



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Monthly Newsletter July 2025

The Pulse of Finance



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Launching 2027–2029 Budget Cycle with Flexible Vision Focused on Sustainability, Efficiency, and Artificial Intelligence

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Organising First 'Customer Council' Under Phase Two of the 'Zero Government Bureaucracy' Programme

Mohammed Bin Rashid Innovation Fund Launches a New Chapter to Strengthen Government Innovation

Achieving Record Service Quality Results, Scoring 96.57% in the Customer Happiness Index for H1 2025

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The General Budget Committee of the UAE held its 13th meeting to review the draft federal budget for the 2026 fiscal year, in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President of the UAE, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court; His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Finance; and His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting, held at Qasr Al Watan in Abu Dhabi, was attended by H.E. Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs; H.E. Khaled Mohamed Balama Al Tamimi, Governor of the Central Bank of the UAE; and representatives from the Presidential Court and the Ministry of Finance.

During the session, the committee discussed key matters, foremost of which was the draft federal budget for the 2026 fiscal year, as part of the 2022–2026 budget plan. The discussions were based on the Ministry of Finance's coordination with all federal entities, taking into account the latest developments in the local and global economic landscape. All necessary actions were taken in accordance with the provisions of Federal Decree-Law No. (26) of 2019 on Public Finance and its amendments, as well as relevant decisions and recommendations.

Launching 2027–2029 Budget Cycle with Fexible Vision Focused on Sustainability, Efficiency, and Artificial Intelligence

Ministry of Finance launches

2027–2029

budget cycle with flexible vision focused on sustainability, efficiency, and artificial intelligence



“Achieving the ambitions of the UAE Centennial 2071 requires a financial system that is agile and future-focused, a system that can respond to global shifts and direct government spending toward high-impact opportunities”

His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

Total federal budget for the past four strategic cycles:

₹

900

billion

A vision based on



Government empowerment and integration



Artificial intelligence and advanced technologies



Zero Government Bureaucracy



Sustainability and financial inclusion



Empowering decision-makers with instant access to data

The Ministry of Finance has launched the federal general budget cycle for the years 2027–2029, marking a new step in the continuous development of the government’s financial system. The move aims to enhance fiscal sustainability and aligns with the wise leadership’s vision for a more flexible and innovative future.

This new cycle reflects the evolution of the general budget from a yearly planning tool into a strategic instrument that empowers federal entities to achieve their objectives efficiently and effectively.

This launch coincided with the unveiling of the federal government’s new strategic planning cycle, “Towards Achieving We the UAE 2031,” by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai. The announcement reflects the government’s commitment to integrating efforts and enhancing coordination to achieve the nation’s future goals.

His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Finance, stressed that the 2027–2029 federal budget cycle will play a key role in the development of the UAE’s public financial system and is part of a government approach driven by proactivity, flexibility, and policy integration.

His Highness noted that the Ministry of Finance is committed to redefining the role of the budget from a traditional resource allocation framework to a strategic enabler for mega national objectives. These include strengthening global competitiveness, accelerating digital transformation, and reinforcing the UAE’s position as a leading international financial hub.

UAE Participates in BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Under Brazil's Presidency



The United Arab Emirates, represented by the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of the UAE, participated in BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, under the 2025 presidency of Brazil.

The UAE delegation was led by H.E. Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, and included H.E. Ebrahim Obaid Al Zaabi, Assistant Governor for Monetary Policy and Financial Stability at the Central Bank of the UAE; Ali Abdullah Sharafi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for International Financial Relations at the Ministry of Finance; Thuraiya Hamid Alhashmi, Director of International Financial Relations and Organisations at the Ministry of Finance; and Hamad Issa Al Zaabi, Director of the Office of the Minister of State for Financial Affairs.

The meeting agenda featured three main sessions: one focused on finance ministries, another on central banks, and a joint session that explored the global economic outlook and the role of BRICS in enhancing international economic governance. Additional topics included climate finance and coordination of economic policies.

The 10th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the New Development Bank in Brazil

The United Arab Emirates, represented by the Ministry of Finance, participated in the 10th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS group, held on 4–5 July in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The UAE delegation included Ali Abdullah Sharafi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for International Financial Relations at the Ministry of Finance; Thuraiya Hamid Alhashmi, Director of International Financial Relations and Organisations at the Ministry of Finance and a Member of the NDB Board of Directors; and Hamad Issa Al Zaabi, Director of the Office of the Minister of State for Financial Affairs.

