**Ministerial Resolution No. (220) of 2025**

**on Licensing Higher Education Institutions and Accrediting their Academic Programs**

**Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research:**

- Having perused Federal Decree-Law No. (28) of 2024 amending certain provisions of Federal Law No. (1) of 1972 Concerning the Competencies of Ministries and the Powers of Ministers;
- Federal Decree-Law No. (48) of 2021 on Higher Education;
- Cabinet Resolution No. (106) of 2024 Approving the National Qualifications Framework;
- Cabinet Resolution No. (21) of 2025 Concerning the Organizational Structure of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research;
- Ministerial Resolution No. (27) of 2024 Concerning the License of Higher Education Institutions, the Accreditation of their Academic Programs, and the Outcomes-Based Quality Assurance Framework, and the amendments thereof; and
- In consideration of the requirements of the public interest,

**Hereby resolves as follows:**

## Article (I)

1. The attached pathways for obtaining the necessary licenses and accreditations by higher education institutions in the State are hereby adopted, as follows:
    - A new higher education institution shall obtain an initial institutional license and commence its operations (the pathway set forth in Annex 1).
    - A new higher education institution shall obtain full accreditation for academic programs for the first time (the pathway set forth in Annex 2).
    - Renewal of institutional license or accreditation of academic programs for existing higher education institutions (the pathway set forth in Annex 3).
    - An existing higher education institution shall obtain academic accreditation for a new program (the pathway set forth in Annex 4).
2. The Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) shall publish the requirements and procedures for each pathway in a dedicated guide.

## Article (II)

1. A higher education institution shall comply with all requirements and standards for institutional licensing and program accreditation, in accordance with the standards, mechanisms, and conditions set by the CAA, as well as the controls and requirements approved by the Ministry.
2. A higher education institution that has an institutional license must establish electronic linkage with the Ministry within the time period specified in the licensing decision, for the purpose of sharing data on the outcomes-based quality assurance framework, as well as on the institution, its student and staff, and other relevant data and information.
3. A higher education institution shall obtain academic accreditation from the CAA for all programs it intends to launch during the period of initial license.

4. The institutional licensing decision issued to a higher education institution, in accordance with the pathways specified herein, shall define the academic units (such as colleges, departments, institutes, and centers) covered by the institution, as well as the academic fields and programs it intends to launch. A higher education institution will be obliged to obtain prior approval from the Ministry before adding any new academic unit or closing any existing one.

## Article (III)

Higher education institutions seeking academic accreditation for medical programs or other health-related programs must provide evidence of binding partnerships with clinical training centers (hospitals, pharmacies, laboratories, etc.) to ensure the continuous and uninterrupted provision of practical training for the expected number of students. Such partnership must be based on an approved agreement between the higher education institution and the training center. This agreement must, at a minimum, specify: the type and requirements of training, details regarding the number of trainees that can be accommodated, roles and responsibilities, qualifications of trainers, tools and facilities available for training, assessment methods, responsibility for health insurance and professional liability insurance. Such requirements will be detailed in a guidance manual.

## Article (IV)

The relevant sectors and departments of the Ministry must coordinate with higher education institutions and the competent local authorities to verify the quality of information and the fulfillment of licensing requirements and conditions, in order to ensure the optimal implementation of this Resolution.

## Article (V)

1. The Ministry shall have the right to reconsider the initial institutional license before its termination, based on the results of evaluation and inspection conducted by the Ministry's specialized teams, or in the event that the university fails to secure accreditation for any of its programs during the validity of license.
2. The Ministry shall have the right to revoke the initial institutional license in the event of a violation of the regulations and conditions approved by the Ministry. Such revocation shall not preclude the imposition of any other penalties stipulated in the applicable laws, regulations, and related decisions.

## Article (VI)

The Undersecretary of the Ministry shall issue the necessary decisions, circulars, and executive regulations to implement the provisions of this Resolution.

## Article (VII)

The Ministerial Resolution No. (27) of 2004 referred to herein shall be repealed, as shall any other provision that contradicts or conflicts with the provisions hereof.

**Article (VIII)**

This Resolution shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force as of the date of the issuance thereof.

