

**Federal Decree-Law No. (31) of 2025  
On Higher Education and Scientific Research**

**We, Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan,  
President of the United Arab Emirates,**

- Having reviewed the Constitution;
- Federal Law No. (1) of 1972 on the Competencies of Ministries and Powers of Ministers, as amended;
- Federal Decree by Law No. (48) of 2021 On Higher Education;
- Federal Decree by Law No. (42) of 2024 Regarding the Establishment and Regulation of the Education, Human Development and Community Development Council;
- And acting upon the proposal of the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the approval of the Cabinet,

**Have issued the following Decree-Law:**

**Article (1)  
Definitions**

For the purposes of this Decree-Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned against each, unless the context requires otherwise:

<b>State</b>	:	The United Arab Emirates.
<b>Ministry</b>	:	The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
<b>Minister</b>	:	The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
<b>Competent Local Authority</b>	:	The local government entity concerned with higher education, scientific research, and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) affairs in any of the Emirates of the State, in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law.
<b>Higher Education</b>	:	Education that follows general education and is provided by Higher Education Institutions that grant the student an academic or professional degree in accordance with the levels stipulated in the National Qualifications Framework, upon completion of all approved study requirements
<b>Higher Education Institutions</b>	:	Public and private educational institutions offering higher education programs in the State. These include universities, colleges, higher education institutes, specialized universities (such as police, military, and naval), branches of international universities, as well as universities, institutes, and colleges in Free Zones

<b>Government Higher Education Institutions</b>	: Higher education institutions owned by the State, by one of the Member Emirates of the Union, or by one of their respective institutions
<b>Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutions</b>	: Institutions offering accredited vocational programs at a level exceeding the General Secondary Certificate or its equivalent, in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework, for the purpose of developing individuals' technical and vocational skills.
<b>Institutional Licensure</b>	: A document issued by the Ministry to a Higher Education Institution, authorizing it to conduct its educational activities and provide higher education programs and services within the State.
<b>Program Accreditation</b>	: A document issued by the Ministry to a Higher Education Institution or a TVET Institution, acknowledging and approving that the institution's program(s) have been evaluated and have met the requisite standards and conditions for accreditation in the State, and authorizing said institution to commence offering the program to students.
<b>Local Permit</b>	: An approval issued by the Competent Local Authority to a Higher Education Institution, authorizing it to provide higher education services within the Free Zones of the Emirate, in accordance with the approved national frameworks for higher education and scientific research and the applicable local legislation.
<b>National Qualifications Framework</b>	: The national reference for structuring qualifications within the State and aligning them with national development plans, future needs, and international qualifications frameworks. It consists of levels arranged progressively according to the nature and complexity of knowledge, skills, and responsibilities.
<b>National Framework for the Licensure of Higher Education Institutions</b>	: The set of standards, conditions, and procedures required for a Higher Education Institution to obtain Institutional Licensure, including the mechanism and terms for renewal.
<b>National Framework for Classification, Performance Quality, and Oversight of Higher Education Institutions</b>	: The set of indicators, targets, and procedures used to measure the performance of Higher Education Institutions, classify them, and oversee their compliance with Institutional Licensure and Program Accreditation standards.
<b>National Framework for Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions</b>	: The set of priorities, policies, standards, and procedures regulating scientific research within higher education institutions.

- National Framework for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)** : The set of standards, conditions, controls, and procedures required for a TVET institution to obtain Institutional Accreditation to offer vocational programs accredited by the Ministry.
- Institutional Accreditation** : A document issued by the Ministry to a TVET institution, authorizing it to conduct its activities and provide technical and vocational training programs and services in the State.
- Training License** : A document issued by the Ministry or the Competent Local Authority, each within its jurisdiction, to training centers and institutes, authorizing them to conduct their training activities and offer training programs that do not lead to the granting of qualifications aligned with the levels of the National Qualifications Framework.

