global leaders in law enforcement and environmental protection. The forum, held in cooperation with the Office of the Prosecutor General of Azerbaijan, the host country, underscored the critical role of law enforcement in addressing climate and cross-border challenges.



The UAE Ministry of Interior and UNODC collaborated at COP19 to advance regional cooperation and strengthen efforts to combat organized crime and promote international security.

BIODIVERSITY

- The UAE hosted the first International Conference on Mangrove Restoration in Abu Dhabi, bringing together global experts to advance conservation efforts. Organized by the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) with UNESCO as a co-organizing partner, the event focused on restoring mangrove ecosystems, particularly in UNESCO-designated coastal sites. UNESCO contributed through a side event on “Coastal Biosphere Reserves,” engaging over 70 participants from across the world. On the conference sidelines, UNESCO also organized a mangrove exhibition at Manarat Al Saadiyat in Abu Dhabi’s museum district.
- As a key outcome of COP28 and part of its legacy, the CMS Office – Abu Dhabi partnered with the UN High-Level Climate Change Champions to support the operationalization of the 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough—a global initiative to unlock the full potential of seagrass ecosystems as a nature-based solution for climate action, biodiversity conservation, and coastal resilience. In 2024, a call for experts was launched to establish a diverse pool of professionals who will contribute to shaping and advancing the Breakthrough, ensuring coordinated, science-based action toward its ambitious targets.

WATER AND FOOD SYSTEMS

- FAO has partnered with the UAE to establish the first Regional Centre of Excellence for Transforming Food Systems, reinforcing efforts to enhance food security, climate resilience, and sustainable agriculture in the region. Aligned with the UAE’s National Food Security Strategy 2051, the centre will serve as a hub for research, innovation, and capacity-building, fostering regional and international collaboration to develop more resilient and efficient food systems.



The FAO–MOCCA strategic partnership workshop in Dubai underscored joint efforts to advance sustainability and strengthen food systems collaboration.

PEACE

THE UAE PLAYS AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN ADVANCING PEACE, SECURITY, AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE GLOBALLY. THE UN'S ENGAGEMENT REFLECTS THIS THROUGH COLLABORATION ON INITIATIVES THAT PROMOTE STABILITY, UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW, AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS. A CORNERSTONE OF THIS PARTNERSHIP IS THE UAE'S LEADERSHIP IN HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS, WITH DUBAI HUMANITARIAN SERVING AS A CRITICAL HUB FOR THE DELIVERY OF LIFE-SAVING ASSISTANCE WORLDWIDE.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

- In partnership with the UN Women Gulf Liaison Office, the General Women's Union, and the UAE Ministry of Defence, the Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Women, Peace, and Security Initiative continued to empower women in peace and security with the successful graduation of its fourth cohort from the training program. Hosted at the Khawla Bint Al Azwar Military School, the program equipped military personnel from 10 countries with critical skills in peacekeeping, security, and leadership, advancing women's participation in security forces and peacebuilding. This initiative plays a key role in building the capacities of women peacekeepers and reinforcing their contributions to global peace and security efforts.



Graduates of the fourth cohort of the Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Women, Peace, and Security Initiative celebrate their achievement, marking continued collaboration between UN Women and UAE partners to empower women in peacekeeping and security roles.

- The UN Women Liaison Office for the GCC partnered with the General Women's Union, the ITU, and the UAE Cybersecurity Council to host the "Women in a Changing World" summit, exploring the intersection of cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. The summit highlighted the importance of integrating gender perspectives into cybersecurity strategies and enhancing women's roles in digital security, peace, and governance. The UN Resident Coordinator underscored the UN's Pact for the Future, emphasizing the need for inclusive approaches to technology, security, and sustainable development. The event also marked the launch of a new international program to train women in cyber diplomacy and national cybersecurity governance, reinforcing the UAE's commitment to empowering women in digital security and peacebuilding.
- The UAE Ministry of Interior hosted a High-Level Regional Technical Meeting in Abu Dhabi in September, bringing together over 90 representatives from the GCC Secretariat General and Member States to shape the first-ever Gulf Strategy to Combat Drugs (2025-2028). The workshop, attended by the GCC Secretary General and UAE leadership, facilitated thematic discussions on supply and demand reduction, alternative development, illicit financial flows, legal frameworks, and capacity-building. Developed with UNODC's technical support, the strategy was endorsed by the GCC Supreme Council at its 45th Summit in Kuwait in December.



