

# AI Policy and Regulations of The United Arab Emirates







## Comprehensive Report



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## Introduction

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federation of seven independent city-states situated in the southeast of the Arabian Peninsula, bordering Oman and Saudi Arabia. These seven emirates - Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al-Qaiwain, Fujairah, and Ras al-Khaimah - formed a federation following independence from Britain. Six emirates initially joined together in December 1971, with Ras Al Khaimah joining the federation in 1972. The capital city is Abu Dhabi, located in the largest and wealthiest of the seven emirates. Since its federation in 1971, the UAE has developed rapidly and is now noted for its modern infrastructure, international events, and status as a trade and transport hub. The UAE is strategically located along southern approaches to the Strait of Hormuz, a vital transit point for world crude oil.

The political structure of the UAE includes a Supreme Council comprising of the Rulers of each Emirate, a Council of Ministers, and a Federal National Council. The President of the UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi is His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, while the Ruler of Dubai, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, serves as the Vice-President, Prime Minister, and Defence Minister. Each emirate maintains a significant degree of independence with its own local government, courts, and police forces. The UAE is a member of several international organizations including the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the United Nations, OPEC, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the World Trade Organization.

Before oil was discovered in the 1950s, the UAE's economy depended primarily on fishing and a declining pearl industry. Since oil exports began in 1962, the country's society and economy have undergone significant transformation. Today, the UAE is the Middle East's third largest economy with a GDP estimated at US\$568 billion in 2024. The country has diversified substantially, with approximately 70% of GDP now generated by sectors other than oil and gas. The UAE has emerged as one of the most liberal countries in the Gulf region, with other cultures and beliefs generally tolerated. A landmark diplomatic achievement occurred on September 15, 2020, when the UAE and Israel signed the Abraham Accords, establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries.





## 1. Recent Legal Regulations (2020–2025)

Between 2020 and 2025, the UAE introduced transformative legal regulations aimed at enhancing various aspects of life in the country, demonstrating its commitment to sustainable development and social progress. These comprehensive reforms reflect the UAE's forward-thinking approach to governance and national development.

**Corporate Governance and Gender Equality:** In a landmark move toward gender diversity in corporate leadership, the UAE's Ministry of Economy has mandated that all private joint-stock companies must appoint at least one woman to their boards of directors. This directive builds upon the successful 2021 mandate for publicly listed companies, which saw female board representation increase dramatically from 29 seats in 2020 to 77 seats by 2022. The measure, taking effect in 2025 following the conclusion of current board terms, aligns with the UAE Gender Balance Council's ambitious target of achieving 30% female representation in leadership positions by the end of 2025. These new measures not only enhance board diversity but also align with global corporate governance best practices, positioning UAE companies more competitively in the international market.

**Environmental Protection Initiatives:** The UAE is taking decisive action against plastic pollution with a comprehensive ban on single-use plastics. The initiative, fully enforced in 2025, targets items such as plastic bags, cutlery, straws, and Styrofoam products. Dubai has already implemented the first phase of its plastic ban, with Styrofoam products and single-use bags now prohibited. The Emirates plan to extend these restrictions to include plastic cups, lids, cutlery, and food containers by 2026. Businesses found violating these regulations face substantial penalties ranging from AED 500 to AED 50,000, depending on the severity and frequency of infractions. The government's approach combines enforcement with incentivization, offering tax rebates and grants to encourage adoption of eco-friendly alternatives.

**Traffic and Transport Reforms:** A significant overhaul of the Federal Traffic Law took effect from March 29, 2025. The reforms include lowering the minimum driving age to 17 years and introducing stricter regulations for noise pollution and pedestrian safety. Key changes include a comprehensive ban on vehicles emitting excessive noise, restrictions on honking within city limits, new regulations prohibiting pedestrians from crossing roads with speed limits exceeding 80 km/h, and enhanced penalties for driving under the influence and hit-and-run incidents. Additionally, new Salik toll charges have been implemented, with peak hour rates increasing to AED 6 and off-peak rates remaining at AED 4, with free passage offered between 1 AM and 6 AM. The system also features new parking charges with premium (AED 6 per hour) and standard (AED 4 per hour) categories during peak hours.