The meeting focused on three key objectives: reviewing the progress made by the New Development Bank since its inception; discussing future steps to enhance its performance; and deliberating Board of Governors affairs alongside knowledge exchange among member countries.

The Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in South Africa

The UAE, represented by the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of the UAE, is participating in the 3rd meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG), held under the presidency of South Africa for the year 2025. The meeting took place in the city of Durban, bringing together representatives of G20 member states, invited countries, and international organisations.

Led by H.E. Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, the UAE delegation featured H.E. Younis Haji AlKhoori, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance; H.E. Ebrahim Obaid Al Zaabi, Assistant Governor for Monetary Policy and Financial Stability at the Central Bank of the UAE; and Ali Abdullah Sharafi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for International Financial Relations at the Ministry of Finance.



Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini: Removing the UAE from EU list of High-Risk Third Countries Reflects the Global Trust in the UAE's Financial System

His Excellency Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, stressed that the decision to remove the UAE from the European Union's list of high-risk third countries for money laundering and terrorist financing is a strategic milestone that clearly reflects the international recognition of the UAE's comprehensive efforts being made to strengthen the integrity of its financial system and uphold the highest global standards in this area.

This decision, Al Hussaini added, showcases the UAE's position as a trusted global financial hub, one defined by transparency, openness, and alignment with international developments.

His added: "The UAE is committed to strengthening its position as a responsible and proactive international partner in safeguarding the integrity of the global financial system. This decision is the result of tireless efforts and continuous coordination among the relevant national entities, under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, and Chairman of the Higher Committee Overseeing the National Strategy on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism, along with the close partnership with the European Union. It reflects the success of the UAE's approach to international cooperation and institutional integration."



Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Pakistan’s Minister of Finance Discuss Ways to Enhance Cooperation in Financial Fields



H.E. Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, met with H.E. Bilal Azhar Kayani, Minister of State for Finance and Railways and Head of the Prime Minister’s Delivery Unit in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, to explore ways to strengthen bilateral relations in financial fields, including expanding cooperation in fiscal policy and public revenue management.

Held at the Ministry of Finance Offices in Dubai, the meeting discussed the importance of exchanging expertise and building sustainable institutional partnerships that support financial stability and foster comprehensive development in both countries. It comes as part of both sides’ commitment to advancing a financial partnership aligned with development priorities and the challenges of the global economy.

UAE and Chad Discuss Ways to Strengthen Cooperation in Financial Sector



His Excellency Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, has received H.E Tahir Hamid Ngulin, Chad’s Minister of Finance, Budget, Economy, Planning and International Cooperation, to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation in financial sector.

Held at the Ministry of Finance offices in Dubai, the meeting brought together several senior Chadian officials, including H.E. Guibolo Fanga Mathieu, Minister of Trade and Industry; H.E. Fatima Goukouni Weddey, Minister of Transport, Civil Aviation, and National Meteorology; H.E. Fatime Aldjineh Garfa, Minister Delegate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Oumar Teguen Idibei Berde, Ambassador of the Republic of Chad to the UAE.

The two sides explored ways to enhance institutional partnerships and activate financial cooperation mechanisms.

Ministry of Finance Wins Global Award for AI Innovation in the Financial Sector



The UAE’s Ministry of Finance has clinched the Innovating for Impact Awards in the category of AI applications in the financial sector at the AI for Good Summit 2025, held at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG). The event was organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in partnership with several United Nations agencies. The award was presented in recognition of the Ministry’s leadership in leveraging artificial intelligence across a wide range of financial functions, including fraud detection, risk assessment, algorithmic trading, and customer service. These efforts have significantly improved the efficiency of financial systems while supporting the nation’s broader sustainable development goals.

Call Centre Achieves Record Service Quality and Customer Happiness Results in H1 2025

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) recorded outstanding results in customer satisfaction and service quality during the first half of 2025, driven by the effectiveness of its digital advisory channels and call centre.

Performance indicators revealed a significant rise in customer satisfaction, reaching 96.57%, while 97.30% of customer requests were successfully resolved during the first call.

These results demonstrate the Ministry’s commitment to improving service excellence, enhancing government performance, and delivering innovative, proactive, and digital solutions that upgrade the overall customer experience.