UNODC Representative for the GCC, Dr. Hatem Aly, meets His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, during the high-level regional workshop that shaped the first Gulf Strategy to Combat Drugs, developed with UNODC's technical support.

- The UAE hosted the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Middle East and North Africa Conference, bringing together global law enforcement leaders to discuss security cooperation, crime prevention, and the role of technology in policing. The event reinforced the UAE's commitment to enhancing international police collaboration, with high-level engagements, including meetings with President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. Discussions focused on strengthening global partnerships to address evolving security



President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan meets with senior UN officials and international law enforcement leaders during the UN Chiefs of Police Summit regional event, underscoring the UAE's commitment to global security cooperation.

- UNODC partnered with the International Olympic Committee and the International Cricket Council to host a workshop in Dubai on "Safeguarding Sport from Competition Manipulation," bringing together 34 Anti-Corruption Committee representatives to strengthen investigations and prosecutions in sports integrity.
- In collaboration with NAMLCFTC, UNODC trained 25 UAE Customs and Financial Intelligence Unit officials on combating trade-based money laundering. Additionally, a Training-of-Trainers workshop equipped 17 AML/CFT practitioners globally with advanced skills in crypto-asset investigations.
- In alignment with ITU BDT cybersecurity priorities and Arab regional initiatives, ITU partnered with the UAE Cybersecurity Council to conduct a Tabletop Exercise and a Cybersecurity Incident Simulation Exercise in Dubai on January 18, 2024, engaging 25 experts. The Tabletop Exercise simulated a cyber-attack on a financial institution, testing participants' ability to respond under pressure and coordinate effectively. The Cybersecurity Incident Simulation Exercise focused on Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) attacks, enhancing participants' detection, response, and mitigation skills. Additionally, the successful execution of the Global CyberDrill (GDC), with 104 member states, reaffirmed global commitment to cybersecurity collaboration. Recognized by Guinness World Records as the largest drill by national diversity, the GDC continues to be a leading platform for international cooperation in combating cyber threats.



Celebrating the Global CyberDrill's Guinness World Record for international diversity—led by ITU and the UAE Cybersecurity Council to strengthen global cyber cooperation.

- The International Dialogue of Civilizations and Tolerance Conference, held in Abu Dhabi, brought together global experts to discuss peace, development, and the role of education in fostering tolerance. Organized by the Emirates Scholar Research Center with support from UNAOC, the event emphasized cross-cultural understanding and collaboration to promote mutual respect and coexistence.
- The ITU and UAE Cyber Security Council (CSC) successfully co-organized the CyberQ Conference: Security in the Quantum Era, bringing together experts and leaders from 89 countries, including 19 Arab nations, to address the challenges and opportunities of quantum-era cybersecurity. The event highlighted the importance of global collaboration, research and development, and workforce capacity-building to strengthen cyber resilience. A key outcome was the establishment of strategic partnerships focused on developing advanced cryptographic solutions to mitigate the risks posed by quantum computing threats, reinforcing the need for continued international cooperation in securing the digital future.

RULE OF LAW

- UNODC and the UAE Wajeb Volunteering Association co-organized the second national conference on "Empowering Society to Reject Violence and Confront Extremism that Leads to Terrorism." Held in November, the event brought together officials, prison administrators, educators, media, religious institutions, civil society, and volunteers to share experiences and best practices in countering extremism and promoting community resilience.
- Through its partnership with the UAE Ministry of Interior, UNODC expanded cooperation in security and law enforcement. For the first time, UNODC worked with the International Security Alliance to train seaport experts on countering illicit drug trade and smuggling. Additionally, in collaboration with the Ministry's Human Rights Department, 42 officials were trained in conducting rights-based criminal investigations on trafficking in persons cases.



Emirati officials trained on advanced AI tools to combat online drug trafficking during a regional workshop co-organized by UNODC, GCC-CICCD, and the UNODC Cybercrime Centre in Doha.

