

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK



البعثة الدائمة
للإمارات العربية المتحدة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. SHAIKHA LUBNA BINT KHALID ALQASSIMI
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**AT THE UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT FOR THE
ADOPTION OF THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA**

26 SEPTEMBER 2015



Mr President,

Distinguished delegates,

I am delighted to be here with you all today, to mark a major milestone for sustainable development.

After years of preparations that have included inter-governmental negotiations and extensive consultation, “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” before us is a proof of our commitment to a better world.

Building on the success of the Millennium Development Goals, the set of Sustainable Development Goals reflects a new global consensus on how the world should look like in fifteen years’ time: a world without poverty; a world with educated and healthy citizens; peaceful and economically prosperous societies; clean environment and habitats. The 2030 development agenda speaks to all of us, in all parts of the world.

The UAE is delighted to take part in achieving the set of 17 goals and 169 targets. Access to clean energy, sufficient and affordable food, quality education and healthcare, sustainable economic growth, healthy ecosystems, increased resource efficiencies - all these issues resonate strongly with the UAE.

The UAE has transformed its economy to a highly advanced and knowledge-based economy in a single generation, and is continuing to develop rapidly. We have a strong commitment to sustainable development and we can show success stories in many sectors:

We have set a national goal to increase use of clean energy in our energy mix through deployment of solar energy and safe nuclear power.



We are diversifying our economy through innovation, research and development, and investment in human capital.

We are promoting the equal participation of women in all aspects of society.

We are protecting and fostering terrestrial and marine biodiversity by establishing protected areas and increasing sustainable use of water resources.

We are pioneering sustainable urban communities as represented by Masdar City, the world's leading low carbon urban development.

And, we are committed to combat climate change through active participation in international climate change negotiations.

These achievements have been driven by the visionary leadership, effective policies including the UAE Green Growth and Innovation Strategies, and initiatives undertaken across our country. We believe that the sustainable development goals and targets will continue to reinforce and pave our pursuit for sustainable development.

Although still a relatively young and developing country, the UAE has risen to become the world's most generous donor in the last two consecutive years, providing official development assistance above the target of 0.7 percent of gross national income, and provides extensive support to fellow developing countries.

Our contribution already has supported a number of core areas of the 2030 development agenda, including infrastructure development, healthcare provision and renewable energy aid as well as critical humanitarian assistance.



The UAE is not only a major donor, but a major convener of dialogues on sustainability, including the annual Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, the Abu Dhabi Ascent preceding the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Climate Summit in 2014, and Expo 2021 Dubai, which will champion sustainable development. We are also the proud host country of the International Renewable Energy Agency – IRENA - which is the world's hub on renewable energy. The UAE will continue to offer these fora to foster partnerships and deliver practical solutions.

The essential yet ambitious scope of the sustainable development goals will require substantial resources. The international community will need to look beyond the traditional methods of resource mobilization. We must forge new partnerships and be innovative in order to access previously untapped sources of development finance and investment. It is not just about raising more resources, but also about addressing causes of market failures, creating an enabling environment for trade and commerce by reducing investment risks, and increasing opportunities for public-private partnerships, enhancing quality of aid. Beneficiaries' needs and priorities must be placed at the center in these endeavors.

We commit to implement the 2030 development agenda in a manner consistent with the UAE's international obligations and commitments, and the UAE stands ready to work with you all.

I would like to conclude by expressing the UAE's pledge to "leave no one behind" and to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. Let us join efforts in this critical journey to 2030 and beyond.

Thank you.