



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Monthly Newsletter February 2026

The Pulse of Finance



Maktoum bin Mohammed Honours Winners of Minister of Finance Award for Institutional Excellence 2025

Tenth Arab Fiscal Forum Reviews a Decade of Arab Fiscal Dialogue During the World Government Summit

UAE holds First Strategic Financial Dialogue with the Kingdom of Bahrain

Call Centre Achieves Excellence in Customer Happiness and Digital Transformation

First Tranche of 7-year Islamic Treasury Sukuk Launched

Maktoum bin Mohammed Honours Winners of Minister of Finance Award for Institutional Excellence 2025

His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, honoured the winners of the Minister of Finance Institutional Excellence Award 2025, in line with efforts to further embed a culture of excellence, enhance the Ministry's competitiveness, and elevate its readiness to participate in national excellence awards.

His Highness congratulated the winners of the Award, expressing his appreciation for the efforts they exerted and the professional models they presented, which reflect a spirit of commitment and responsibility in government work. Their performance embodies the ability of national talent to translate visions and policies into practical achievements that support the advancement of institutional performance and serve the State's strategic objectives.



Tenth Arab Fiscal Forum Reviews a Decade of Arab Fiscal Dialogue During the World Government Summit



His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, affirmed that the convening of the Tenth Public Finance Forum in the Arab Countries represents a qualitative milestone in the path of joint Arab financial action, and a strategic platform to reassess fiscal policies in light of accelerating global economic transformations, and to explore ways to enhance the resilience of Arab economies and their ability to address challenges and build a more sustainable future.

The Ministry of Finance, in cooperation with the Arab Monetary Fund and the International Monetary Fund, organised the Tenth Public Finance Forum in the Arab Countries during the pre-day of the World Government Summit 2026, held from 3 to 5 February 2026 in Dubai, under the theme "A Decade of Fiscal Dialogue: Building Macroeconomic Resilience through Strengthening Fiscal Policies and Institutions," where the Forum reviewed the experience of a decade of Arab fiscal dialogue.

Strengthening International Partnerships and Exploring the Future of Financial Policies at the World Government Summit



The Ministry of Finance has participated in the World Governments Summit (WGS) 2026, taking place in Dubai from 3 to 5 February under the theme 'Shaping Future Governments'.

The Ministry's engagement is part of its commitment to supporting global dialogue on the future of fiscal and economic policymaking as well as to strengthening international partnerships aimed at building more resilient and sustainable economies.

H.E. Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, stressed that the UAE is committed to playing a key role in shaping global perspectives on financial and economic policymaking, as well as in exchanging international expertise to address the accelerating challenges facing the global economy.

Conference on Initiatives to Achieve Food Security in the Arab World discusses financing, investment and innovation to strengthen food systems



The Conference on Initiatives to Achieve Food Security in the Arab World commenced today in Dubai. Organised by the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development under the theme “Sustainability Is the Path to Food Security,” the conference is held under the patronage of the UAE Ministry of Finance.

H.E. Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, affirmed in his opening address at the conference that food security constitutes one of the strategic pillars of sustainable economic development in the Arab world and requires comprehensive approaches based on integration between fiscal policies.

H.E. Younis Haji AlKhoori, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, and H.E. Dr. Obaid Saif Hamad Al Zaabi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, launched the first Food Security Index in the Arab world in partnership with the global Azimut Group and S&P Global.

UAE Holds First Strategic Financial Dialogue with the Kingdom of Bahrain



The United Arab Emirates, represented by the Ministry of Finance, held the first Strategic Financial Dialogue with the sisterly Kingdom of Bahrain, as part of the executive plan aimed at activating the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two countries, within the framework of enhancing financial cooperation and integration and strengthening relations between the two sides through four pillars, including: holding dialogue sessions between officials; exchanging expertise and technical and specialised cooperation; launching joint initiatives and programmes; and following up on implementation and evaluation.

UAE takes part in the 49th session of the IFAD Governing Council in Rome

The UAE has participated in the 49th session of the IFAD Governing Council, held from 10 to 12 February 2026 at the headquarters of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome, Italy.