- UNODC, INCB, the GCC-Criminal Information Center to Combat Drugs, and Dubai Police convened 115 law enforcement officials from 21 countries in Dubai for a regional workshop on combating illicit drug trafficking through sea freight. The event focused on preventing and interdicting synthetic opioids and new psychoactive substances, fostering strategic and operational cooperation among GCC countries, international agencies, and private sector partners.

HUMAN RIGHTS

- The UAE's Permanent Committee for Human Rights (PCHR), in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), organized a series of events and training workshops to strengthen human rights awareness and capacity-building in the UAE. These initiatives focused on enhancing civil society contributions, promoting national and international human rights frameworks, and fostering dialogue on key human rights priorities. The collaboration underscores a shared commitment to advancing human rights education and engagement across sectors.
- The UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, Ms. Reem Al Salem, conducted an official visit to assess the country's efforts in advancing gender equality and protecting women's rights. During her visit, she recognized the UAE's significant progress in empowering women across all sectors and highlighted its strong legal framework for gender balance and protection from violence. She commended the UAE's commitment to international frameworks, including its leadership in Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and its top regional ranking in the UN Gender Equality Index. She also praised key national initiatives such as the Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Women, Peace, and Security Initiative, the UAE Gender Balance Council, and child protection laws. The visit marked a milestone in ongoing dialogue and cooperation between the UAE and the UN on gender-related priorities.



UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, Reem Al Salem, addresses the press at the conclusion of her official visit to the UAE, commending the country's progress on gender equality and women's rights.

- In collaboration with the UAE National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, Dubai Police, and Dubai Judicial Institute, UNODC supported the 10th edition of the "Specialists in Combating Trafficking in Persons" diploma program, training 120 officials from the GCC, Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq.
- UNODC facilitated the participation of a high-level UAE delegation, led by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice, in the Fifth Intergovernmental Forum on Combating Trafficking in Persons in Muscat. The forum brought together 150 officials, including ministers and national committee heads from the GCC, Jordan, and Egypt, alongside key regional and international organizations, to exchange best practices in anti-trafficking legislation and procedures.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION



At the heart of global emergency response, WFP's UNHRD hub in Dubai—supported by the UAE and over 100 partners—enables rapid delivery of life-saving aid to communities in crisis.

- The UN Country Team engaged in DIHAD 2024, where humanitarian leaders, and key stakeholders gathered under the theme “Humanitarian Diplomacy and a Journey to the Future” to explore solutions for crisis-affected communities. Sessions also addressed humanitarian leadership, diplomacy in public health, and the integration of emerging actors in crisis response. DIHAD continues to serve as a vital platform for fostering global partnerships and innovative humanitarian action.

- Dubai Humanitarian hosted World Humanitarian Day in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and UN OCHA, bringing together over 100 humanitarian leaders to honor aid workers and express solidarity with those affected by crises. Resident Coordinator Bérangère Boël highlighted the UN's partnership with Dubai Humanitarian, which hosts several UN agencies, and facilitates rapid humanitarian response worldwide. Discussions focused on the protection of aid workers, the growing challenges in humanitarian settings, and the need for collective action to ensure their safety.
- Dubai Humanitarian, in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, hosted a high-level session with representatives from countries hosting key humanitarian hubs, including Australia, Cameroon, China, Ghana, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Panama, Spain, and the UAE. The session aimed to strengthen cooperation and coordination among these nations by sharing information, best practices, and knowledge. Participants discussed strategies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian responses globally.
- The UAE and WHO signed a Host Country Agreement to establish a Global Health Emergencies Logistics Hub in the country. The initiative will enhance WHO's capacity to respond rapidly to health emergencies by ensuring timely delivery of critical medical supplies. This partnership further positions the UAE as a key logistics player in the global humanitarian ecosystem, reinforcing its commitment to saving lives in emergencies and supporting vulnerable communities worldwide.



HE Reem Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, and Dr. Michael Ryan, Deputy Director-General and Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, sign a Host Country Agreement to establish the Global Health Emergencies Logistics Hub.

