



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
CANDIDACY FOR THE UNITED
NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
2022-2024



UAE Candidacy for Human Rights Council 2022-2024

■ The UAE presents its candidacy for the membership of the Human Rights Council for the period 2022-2024. The UAE believes that it will contribute to strengthening the work of the Council. After serving two consecutive terms in the Council, the UAE will continue to build on its work on the promotion and protection of human rights.

■ The UAE has fulfilled most of its earlier voluntary pledges and commitments made during its Council membership from 2013-2016 and 2016-2018, and is currently implementing its voluntary pledges announced at the 23rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review, particularly the following:

1- The UAE promotes a modern and progressive vision for the region built on the values of inclusion, tolerance, and acceptance, where more than 200 nationalities live in peace and harmony. The UAE established places of worship for many diverse



More Than
200
Nationalities Live
In Peace and Harmony



UAE Embraces Over
83
Places of Worship

religions as the country embraces over 83 places of worship where non-Muslims can practice their religions and beliefs. The UAE also announced the construction of the Abrahamic Family House in Abu Dhabi, which will consist of a church, a mosque, and a synagogue sharing the same location.

2- The UAE has finalized the draft law to establish the independent National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in accordance with the Paris Principles. The draft was referred to the Federal National Council to complete the relevant legislative procedures.

3- The UAE has also established the National Human Rights Committee in 2019 to supervise and coordinate all activities related to human rights. The Committee is currently overseeing the preparation of a National Human Rights Action Plan.

4- The UAE has issued Federal Law No. (10) of 2017 on Domestic Workers Employment. The law protects the rights of workers by ensuring them decent working and living conditions.

5- The UAE issued Federal Decree No. (8) of 2016 on the UAE's accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography.

6- The UAE issued Federal Decree No. (10) of 2019 concerning protection against domestic violence to prevent domestic violence in all its forms.

7- The UAE, in partnership with UN Women, launched the UN Women's GCC Liaison Office in Abu Dhabi in 2016. The office aims to provide technical assistance through projects and endeavors to support GCC efforts in a variety of areas related to women's empowerment.

8- The UAE constantly reviews its national legislation to further promote and protect human rights, and to strengthen and develop its laws in line with international standards.

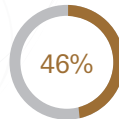


Women's Rights

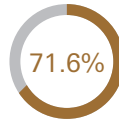


Gender equality is fundamental to the UAE constitution and legislation. Achieving equality is a national priority.

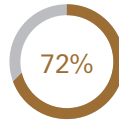
Women's Empowerment in Figures:



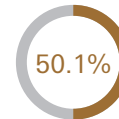
46% Leadership and supervisory positions & administrative jobs



71.6% Participation in Higher Education (Public Universities)



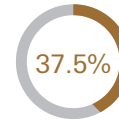
72% Health Sector



50.1% Participation in Higher Education (Private Universities)



30% Diplomatic Corps



37.5% Judicial Sector



Nine women occupy the position of ministers, constituting 27% of ministerial positions, which is one of the highest in the Middle East. Women also make up 50% of the members of the Federal National Council.



Women make up 71.6% of the total number of students in public universities and 50.1% in private universities, among the highest in the world.

Legislative achievements include:

- In 2018, the UAE Cabinet approved a decree on equal wages and salaries for women and men. Moreover, the UAE implemented a law on equal pay for women and men in the private sector.
- The maternity leave law offers 12 weeks of paid leave.
- The UAE Cabinet issued Federal Decree No. (27) of 2019 on women's representation in the federal judiciary. This Decree reflects the UAE's support for women in the judiciary sector.



Children's Rights

- The UAE issued Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 on the protection of the rights of the child. The provisions of the law are in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The UAE Cabinet approved the Strategic Plan for Promoting the Rights of Children with Disabilities 2017-2021, which aims to coordinate childhood protection efforts in the UAE.
- The UAE is a member of the “WePROTECT” Global Alliance Advisory Board, an initiative that aims to enhance international cooperation to provide a safe environment for children on the internet.
- In February 2020, the first UAE Children’s Parliament was established under an agreement between the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood and the Federal National Council. The Parliament aims to promote children’s engagement with government officials in policymaking.





The Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- The UAE government launched a national policy to empower people of determination (persons with disabilities) to ensure their active participation in society, increase available opportunities, and guarantee a dignified life for them and their families.
- The UAE is committed to ensuring the rights of people of determination by guaranteeing equal employment opportunities for them in various sectors.
- The Cabinet adopted Resolution No. (2/6) of 2018 on the Emirati Sign Language Dictionary, which is the first local dictionary for the hearing impaired in the UAE.

