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Report Name: UAE Food Security Council

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UAE Establishes Food Security Council, Tasks include Reviewing Food Regulations

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Report Highlights:

The UAE cabinet established the “Emirates Food Security Council” to coordinate and lead the implementation of the UAE’s National Food Security Strategy in conjunction with federal and local entities. One of the Council’s tasks is to review all food regulations before adopted at the federal level. It is also tasked to develop and proposes regulations and policy to enhance food security in the country. In its inaugural meeting held on February 10, 2020, members laid out plans for the committee moving forward, approved the formation of the advisory committee, and the role of the general secretariat.

Report Summary:

On December 8, 2019, the UAE Cabinet announced the establishment of “Emirates Food Security Council EFSC” to coordinate and lead the implementation of the National Food Security Strategy in conjunction with federal and local entities (Details on UAE Food Security Strategy can be found here <https://foodsecurity.gov.ae/en/our-strategic-directions>). The council’s scope of work includes proposing regulation, legislation and policy related to food security; revising food legislation; building national food security database; studying food security risks; submitting periodic reports to the UAE Cabinet on the progress of initiatives and projects, and monitoring the Global Food Security Index and related programs.

The EFSC is chaired by the Minister of State for Food Security and includes an advisory committee and general secretariat. The council consists of representatives from the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Climate Change and the Environment, Ministry of Energy and Industry, Ministry of Health and Prevention, Ministry of Education, National Emergency, Crisis and Disasters Management Authority, as well as representative from the seven emirates local governments and a youth representative.

The advisory committee consists of representatives from academia, the private sector and relevant public interest groups. The general secretariat studies proposed policies submitted by different authorities, reviews their legitimacy, make sure there is no contradiction between the concerned policies and other applicable legislation, and ensures that the laws are easy to understand as well as apply.



The UAE’s Inaugural Meeting held on February 10, 2020 and Chaired by Minister of Food Security

On February 10, 2020, the council held its inaugural meeting and discussed the establishment of national committees specialized in facilitating the food trade, diversifying food imports, increasing GDP and limiting food waste. It also discussed the work of the advisory committee and approved a work plan for the general secretariat.

Due to its harsh weather, the United Arab Emirates imports around 90 percent of its food needs. In 2019, total UAE imports of agricultural and food commodities were nearly \$16 billion of which \$1.3 billion from the United States.

Attachments:

No Attachments.