Key performance indicators demonstrated notable improvement compared to the same period last year, surpassing several pre-set targets such as the speed of processing customer requests, reduction in waiting time, and efficiency in responding to calls.

Notably, the quality performance index recorded a significant increase, reaching 90.92%, exceeding the target of 80% and outperforming the 88% achieved during the first half of the previous year. This performance reflects the technical competence of MoF teams and the Ministry’s ongoing efforts to enhance operational methodologies at the call centre.



Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini: Union Pledge Inspires a National Vision Shaping the UAE’s Financial Future



His Excellency Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, stressed that Union Pledge Day marks a pivotal moment in the nation’s history, one that continues to inspire a national vision guiding the UAE’s financial future.

In a statement to mark the occasion, His Excellency said: “On Union Pledge Day, we proudly recall the historic moment when the Founding Fathers gathered under the banner of unity and determination to lay the first foundations of a Union born of vision and will, rooted in values that placed people at the heart of development and established the Union as a steadfast framework for the future.

On 18 July 1971, a glorious chapter in the nation’s history was written with the signing of the Declaration of the Union and the Constitution, officially proclaiming the establishment of the United Arab Emirates.”

Al Hussaini added: “This day is not merely a date we commemorate; it is a renewed pledge to the promise made by the Founding Fathers to the homeland and its people. It is an annual reminder that the remarkable achievements we see today would not have been possible had it not been for the solid foundation upon which the the Union was built and for the national commitment to preserving and advancing its values.

Younis Haji AlKhoori: Union Pledge Day ... The Backbone of our Federation and a Launchpad for Development



His Excellency Younis Haji AlKhoori, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, stressed that Union Pledge Day marks a defining moment in the history of the UAE, commemorating the foundational values that shaped the nation and continue to drive its progress.

In a statement on Union Pledge Day observed annually on 18 July, AlKhoori noted that this national occasion recalls the historic meeting held on 18th July 1971, where a collective will, united by the belief in unity, gave rise to an unprecedented journey in the region led by men who remained true to their promise to the nation and its people.

“Not only did their unified vision brought together seven emirates under one entity that defined the ambitions of a nation, but it also set a confident course for the future. The signing of the Declaration of the Union and the UAE Constitution on that day paved the way for in a new era, transitioning the country from the founding phase to a clear path of development and progress. This day will continue to be one of the most impactful milestones in shaping the nation’s identity.”

His Excellency added: “On this day, we draw inspiration from the values of belonging, responsibility, and national commitment. We reaffirm that the Union has always been and will continue to be a dynamic and evolving system that requires all entities, institutions, and individuals to build upon and reinforce it in both thought and practice.”

AlKhoori said: We, at the Ministry of Finance, view the Union Pledge Day as an opportunity to strengthen institutional awareness of the Union’s significance and renew the Ministry’s commitment to its national role.”


“We will spare no effort to develop government financial tools that reflect the spirit and values of the Union. We will also make sure that our fiscal policies support the principles of efficiency, accountability, and sustainability, promote federal partnerships through an integrated financial system that promotes balanced development across the emirates and advances the vision of the federal government,” he concluded.

Tax News

Ministerial Decision Issued on Depreciation Amendments for Investment Properties Held at Fair Value for the purposes of Corporate Tax Law

The UAE Ministry of Finance has issued a new Ministerial Decision regarding Depreciation Adjustments for Investment Properties held at Fair Value for the Purposes of Federal Decree-Law No. (47) of 2022 on the Taxation of Corporations and Businesses. Under this decision, taxpayers (who elect for the realization basis) can elect to deduct depreciation from their taxable income (hereafter known as ‘tax depreciation’) for investment properties that are held on a fair value basis.

The tax depreciation deduction available will be the lower of the tax written down value of the investment property or 4% of the original cost of the investment property , for each 12-month tax period or otherwise prorated for part of the tax period, during which the relevant investment property is held, and will be available to taxpayers who hold investment properties prior to and/or after the introduction of corporate tax.