## **Article (2)**

### **Objectives**

This Decree-Law aims to achieve the following:

1. Regulate the licensure, classification, program accreditation, and supervision of Higher Education Institutions and Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions, and ensure their effective governance and administration.
2. Enhance the quality and competitiveness of higher education to achieve alignment between educational system outcomes and labor market requirements, and support the lifelong learning journey for all graduates.
3. Support and encourage scientific research in Higher Education Institutions through funding as well as local and international partnerships.
4. Strengthen the quality of technical and vocational education and training and underscore its importance in supplying the labor market with qualified personnel capable of meeting labor market requirements.

## **Article (3)**

### **Scope of Application**

1. The provisions of this Decree-Law shall apply to all Higher Education Institutions and Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions in the State, including those in Free Zones of all types.
2. The Cabinet may, based on the Minister's proposal and following the approval of the Education, Human Development and Community Council, exempt any Higher Education Institution or Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institution from some or all of the provisions of this Decree-Law.

## **Article (4)**

### **Stages of the Higher Education System**

1. The Ministry shall ensure that the higher education system integrates with the general education system within the framework of a sustainable future vision. This shall be done through the system of successive and sequential educational stages, and in a manner that supplies society with cadres who are qualified in a sound, modern, and integrated manner, serving the labor market and achieving the State's goals and its future and developmental plans.
2. The higher education system comprises stages, each corresponding to a specific level in the National Qualifications Framework in the State. The National Qualifications Framework determines the knowledge, skills, and responsibilities outcomes required for each level within such stages.
3. Higher Education Institutions and Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions must develop study programs characterized by innovation, flexibility, and

proactivity, so as to keep pace with future technical and scientific developments and meet the evolving needs of the labor market.

### **Article (5)**

#### **National Frameworks for Higher Education and Scientific Research**

1. The Cabinet shall issue, based on the Minister's proposal and following the approval of the Education, Human Development and Community Council and coordination with the Competent Local Authorities, the following regulatory frameworks:
  - a. The National Framework for the Licensure of Higher Education Institutions.
  - b. The National Qualifications Framework.
  - c. The National Framework for Classification, Performance Quality, and Oversight of Higher Education Institutions.
  - d. The National Framework for Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions.
  - e. The National Framework for Technical and Vocational Education and Training.
2. Competent Local Authorities may issue local frameworks to regulate permit issuance, evaluation, oversight, performance quality, and scientific research activities, provided these do not conflict with the requirements of the approved National Frameworks referred to in this Article. Such local frameworks must incorporate the standards, conditions, indicators, and procedures required at the federal level.

**Article (6)**  
**Licensure of Higher Education Institutions**

1. Establishing or operating any Higher Education Institution, offering higher education programs and services in the State, or promoting or advertising its programs and services is prohibited unless Institutional Licensure is obtained.
2. For a Higher Education Institution to obtain Institutional Licensure, the following is required:
  - a. Fulfillment of the conditions and requirements set forth in the National Framework for the Licensure of Higher Education Institutions, including the following:
    - (1) The Higher Education Institution must have a distinctive name in accordance with the conditions and controls determined by the National Framework for the Licensure of Higher Education Institutions.
    - (2) Submission of an application by the owner of the Higher Education Institution including at least basic information regarding the institution's administration, its location, the colleges it will comprise, and the programs it will offer.
    - (3) Submission by the owner of the Higher Education Institution of financial guarantees ensuring the institution's ability to meet its financial obligations.
  - b. Obtaining any permits requested by the Competent Local Authorities, and other requirements and conditions determined by the concerned local authorities, provided that the Higher Education Institution's location, building, and facilities are suitable for conducting the educational process and meet health conditions and security and safety specifications.