**Healthcare and Insurance Reform:** Basic health insurance became mandatory for all private sector and domestic workers in Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah, and Fujairah from January 1, 2025. This reform aims to ensure comprehensive healthcare coverage for workers across these emirates.



**Emiratization and Workforce Development:** The UAE continues its push for increased local representation in the private sector. Companies with 50 or more employees must achieve a 7% Emiratization rate by June 2025, increasing to 8% by year-end. Additionally, smaller businesses with 20-49 employees across 14 sectors are required to maintain at least one Emirati in a skilled position. Starting in 2025, private companies with 20-49 employees must hire at least two Emiratis, extending regulations that previously only applied to larger companies. Non-compliant companies face fines of AED 96,000 per unappointed Emirati worker, with penalties being enforced from January 1, 2025. These measures reflect the UAE's strategic commitment to fostering local talent and creating a sustainable workforce aligned with the country's long-term vision.

**Personal Status Law Reform:** The UAE has introduced Federal Decree-Law No. 41 of 2024, a comprehensive update to personal status regulations that will come into effect from April 15, 2025. This landmark reform brings significant changes to family matters, marriage, divorce, and child custody regulations for both citizens and residents. Key provisions include extending mothers' custody rights until children turn 18, allowing children aged 15 and above to choose their custodian, and introducing new marriage regulations that require judicial approval for marriages with an age gap of 30 years or more. The law also provides greater flexibility for expatriate Muslims, who can now choose to apply their home country's laws for personal matters. Additionally, the legislation introduces stricter penalties, with fines ranging from AED 5,000 to AED 100,000 for offenses such as child abuse, neglect, or unauthorized travel with children.

**Other Significant Legal Changes:** The UAE has implemented several other noteworthy regulatory changes. The Dubai Land Department launched a new Smart Rental Index, implementing a comprehensive building classification system for determining rental values. The UAE is also preparing to introduce air taxis in 2025 in both Abu Dhabi and Dubai, with four air taxi stations planned at key locations such as Dubai International Airport, Dubai Marina, and Palm Jumeirah. A new Federal Decree-Law No. 34 of 2023 on Combating Discrimination, Hatred and Extremism prohibits discrimination based on religion, belief, rite, community, sect, race, color, ethnicity, gender, or race, with penalties including imprisonment and substantial fines. From January 1, 2025, a municipality fee will again apply to alcoholic beverages sold in the Emirates. This 30% tax was suspended at the end of 2022 and was meant to be a trial period for one year, from January 1 to December 31, 2023. It was extended for another year in 2024.

## 2. Government AI Action Plan

The UAE has demonstrated a strong commitment to artificial intelligence through comprehensive strategies and substantial investments, positioning itself as a global leader in AI innovation and application. Through its AI action plan, the UAE government aims to leverage artificial intelligence to drive economic growth, improve public services, and enhance the overall quality of life for its citizens. This includes significant investments in AI research and development as well as implementing AI solutions across various sectors such as healthcare, education, and finance.

**UAE National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2031:** The UAE's vision is to become one of the leading nations in AI by 2031, in alignment with the broader UAE Centennial 2071 vision. The National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2031 outlines eight strategic objectives: build a reputation as an AI destination; increase the UAE's competitive assets in priority sectors through deployment of AI; develop a fertile ecosystem for AI; adopt AI across customer services to improve lives and government; attract and train talent for future jobs enabled by AI; bring world-leading research capability to work with target industries; provide the data and supporting infrastructure essential to become a test bed for AI; and ensure strong governance and effective regulation. The strategy projects that AI will contribute \$91 billion (AED 335 billion) to the Emirati economy within six years. A PWC study estimates that AI will contribute \$96 billion to the UAE economy by 2030 and account for 13.6 percent of the gross domestic product.