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Ministry of Finance Issues Ministerial Decision on Depreciation Adjustments for Investment Properties Held at Fair Value for the Purposes of the Corporate Tax Law

Under this decision, taxpayers who elect the realisation basis can choose to deduct depreciation from their taxable income

The tax depreciation deduction available will be the lower of the tax written down value of:

The investment property or 4% of the original cost of the investment property, for each 12-month tax period

OR

Prorated if the tax period is shorter or longer than 12 months, or if the property was held only for part of the tax period

Amendment Announced to Excise Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages

The Ministry of Finance and the Federal Tax Authority (FTA) have announced an amendment to the excise tax mechanism applied to sugar sweetened beverages (SSB’s), introducing a tiered volumetric model that links the tax value on each litre of a sugar sweetened beverage to its sugar content per 100ml. The higher the sugar content per 100ml, the higher the tax per litre, marking a shift from the flat rate currently applied to these beverages.

This amendment is part of the UAE’s broader efforts to promote public health, reduce the consumption of high-sugar products, and encourage manufacturers to lower sugar levels in their beverages.



Ministry of Finance and the Federal Tax Authority Announce Amendment to Excise Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages

The excise tax imposed on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) will be linked to the sugar content in the product, replacing the previously applied fixed percentage-based rate.

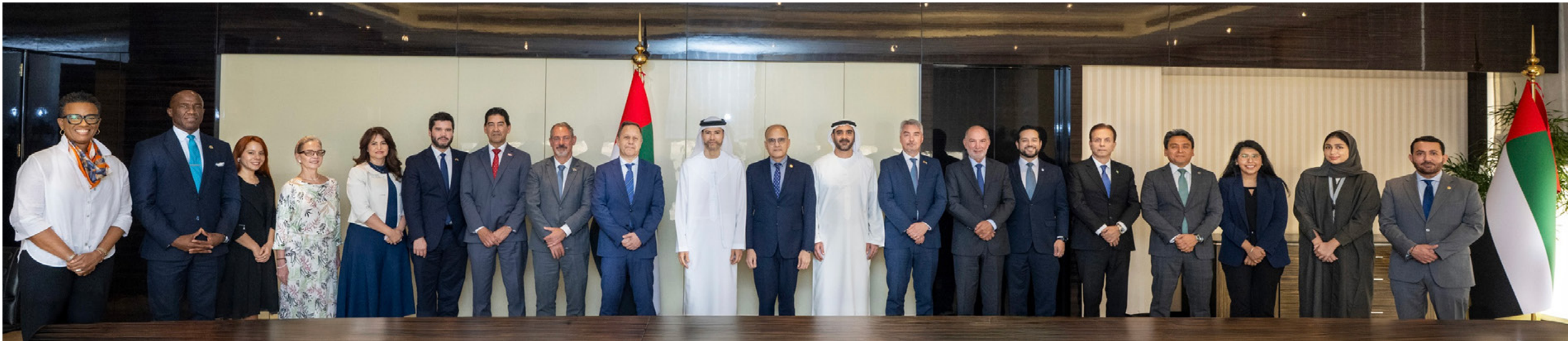
The new model aims to incentivise manufacturers to reduce sugar levels in their products, encouraging healthier dietary choices among consumers.

The early announcement of this policy provides suppliers, importers, and other relevant stakeholders with sufficient time to adapt their systems, review product formulations, and prepare for implementation, which will take effect at the beginning of 2026.

Awareness campaigns will be launched to ensure smooth and comprehensive understanding of the new mechanism.

Businesses across the UAE will be granted sufficient time to prepare for the updated mechanism.

Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini Explores Ways of Enhancing Economic ties with Latin American and Caribbean Ambassadors



H.E. Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, met with H.E. Francisco Chacón Hernández, Ambassador of Costa Rica to the UAE, along with a number of ambassadors from Latin American and Caribbean countries, to explore avenues for strengthening financial, economic, and development cooperation between the UAE and the group. The meeting was held at the Ministry’s headquarters in Dubai.

The meeting, convened at the request of the Costa Rican Embassy on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group of Ambassadors, focused on the importance of promoting the region as strategic partners for the UAE, expanding bilateral cooperation through knowledge and experience exchange, and building sustainable channels of communication that align with shared development aspirations across various sectors.

Al Hussaini commended the strong financial and economic relations between the UAE and the Latin American and Caribbean countries, emphasising that expanding cooperation with the group aligns with the UAE’s strategic vision to support regional financial stability and advance sustainable development with partner nations.