There are 143 specialized government and community centers. The centers provide educational, medical, athletic, professional, and vocational rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities.





Labor Rights

- The UAE has ratified nine International Labor Organization agreements on labor rights.
- The UAE has adopted several reforms that allow workers to terminate their employment contracts and move to a new organization according to specific criteria.
- The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MoHRE) launched the “Know Your Rights” campaign in February 2016, which provides laborers with leaflets in various languages, informing them of their rights and duties under UAE labor law.
- The UAE launched the Smart Guidance Initiative, the first remotely operated smart device to raise awareness amongst workers and provide them with legal information in a simple format.
- The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation issued Ministerial Decree No. (749) of 2018 on the Settlement of Collective Labor Disputes to enhance transparency and improve contractual employment.
- The UAE is the permanent secretariat of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, which serves as a public platform for dialogue between Asian labor-sending and receiving countries. Through the platform, countries exchange new ideas, experiences, and best practices to strengthen bilateral and regional efforts and partnerships to manage the temporary contractual work cycle.



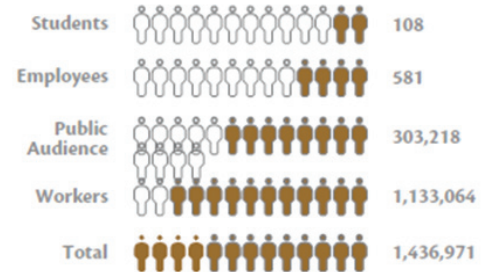


Combating Human Trafficking

■ The UAE was one of the first countries in the region to enact legislation to criminalize human trafficking through Federal Law No. (51) of 2006 on combating human trafficking and its amendments. This legislation aligns with the UAE's commitment to implementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) (Palermo Convention) and its supplementary protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

■ The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking in the UAE launched the anti-human trafficking specialist training program in 2015, implemented by Dubai Police and the Dubai Judicial Institute in coordination with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The program trains professionals to understand how to better deal with complex crimes.

Total Awareness Campaigns on Human Trafficking 2019



The UAE Signed

8

Bilateral MoUs on Combating Human Trafficking and the Protection of Victims

More than USD 260,000 has been provided by the National Committee to support human trafficking victims.



Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in the Context of National Efforts to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic

- The UAE has taken various measures to protect society from the pandemic while easing daily life for citizens and residents through national policies, strategies, and plans on the health, education, and food security fronts.
- The UAE has provided access to testing and treatment to all people living in UAE. It was among the world's first countries with a population of greater than one million to reach a 50% testing rate for COVID-19.
- Since the onset of the pandemic, the UAE has demonstrated solidarity with other countries and peoples around the world. The UAE has sent more than 1,613 tonnes of aid to more than 120 countries, benefiting more than 1.6 million health workers in these countries by November 2020. The UAE has also been keen to enhance its bilateral and multilateral partnerships in the fight against the pandemic.





Cooperation with Human Rights Mechanisms

■ Human Rights Council:

During its two consecutive terms as a member (2013-2018), the UAE participated in enhancing the work of the Council. The UAE was the main sponsor of four resolutions in the Council on the education of girls. All four were adopted by consensus. In the coming term, the UAE will work with other UN member states to resubmit the same initiatives before the Council.

■ Special Rapporteurs:

The UAE is keen to strengthen its cooperation with the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council. Over the past few years, the UAE has received several Special Rapporteurs. It has also invited the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education to visit the UAE.

■ Treaty Bodies:

The UAE is committed to the international human rights conventions to which it is a party. In addition, the UAE is committed to submitting its periodic reports to the human rights treaty bodies, and it also strives to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations provided by these bodies.

■ Supporting UN Human Rights Bodies and Funds:

In March 2019, the UAE announced a voluntary contribution of USD1.5 million to support the programs and activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. In 2018, the UAE undertook renovation works in Room XVII of the United Nations Building in Geneva, which cost USD22 million. In February 2020, the UAE also announced an amount of USD 589,425 to support the OHCHR in anti-corruption and human rights projects.

Development Assistance:



Foreign Aid Exceeded
USD7.79 Billion
in 2018, benefiting 42 countries



More Than

50% of Emirati Aid

was disbursed to support peace, justice, economic growth, and poverty eradication initiatives as part of the UAE's commitment to supporting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



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