- UNHCR, in collaboration with Dubai Humanitarian, organized an “Emergency Response” workshop tailored for its private sector partners to foster knowledge-sharing and networking. The event focused on two key areas: Dubai Humanitarian’s emergency response, including coordination with UN agencies and the distribution of relief items to affected countries, and UNHCR’s approach to planning and executing global and regional campaigns to raise awareness and support for displaced people. The workshop also featured keynote speeches from UNHCR and Dubai Humanitarian senior representatives and tours of the Dubai Humanitarian Showroom and UNHCR Warehouse.



United Arab Emirates, Dubai Humanitarian Emergency Response Workshop 2024

- UNHCR’s Global Stockpile in Dubai reinforced its role as a key humanitarian logistics hub, dispatching life-saving aid to 18 countries. With \$7.4 million in goods received and \$17.03 million in aid dispatched, the hub maintained a 98% on-time delivery rate, ensuring swift response to crises in Sudan, Lebanon, Chad, and Egypt. Key operations included airlifting 163 tons of aid to Sudan, sending 10,000 family tents to Gaza, and delivering 336 tons of relief supplies to Lebanon. Strategic partnerships and a multi-modal transport approach further strengthened its efficiency in emergency response.



United Arab Emirates. UNHCR airlifts 50 metric tonnes of relief items to support refugees in Chad.

PEOPLE

PROMOTING HUMAN WELLBEING REMAINS CENTRAL TO THE UN’S WORK IN THE UAE. AGENCIES CONTINUE TO ENGAGE IN POLICY DIALOGUE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION TO SUPPORT DIVERSE POPULATION GROUPS, INCLUDING WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN, AND MIGRANT COMMUNITIES.

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

- The Sheikha Fatima Fund for Women Refugees and UNHCR renewed their partnership for three years and signed a \$1 million agreement to provide sustainable shelter for 871 displaced families in Burkina Faso and Chad. The signing, held at UNHCR’s headquarters in Geneva, was preceded by a panel discussion highlighting the Fund’s impact in supporting refugee women through education, healthcare, and skill development.



United Arab Emirates, SFFWR Geneva Agreement Signature Shelter Projects in Chad and Burkina Faso. Aug 2024

- UNFPA, in collaboration with GCC-STAT and the Sharjah Government, hosted a side event on “Older Persons – From Data to Policies” during the Sharjah – GCC Data and Social Development Forum in October. The event facilitated knowledge-sharing on services for older persons across the GCC, future planning, and evidence-based policymaking guided by a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA). Looking ahead, UNFPA will organize a Training of Trainers on HRBA for professionals working with older persons in the GCC.
- The UAE government and UNFPA GCCO participated in the Arab States Older Persons Regional Strategy Review Meeting, led by the League of Arab States. Discussions ensured the UAE’s contributions to regional strategy revisions and reinforced its engagement in policy development on aging. Next steps include working with the UAE government to develop a national strategy on older persons, drawing from regional best practices.

EDUCATION

- UNESCO, in partnership with the Regional Centre for Education Planning, based in Sharja and the Arab Bureau for Education in Riyadh, conducted a country-level technical workshop on SDG 4, bringing together stakeholders for three days of in-depth discussions on data and monitoring. The workshop focused on strengthening education data systems, enhancing SDG 4 tracking mechanisms, and fostering collaboration to drive progress on quality education for all.
- In collaboration with the Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair Refugee Education Fund, UNHCR launched a program to support women and youth from conflict-affected backgrounds in the UAE through education and vocational training. The program covered school fees for five children, enabled 30 out-of-school youth to obtain Syrian Ministry of Education certification, and provided 140 women and youth with vocational training, accredited certifications, and job placement support. Graduates connected with corporate partners at a job fair, exploring employment opportunities aligned with their training.



United Arab Emirates, Syrian students between the ages of 18-35 years attended one of AGEF vocational training introduction sessions.

- The Knowledge Project, a longstanding partnership between the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF) and the UNDP, drives global knowledge-based development through initiatives like the Knowledge Summit and the Global Knowledge Index (GKI). The 9th Knowledge Summit brought together experts to explore innovation and sustainable development, while the 2024 GKI ranked the UAE first in the Arab world and 26th globally, highlighting its leadership in education, research, and technology.