**Government Leadership and Institutional Support:** The UAE has demonstrated its commitment to AI leadership through significant institutional support and governance structures. In 2017, the UAE appointed Omar Sultan Al Olama as the world's first Minister for AI, showcasing its early recognition of AI's strategic importance. In June 2024, the government of Dubai appointed 22 chief AI officers to key government departments with the task of driving a high-tech vision for the future. These AI officers will help government bodies such as Dubai Police, Dubai Roads and Transport Authority, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, and the Department of Economy and Tourism to harness artificial intelligence across all government services.



Additionally, the UAE has established the Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technology Council (AIATC) to focus on positioning the UAE as a hub for AI investments, partnerships, and talent. The council is tasked with the oversight of financing, investment, and research plans for AI and advanced technology.

**Integration of AI in Government Services:** UAE governmental authorities are actively integrating AI across all functions. The UAE Strategy for Artificial Intelligence aims to enhance government performance using integrated smart digital systems, while the Council for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transactions was established to oversee AI integration in government departments.

An example of this adoption is the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority's (TDRA) introduction of the AI-supported Unified Digital Platform, which streamlines user access to information and services. The Abu Dhabi Government Digital Strategy 2025-2027, with an investment of AED 13 billion over three years, aims to create a fully AI-powered governance model. This strategy focuses on creating a robust digital infrastructure that will enable 100% adoption of sovereign cloud computing for government operations, ensuring that all processes are not only digitalized but also fully automated.

**Economic and Social Impact:** The UAE's AI strategy is expected to have significant economic and social benefits. The AI components of the Abu Dhabi Digital Strategy are expected to contribute over AED 24 billion to Abu Dhabi's GDP by 2027 and generate more than 5,000 new jobs as part of the country's ongoing Emiratisation efforts. The UAE has also forged key partnerships with institutions like the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI) and the Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC), ensuring access to the latest AI research and development. Additionally, several UAE leaders are described as "true believers" in artificial general intelligence (AGI), reflecting a conviction that profound economic and social transformation from AI is nearby.



### 3. Intellectual Property & Data Usage

The United Arab Emirates has established a comprehensive legal framework for intellectual property protection and data usage, reflecting its commitment to aligning with global best practices while addressing the unique challenges of the digital age. These regulations serve as the foundation for the UAE's ambition to become a global business and innovation hub.

**Intellectual Property Framework:** The UAE took a major step in introducing significant intellectual property laws in 2021, with further amendments in the following years. The three foundational pieces of the IP legislation are Federal Law No. 11/2021 on Protecting Industrial Property Rights, Federal Decree-Law No. 36/2021 on Governing Trademarks, and Federal Decree-Law No. 38/2021 on Governing Copyrights and Neighboring Rights, each supplemented by respective cabinet decisions for implementation. Together, these laws aim to modernize and improve the regulations governing trademarks, copyrights, patents, and industrial designs while addressing the challenges businesses face in today's digital economy.





**Copyright Protection:** Copyright protection in the UAE is governed by Federal Decree-Law No. 38/2021, which grants protection to innovative literary, artistic, and scientific creations in any form, expression, significance, or purpose. The law establishes the Ministry of Economy's Department of Copyright as the central authority responsible for copyright registration. The scope of copyrightable works is extensive, covering literary works, computer software, audio and video creations, architectural designs, fine art, photographs, and derivative works. Copyright holders in the UAE enjoy both economic and moral rights over their works. Economic rights empower authors with control over the first publication of their copyrighted work, ownership claims, prohibition of alterations, and the right to reproduce their creations. These rights last throughout the author's lifetime and extend for 50 years after their death. Moral rights ensure the author's recognition as the creator and grant the right to object to any distortion or modification that could harm their reputation.