**Article (7)**  
**Validity Term and Renewal of Institutional Licensure**

1. Institutional Licensure shall be valid for a specific, renewable term. The duration of the Institutional Licensure shall be determined by a decision of the Minister.
2. The Higher Education Institution shall be evaluated by the Ministry for the purpose of renewing the Institutional Licensure. Renewal shall be effected in accordance with the same conditions and controls established for the initial issuance of the Institutional Licensure, as applicable.
3. The Ministry may grant the Higher Education Institution an additional grace period of (90) ninety days following the expiration date of the Institutional Licensure to provide the data necessary for conducting the evaluation for renewal purposes, provided there are justifications accepted by the Ministry.
4. Failure by the Higher Education Institution to provide the necessary data to the Ministry for conducting the evaluation for renewal purposes within the grace period specified in

Clause (3) of this Article shall result in the cancellation of the Institutional Licensure and the imposition of administrative penalties prescribed in this regard under the regulation of violations, penalties, and administrative measures issued in accordance with the provisions of Article (20) of this Decree-Law. In such case, the permit issued by the Competent Local Authority shall be deemed cancelled upon the cancellation of the Institutional Licensure.

#### **Article (8)**

##### **Assignment of Institutional Licensure**

The Institutional Licensure may not be transferred or assigned, whether expressly or implicitly, without the Ministry's approval. In the event that the Higher Education Institution holding the Institutional Licensure possesses a permit from the Competent Local Authority, it must obtain prior approval from the Competent Local Authority before submitting the application for the Ministry's approval.

#### **Article (9)**

##### **Cancellation of Institutional Licensure**

1. Without prejudice to the imposition of penalties and measures set forth in the regulation of violations, penalties, and administrative measures issued pursuant to the provisions of Article (20) of this Decree-Law, the Ministry may issue a decision to cancel the Institutional Licensure of a Higher Education Institution in any of the following cases, while taking the necessary measures to address the status of students enrolled in the Higher Education Institution:
  - a. The Higher Education Institution practices an activity for which it is not licensed.
  - b. It is established that the acquisition of the Institutional Licensure was the result of submitting forged documents or incorrect data or information.
  - c. The Higher Education Institution remains closed for a period exceeding (3) three consecutive months without an excuse acceptable to the Ministry.
  - d. Failure to commence operations at the Higher Education Institution within one year from the date of the Institutional Licensure without an excuse acceptable to the Ministry.
  - e. Any other cases determined by the National Framework for the Licensure of Higher Education Institutions.
2. The Ministry shall coordinate with the Competent Local Authority before cancelling the Institutional Licensure, if the Higher Education Institution holds a permit from the Competent Local Authority, to satisfy any requirements or procedures required by the Competent Local Authority.

**Article (10)**  
**Program Accreditation**

1. Higher Education Institutions are prohibited from offering, promoting, or advertising any academic program, admitting students thereto, or commencing study therein prior to obtaining Program Accreditation.
2. The issuance of Institutional Licensure is a prerequisite for initiating Program Accreditation procedures for academic programs offered by the Higher Education Institution.
3. To obtain Program Accreditation, a Higher Education Institution must submit an application to the Ministry. The Higher Education Institution shall undergo a comprehensive evaluation by the Ministry to verify its compliance with the standards and conditions of Program Accreditation.
4. The Ministry may accredit academic programs that hold international accreditations without the need to repeat Program Accreditation procedures or pay additional fees, provided the following conditions are met:
  - a. The Higher Education Institution holds Institutional Licensure.
  - b. The international accrediting body is trusted and recognized by the Ministry.
  - c. The standards of the international accrediting body are not lower than the national accreditation standards.

**Article (11)**  
**Validity Term and Renewal of Program Accreditation**

1. Program Accreditation shall be valid for a specific, renewable term, and the duration shall be determined in accordance with the duration of the Institutional Licensure of the Higher Education Institution offering the academic program.
2. The Higher Education Institution shall be evaluated by the Ministry for the purpose of renewing the Program Accreditation. Renewal shall be effected in accordance with the same conditions and controls established for the initial issuance of the Program Accreditation, as applicable.
3. The Ministry may grant the Higher Education Institution an additional grace period of (90) ninety days following the expiration date of the Program Accreditation, provided there are justifications accepted by the Ministry.
4. Failure by the Higher Education Institution to provide the necessary data to the Ministry for conducting the evaluation for renewal purposes within the period specified in Clause (3) of this Article shall result in the cancellation of the Program Accreditation and the imposition of administrative penalties prescribed in this regard under the regulation of violations, penalties, and administrative measures issued in accordance with the provisions



of Article (20) of this Decree-Law, while taking into account the adoption of necessary measures to address the status of students enrolled in the academic program.