As part of the Knowledge Project, MBRF and UNDP launched the Future Skills Academy to empower individuals across the Arab world by enhancing their skills and knowledge, contributing to sustainable development in the region.

- UNESCO and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF) co-hosted the 3rd Open Educational Resources (OER) Congress in Dubai under the theme “Digital Public Goods: Open Solutions and AI for Inclusive Access to Knowledge.” The event brought together over 400 global leaders, educators, and innovators to explore how open solutions and artificial intelligence can expand equitable access to knowledge. A key outcome of the Congress was the adoption of the Dubai Declaration on OER, which provides a global roadmap for advancing digital public goods and inclusive learning, reinforcing international cooperation in support of the 2030 Agenda.



The 3rd UNESCO World Open Educational Resources (OER) Congress in Dubai highlighted the role of digital public goods and AI in expanding inclusive access to knowledge and advancing the 2030 Agenda.

- ESCWA partnered with Zayed University on the Job Market Pulse project to analyze the skills gap among UAE graduates and align workforce competencies with future job market demands. Using ESCWA's Skills Monitor, the initiative provides real-time insights for policy and training programs to better equip youth for evolving employment opportunities.
- UNESCO contributed to the 12th World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC) in Abu Dhabi as a member of its technical committee, supporting discussions on advancing environmental education (EE) for a sustainable future. The event brought together educators, NGOs, governments, and academia to explore innovative approaches to EE, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. WEEC 2024 emphasized the role of EE in driving global sustainability efforts and strengthening resilience through interdisciplinary dialogue.
- UNICEF in partnership with the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood (SCMC) and the Ministry of Education scaled up an existing anti-bullying programme to reach 40% of the public schools in the UAE, with a 100% target set for 2025-2026.
- UNICEF continued to collaborate with the SCMC on several mental health related streams of work including technical support for the organization of the Fatima Bint Mubarak Motherhood and Child Forum on Mental Health, adaptation, and capacity building on the packages of Psychological First Aid (PFA) and I Support My Friends (ISMF) and periodic campaigns on mental health and online safety with a coverage of over 3 million people.
- UNICEF in partnership with the Community Development Authority (CDA) in Dubai conducted two TOTs using the existing package of the Child Rights Awareness training Toolkit, reaching over 65 teachers in Dubai, with the aim of mainstreaming child rights education within the school system.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- UNICEF, in collaboration with the Dubai Future Foundation, marked World Children's Day by launching the 'State of the World's Children 2024' report at the Dubai Future Forum. Held at the Museum of the Future, the event featured an interactive exhibition titled 'The Future of Childhood in a Changing World,' highlighting the need for action to uphold children's rights. The report examines critical issues affecting children, including demographic shifts, climate change, and the impact of digital technologies.
- The UN Resident Coordinator's Office engaged with the Arab Youth Council for Climate Change at the "Road to COP29: The Importance of Cross-Sectoral Partnerships" session, held in collaboration with the Federal Youth Authority. Resident Coordinator Bérangère Boëll emphasized the importance of youth leadership, collaboration, and engagement with decision-makers to advance climate action. The session, part of the Council's training program, equips young leaders from 10 Arab countries with expertise in sustainability and climate diplomacy, strengthening their role in COP29 and beyond.



Launch of UNICEF's State of the World's Children report at the Museum of the Future in Dubai.