Represented by the Ministry of Finance, the UAE's delegation included Her Excellency Mariam Mohamed Al Amiri, Assistant Undersecretary for the Government Financial Management Sector at the Ministry of Finance, and Yousif Bin Hajar, Member of the Executive Board of IFAD. The meeting discussed ten key items.

The first day of the event featured leaders' dialogues focusing on the role of international financial institutions in mobilising financing to support rural communities, as well as water security as a foundation for resilience and enhanced food security. Discussions on the second day touched on governance and partnerships, including deliberations on the Fund's budget-related agenda items.



Call Centre Achieves Excellence in Customer Happiness and Digital Transformation

The Ministry of Finance's call centre delivered standout performance in 2025, outstripping key targets and demonstrating significant evolution in its customer happiness ecosystem and communication channel efficiency.

The achievement comes as the ministry continues to accelerate efforts to provide agile, proactive public services aligned with world-class standards.

Operational and service quality KPIs show the centre consistently surpassed its goals, driving greater user confidence and solidifying the Ministry's reputation as a trailblazer in redefining the government service experience.



The Ministry of Finance Call Centre

Achieves Excellence in Customer Happiness and Digital Transformation

○○○

97.46%
of calls resolved on first contact

Calls answered within
11 seconds
with zero customers placed on hold

Customer Happiness Index
soars to

96.91%

96.91%

Tax News

Announcement of the Issuance of a Decision Exempting Certain Sports Entities from Corporate Tax

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has announced the issuance of Cabinet Decision No. (1) of 2026 on Exempting Certain Sports Entities from Corporate Tax for the Purposes of Federal Decree-Law No. 47 of 2022 on the Taxation of Corporations and Businesses.

The Ministry affirmed that the decision aims to support the continued sustainable development of the sports ecosystem, align with international best practices, enhance the sector's contribution to the national economy, and consolidate the UAE's position as a global hub for the development of modern sports systems.



Announcement of the Issuance of Cabinet Decision on Exchange of Information Upon Request for Tax Purposes

As part of its continued efforts to enhance international tax transparency, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) announced the issuance of Cabinet Decision No. 209 of 2025 on Exchange of Information upon Request for Tax Purposes.

The decision reinforces the UAE's established framework for international tax cooperation and its long-standing adherence to internationally agreed standards, including the Exchange of Information on Request (EOIR) Standard.



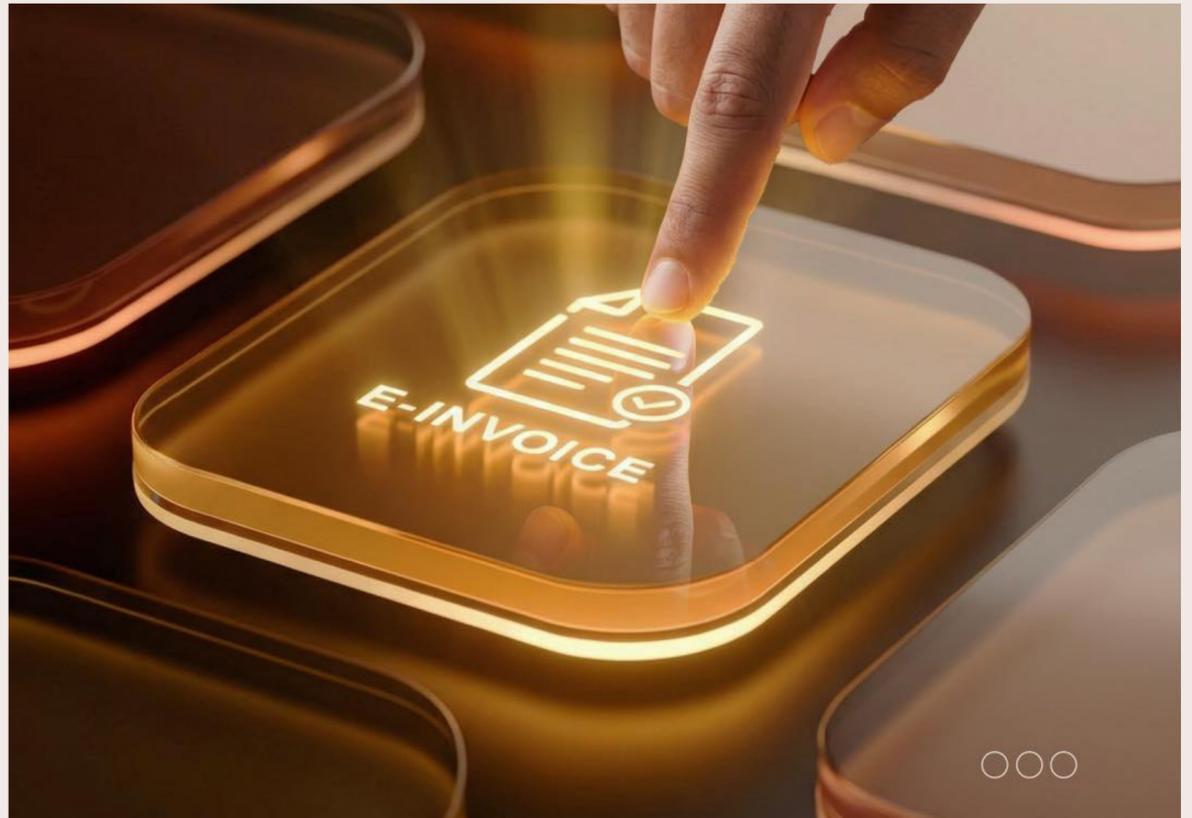
Announcement of the issuance of Ministerial Decision on the designation of Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority in Dubai