5. The Ministry shall coordinate with the Competent Local Authority before cancelling the Program Accreditation, if the Higher Education Institution holds a permit from the Competent Local Authority, to satisfy any requirements or procedures required by the Competent Local Authority.

#### **Article (12)**

##### **Classification and Evaluation of Higher Education Institutions**

Higher Education Institutions licensed in the State in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law shall be subject to periodic classification and evaluation processes by the Ministry, in accordance with the approved National Framework for Classification, Performance Quality, and Oversight of Higher Education Institutions. The Ministry shall publish the classification results of Higher Education Institutions and make them available following the approval of the Education, Human Development and Community Council and the approval thereof by the Cabinet.

#### **Article (13)**

##### **Oversight and Inspection**

1. The Ministry shall oversee the compliance of Higher Education Institutions and Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions with the provisions of this Decree-Law, the decisions issued in implementation thereof, and the approved National Frameworks referred to in Article (5) of this Decree-Law. To this end, the Ministry may conduct inspections, request necessary information and documents, and take necessary measures to ensure the adherence of Higher Education Institutions to the prescribed standards and conditions.
2. The Ministry's powers regarding oversight of Higher Education Institutions and Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions shall not prejudice the powers granted to the Competent Local Authorities regarding oversight and inspection under their applicable local legislation.

#### **Article (14)**

##### **Higher Education Institutions in Free Zones**

1. Higher Education Institutions in Free Zones must obtain Institutional Licensure to conduct their activities.
2. Higher Education Institutions in Free Zones must obtain a Local Permit from the Competent Local Authority before applying for Institutional Licensure.
3. The Ministry shall grant Institutional Licensure to a Higher Education Institution in Free Zones that holds a Local Permit, without the need to repeat Institutional Licensure procedures or pay additional fees.

4. A Higher Education Institution in Free Zones is obligated to provide the information and data required by the Ministry, in accordance with the approved mechanism issued by a decision of the Minister following coordination with the Competent Local Authorities, without prejudice to the right of the Competent Local Authority to request data or information.
5. All academic programs at Higher Education Institutions in Free Zones shall be subject to the Program Accreditation standards and mechanisms approved by the Ministry.
6. The Ministry and the Competent Local Authorities may coordinate to implement oversight and inspection procedures for Higher Education Institutions operating in Free Zones.
7. The Competent Local Authority shall assume the function of imposing administrative penalties and measures on Higher Education Institutions in Free Zones in accordance with the local legislation applicable in the Emirate. The Ministry may notify the Competent Local Authority of violations related to such institutions for cognizance and coordination purposes.
8. The Competent Local Authority may issue local frameworks to regulate the issuance of Local Permits, evaluation, oversight, performance quality, and scientific research activities at Higher Education Institutions in Free Zones, provided these do not conflict with the requirements of the approved National Frameworks referred to in Article (5) of this Decree-Law. Such local frameworks must incorporate the standards, conditions, indicators, and procedures required at the federal level.

#### **Article (15)**

##### **Regulation of Digital and Blended E-Learning**

Higher Education Institutions and Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions offering digital or blended electronic educational programs shall adhere to the following:

1. Adopt innovative and flexible educational methods that consider the specific nature of digital education, ensure the protection of data and intellectual property rights, and promote interaction and active participation between students and faculty members.
2. Apply quality assurance standards in accordance with the approved National Frameworks referred to in Article (5) of this Decree-Law.
3. Subject such programs to independent academic or professional accreditation to ensure the efficiency of educational outcomes.
4. Periodically review such programs to ensure quality continuity and update curricula in line with technological developments and labor market requirements, in accordance with the standards and mechanisms determined by the approved National Frameworks referred to in Article (5) of this Decree-Law.

