

**Welcoming Remarks: Dr. Jamal Sanad Al-Suwaidi Director General of the ECSSR  
Conference on the Occasion of the ECSSR's 20th Anniversary**

**The Role of Research Centers in Supporting Public Policy  
December 10, 2014**

*In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**Your Highnesses and Excellencies, respected guests, peace be upon you, and the mercy and blessings of God.**

It is my great pleasure to welcome you and to wish you a pleasant stay in the United Arab Emirates. I also wish to convey to you the greetings of H.H. General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and President of the ECSSR, and his best wishes for this conference entitled “The Role of Research Centers in Supporting Public Policy.” His Highness hopes for the success of this conference and the realization of its objectives, and anticipates our discussions and studies will represent a valuable addition to the analysis of the relationship between scientific research and public policy, particularly in an Arab world fraught with challenges. The current turmoil in our region makes the support of research centers even more important, and high expectations are placed on them to play a crucial role in debating and analyzing these challenges in order to assist decision makers.

**Your Highnesses and Excellencies, respected guests,**

This conference coincides with the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the ECSSR. We are proud to say that through the course of these two decades we have spared no effort in serving decision makers and contributing to the creation of strategies related to the development and betterment of our society. We have dedicated much of our work to supporting comprehensive sustainable development, with a focus on human capital. This path was inspired by the philosophy of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan (may God bless his soul with mercy) and his eternal saying: “The state gives the priority of its interest to building human resources, and taking care of citizens in every corner of the country. Citizens are the real wealth of this earth.” It is with the inspiration of this philosophy that the UAE has accomplished its pioneering development under the leadership of UAE President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan (may God protect him).

Since its inception, the ECSSR has been keenly aware of the value of scientific analytical research in supporting public policy. The Center has worked tirelessly via several approaches to achieve one main objective: employing science in the service of development. The first approach comprises undertaking scientific studies and research on key issues pertinent to the UAE, the Arab region and the world, with the aim of helping decision makers to face these issues in a positive and effective manner. The second is the preparation of Emirati researchers to enable them to take part efficiently in the development process and to enhance a culture of analytical thinking in handling national issues. The Center has succeeded in educating and training numerous Emirati researchers who now hold leading positions in various institutions. The third approach is the provision of access to global scholarship through the translation of significant foreign books and studies. The Center also hosts prominent researchers and thinkers from all over the globe at its various activities including conferences, symposia and lectures. The fourth approach comprises constant cooperation with various relevant institutions and agencies both within and outside the UAE, and the dedication of all of the Center's research and organizational experience and capabilities to serving these agencies. These efforts have enhanced the role of the ECSSR in serving both the Emirati and international communities. The fifth approach is the

production of forward-looking studies and promoting an awareness of their importance in Arab world, particularly given that foreseeing events is one of the tasks of the ECSSR. The sixth and final approach is the adoption of the highest standards of quality and excellence in the ECSSR's work, achieving distinction and innovation in both research and administration.

**Your Highnesses and Excellencies, respected guests,**

On this occasion I would like to present a brief review of the achievements of the ECSSR during the last 20 years, particularly in terms of its support for public policy. The full catalogue of this work can be found in our book, *Twenty Years of Excellence*; however, on this occasion, we may highlight some key successes. Most significantly, we have published more than 1,000 publications in Arabic and English, and organized hundreds of specialized conferences, symposia and lectures hosting scores of dignitaries from the region and various other parts of the world, who have spoken from the podium of the ECSSR as a sign of appreciation for its role and importance as well as an acknowledgement of its credibility. The activities of the ECSSR have been attended by various researchers, professionals and prominent experts specialized in different fields from all over the world. The Center has also signed scores of agreements with regional and international institutions and agencies, and trained researchers, diplomats and media representatives from across the world. There are, of course, many more achievements which cannot all be mentioned here.

**Your Highnesses and Excellencies, respected audience,**

It is my duty to point out that the ECSSR has only been able to accomplish these achievements as a result of this country's appreciation for knowledge and scholarly research, which in turn is thanks to its leaders who recognize the importance of think tanks and analytical studies—the UAE leadership spares no effort in supporting think tanks and their work. Also, I am honored to say that the generous and boundless support of H.H. General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and President of the ECSSR, has been one of the greatest incentives behind the successes of the Center over the past 20 years. With this support, we make a pledge to our leadership that the Center, with God's blessing, will continue on its path of success and achievement in the coming years.

I pray to God to guide our steps for the benefit of our nations and peoples. May God bless you all and peace be upon you.