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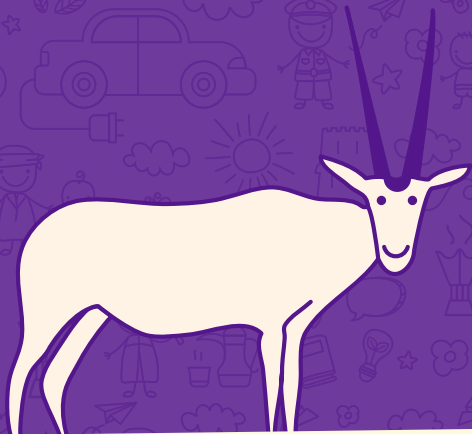
THE SUPREME COUNCIL FOR  
Motherhood  
& Childhood



يوم الطفل الإماراتي  
EMIRATI CHILDREN'S DAY  
مارس 15

# The Right to Identity & National Culture

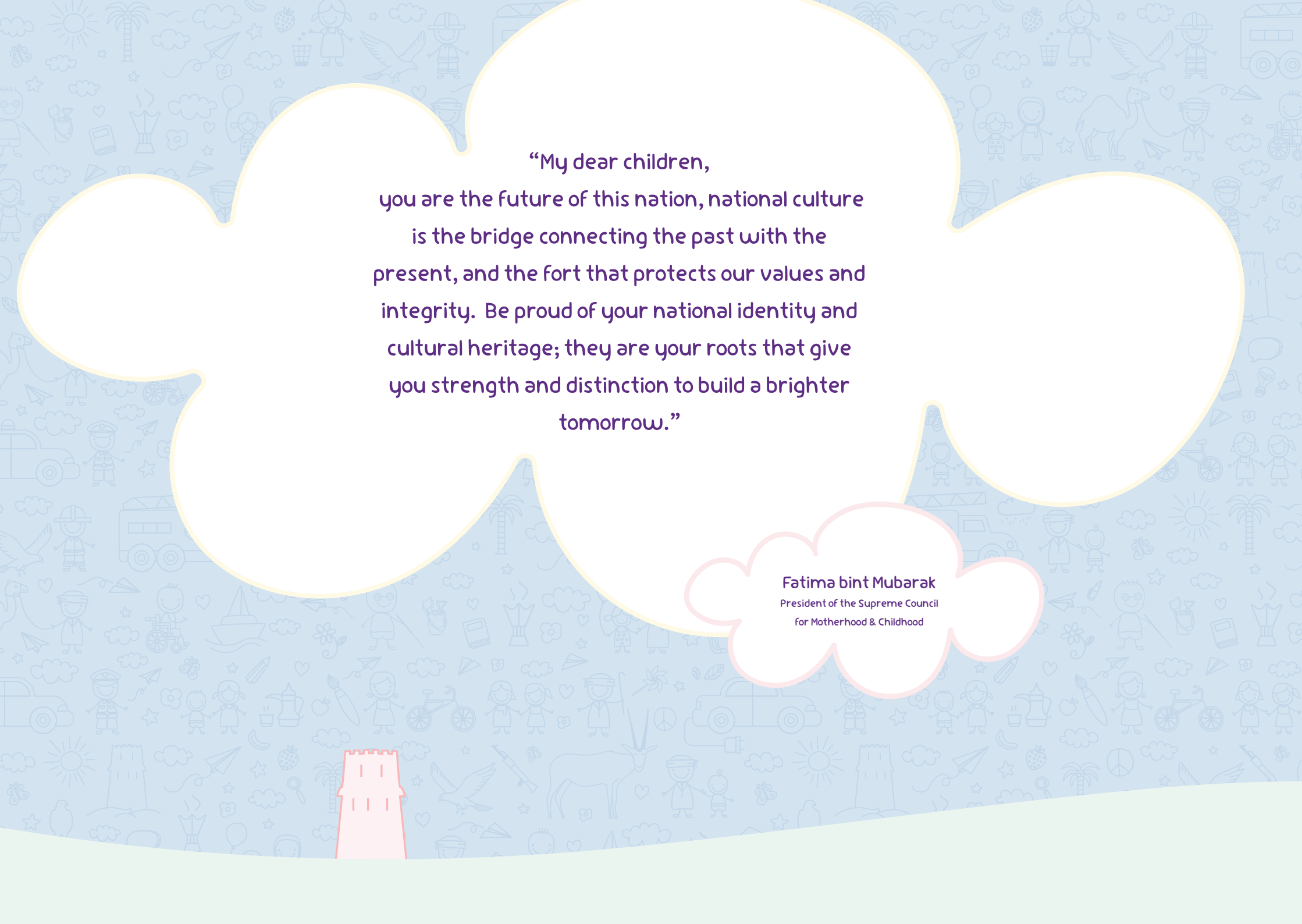
2025





**“ No nation aspiring to achieve a distinguished and respected position can succeed without prioritizing education and nurturing future generations. By doing so, it can cultivate a generation deeply rooted in its culture, values, and traditions while being fully prepared to embrace modern advancements and technological progress ”**

**His Highness Sheikh  
Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan  
President of the UAE**



“My dear children,  
you are the future of this nation, national culture  
is the bridge connecting the past with the  
present, and the fort that protects our values and  
integrity. Be proud of your national identity and  
cultural heritage; they are your roots that give  
you strength and distinction to build a brighter  
tomorrow.”



