



# Message from the CEO

As we look towards the future, it is clear that the world is changing at a rapid pace. Jobs and skills in high demand today will not be the same as those needed in the coming years. To prepare our youth for the challenges and opportunities of the future, we must prioritize and expand access to high-quality education and skill-building opportunities.

In 2022, the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation has continued to support youth through institutional and ecosystem level programs that enhance access to sustainable and high-quality education and skill-building opportunities. By incorporating sustainability into our work using the Nexus approach, we renewed our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5, 8, and 17.

Our commitment to fostering innovation and partnership to achieve sustainable development aligns with the UAE leadership's vision to promote system-level solutions for economic, social, and environmental betterment. This year, we broadened our thought leadership, launching the Al Ghurair thought leadership series with the aim of collaborating with relevant stakeholders to find sustainable solutions, promote inclusive and equitable quality education, and offer lifelong learning opportunities for all. Our work to cultivate the future skills that youth need for higher education, employment, and entrepreneurship is only possible because of the dedication and hard work of our team, our partners, and the youth themselves. Accordingly, this year we committed to involving youth in shaping future initiatives with us and established the Al Ghurair Foundation Youth Advisory Council. We chose

14 outstanding Emirati and Arab youth to ensure that our programmatic development, as well as current and future initiatives and engagements are tailored to the youth's needs and aspirations. Through our work with our partners and our youth council, we hope to empower youth to become self-sufficient leaders of tomorrow.

Moving ahead, we are excited to continue our work and remain committed to our vision of creating a world in which every young person is empowered to make a positive difference. We encourage all relevant stakeholders to contribute to our collective responsibility of finding sustainable solutions that foster tomorrow's leaders.

**Sonia Ben Jaafar**

CEO, Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation  
Chairperson, the Global Council on Sustainable Development Goals