## **Article (16)**

### **Obligations of Higher Education Institutions**

Higher Education Institutions shall adhere to the following:

1. Obtain prior approval from the Ministry and the Competent Local Authority, if the Higher Education Institution holds a permit therefrom, before implementing any intended substantial changes, in accordance with the provisions of the approved National Framework for the Licensure of Higher Education Institutions.
2. Obtain prior approval from the Ministry and the Competent Local Authority, if the Higher Education Institution holds a permit therefrom, when adding any new academic units (such as colleges, institutes, or centers) to the Higher Education Institution or closing any existing academic unit.
3. Subject all academic programs of the Higher Education Institution to the Program Accreditation standards and mechanisms approved by the Ministry.
4. Obtain prior approval from the Ministry before the Higher Education Institution implements any substantial amendments to its academic programs.
5. Provide any information, documents, or records regarding the higher education activities conducted by the Higher Education Institution or related to its performance, upon the Ministry's request and in accordance with the mechanisms approved by the Ministry.
6. Submit data regarding applicants, enrolled students, new students, continuing students, graduates, and academic and administrative staff to the Ministry, in accordance with the mechanisms approved by the Ministry.
7. Allow authorized employees of the Ministry or the Competent Local Authority to enter the Higher Education Institution and conduct auditing, evaluation, and oversight activities on its facilities and operations by reviewing records, documents, and files or employing any means deemed necessary by the employee of the Ministry or the Competent Local Authority to complete their tasks.
8. Adhere to the regulations regarding advertisements, publishing, and the use of titles related to higher education as determined in the approved National Frameworks for Higher Education referred to in Article (5) of this Decree-Law.
9. Apply principles of institutional governance, transparency, and disclosure, including risk management, ensuring academic integrity, quality of decision-making, and business continuity.
10. Endeavor to develop an innovative and flexible educational environment that employs modern technologies in education, assessment, and scientific research and supports digital transformation in higher education.
11. Adopt sustainable practices and solutions in managing educational resources and facilities that enhance energy and water use efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of the Higher Education Institution.
12. Adhere to the stipulations, standards, and controls determined in the approved National Frameworks for Higher Education referred to in Article (5) of this Decree-Law.

## **Article (17)**

### **National Registers for Higher Education Institutions and their Academic Programs**

1. The following National Registers shall be established at the Ministry:
  - a. The National Register for Licensed Higher Education Institutions in the State, containing data on Higher Education Institutions holding Institutional Licensure, including the institution's name in both Arabic and English, the accredited programs it offers, and other licensure data determined by the approved National Framework for the Licensure of Higher Education Institutions.
  - b. The National Register for Accredited Higher Education Programs in the State, containing data on academic programs holding Program Accreditation, including program names and their specializations and subspecialties in both Arabic and English, the institutions offering such programs, and other Program Accreditation data determined by the approved National Framework for the Licensure of Higher Education Institutions.
2. A decision by the Minister shall determine the mechanisms for linking the National Registers referred to in Clause (1) of this Article with the relevant databases in Higher Education Institutions holding Institutional Licensure, as well as the controls and procedures for recording, preserving, managing, using, circulating, exchanging, and making available the referred data and information. The linking mechanisms must include coordination with the Competent Local Authorities regarding linking with the databases of Higher Education Institutions in Free Zones holding a Local Permit.

## **Article (18)**

### **Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions**

1. Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions must, prior to offering any vocational or technical program leading to the granting of qualifications aligned with the levels of the National Qualifications Framework, obtain the approval of the Competent Local Authority, if applicable, in accordance with the local legislation in force in this regard and the approved National Framework for Technical and Vocational Education and Training. This must be done before applying for Institutional Accreditation.
2. The Ministry shall grant Institutional Accreditation to Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions that hold approval from the Competent Local Authority.
3. The Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institution must obtain Program Accreditation when offering any vocational or technical program leading to the granting of qualifications aligned with the levels of the National Qualifications Framework.

