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**COMMITTEE: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) COUNTRY: UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

**AGENDA:**  **International trade and development: Translating Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development into reality and the role of international trade**

***Position paper***



UAE and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Excellence in Implementation

Individually and as a collective, countries are striving to attain happiness, prosperity and wellbeing for the people of the world. Some countries are succeeding in this endeavour; others, sadly, for a variety of reasons, are struggling. Last year, UAE made a commitment to its people that by the year 2071, they would be living in the best country in the world as adjudicated by reputable global organizations using a range of criteria. Not only that, but in keeping with its tradition of being an outward looking country, the UAE is committed to remaining a source of support to those most in need of life’s basic needs and necessities. The UAE’s vision for itself and for its role in the world is to ensure happiness, peaceful coexistence, social justice and dignity for all.

The dedication with which the UAE contributed to the formulation of Agenda 2030 and the pace with which it has adopted and implemented the framework, is testament to the level of the country’s ambition to pursue a trajectory of sustainable development. In January 2017, the UAE Cabinet decreed to put SDGs at the heart of the government’s development plans, its strategies and operations, at both federal and local levels. A National Committee on SDGs involving 15 federal-level ministries, authorities and councils was announced and in 2017, this Committee agreed upon and set in motion a comprehensive implementation plan for the SDGs. The SDGs and associated targets and indicators were mapped to federal and local development plans and aligned with the core mandates of portfolio Ministries. Given the significant overlap between UAE’s current national development plan (Vision 2021) and the SDGs, a detailed strategy of concurrently progressing both frameworks was developed. One outcome of the Committees’ discussions on implementation was a consensus that the existing machinery of government had the capacity, the flexibility, the information channels and means of service delivery to accommodate both, Vision 2021 and the SDGs. Part 1 of this report details the governance, performance tracking and service-delivery mechanisms by which the UAE will progress its national development framework and the SDGs.

In recognition of the fact that the SDGs can only be successful if many governmental and non-governmental stakeholders are involved, a comprehensive outreach and engagement plan was developed. Over a hundred federal and local government entities from the seven emirates were involved in consultations. Outreach with the private sector, academia, civil society and youth groups was undertaken to ensure that a range of voices outside of government were involved in shaping the implementation plan. The first phase of this outreach concluded in a national event on SDGs - held in October 2017 - that was attended by over 500 officials including members of UAE’s royal families, ministers, director generals, global experts, youth groups and representatives from academia and civil society. The strategic objectives of the National Committee’s engagement plan, the process by which it was enacted over the past year and its outcomes are highlighted in the pages that follow

This annual report details the efforts of the National Committee in its first full year as steward of the SDGs in the UAE. The efforts featured in Part 2 of this report are only the highlights package of the actual outcomes achieved by the UAE, domestically and internationally. As vice-chair of the National Committee, it gives me great pride to see the collective efforts of the committee members and the contribution of dozens of officials from within and outside of government culminating in this annual report, which will also be the basis of UAE’s first Voluntary National Review at the UN High-Level Political Forum in July 2018.