**Fatima bint Mubarak**  
President of the Supreme Council  
for Motherhood & Childhood

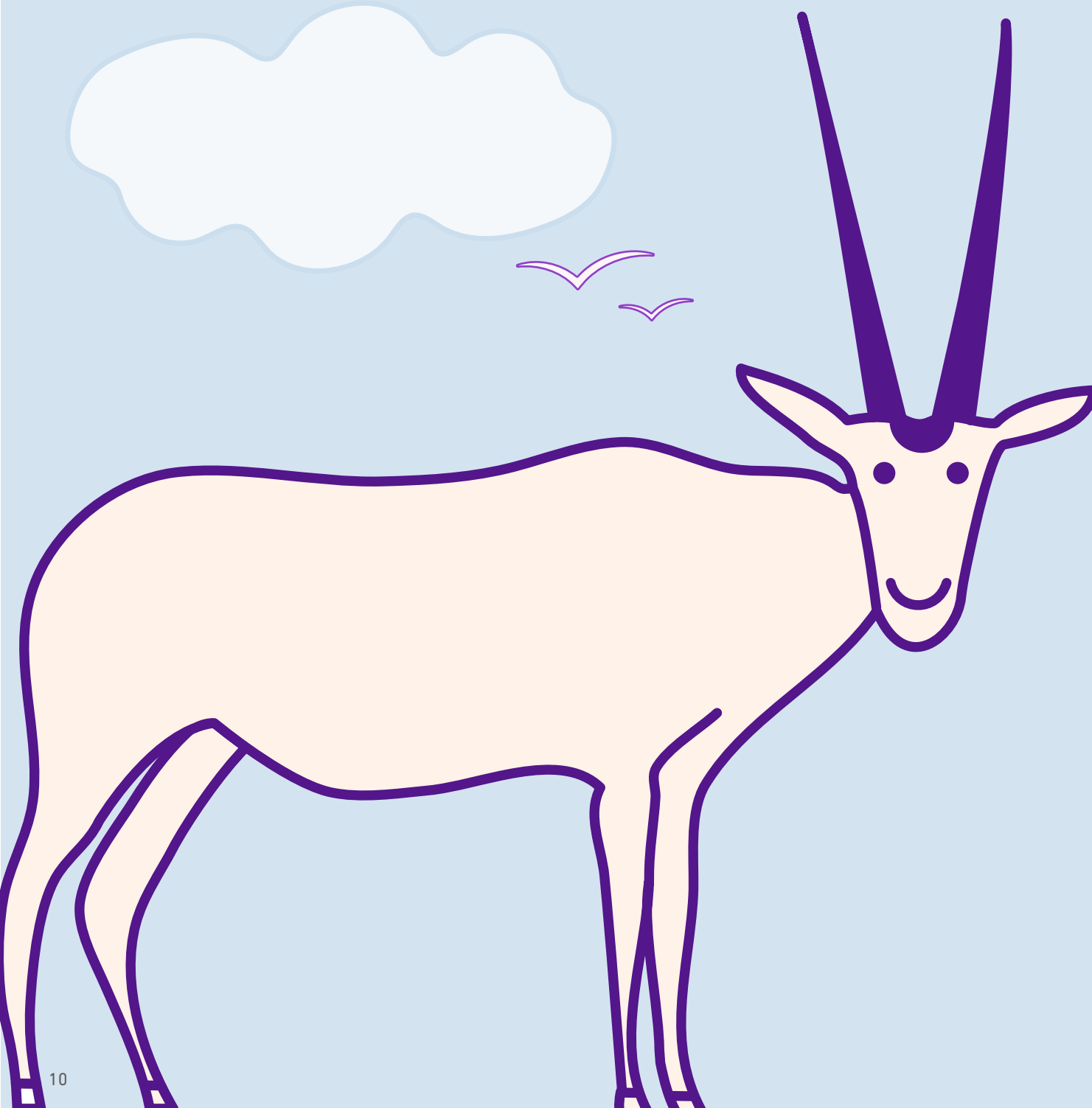


## Introduction

The United Arab Emirates celebrates Emirati Children's Day on the 15th of March of every year, as directed by Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, and "Mother of the Nation." This initiative follows the UAE Ministerial Development Council's adoption on March 11, 2018, commemorating the publication of the "Wadeema" Child Rights Law in the official gazette in 2016. It aligns with the principles and directives of child rights guaranteed by the UAE.

This guide is designed to help all entities in the country plan activities and initiatives throughout the year to celebrate and promote children's rights, including their cultural rights.





## The Wadeema Law

Federal Law No. 3 of 2016 concerning child rights is one of the most significant pieces of legislation in the UAE. It aims to comprehensively protect children's rights, including cultural rights. The law emphasizes the child's right to identity and personal development, encompassing cultural identity, and underscores the important role of the family in nurturing and safeguarding these rights. This approach promotes a generation that is proud of its identity, responsible and respectful within society.

## What is the Right to Culture?

The right to culture is a crucial aspect of a child's growth and identity. It encompasses the child's ability to engage, participate, and express their **cultural heritage**, including **language, traditions, and art**.

Recognizing and supporting this right strengthens children's sense of belonging and identity, which are fundamental to their overall well-being and development.

# Specific Objectives of the Right to Identity and National Culture

“He who has no past has no present.”

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan  
May He Rest in Peace

1. Strengthen intergenerational connections by involving senior citizens and children in shared activities.
2. Document local practices in child-friendly formats to preserve them for future generations.
3. Encourage reading in Arabic to enhance children's connection to their native language.
4. Promote cultural and knowledge exchange among various community groups.