4. The Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institution must obtain Program Accreditation before offering international vocational qualifications.
5. The Ministry or the Competent Local Authority, each within its jurisdiction, shall grant the Training License to Training Centers and Institutes to conduct their training activities and offer training programs that do not lead to the granting of qualifications aligned with the levels of the National Qualifications Framework.
6. Training Centers and Institutes holding a Training License that wish to offer vocational programs leading to the granting of an accredited vocational qualification aligned with the levels of the National Qualifications Framework must obtain the approval of the Competent Local Authority, following the fulfillment of the requirements set forth in the National Framework for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, and obtain Program Accreditation.

#### **Article (19)**

##### **Gifts and Donations**

Higher Education Institutions and Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions must adhere to the provisions of Federal Law No. (3) of 2021 on Regulating Donations or any other law superseding it. Such institutions must provide the Ministry and the Competent Local Authority with periodic reports regarding gifts or donations accepted or provided.

#### **Article (20)**

##### **Regulation of Violations, Penalties, and Administrative Measures**

1. The Cabinet shall issue, based on the Minister's proposal and following the approval of the Education, Human Development and Community Council, a decision regarding the regulation of violations, penalties, and administrative measures imposed by the Ministry for acts falling within its jurisdiction that violate the provisions of this Decree-Law and the decisions issued in implementation thereof, including the approved National Frameworks referred to in Article (5) of this Decree-Law. The decision must include the necessary measures to address the status of students enrolled in Higher Education Institutions and Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions as of the effective date thereof.
2. Without prejudice to the Ministry's authority to impose penalties in accordance with Clause (1) of this Article, Higher Education Institutions in Free Zones, Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions, and Training Centers and Institutes offering programs that do not lead to the granting of qualifications aligned with the levels of the National Qualifications Framework shall be subject to the administrative penalties and measures imposed upon them in accordance with the applicable local legislation in the Emirate within the jurisdiction of the Competent Local Authority.

## **Article (21)**

### **Grievance**

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of Clause (4) of this Article, a Higher Education Institution and a Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institution may submit a written grievance against the decisions, procedures, penalties, or measures issued or imposed by the Ministry in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law or the decisions issued in implementation thereof. This must be done within a period not exceeding (60) sixty days from the date of becoming aware of the decision, procedure, penalty, or measure being grieved.
2. A Grievance Committee shall be established at the Ministry, with its formation and operating procedures determined by a decision of the Minister. The Committee shall adjudicate the grievances referred to in Clause (1) of this Article within (60) sixty days from the date of submission. The decision issued regarding the grievance shall be final, and the grievant shall be notified thereof.
3. No lawsuits filed initially regarding disputes arising from the implementation of the provisions of this Decree-Law or the decisions issued in implementation thereof shall be accepted unless the grievance referred to has been submitted and adjudicated, or the statutory deadline for adjudication has lapsed, as the case may be.
4. The local legislation applicable in the Emirate within the jurisdiction of the Competent Local Authority shall apply to grievances filed against decisions, procedures, penalties, or measures imposed by the Competent Local Authority on Higher Education Institutions in Free Zones, as well as on Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions and Training Centers and Institutes offering programs that do not lead to the granting of qualifications aligned with the levels of the National Qualifications Framework.

## **Article (22)**

### **Penalties**

1. Without prejudice to any more severe penalty stipulated by any other law, a penalty of imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year and a fine of not less than (100,000) one hundred thousand Dirhams and not more than (10,000,000) ten million Dirhams, or either of these two penalties, shall be imposed on anyone who commits any of the following acts:
  - a. Establishing and operating a Higher Education Institution or offering higher education programs and services in the State for the purpose of granting a qualification, or promoting or advertising its services, prior to obtaining Institutional Licensure.
  - b. Offering, promoting, or advertising any academic or vocational program, accepting students, or commencing study therein without obtaining Program Accreditation for such programs.

