

EXECUTIVE STATEMENT



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What importance does sustainability have in DMCC's overall strategic plan?

As a government authority and a world-leading free zone, we firmly believe in our duty to conduct business responsibly and in a way that generates a positive impact across the value chain, the communities in which we operate and society at large. With that in mind, sustainability is integrated into the DNA of our business strategy; embedded in the lifecycle of all our business operations and services. As such, we are committed to the UAE Vision 2021 and Dubai's sustainability ambitions and strategies. We prioritise the UN Sustainable Development Goals based on where we believe we can significantly impact.

Reflecting on 2020, how has DMCC shown resilience in the face of the global pandemic?

The UAE leadership's vision, ambition and drive mean we always strive to push the boundaries of what is possible. At DMCC, we adopt the same attitude, which is why, despite the pandemic, 2020 was a record-breaking year for us, both in terms of company formation and commodities trade performance.

Our resilience comes from many different places. Firstly, our employees continued to work tirelessly despite all the unknowns they faced. Secondly, from our members and the continued trust they place in us. To support each one of the over 19,000 companies that have chosen DMCC as their place to do business, we launched the DMCC Business Support Package - this resulted in us going beyond just retaining business but actually attracting a record number of companies throughout the year. Thirdly, this resilience comes from our robust, forward-looking business strategy, which recognises the central role of innovation, digital transformation, and sustainability.

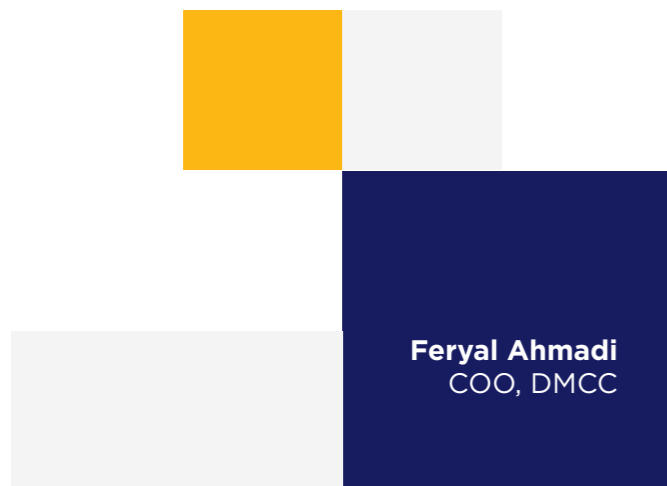
Looking towards 2021 and beyond, what are the main sustainability-related opportunities for DMCC?

Dubai aims to reduce its energy consumption by 30% by 2030, and free zones have an essential part to play. As the largest and fastest-growing free zone in the UAE, DMCC is committed to the UAE's green growth strategy. We have adopted advanced technologies and operational mechanisms to track our environmental footprint accurately. We recognise a data-driven approach is the only way to go if we want to support global net-zero ambitions.

How would you say DMCC contributes to international cooperation to tackle global challenges?

DMCC's mandate is to attract, facilitate, and enable trade flows through Dubai. That simply cannot happen without global cooperation and partnerships with key stakeholders in the industries we operate in. Every year, we sign multiple strategic agreements with leading organisations across the globe to enhance bilateral ties and explore trade opportunities. We travel the world, physically and virtually, to engage with our stakeholders and participate in global conversations to contribute to a more sustainable future. That collaboration and connection is core to our business.

One historic achievement and landmark moment in 2020 was the signing of the Abraham Accords, establishing full diplomatic relations between the UAE and Israel. Subsequently, DMCC signed an agreement with the Israel Diamond Exchange to foster collaboration among two of the world's leading diamond bourses. While we explore other areas and sectors of mutual interest, we look forward to seeing the positive impact this cooperation will bring to our two countries and the region.



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Why was it important for DMCC to refine and share its sustainability strategy in 2020?

Governments and businesses the world over are realising that sustainability and sustainable practices are fundamental to success. DMCC is no different, which is why we place sustainability at the core of our business strategy. In 2019, we conducted our second materiality assessment, which saw us engage with a broader stakeholder audience to better understand additional priority topics requiring our attention. In 2020, we further refined our sustainability framework to align with our business values. As a responsible and transparent organisation, we chose to share this strategy to provide all our stakeholders with visibility of our priorities whilst providing a benchmark for accountability.

How did DMCC's sustainable values help the management address the challenges of COVID-19?

At DMCC, we convene, connect, communicate, capacity build and most importantly, we

care. We are committed and collaborative. These values guided our decision-making process and were instrumental in enabling us to address the challenges posed by the pandemic. Our commitment to employees, members, partners and residents meant that we could support all our stakeholders to navigate the impact of a global crisis. Following a collaborative approach, we listened to what their needs were and responded accordingly. As a result, 2020 was a record-breaking year for DMCC.

Why is the SDG Steering Committee important to DMCC's sustainability strategy?

The SDG Steering Committee was formed in 2018 to ensure the collaborative implementation of DMCC's sustainability strategy. It includes representation from across the entire organisation and reports to the Executive Management regularly on the progress made to meet our targets. This governance structure guarantees that sustainability is embedded in everything we do, which in turn allows us to meet or exceed our commitments to the UN Global Compact, UN Women's Empowerment Principles, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It also means we have an accountability mechanism in place that keeps us on track to deliver on our sustainability promises.

What have been the priority sustainability topics or SDGs identified under the strategy, and why?

Based on our 24 material topics, we identified seven priority SDGs, where we can make the most impact:

1. Gender Equality – We make an impact through our commitment to the Women Empowerment Principles and by ensuring gender equality is a primary pillar of our social impact programme.

2. Decent Work and Economic Growth - DMCC makes an impact by building our member companies' capacity and holding suppliers to a higher standard.

3. Sustainable Cities and Communities - DMCC makes an impact by making its community safer and more sustainable with one out of five of its focus areas on smart mobility.

4. Responsible Consumption and Production - DMCC makes an impact by reducing waste in the Master Community and integrating responsible procurement practices. As a part of our commitment to the UNGC, we promote UNGC membership and associated reporting to our member companies.

5. Climate Action - DMCC makes an impact by setting baselines, measuring its footprint, reducing energy consumption and implementing improvements through strategic partnerships.

6. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - DMCC makes an impact by advancing its regulatory compliance and legal functions with a zero-tolerance policy to corruption.

7. Partnerships for the Goals - DMCC makes an impact by leveraging its ability as a government authority, regulator of a free zone, and a master developer of its mixed-use community, to form partnerships that drive the common good.