The two sides concluded the meeting by reaffirming the importance of continued coordination and consultation to further strengthen bilateral relations and reinforce the foundations of joint cooperation with the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

UAE Boosts Public Sector Financial Skills with IPSAS Certification

The UAE Ministry of Finance has launched a specialised IPSAS certification programme, in collaboration with ACCA, to enhance the capabilities of public sector accountants. The initiative supports the transition to accrual-based accounting and aims to align government financial practices with international standards, improving transparency and accountability across federal entities.

The programme is part of a broader capacity-building strategy that includes role-based training, strategic partnerships, and digital knowledge-sharing tools. Early sessions have shown strong engagement from participants, reflecting a wider shift toward professional development and global best practices in public financial management.



Islamic Treasury Sukuk Auction for July 2025 Attracts Bids Worth AED 5.35 Billion

The Ministry of Finance (MoF), in its capacity as the issuer and in collaboration with the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) as the issuing and payment agent, announced the successful completion of the July 2025 auction of UAE Dirham-denominated Islamic Treasury Sukuk (T-Sukuk) amounting to AED 1.1 billion. This issuance forms part of the T-Sukuk issuance program for the year 2025, as published on the MoF’s official website.

The auction attracted robust demand from eight primary dealers across both tranches maturing in August 2028 and May 2030. The total bids received reached AED 5.35 billion, reflecting an oversubscription of nearly five times and underscoring the strong confidence of investors in the UAE’s creditworthiness and Islamic finance framework.



Mohammed Bin Rashid Innovation Fund Launches a New Chapter to Strengthen Government Innovation



The Mohammed Bin Rashid Innovation Fund (MBRIF), an initiative launched by the UAE Ministry of Finance to support the national innovation ecosystem, has officially inaugurated its headquarters in the Dubai World Trade Centre area —marking the beginning of a new phase focused on accelerating government innovation, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration among entrepreneurs, innovators, and strategic partners.

Held under the theme “Innovation for a Better Life”, the launch event was attended by His Excellency Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, alongside senior government officials, members of the Fund’s Management Committee, and various partners.

Guests experienced live showcases demonstrating the real-world impact of MBRIF’s support on its members and explored future-forward innovation pathways aligned with the UAE’s advanced National Innovation Strategy.

UAE Participates in the Third 2025 Meeting of the G20 Framework Working Group under the Finance Track



The UAE took part in the third 2025 meeting of the G20 Framework Working Group, held under the Finance Track. Discussions focused on key global economic challenges, including the impact of debt, trade, and capital flows, alongside a review of core monetary and fiscal policy options. Participants also explored structural reforms aimed at supporting sustainable economic growth, particularly in light of mounting climate-related pressures. The meeting further addressed the interplay between technology, population ageing, migration, and labour productivity, as key factors influencing long-term economic resilience.

UAE Participates in 2025 Meeting of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) in South Africa under the G20 Finance Track



The UAE participated in the 2025 meeting of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), held in South Africa under the G20 Finance Track. Discussions focused on advancing from financial access to active usage, implementing the G20 Action Plan for MSME finance, and harnessing innovative technologies to support financial inclusion—thereby fostering fair and sustainable economic development.