5. Preserving the Emirati Cultural Heritage which encompasses poetry, proverbs, and various forms of folk arts, including Al-Ayyala, Al-Harbiya, and Al-Taghrooda, along with traditional crafts. It embodies a deep-rooted history of customs and traditions that distinguish the UAE and form an integral part of its national identity.



# Positive Outcomes of Respecting a Child's Right to Identity and National Culture



1. Strengthens self-esteem and confidence: Children who are encouraged to explore and express their cultural heritage develop a strong sense of pride in their identity, which translates into better academic performance and social interactions.
2. Stronger family bonds: Engaging in cultural traditions strengthens family ties and ensures the transfer of cultural knowledge across generations.
3. Enhanced social skills: Children who understand and value their own culture fosters empathy and respect for others, promoting better social relationships and reducing biases.
4. Resilience and adaptability: A solid cultural foundation helps children navigate challenges and changes with confidence.
5. Broader global perspective: Children grounded in their own culture who also learn about others develop a more inclusive and global outlook.
6. Academic success: Schools that incorporate cultural education into their curricula see improved student engagement and performance.

**In essence, the right to identity and national culture extends beyond preserving traditions; it is an integral part of holistic child development, preparing them to be confident and adaptable individuals within society.**



# Relevant Articles from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

**Article 3:** The best interests of the child should be a primary consideration, including decisions related to their cultural development and access to cultural resources.

**Article 5:** Parents and families play a crucial role in transferring cultural knowledge, traditions, and values to guide children in exercising their cultural rights.

**Article 8:** Cultural aspects are integral to a child's identity, ensuring they can maintain their cultural heritage and sense of belonging.

**Article 12:** Proficiency in the Arabic language equips children with the confidence to voice their opinions and engage meaningfully in issues that concern them.