**Trademark Protection:** Trademark protection in the UAE is governed by Federal Decree-Law No. 36/2021, providing a robust framework for registration, protection, and enforcement of trademarks. The decree law defines a trademark as any sign or combination of signs capable of distinguishing goods or services of one entity from those of others, encompassing names, words, signatures, symbols, numbers, colors, hologram marks, and three-dimensional marks, among others. Even distinctive sounds or smells may be considered trademarks. The Ministry of Economy maintains the "Trademarks Register," where all trademarks, owners' details, and related changes are recorded. Upon successful registration, trademarks in the UAE are protected for ten years from the application filing date, with the option for renewal. The new Trademark Law reflects significant feedback from brand owners and trademark professionals and codifies many practices previously governed by court precedents.

**Patent Protection:** Patent protection in the UAE is governed by Federal Law No. 11/2021, ensuring the protection and regulation of intellectual property rights related to inventions. To be eligible for patent protection in the UAE, an invention must undergo formal and substantive examinations to evaluate novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability. The law outlines categories of inventions for which patents will not be granted, such as research on plant or animal species, diagnostic and surgical methods, scientific principles, and mathematical methods. Patent holders in the UAE enjoy exclusive rights to exploit the invention commercially for twenty years from the application filing date. The patent registration process involves submitting an application to the Ministry of Economy's Patent Office, paying the necessary fees, and complying with all requirements outlined in the Implementing Regulation.

**Data Protection Framework:** The UAE's Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL), enacted under Federal Decree-Law No. 45 of 2021, represents the first comprehensive data protection regulation in the United Arab Emirates at the federal level. It is designed to protect personal data and privacy in the rapidly evolving digital landscape and aligns with international standards, particularly the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union. The PDPL's primary objectives are to safeguard the personal data of individuals within the UAE, ensure that privacy rights are respected, and regulate how personal data is processed, stored, and transferred. The law applies to data controllers and processors within the UAE, as well as those located outside the UAE who process personal data related to UAE residents.



**Data Subject Rights and Controller Obligations:** Under the UAE's PDPL, data subjects—individuals whose personal data is being processed—are granted various rights to protect their privacy and ensure responsible data handling. These rights include the right to access personal data, the right to rectification, and the right to erasure (right to be forgotten). Data controllers must be prepared to provide data subjects with information promptly and in an understandable format, with failure to do so potentially leading to penalties. Purpose limitation and data minimization are key principles under the UAE data protection regime. Organizations must only process personal data for specific and lawful purposes and only collect data relevant to their needs. After data use, all personal data collected should be deleted and not kept or used for additional purposes.

**Sector-Specific Data Regulations:** Several UAE laws and regulations restrict the cross-border flow of healthcare data. UAE Federal Law Number 2 of 2019, known as the Health Data Law, covers the collection, processing, and circulation of health data and sets out processing, security, and retention requirements. The Health Data Law places a general restriction on the transfer of patient health data outside the UAE but allows for exemptions specified in the UAE Health Ministerial Resolution 51 of 2021. In May 2024, the Department of Health Abu Dhabi published an update of its Abu Dhabi - Healthcare Information and Cyber Security Standard (ADHICS), allowing the use of cloud services from providers like Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Azure for storing and processing health data inside the UAE. However, ADHICS version 2.0 blocks all cross-border flows of health data, except when exemptions have been specifically granted by the health regulatory authority in each Emirate.





## 4. AI Outputs & IP Protections

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence has created new challenges and considerations for intellectual property rights in the UAE, particularly regarding the protection and ownership of AI-generated content. The UAE has taken steps to address these emerging issues through legislative updates and policy frameworks.