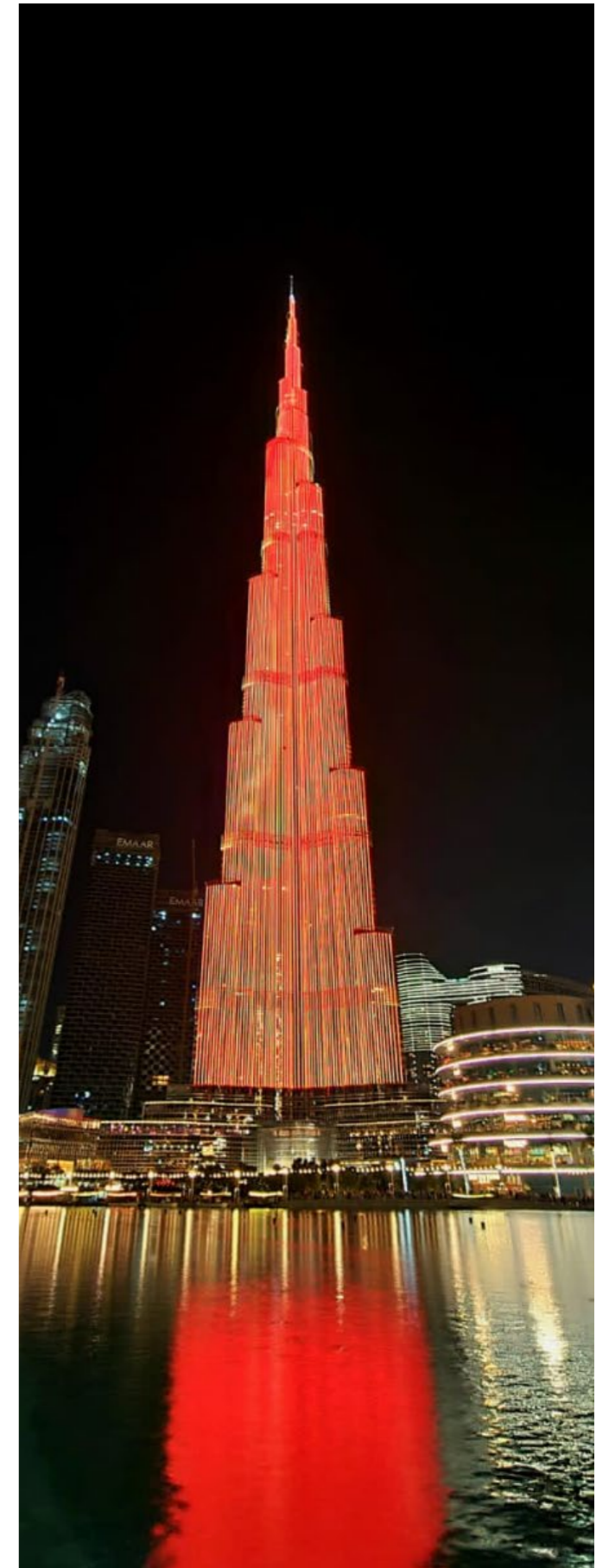


UNFPA and the UN RCQ, in collaboration with the Arab Youth Center host Jalsat Shabab in Abu Dhabi.



UN Resident Coordinator Bérangère Boëll participates in the COP29 Youth Circle, organized by the Arab Youth Council for Climate Change, to exchange ideas with young climate leaders on advancing regional action and youth engagement ahead of COP29.

- Led by UNFPA and conducted across the GCC, the Jalsat Shabab initiative empowers youth through dialogue on sustainable development, future skills, and career pathways. The Abu Dhabi session, supported by the UN in UAE and the Arab Youth Center, brought together young professionals to explore industry trends, sustainability in finance, women's participation in STEM, and the evolving job market. The initiative fosters youth leadership, collaboration with government institutions, and alignment with the SDGs through interactive discussions and networking.
- The Global Compact Network UAE, with support from the UN Resident Coordinator Office, led efforts to equip youth with the skills needed for sustainability-focused careers through the Learning to Earning: Youth-Led Pathways to a Sustainable Future initiative. Two focus sessions—one engaging academia and another at the World Green Economy Summit—brought together students, educators, career representatives, and private sector leaders. Discussions addressed bridging education and employment gaps, fostering youth inclusion, and strengthening workforce readiness in sustainability sectors. These dialogues support meaningful youth engagement and participation in the UAE's green economy.