Additionally, developing interactive programs that encourage children to use the Arabic language provides them with opportunities to participate in cultural and social activities in ways that reflect their national identity and strengthen their connection to their heritage.

**Article 28:** Education that incorporates cultural aspects enables children to appreciate their own culture and that of others, fostering respect and inclusivity.

**Article 30:** All children in the UAE must have the opportunity to fully participate in cultural practices, promoting diversity and inclusion.

**Article 31:** Participation in cultural and artistic activities is important for children's holistic development, providing avenues for creative expression and cultural engagement.

**Article 41:** A commitment to upholding the highest standards for protecting children's cultural rights, ensuring the preservation and respect of their cultural heritage.

These materials collectively support the right of children to culture, recognizing its importance for their identity, development, and well-being. Ensuring the respect and implementation of these rights is crucial for fostering inclusive, diverse, and culturally rich communities.

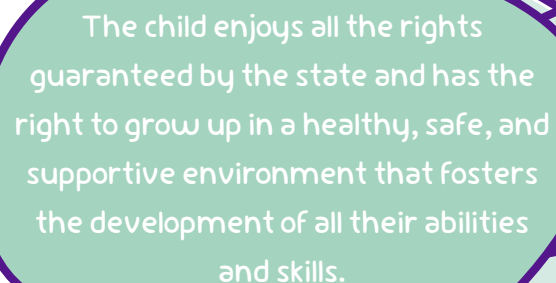


# Who Can Participate?

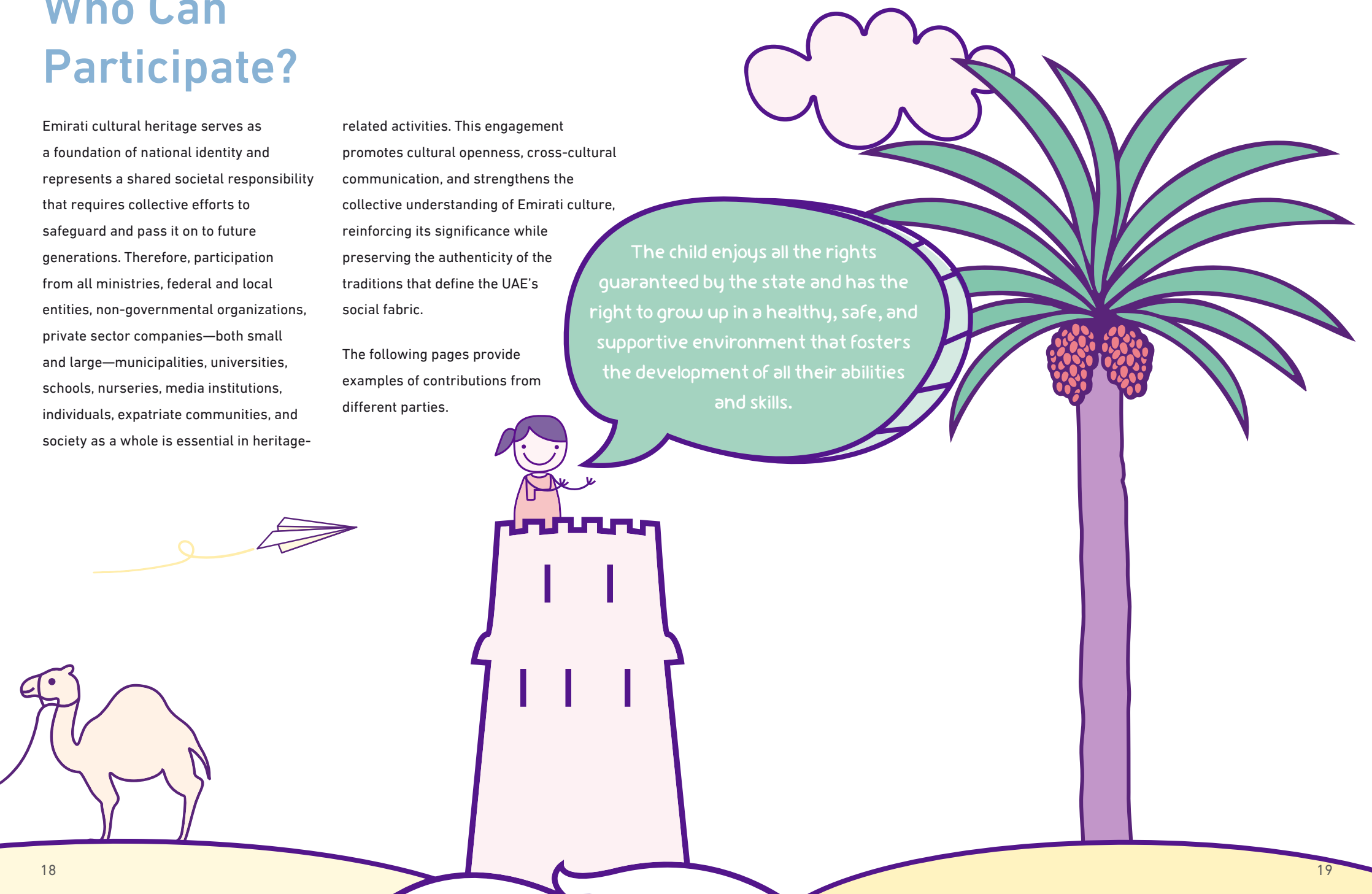
Emirati cultural heritage serves as a foundation of national identity and represents a shared societal responsibility that requires collective efforts to safeguard and pass it on to future generations. Therefore, participation from all ministries, federal and local entities, non-governmental organizations, private sector companies—both small and large—municipalities, universities, schools, nurseries, media institutions, individuals, expatriate communities, and society as a whole is essential in heritage-