**H.E Dr. Abdulrahman Abdulmanan Al Awar**

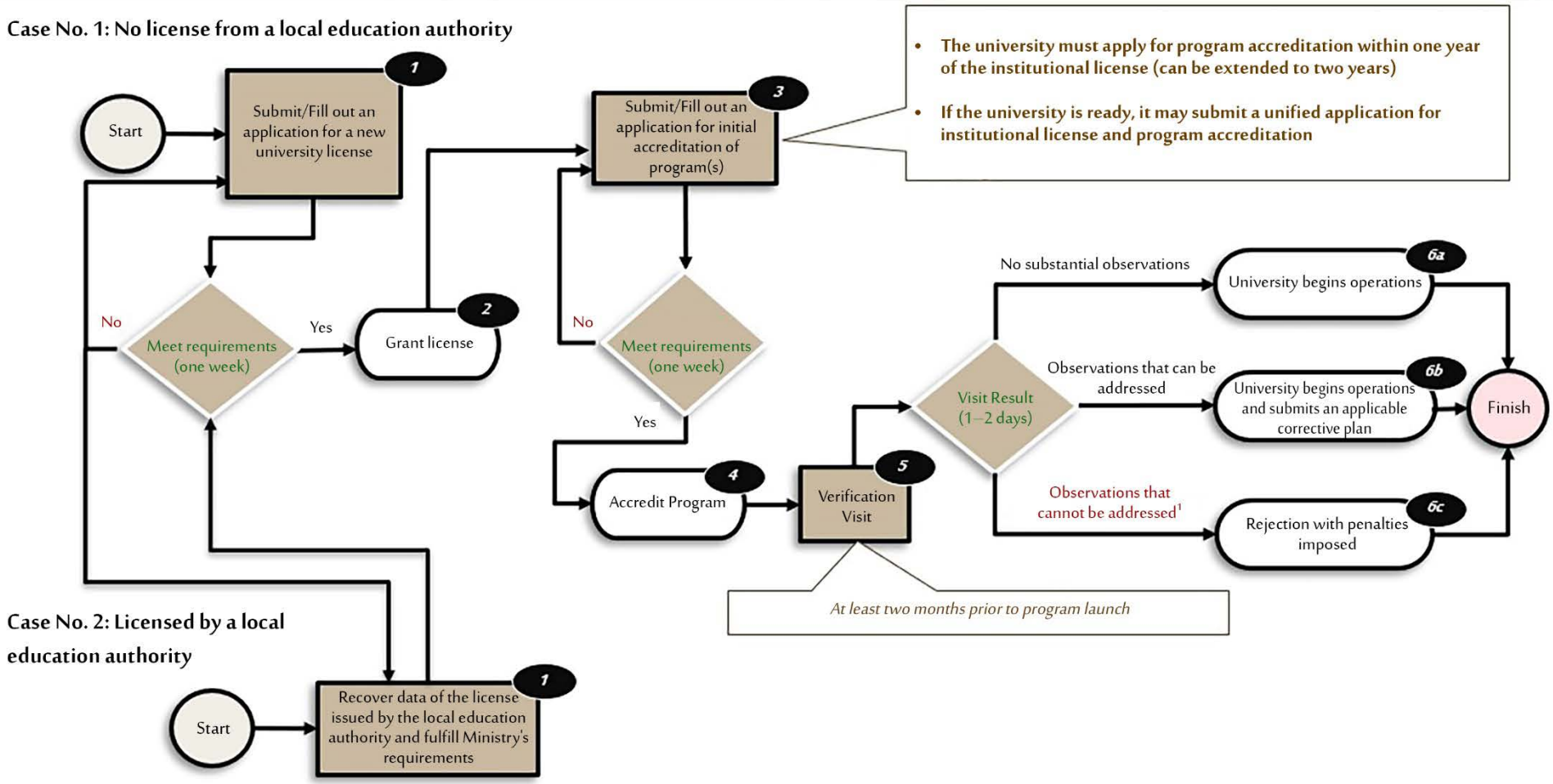
Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation

Acting Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research

**Issued on 25/09/2025**

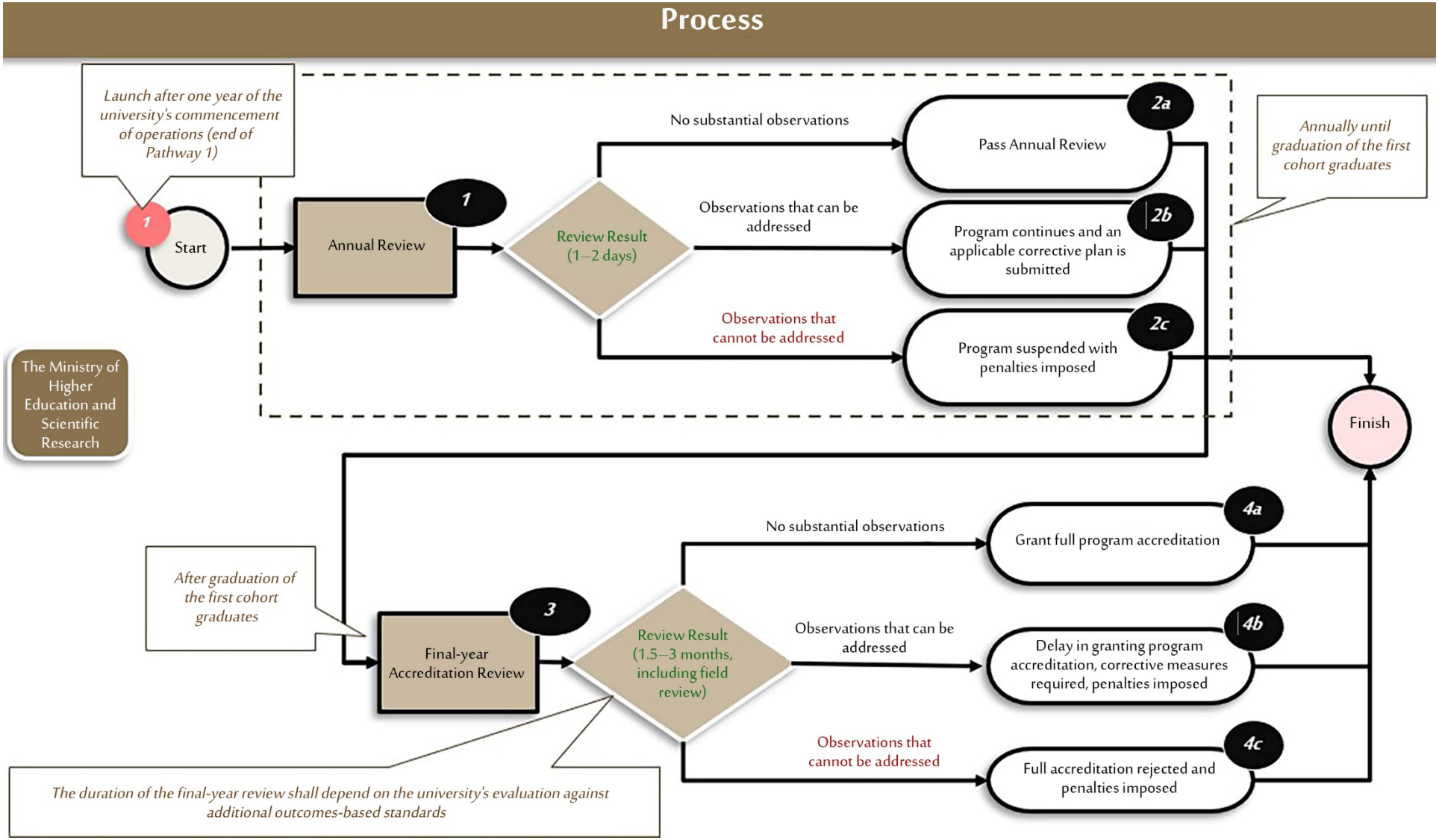
## Annex (1): Obtaining of Initial Institutional License and Commencement of Operations by a New Higher Education Institution