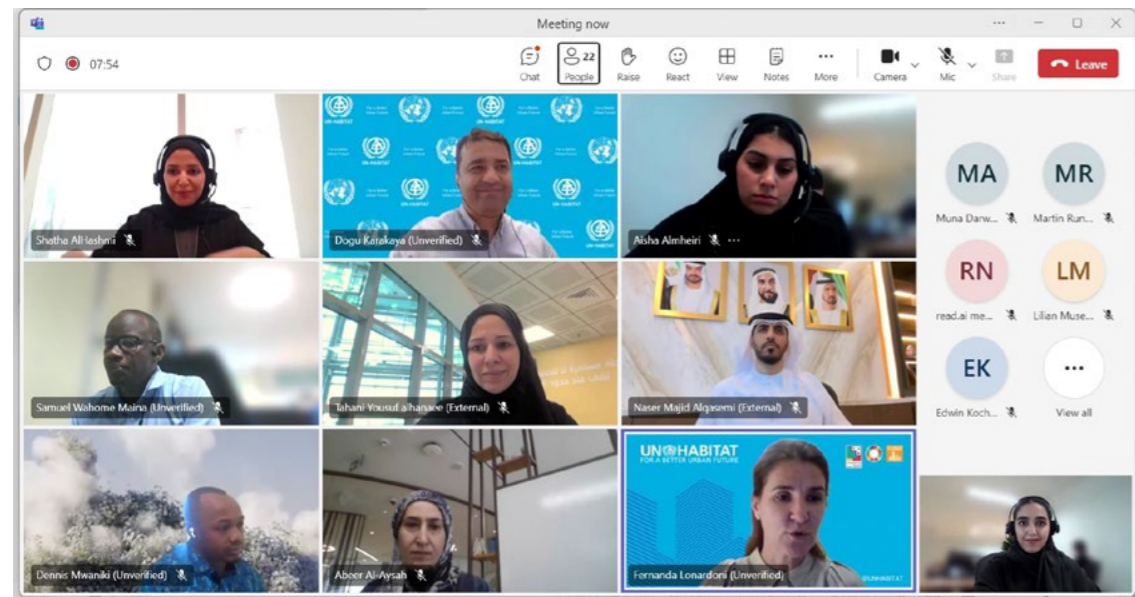
Burj Khalifa lights up orange in solidarity with the UN's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, reinforcing the UAE's commitment to ending violence against women and girls.

PROSPERITY

IN SUPPORT OF THE UAE'S DEVELOPMENT AMBITIONS, THE UN SYSTEM WORKS CLOSELY WITH NATIONAL PARTNERS TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENHANCE FUTURE SKILLS, AND STRENGTHEN DATA SYSTEMS ALIGNED WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS—WHILE ALSO HIGHLIGHTING AND SHARING THE UAE'S INNOVATIVE APPROACHES AND GOOD PRACTICES WITH GLOBAL PARTNERS.

DEVELOPMENT POLICY

- The UAE SDGs National Committee, in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and UN-Habitat, launched a national campaign to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This initiative aims to enhance cross-sectoral cooperation, mobilize resources, and integrate sustainable practices across key development sectors, reinforcing the UAE's commitment to achieving the SDGs.



Virtual meeting of partners from the UAE SDGs National Committee, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, and UN-Habitat, marking the launch of a national campaign to accelerate SDG implementation.

- In partnership with UN Tourism, the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT-Abu Dhabi) became the first Destination Management Organization in the Middle East to earn the UN Tourism QUEST Certification, recognizing excellence in governance and sustainable tourism. As part of the certification, DCT-Abu Dhabi completed 120 hours of capacity-building through the UN Tourism Academy, demonstrating strong leadership, execution, and management. The achievement highlights the UAE–UN partnership in advancing global tourism standards and fostering inclusive, sustainable destination development.
- At the 121st session of the UN Tourism Executive Council, UN Tourism and the United Arab Emirates announced a partnership to develop and maintain an integrated mobile application platform for the organization's governing body meetings. This platform includes features such as electronic voting, documentation management, online registration, and interactive communication tools. The initiative underscores UN Tourism's commitment to digital transformation and modernizing its governance processes, with the UAE sponsoring the implementation and maintenance of the system.



UN Tourism and the UAE Ministry of Economy formalize their partnership to strengthen national tourism statistics and advance sustainable tourism development through a signed Memorandum of Understanding.