related activities. This engagement promotes cultural openness, cross-cultural communication, and strengthens the collective understanding of Emirati culture, reinforcing its significance while preserving the authenticity of the traditions that define the UAE's social fabric.

The following pages provide examples of contributions from different parties.



The child enjoys all the rights guaranteed by the state and has the right to grow up in a healthy, safe, and supportive environment that fosters the development of all their abilities and skills.





### Integrating Cultural Education into School Curricula

Developing comprehensive cultural education programs within school curricula is essential in promoting national identity and pride in Emirati heritage. This includes teaching history, traditions, the Arabic language, and Emirati arts, while also highlighting the cultural contributions of various communities within the UAE.

#### Implementation:

- Design and implement cultural programs that span from primary to secondary education.
- Train educators in culturally responsive teaching methods to ensure positive engagement with cultural diversity.
- Develop and distribute educational materials that reflect the UAE's rich cultural heritage, offering age-appropriate and engaging content for all educational levels.

### Enhancing Extracurricular Activities Celebrating Emirati Culture and Heritage

Schools can strengthen students' connection to Emirati heritage by offering diverse extracurricular activities such as traditional music, folklore, arts, and crafts. This will allow students to directly engage with and appreciate Emirati cultural practices in an enjoyable and interactive manner.

#### Implementation:

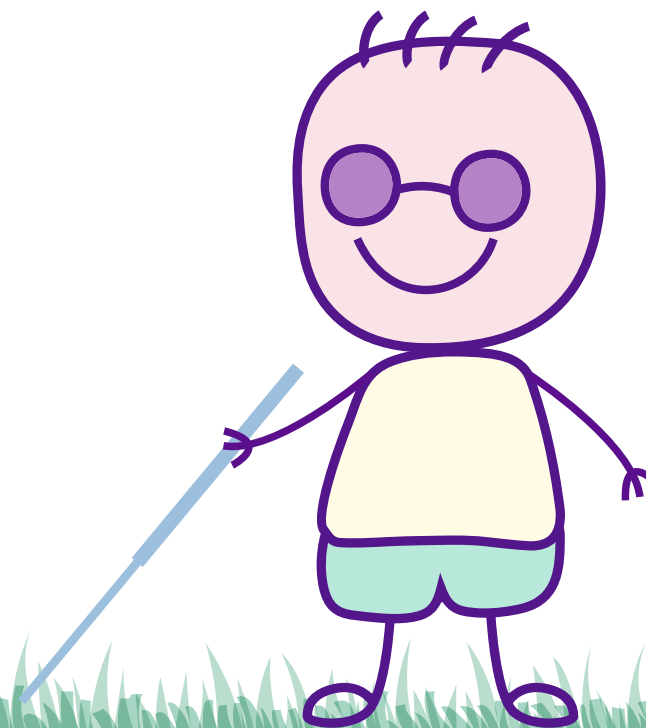
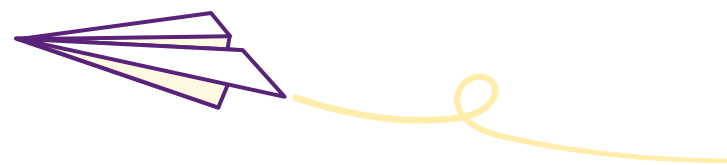
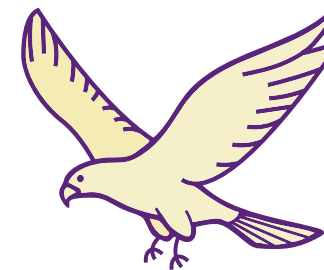
- Establish clubs and groups focused on various cultural activities.
- Organize events like heritage days, cultural exhibitions, and traditional sports competitions.
- Partner with cultural and arts centers to offer workshops and demonstrations that deepen students' understanding of their cultural heritage.