**Copyright Protection for AI-Generated Works:** Regarding copyright, Federal Decree-Law No. 38/2021 now protects "smart applications, computer programmes, databases, and similar works" generated by or with AI. Despite their non-human origin, AI-generated works may qualify for copyright protection under UAE Copyright Law. The updated law recognizes the evolving nature of creative works in the digital age and provides a framework for protecting AI-generated content. Users of AI systems may be considered authors and bear responsibility for copyright infringement. The law preserves the strong moral rights of authors, allowing them to retain the right to attribution, to decide whether to publish their work, and to withdraw it from circulation. However, authors of software and smart applications are excluded from the withdrawal right, ensuring that businesses can invest in these works with confidence.

**Ownership Challenges for AI-Generated Content:** Determining intellectual property ownership for AI outputs presents significant challenges. The deep learning models used in generative AI, the lack of direct human intervention, and the reliance on existing data all blur the traditional boundaries of IP ownership. As AI evolves, intellectual property laws can be expected to be further supplemented and adjusted to address these emerging issues. The UAE's approach suggests that any IP created using AI technology is protectable and that the IP will be held by the natural person who contributed to its creation. This framework aims to balance innovation with appropriate recognition of human creative input.

**Balancing Innovation and Protection:** The UAE's approach to AI-generated intellectual property reflects a broader strategic goal of fostering innovation while maintaining appropriate protections. As AI advances, intellectual property laws in the UAE will likely continue to evolve to address the unique challenges posed by these technologies. The integration of AI into various sectors, including creative industries, necessitates a flexible yet robust legal framework to protect the interests of innovators, users, and the wider society. The UAE's current regulations provide a foundation for addressing these complex issues, with further refinements expected as AI technologies continue to develop.

## 5. AI Investments & Computing Power

The United Arab Emirates has made substantial investments in artificial intelligence infrastructure and computing power, demonstrating its commitment to becoming a global leader in AI technology. These investments span various sectors and involve partnerships with leading global technology companies.

**Strategic AI Investments:** The UAE has positioned AI development as a national priority with broad leadership support and ambitious economic targets. While specific total Emirati AI investment figures are not publicly disclosed, the amount is clearly in the tens to possibly hundreds of billions of dollars. In March 2024, Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund Mubadala, G42, and the UAE state-backed Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technology Council announced the creation of MGX, an AI investment vehicle expected to eventually reach \$100 billion in assets. Six months later in September 2024, MGX, together with U.S. firms BlackRock, Global Infrastructure Partners, and Microsoft, launched a global AI infrastructure fund with an initial \$30 billion in private equity capital and \$100 billion in investment potential. In January 2025, OpenAI announced that MGX would be one of the initial four equity funders for the new 'Stargate Project,' which plans to invest \$500 billion in building U.S. AI infrastructure for OpenAI over the next four years.

Abu Dhabi has unveiled its Abu Dhabi Government Digital Strategy 2025-2027, with a \$13 billion USD investment over the next three years to transform government operations through AI, cloud computing, and automation. This strategy is expected to contribute over AED 24 billion to Abu Dhabi's GDP by 2027 and generate more than 5,000 new jobs. In February 2025, the UAE announced plans to invest between €30 billion and €50 billion to build Europe's largest AI data centre in France. These investments reflect the UAE's vision of becoming a global AI powerhouse and its commitment to diversifying its economy beyond oil.





**Major Partnerships and Collaborations:** The UAE has formed significant partnerships with global technology leaders to advance its AI capabilities. In April 2024, Microsoft announced a \$1.5 billion investment deal with Emirati AI national champion Group 42 Holding Ltd. (G42). This partnership includes strict controls to demonstrate compliance and transparency to the United States, with military-grade encryption and audits by U.S. Department of Defense contractors to test for potential security breaches. The Microsoft deal also forbids G42 from using Microsoft services or AI chips for surveillance and mandates permission from Microsoft to share the technology with other governments or militaries.