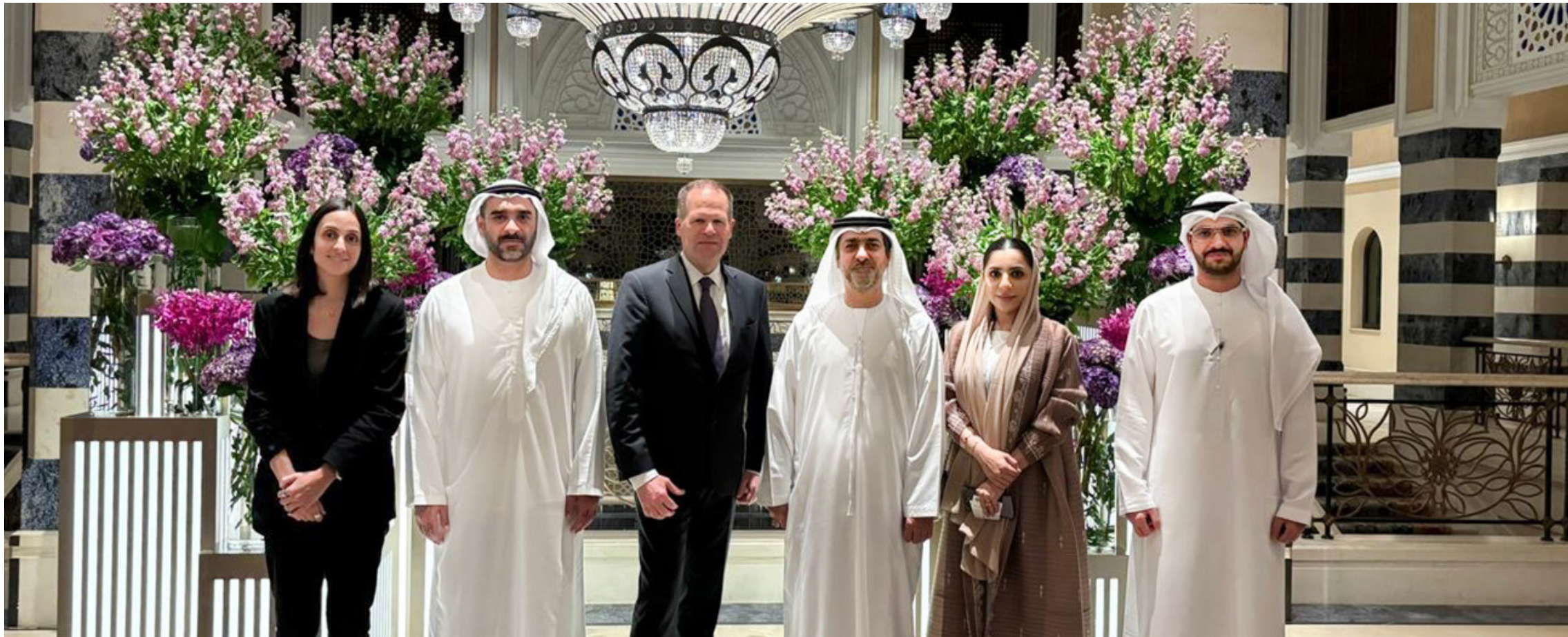
Title: "Cool Summer" Initiative Honours Field Workers in Al Ain



As a humanitarian gesture that reflects the spirit of generosity and tolerance, and in line with the objectives of the Year of Community, the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with Al Ain Municipality, launched the "Cool Summer" initiative at Al Jahli Park.

The initiative expressed gratitude for the dedication of field workers, with the support of the Mohammed bin Khalid Al Nahyan Future Generation Society. Cold beverages were distributed to help ease the summer heat and to promote the values of solidarity and human coexistence.

UAE and U.S. Discuss Bilateral Financial Developments



H.E. Younis Haji Al Khoori, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, met with a delegation from the United States comprising Mr. Eric Meyer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury for Africa and the Middle East, and Ms. Lara Murad, U.S. Treasury Attaché to the UAE.

The meeting was also attended by H.E. Ali Abdullah Sharafi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for International Financial Relations at the Ministry of Finance.

Discussions focused on the latest bilateral developments in the financial sector and opportunities to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

Organising First 'Customer Council' Under Phase Two of the 'Zero Government Bureaucracy' Programme



The Ministry of Finance has organised the first 'Customer Council' under the second phase of the 'Zero Government Bureaucracy' programme as part of its commitment to transparency, efficiency, and innovation.

The programme aims to support the UAE Government's ongoing efforts to eliminate redundant procedures and services, reduce duplication across government entities, and enhance the overall customer experience, while reinforcing a more agile and responsive administrative model.

As part of the second phase, the Ministry will focus on cutting and abolishing unnecessary digital administrative complexities and redundant approvals, modernising and upgrading all government digital systems, and actively adopting artificial intelligence technologies.

It also seeks to develop a smart digital government that meets societal expectations and bolsters the UAE's competitiveness on both regional and global levels.

The council also plays a key role in evaluating the outcomes of these changes, enabling the Ministry to track measurable improvements post-implementation. Through this platform, the Ministry aims to collect actionable feedback, pinpoint high-impact challenges, and prioritise the redesign of critical processes, while rigorously testing proposed solutions to ensure their effectiveness.

Three main phases have been outlined for the Customer Councils until the end of 2025. The first phase involves identifying challenges and priorities from the user's perspective. The second will focus on redesigning the customer journey using participatory design methodologies. The final phase will involve testing the proposed service models and collecting final feedback ahead of the official rollout of the Ministry's revamped operations and services.