### Providing Access to Libraries and Cultural Centers for All Children

Libraries and cultural centers play a role in providing resources and spaces for cultural education and engagement.

#### Implementation:

- Ensure libraries are equipped with a wide range of books, media, and resources that reflect the cultural diversity of the UAE.
- Develop programs and activities at cultural centers that encourage children to explore and engage with their cultural heritage.
- Make these facilities accessible to all children, including those of determination.



### Promoting community initiatives that nurture cultural expression in children

Community programs can offer informal educational opportunities and enhance a sense of cultural pride and community spirit.

#### Implementation:

Support community centers offering workshops in cultural arts, Arabic language classes, and traditional crafts.

- Promote intergenerational programs where elders share cultural stories, traditions, and skills with children.

### 2. Organizing Cultural Festivals and Events Involving Children

Cultural festivals provide children with opportunities to actively engage with and learn about their heritage in an interactive setting.

#### Implementation:

- Plan and organize local festivals featuring traditional music, folklore, Emirati cuisine, and crafts.
- Include activities and performances led by children to encourage their active participation.
- Collaborate with schools and cultural centers to ensure diverse and widespread involvement

### 3. Creating Safe Spaces for Children to Participate in Cultural Activities

Providing accessible and safe spaces for children to explore and express their cultural identities is essential for promoting a sense of belonging.

#### Implementation:

- Develop community centers and recreational facilities with dedicated areas for cultural activities.
- Ensure these spaces are equipped with the necessary resources to support various cultural practices.
- Implement safety measures and create inclusive environments that welcome all children.



## 1. Promoting Content Reflecting Cultural Diversity and Heritage

The media has a powerful impact on how cultural diversity is perceived and understood.

### Implementation:

- Encourage the production and broadcast of programs highlighting UAE traditions and cultural heritage.
- Support documentaries, children's shows, and educational content that showcase cultural stories, practices, and achievements.

## 2. Encouraging Children's Programs Focused on Cultural Education and Heritage Celebration

Produce television, radio, and digital content that teaches children about cultural heritage in an engaging and simplified manner.

### Implementation:


- Develop and broadcast content on various platforms aimed at educating children about their cultural heritage.
- Create interactive digital platforms where children can explore and engage with their culture.
- Collaborate with educators, cultural experts, and artists to produce high-quality, entertaining, and informative content.



### Ensuring

children's right to culture requires a coordinated effort among various government entities concerned with child welfare. By integrating cultural education into school curricula, supporting community programs, organizing cultural festivals, creating safe spaces, and promoting diverse media content, cultural rights can be effectively safeguarded.

This comprehensive approach fosters a sense of pride and belonging among children, contributing to their holistic development and strengthening social cohesion within the community.

A portrait of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the late ruler of the United Arab Emirates. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a white thobe and a white ghutra with a black agal. He has a dark beard and is smiling slightly. A gold medal is pinned to his left breast. The background is a purple pattern of white line-art icons representing various aspects of life, education, and culture.

“Knowledge and culture are the  
foundation of a nation's progress, the  
cornerstone of civilization, and the  
bedrock of building the future.”

