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G7 calls for humanitarian pause in Gaza to allow aid in

TOKYO

G7 foreign ministers yesterday called for humanitarian pauses in the Israel-Hamas war to allow in aid and help the release of hostages, and sought a return to a broader peace process.

Ending a two-day meeting in Tokyo as Israeli forces continued to pound the Gaza Strip, the Group of Seven wealthy nations said in a joint statement that Israel had the right to defend itself. But they also underscored the need to protect civilians and to comply with international humanitarian law.

Two-state solution

G7 members are committed to preparing long-term solutions for Gaza and a return to a broader peace process in the Israel-Palestinian conflict "in line with the internationally agreed parameters," the statement said.

The ministers shared the view that "a two-state solution...remains the only path to a just, lasting, and secure peace".

It was only the second joint statement from the G7 since the Israel-Hamas war broke out on October 7.

—Reuters

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UAE's economic roadmap for next 10 years revealed

MOHAMMAD SPELLS OUT 10 PRINCIPLES TO DRIVE COUNTRY'S GROWTH

ABU DHABI

BY KHITAM ALAMIR

Chief News Editor

The UAE yesterday announced the adoption of 10 economic principles that will guide the nation's economic framework for the next decade.

The announcement was made by His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, as the two-day session of the Annual Meetings 2023 concluded in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

"The UAE government has ratified a set of economic principles to serve as the cornerstone for our economic strategy over the coming decade," Shaikh Mohammad tweeted.

Country's economic target

"Our goal is clear: to position the UAE at the forefront of the global economic landscape.

"We call upon all sectors to align with these principles, ensuring they are at the heart of new policies, legislation, and economic initiatives, guiding us towards unprecedented levels of development," he added.

The guiding document, known as the 'UAE Economic Principles Charter,' is inspired by the fifty principles of the UAE, and envisions the UAE as



X.com/@HHSkhMohd

The two-day event was chaired by His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

The 10 principles emphasise the UAE's commitment to an open economy, diversified investments, digital push and reiterate the economy's focus on attracting top talents.

a singular economic and investment powerhouse.

The 10 principles emphasise the UAE's commitment to facilitate diversified investments to and from the country, re-

iterate the economy's focus on attracting top economic talents, and map out the country's priority when continuing to invest in digital infrastructure and related legislation.

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The core principles also touched upon empowering youth with diverse opportunities, building a sustainable and resource-responsible economy, ensuring financial system stability, continuous development of economic legislation, transparency, credibility, and the rule of law, with a strong and trustworthy banking system and world-class logistics infrastructure.

NATION

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'Shakespeare and Co. was not just a café, but a community hub too' | P4



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UK bans 'laughing gas' to curb anti-social behaviour | P12

Emirati freestyle diver on a mission to save marine life

Al Falasi and his friends have been cleaning the ocean floor since 2014

DUBAI

BY ANJANA KUMAR

Senior Reporter

When he was five years old, Emirati Abdullah Bin Thani Al Falasi was thrown into the sea by his grandfather. "That's how I learnt to swim on my own," says Al Falasi, now a 35-year-old free-diver, who descends into the oceans without equipment, relying solely on a deep breath.

For him, it's not just a sport – Al Falasi's lineage boasts seafarers and fishermen – and he is combining marine con-



Abdullah Bin Thani Al Falasi

servation and heritage while beneath the waves.

Awareness campaign

Together with likeminded divers, Al Falasi set up an initiative called 'Naw' (Arabic for barnacles) in 2014, and they are on a mission to clean the ocean floor and raise awareness about pollution in the Arabian Sea.

The divers document their

dives, clean up what they can on their own, and notify authorities of items that need special equipment to recover. In the process, they have also been keeping tabs on UAE's marine life and ecosystem. Other efforts include clean-up initiatives on the beach, in partnership with other entities.

"We have the most expeditions under our belt. We have also partnered with critical brands and teams in the marine ecosystem, to raise awareness on our marines," Al Falasi told Gulf News.

The "Nawsters" also record new sightings. "Back in 2018, as we were preparing for a dive in the Strait of Hormuz, we saw a rock in the distance. When we reached the spot, it turned out to be an uninhabited island."

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SPORT

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