Other notable collaborations include a partnership between G42 and Cerebras Systems, announced in July 2023, to build a cluster of supercomputers that will significantly reduce AI model training time. The project, called Condor Galaxy, will comprise nine supercomputers with a planned capacity of 36 exaFLOPs in total. The first supercomputer in this cluster, Condor Galaxy 1 (CG-1), has already been deployed with 54 million cores and performs at four exaFLOPs, making it one of the largest AI supercomputers in the world. This supercomputer has been used to train Jais, the world's most advanced large language model for the Arabic language with 13 billion parameters.

**Computing Infrastructure and Capabilities:** The UAE is a growing leader in AI infrastructure, with substantial computing power capabilities. The private sector dominates the UAE's AI infrastructure ecosystem, owning 89% of the total AI-related processing power in the country. Academic institutions also host significant computing resources, with New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) housing "Dalma," a supercomputer composed of more than 870 CPUs and 30 GPUs. The UAE ranks 36th globally in terms of high-performance computing power, with G42's "Artemis" supercomputer being the country's most powerful. In addition to Artemis, G42 also owns "POD3," the 304th most powerful supercomputer in the world.

Other significant computing infrastructure in the UAE includes systems operated by the Road and Transportation Authority of Dubai (RTA), which hosts a CPU and GPU hybrid system for transport and corporate analytics; Abu Dhabi Digital Authority (ADDA), which is building one of the largest local government platforms; and Morohub, a Dubai-based private entity offering data center services with both CPU and high-end GPU units. The UAE also hosts data centers for major global cloud providers, with Microsoft Azure launching two cloud regions in Dubai and Abu Dhabi in 2019, Oracle opening its second cloud region in Abu Dhabi in 2021 (in addition to Oracle Cloud Dubai Region), and Amazon Web Services launching the AWS Middle East (UAE) Region in 2022.

**Future AI and Computing Developments:** The UAE's investment in AI and computing infrastructure continues to grow, with significant developments planned for the future. G42 and Cerebras Systems plan to deploy the next two supercomputers, CG-2 and CG-3, in the US by early 2024, with the remaining six Condor Galaxy supercomputers coming online later in 2024. These resources will benefit not only customers in the Middle East but also users worldwide. The UAE has also committed to allocate 500 MHz of the 6 GHz radio frequency band for unlicensed use for Wi-Fi 6E and 7E users, including for industrial internet of things, which will enable faster public and private internet data transmission rates than ever before.



## 6. Judicial Decisions on AI

The integration of artificial intelligence into the UAE's judicial system represents a forward-looking approach to enhancing legal processes, though specific judicial decisions regarding AI are currently limited. The UAE is actively exploring ways to leverage AI technologies to improve efficiency and effectiveness in its courts and legal proceedings.

**Current Status of AI in the UAE Judicial System:** Currently, there are no judicial decisions issued specifically regarding generative AI and intellectual property rights in the UAE. The majority of court judgments for onshore UAE cases are not publicly available, making it very difficult to extract clear statements of principle from cases, particularly as judgments are not intended to be authoritative statements of law. While there is no legal definition of AI under UAE regulations, the UAE National Program for Artificial Intelligence Guide references the definition used in the Merriam-Webster dictionary, describing AI as "a branch of computer science dealing with the simulation of intelligent behaviour in computers".

**AI Implementation in Legal Processes:** Despite the absence of specific AI-related judicial decisions, the UAE has begun integrating AI into its judicial processes, including AI-powered dispute resolution mechanisms. The Federal Public Prosecution has announced the development of an innovative digital system based on artificial intelligence to enhance and expedite its work. Additionally, AI could soon play a key role in the UAE's judicial system, with trials already underway to test its effectiveness in case analysis. A top government official has revealed that AI is being used to assist in cases where outcomes are clear-cut and require no human discretion.

