



Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the WFP under the leadership of the Executive Director - H.E. Mr. David Beasley, for hosting this exhibition that celebrates 100 years since the birth of the founding father of the UAE, late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and coincides with the “International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women” which takes place each year on November 25th.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has adopted a powerful stance in empowering women, setting new standards based on a unique model drawn from the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founding father of the UAE. This approach perpetuates in the current leadership’s vision for the future, whereby women stand as active partners and contributors in the country’s development process and play a vital role in raising future generations. The UAE Cabinet recently approved a bill guaranteeing equal pay for both genders. Moreover, the 2017 ministerial reshuffle includes nine female ministers out of 31, the largest in the Arab world.

- The Government of the United Arab Emirates has made the theme "Empowerment of Women and Girls" as one of three thematic areas of action underpinning the country's international aid policy for 2017-2021. It is also one of the focal points of strategy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
- More than 14 per cent of total international aid contributed by the United Arab Emirates in 2016 was devoted to



- empowering women and girls around the world. After deducting bilateral support to government budgets, which accounts for more than half of the value of foreign aid contributed by the UAE in 2016, the proportion of aid allotted to the promotion gender equality and women's empowerment accounts for nearly one-third of total aid.
- The UAE has committed USD 1.5 million in partnership with the United Kingdom to support the Somali Government's efforts to combat sexual violence in conflict. Furthermore, the UAE contributed USD 1 million to UN-led capacity programs to address sexual violence in conflict zones.
 - Among the international aid projects that contribute to this essential cause are: women's vocational training and support for women entrepreneurs in low- and middle-income countries and support for more than 100 projects in the health sector for women and children. In Afghanistan, the UAE supported the saffron industry where women hold 80 percent of the production business. In Sri Lanka, the UAE also provided financial support to an institute dedicated to women's empowerment.
 - In 2009, the UAE acceded to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol).
 - Women continue to be the backbone of the UAE, but also around the world. The UAE believes that progress in the area of women's rights is essential to building a contemporary society based on tolerance and inclusion.



With their benefits, achievements and experience, the UAE will continue to work to ensure that women in the rest of the world enjoy the same appreciation and participation that Emirati women enjoy in their country.

Finally, I would like to recall that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) pledged US\$500 million for humanitarian food assistance to Yemen. The funds, which will partially go to WFP, will cover shortfalls in the current humanitarian response while helping WFP scale up its operation to provide life-saving food assistance to 10-12 million severely hungry people in Yemen, including more than 2 million children.

It is my pleasure and honor to welcome you today to this event.