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan  
May he rest in peace

# Initiatives to Promote and Uphold Children's Cultural Rights

## 1. Cultural Workshops:

Offer practical workshops where children can learn traditional crafts, Emirati folklore, and other cultural arts, strengthening their connection to their heritage.

### Implementation:

- Provide workshops on traditional crafts and music.
- Host storytelling sessions featuring Emirati folklore, incorporating dramatic performances and role-playing.

## 2. Cultural Days in Schools:

Designate specific days to celebrate cultural heritage, allowing students to engage with their traditions in interactive and enjoyable ways.

### Implementation:

- Organize cultural days with traditional Emirati clothing, cuisine, and exhibits showcasing the UAE's history and culture.
- Host presentations and exhibitions by students highlighting Emirati customs, arts, or archaeological sites.
- Involve parents and community members to share their cultural knowledge and experiences.

## Presentations and Exhibitions

- Encourage students to create presentations to highlight key elements of the Emirati heritage, such as customs, traditional arts, and historical landmarks.
- Organize exhibitions featuring artworks created by the students, including paintings, sculptures, and models that represent Bedouin life and cultural traditions.
- Invite parents and community members to participate by sharing personal experiences, historical insights, and traditional practices; strengthening students' bond with their cultural heritage.

## 3. Cultural Competitions:

Competitions centered on cultural heritage encourage children to explore and demonstrate their cultural knowledge and skills.

### Implementation:

- Organize art and essay competitions on cultural heritage themes.
- Host cultural trivia contests focusing on Emirati history, traditions, and prominent cultural figures.
- Organize talent shows where children can perform artistic presentations inspired by Emirati folklore, music, and drama, showcasing their cultural skills.
- Host events such as competitions or exhibitions focused on traditional Emirati cooking and popular dishes, which represent a significant aspect of the UAE's cultural heritage. These activities can include teaching children how to prepare traditional Emirati meals.



#### 4. Visits to Museums and Heritage Sites:

Visits provide children with hands-on learning experiences about their cultural history and heritage.

##### Implementation:

- Plan guided tours with explanations about the significance of exhibits.
- Collaborate with museums to develop interactive and child-friendly displays.
- Plan follow-up activities such as drawing or writing about their experiences to reinforce learning.

#### 5. Arabic Language Lessons:

Description: Offering lessons in Arabic and local dialects ensures the preservation of linguistic heritage.

##### Implementation:

- Provide regular language lessons as part of school curricula or after-school programs.
- Incorporate activities where children use the language in real-life contexts, such as storytelling or role-playing.
- Provide materials such as books, audio content, and online platforms to support language learning at home.

#### 6. Family History Projects

Encouraging children to discover and present their family history and cultural practices to help them understand and appreciate their culture.

##### Implementation:

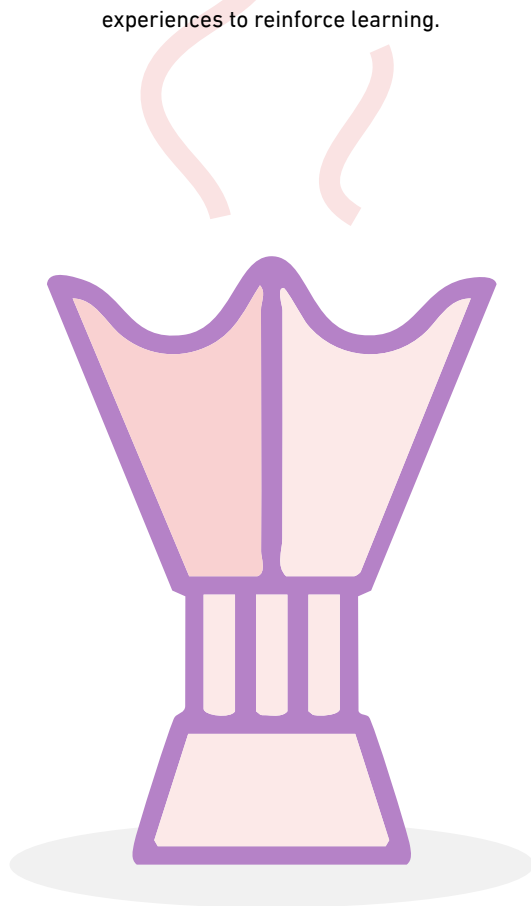
- Propose activities where children research their family history, including conducting interviews with family members and presenting their findings.
- Ask children to create cultural narratives or family trees highlighting traditional customs, celebrations, and significant family events.
- Organize events where children can showcase their projects and share their family history with peers and the community.