The Ministry of Finance announced the issuance of Ministerial Decision No. (336) of 2025 to add the Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority, established in the Emirate of Dubai pursuant to Law No. (4) of 2022, to the definition of the competent authority set out in Ministerial Decision No. (229) of 2025 concerning Qualifying and Excluded Activities for the purposes of Federal Decree-Law No. (47) of 2022 on the Taxation of Corporations and Businesses. Under the decision, VARA is considered among the competent authorities for the purposes of Qualifying Activities related to fund management services and wealth and investment management services.

Issuance of the UAE Electronic Invoicing Guidelines to Support National Rollout

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) announced the issuance of the official Electronic Invoicing Guidelines (the eInvoicing guide), a comprehensive reference document designed to help businesses prepare for the rollout of the country's new electronic invoicing system.

The eInvoicing guide outlines the scope and objectives of the system and provides an overview of the national electronic invoicing framework. It also details the policy rationale behind the requirements, offering businesses greater clarity on compliance requirements and operational expectations.

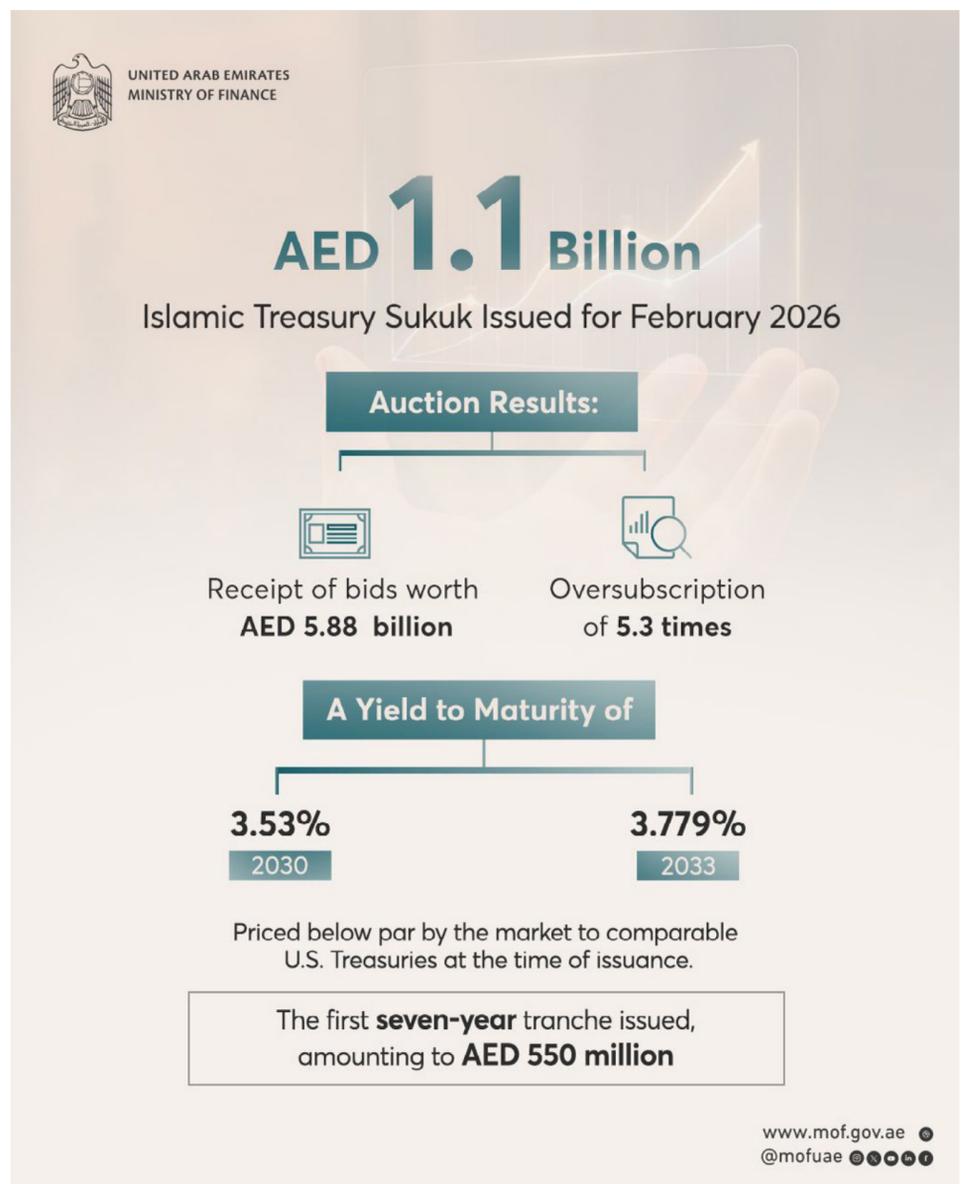


First tranche of 7-year Islamic Treasury Sukuk Launched

The Ministry of Finance (MoF), in its capacity as issuer and in collaboration with the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) as issuing and payment agent, announced the launch of the first-ever 7-year tranche of UAE dirham-denominated Islamic Treasury Sukuk (T-Sukuk) valued at AED 550 million. This represents the longest tenor issued under the program to date, reflecting the strategic direction to extend and deepen the UAE dirham yield curve.

The new tranche attracted strong demand amounting to approximately AED 3.1 billion, nearly six times the issuance size, showing investors' confidence in the resilience of the national economy and the strength of the Islamic finance sector.