**AI in the Legal Profession:** The legal profession in the UAE is actively exploring use cases and assessing AI's costs and benefits. A Deloitte survey found that 62% of lawyers believe AI will significantly impact the legal profession within three years. Lawyers are already using AI for tasks such as marketing, contract review, and e-discovery, with considerable scope for wider adoption. McKinsey & Company predicts that 22% of legal tasks can be automated by AI. In the legal sector, UAE courts are using AI to improve case management, support translation, and provide virtual courtroom environments. The DIFC courts have issued guidelines for AI-generated content in litigation, while the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department uses AI solutions to monitor criminal cases.

**Legal Challenges and Future Developments:** As AI becomes more integrated into the UAE's legal system, several challenges and considerations arise. These include determining accountability in cases of AI-related harm or errors, ensuring compliance with data protection laws, addressing potential biases in AI algorithms, clarifying intellectual property rights for AI-generated content, balancing the benefits of AI with ethical considerations, and establishing clear guidelines for AI systems capable of autonomous decision-making. The UAE's forward-thinking approach to AI regulation underscores its commitment to harnessing technology responsibly. By addressing the legal challenges posed by AI, the country is creating a supportive environment for innovation while safeguarding societal values.

## Conclusion

The United Arab Emirates has established itself as a forward-thinking nation at the forefront of legislative reform, technological advancement, and economic diversification. Since its formation in 1971, the UAE has transformed from an economy dependent on fishing and pearling to a dynamic, diversified economic powerhouse with a GDP of US\$568 billion in 2024. This remarkable evolution is evident across all sectors examined in this report.

The UAE's recent legal regulations between 2020 and 2025 demonstrate a comprehensive approach to modernizing governance across multiple domains. From mandating female representation on corporate boards to implementing environmental protections against plastic pollution, the country is aligning its regulatory framework with global best practices while addressing local needs. Reforms in traffic management, healthcare insurance, workforce development, and personal status law further illustrate the UAE's commitment to creating a progressive, inclusive society prepared for future challenges.



The UAE's ambitious AI strategy positions the country as an emerging global leader in artificial intelligence, with projections suggesting AI will contribute \$91 billion to the economy by 2031. The government's institutional commitment to AI development is evident through the appointment of the world's first Minister for AI in 2017 and the creation of dedicated entities like the Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technology Council. The integration of AI across government services further demonstrates the UAE's practical application of its strategic vision.

In intellectual property and data protection, the UAE has established a robust legal framework through significant legislative updates in 2021. The comprehensive protections for copyrights, trademarks, and patents reflect the country's understanding of intellectual property's importance in the digital economy. Similarly, the Personal Data Protection Law provides a strong foundation for safeguarding individual privacy while enabling responsible data use.

The UAE has shown foresight in addressing intellectual property questions related to AI outputs, with Federal Decree-Law No. 38/2021 extending protection to works generated by or with AI. This forward-looking approach positions the UAE to navigate the complex intellectual property challenges arising from rapidly evolving AI technologies.

The country's substantial investments in AI infrastructure and computing power underscore its serious commitment to technological leadership. Major partnerships with global technology companies like Microsoft and Cerebras Systems, combined with ambitious projects such as the Condor Galaxy supercomputer cluster, demonstrate the UAE's determination to build world-class AI capabilities. The planned investments of up to €50 billion in European data centers further illustrate the global scope of the UAE's AI ambitions.

While judicial decisions specifically related to AI remain limited, the UAE is actively integrating AI into its legal system, with applications in case analysis, court management, and dispute resolution. This reflects the country's broader approach of embracing technological innovation while carefully addressing associated legal and ethical challenges.

As the UAE continues its journey toward becoming a knowledge-based economy and global innovation hub, its comprehensive approach to regulation, investment, and institutional development positions it well to achieve its ambitious goals. The integration of emerging technologies, particularly AI, into its economic and governance structures represents a clear strategic choice to embrace the future while building on the country's traditional strengths. Through this balanced approach, the UAE is establishing itself as a model for technology-driven national development in the Middle East and beyond.

# Country AI Policies Regulations and Strategies Report