#### 7. Storytelling Sessions

Description: Storytelling sessions with elders help preserve oral traditions and pass down cultural knowledge and values to younger generations.

##### Implementation:

- Conduct regular storytelling sessions in schools, libraries, and community centers where elders share traditional tales and folklore.
- Arrange interactive storytelling activities, involving children in dramatizations or encouraging them to retell the stories in their own words.
- Record these sessions to create an archive of oral traditions for future educational use.



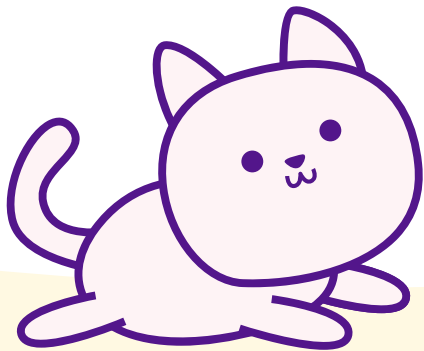
Implementing these activities provides children with valuable opportunities to connect with their cultural heritage in meaningful ways. Such efforts improve their understanding and appreciation of their own culture, and encourage respect and inclusion within the UAE's rich and diverse cultural environment. Engaging

in cultural workshops, exchanges, school cultural days, competitions, heritage site visits, language lessons, family history projects, and storytelling sessions, children can build a deeper connection to their roots while embracing the cultural diversity around them.

# Final Thoughts

Promoting and safeguarding the right to culture and national identity for children and youth in the United Arab Emirates is a comprehensive approach that requires collaboration among several stakeholders. This can be achieved through the implementation of well-designed cultural education policies, supportive community programs, engaging cultural

activities, and comprehensive legal frameworks such as the "Wadeema" Law. Such measures ensure that every child has the opportunity to connect, participate, and celebrate their cultural heritage, hence strengthening their cultural identity and enhancing their overall well-being.



## | Emirati Children's Day Recognition

## The Right to Identity & National Culture



### Fixed Participations Categories (Annual)

#### 1 Our Celebration, Their Happiness

It is awarded for the best decoration or initiative presented by ministries, federal and local entities, non-governmental organizations, private companies, municipalities, universities, schools, nurseries, shopping centers, individuals, resident communities in the country, and society as a whole as part of their social responsibility to support Emirati Children's Day.

#### 2 Echoing Childhood Through Media

Awarded to the best media content (TV, print, or social media) that highlight Emirati Children's Day in a creative and effective manner.



### Special Categories for Emirati Children's Day 2025 Theme: The Right to Identity and National Culture

#### 3 A Generation Telling Its History

Awarded to the best mobile app, program, game, or cartoon that teaches children about Emirati cultural heritage.

#### 4 In Arabic, We Excel

Awarded to the best initiative promoting and embedding the Arabic language in children.

#### 5 Bridging Generations, Cherishing Heritage

Awarded to the best initiative that strengthens connections between children and the elderly for the sake of preserving Emirati heritage.

**Best Participations will be announced end of the year**

“The United Arab Emirates is defined by its cultural identity and deeply rooted moral values, drawn from the principles of our sacred religion and the traditions passed down from our forefathers. These values uphold the ideals of tolerance, mutual respect, cooperation, generosity, loyalty, and dedication to the nation.”

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan  
President of The UAE

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We Are Renewable Energy

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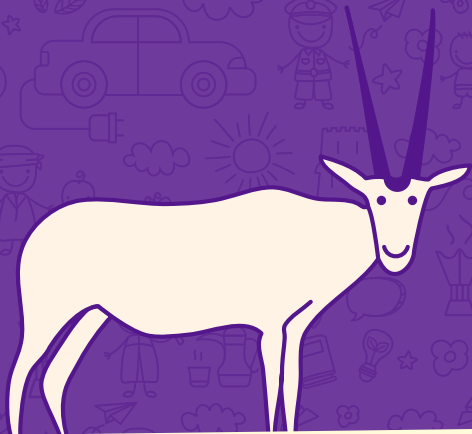
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