- c. Advertising the granting of certificates before fulfilling the necessary requirements and licenses for granting them in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law and the decisions issued in implementation thereof.
  - d. Failure by the Higher Education Institution to provide data or information requested by the Ministry, or providing incorrect data or information.
2. The penalties stipulated in this Article shall not prejudice the Ministry's authority to impose administrative penalties or take necessary measures based on the provisions of this Decree-Law and the decisions issued in implementation thereof, nor the Competent Local Authority's power to impose administrative penalties or take necessary measures in accordance with its applicable local legislation.

### **Article (23)**

#### **Judicial Enforcement Capacity**

Employees designated by a resolution of the Minister of Justice based on the Minister's recommendation, or by a resolution of the head of the local judicial authority based on the recommendation of the head of the Competent Local Authority, shall have the capacity of judicial officers to establish violations of the provisions of this Decree-Law and the decisions issued in implementation thereof, within the scope of their respective jurisdiction.

### **Article (24)**

#### **Governance of Federal Government Higher Education Institutions**

Notwithstanding any provision contained in the establishment laws of Federal Government Higher Education Institutions, the Cabinet shall issue, based on the Minister's proposal and the approval of the Education, Human Development and Community Council, a resolution on the governance of Federal Government Higher Education Institutions in the State. This includes regulating their boards of trustees, mechanisms for appointing their directors, and the regulation of administrative, financial, human resources, and contractual matters, as well as their scholarship systems and funding mechanisms.

### **Article (25)**

#### **Rectification of Status**

Higher Education Institutions and Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions existing prior to the effective date of this Decree-Law must rectify their status within one year from the date it enters into force. This grace period may be extended for similar periods by a decision of the Minister in coordination with the Competent Local Authorities.

### **Article (26)**

#### **Fees**

1. The Cabinet shall issue, based on the presentation of the Minister of Finance and the Minister's proposal and following the approval of the Education, Human Development and

Community Council, a resolution determining the fees due for services provided by the Ministry within its jurisdiction to implement the provisions of this Decree-Law and the decisions issued in implementation thereof.

2. Fees for services provided by Competent Local Authorities shall be determined in accordance with the applicable legislation in each Emirate.

#### **Article (27)**

##### **Executive Resolutions**

The Cabinet shall issue, based on the Minister's proposal and following the approval of the Education, Human Development and Community Council and coordination with the Competent Local Authorities, the resolutions necessary to implement the provisions of this Decree-Law and to verify that Higher Education Institutions and Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions fulfill the obligations set forth herein.

#### **Article (28)**

##### **Delegation**

1. The Cabinet may issue a resolution delegating any of the Ministry's powers stipulated in this Decree-Law and the decisions issued in implementation thereof to any federal or local government entity, based on the Minister's proposal and following the approval of the Education, Human Development and Community Council.
2. The Ministry shall exercise the powers prescribed for the Competent Local Authority in Emirates where such an authority does not exist.

#### **Article (29)**

##### **Repeals**

1. Federal Decree-Law No. (48) of 2021 referred to is hereby repealed, as is every provision or text that violates or conflicts with the provisions of this Decree-Law.
2. Regulations and decisions issued prior to the effective date of this Decree-Law shall remain in force, to the extent that they do not conflict with its provisions, until the issuance of the decisions and regulations replacing them pursuant to the provisions of this Decree-Law.



**Article (30)**  
**Publication and Commencement**

This Decree-Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force as of January 1, 2026.

**Presidential Court**  
**Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**  
**President of the United Arab Emirates**

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Issued by us at the Presidential Palace - Abu Dhabi:

Date: 09 Rabi' al-Thani 1447 AH

Corresponding: 01 October 2025 AD