This came as part of the MoF's announcement of the successful completion of the February auction of UAE dirham-denominated Islamic Treasury Sukuk, with a total issuance of AED 1.1 billion. The issuance forms part of the Islamic Treasury Sukuk Program for 2026, as published on the Ministry's official website.





Fiscal Policy in an Era of Transformation... Towards More Resilient Governments

By His Excellency Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini
Minister of State for Financial Affairs

The world today is experiencing unprecedented economic, geopolitical, and technological shifts that are reshaping government priorities and redefining fiscal policy frameworks.

According to international institutions, global uncertainty has returned to levels not seen since the COVID-19 pandemic, directly affecting financing costs and the timing of investment decisions.

Fiscal policy is therefore facing a critical test of resilience. In a rapidly evolving world, public finance is no longer confined to managing revenues and expenditures; it has become a strategic instrument for strengthening economic resilience, enhancing adaptability, and enabling sustainable growth.

Against this backdrop, our participation in the World Governments Summit provides a vital platform to rethink the role of fiscal policy in an age of transformation.

The Summit is more than an international gathering; it is a space for shaping shared visions on the future of governance, linking institutional innovation with economic policymaking, and reinforcing international cooperation in addressing challenges that transcend national borders.

Global economies are operating in an environment defined by heightened uncertainty, shifting trade dynamics, and accelerating digital transformation. In January 2026, the International Monetary Fund projected global growth to stabilise at 3.3% in 2026, with technology and artificial intelligence investment acting as key drivers of resilience.