- In 2024, the Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT), with UN-Habitat's technical support, initiated the city's first Voluntary Local Review (VLR) to advance SDG localization. Based on surveys and stakeholder consultations, priority SDGs were identified, and the process was showcased at WUF 2024, highlighting Abu Dhabi's commitment to sustainable development. The VLR is set for launch in 2025.
- As part of the VLR, UN-Habitat conducted a technical review of Abu Dhabi's long-term urban development blueprint, 'Urban Plan Capital 2040'. Multisectoral inputs strengthened SDG integration and emphasized inclusion. The revised plan is expected to be launched in 2025.
- ESCWA supported the UAE Ministry of Economy in developing GETSI-UAE, a national trade simulation tool to evaluate global trade shocks and economic scenarios. Capacity-building workshops trained national experts on utilizing GETSI-UAE and TASTE, an analytical tool assessing trade agreements at the product level. The initiative strengthens UAE's ability to assess trade policies, economic reforms, and sectoral impacts.
- In collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Economy, ESCWA refined a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model to enhance macroeconomic forecasting and policy analysis. The CGE model, launched in 2023, was updated with fiscal instruments and integrated with GETSI-UAE to provide a comprehensive economic assessment framework. National economists received hands-on training to ensure effective implementation.
- UNFPA provided technical support to the Sharjah government in developing a survey to assess the effectiveness of social welfare services and identify gaps. While the government took the lead on dissemination, UNFPA will continue to support the analysis to strengthen responsive and impactful social welfare programs.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- The UAE's Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications Office has signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to enhance research and development in artificial intelligence technologies and empower talents in the Arab region and beyond.



UNDP and the UAE Ministry of Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications sign an MoU to strengthen collaboration on leveraging AI and digital innovation to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals.

- In partnership with UN-Habitat, Digital Dubai is working across sectors to enhance Dubai's sustainability efforts through data-driven, evidence-based planning and capacity building. As part of the global SDG Cities initiative, and in alignment with the Year of Sustainability, Digital Dubai signed an agreement to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, with 13 local government entities adopting global best practices to improve quality of life.



ITU Partner2Connect (P2C) session, highlighting global efforts to expand meaningful connectivity and digital inclusion, with contributions from UAE-based partners including e& (Etisalat Group).

- The Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C), led by ITU, is a global initiative aimed at mobilizing resources, partnerships, and commitments to drive universal and meaningful digital connectivity, with a focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). As part of this effort, UAE-based e& has pledged \$6 billion in investments across 16 countries to expand digital infrastructure, accelerate digital transformation, and enhance connectivity for underserved communities, reinforcing the UAE's role in advancing global digital inclusion.
- UNODC, in partnership with the GCC Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs and its Regional Centre for Combating Cybercrime, trained Emirati officials on countering illicit drug trafficking online, using AI tools to enhance cyber investigations.
- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the UAE Cyber Security Council signed an agreement to enhance cooperation on cybersecurity, capacity-

building, and information sharing. This partnership aims to develop national expertise, promote best practices, and support global efforts to strengthen digital security and resilience.

- UNESCO and L'Oréal Middle East honored six outstanding female scientists in the 11th edition of the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science (FWIS) Middle East Regional Young Talents Program. Recognized for their contributions in fields such as neuroscience, chemistry, ecology, and infectious diseases, the awardees included two PhD students from Khalifa University in the UAE. Israa Al Hussain Al Hassan Othman was awarded for her research on quantum dots for photocatalytic applications, while Fatima Alshamsi was recognized for her work on genes linked to endothelial cell dysfunction in diabetic cardiovascular complications.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look to 2025, the United Nations in the UAE is steadfast in its commitment to accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as we approach the final five years of the 2030 Agenda. With a renewed sense of urgency, we will focus on fostering transformative action to close gaps in key areas such as climate resilience, gender equality, and inclusive economic growth.

Building on the outcomes of COP28 and the launch of the Global Climate Finance Centre, we will work closely with the UAE government and partners to ensure the implementation of initiatives that mobilize resources, scale innovation, and drive impact globally. A key priority will also be advancing the outcomes of the Pact for the Future, strengthening international cooperation, and addressing systemic challenges through collective action.

The UAE's unique position as a hub for innovation and convening global stakeholders will remain central to our efforts. In partnership with government entities, civil society, and the private sector, we aim to harness cutting-edge technologies and multi-stakeholder coalitions to accelerate SDG implementation and pioneer new models of collaboration.

Together, we will continue to work towards a more inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous world—ensuring that no one is left behind and that our shared vision for people, planet, peace, prosperity, and partnerships is realized for generations to come.