### Process



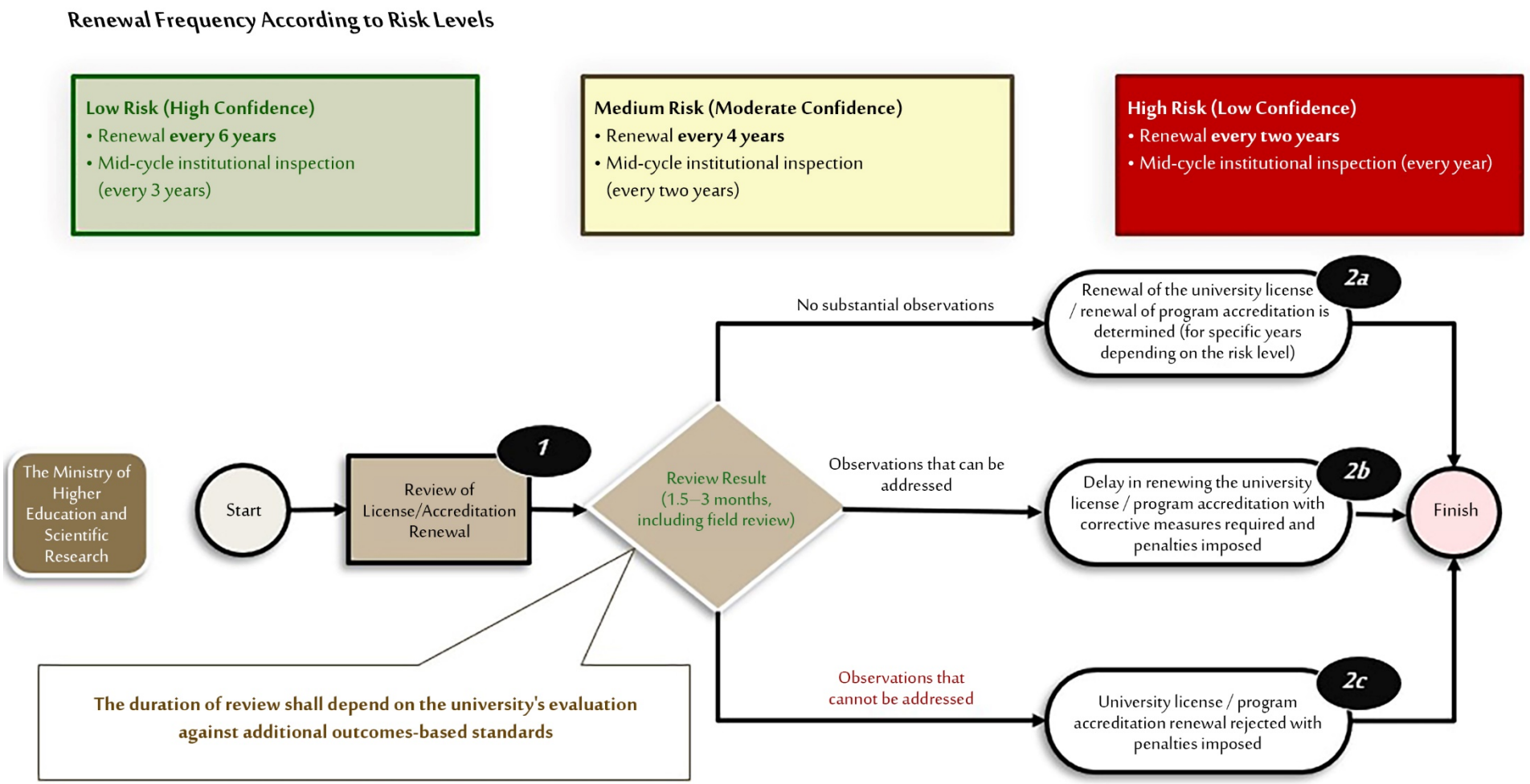

Note 1: If the license/program requirements or university operational requirements are not met, the university shall have the right to resubmit applications

## Annex (2): Obtaining of Full Accreditation for Academic Programs for the First Time by a New Higher Education Institution



## Annex (3): Renewal of Institutional License or Academic Program Accreditation for Existing Higher Education Institutions

# Process



# Annex (4): Obtaining of Academic Accreditation for a New Program by an Existing Higher Education Institution

## Process