Regionally, the Gulf is expected to achieve strong growth of around 4.5% in 2026, supported by robust non-oil expansion and ongoing structural reforms. However, this outlook requires more proactive and flexible fiscal strategies capable of balancing financial stability with development-driven investment.

Macroeconomic resilience cannot be secured through short-term measures alone. It depends on structural reforms that improve expenditure efficiency, strengthen debt management frameworks, and broaden the revenue base.

Such reforms reinforce investor confidence, enhance fiscal credibility, and create a stable, attractive environment for long-term capital deployment. Regional and international fiscal dialogues have consistently highlighted this path as essential to sustainable economic development.

This transformation is increasingly shaped by the strategic integration of advanced technologies.

Artificial intelligence and digital solutions are no longer merely operational tools; they have evolved into strategic drivers of higher-quality fiscal policymaking, enhanced transparency, and more efficient public resource management.

They are also contributing positively to global economic growth. The International Monetary Fund estimates that artificial intelligence could raise global growth by between 0.1% and 0.5% annually over the medium term.

When deployed within balanced and robust governance frameworks, advanced technologies create meaningful opportunities for governments to deliver more efficient public services, strengthen risk management capabilities, and enable data-driven decision-making.

Equally important is the strengthening of international partnerships as a cornerstone of modern fiscal policy development. Global economic challenges, from market volatility to development financing pressures, require deeper coordination among governments and financial institutions.

Evidence consistently shows that knowledge exchange and effective cooperation networks enhance financial stability, particularly in economies seeking to diversify growth engines and broaden their investment base. Regional fiscal coordination can also accelerate infrastructure financing and improve resilience to external shocks.

In this regard, the WGS has emerged as a critical platform for advancing policy integration at the Gulf, Arab, and international levels. It underscores the imperative of moving beyond basic coordination toward long-term institutional partnerships. Recent editions have increasingly focused on macroeconomic policy alignment, recognising that neither monetary nor fiscal policy alone is sufficient to manage elevated uncertainty and its economic spillovers.

The WGS sessions have provided an important platform for promoting discussions on such integration at the Gulf, Arab, and international levels, demonstrating the need to move beyond coordination toward long-term institutional partnerships.

In its recent editions, the Summit has increasingly focused on macroeconomic policy alignment, recognising that neither monetary nor fiscal policy alone can effectively manage uncertainty and its economic spillovers.

Within this framework, financing development has become a key theme of the Summit's dialogue. Investment in infrastructure, human capital, and digital transformation requires innovative financing mechanisms and effective

public-private partnerships.

This highlights the need for flexible fiscal frameworks capable of directing resources toward sectors that deliver sustainable economic and social returns, while preserving financial stability.

The UAE's experience demonstrates that balanced fiscal policies combining financial discipline with strategic investment flexibility can create a competitive economic environment that stimulates innovation and long-term growth.

Through active participation in international policy discussions, the UAE seeks to play a key role in shaping a forward-looking fiscal model anchored in sustainability, sound governance, and deeper economic integration.

In this context, the UAE Government prioritises maintaining a stable business environment and strengthening investor confidence through clear and transparent policies. This policy framework has translated into strong performance in foreign direct investment (FDI).

According to the latest data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UAE recorded a historic high of USD 45.6 billion in FDI inflows in 2024, securing its position as the world's 10th largest recipient of foreign direct investment, up from 11th place in 2023.

The UAE's strong sovereign credit profile further reinforces this confidence. The country has maintained high sovereign credit ratings from Standard & Poor's, Fitch, and Moody's, all with stable outlooks.

This consistent assessment by the three major rating agencies showcases the confidence in the UAE's solid fiscal fundamentals and its sustained commitment to economic diversification.

Finally, the future of fiscal policy will not be measured solely by its ability to manage numbers, but by its contribution to building more efficient economies, stronger institutions, and more prosperous societies. In a rapidly changing world, fiscal resilience, institutional innovation, and international cooperation are no longer optional, they are essential to sustaining long-term growth.

The World Governments Summit reinforces the message that fiscal policy is not merely a technical instrument, but a strategic choice that shapes the future. Ultimately, the success of governments will depend on their ability to adapt, innovate, and collaborate in an increasingly complex global environment.