

By: Lalani

H.R. No. 73

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Global Encounters Festival took place in Dubai,
2 United Arab Emirates, from July 20 through 27, 2025; and

3 WHEREAS, Organized by the Ismaili Muslim community with the
4 collaboration of several UAE organizations, the festival is
5 dedicated to promoting tolerance and coexistence while showcasing
6 the power of the arts and sports to build bridges between cultures;
7 the event marked the first time that the Jubilee Arts and Jubilee
8 Games have been staged at the same time, and it brought together
9 4,000 artists and athletes from more than 50 countries and drew an
10 audience of over 25,000 visitors; and

11 WHEREAS, The festival featured more than 250 works of art
12 from artists across the globe through the International Art
13 Gallery, film screenings showcasing international filmmakers and
14 their stories at the International Film Festival, and numerous
15 music and theater performances at the International Performing Arts
16 Shows; in addition, the event included interactive exhibitions, a
17 cultural marketplace, multimedia development initiatives,
18 interactive workshops, guided tours of the Ismaili Centre Dubai,
19 and a pop-up exhibit curated by the Aga Khan Museum showcasing
20 centuries of Muslim artistic innovation; and

21 WHEREAS, Emphasizing fair play, teamwork, and intercultural
22 unity, the Jubilee Games showcased 17 sports, including football,
23 cricket, basketball, squash, chess, and swimming, at venues such as
24 the ICC Academy, Dubai International Cricket Stadium, and Emirates

1 Golf Club; over the course of the games, a total of 508 gold,
2 silver, and bronze medals were awarded to athletes across the 21
3 competing national teams; and

4 WHEREAS, The festival is committed to sustainability efforts
5 such as zero-waste targets and low-emission transport; the event
6 partnered only with vendors that met specific sustainability
7 criteria, and sourced all energy used at its venues from 100 percent
8 renewable sources, supported by the procurement of renewable energy
9 certificates; the festival also promoted the Roots for Change
10 campaign, which aims to plant one million trees worldwide in
11 support of the Aga Khan Development Network's 2030 pledge; in
12 addition, the fashion show Climate on the Catwalk exhibited
13 sustainable clothing; and

14 WHEREAS, Global Encounters as an institution operates across
15 three domains; the first domain of Youth Leadership and Development
16 includes its Global Encounters camps and international internships
17 with AKDN institutions; the second domain of Arts, Culture, and
18 Heritage promotes the arts as a means of celebrating and engaging
19 with history and culture; and the third domain of Sports and Fitness
20 emphasizes the importance of physical fitness and the spirit of
21 competition and teamwork; altogether, the Global Encounters
22 Festival highlighted all three of the organization's major tenets;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, The Global Encounters Festival was hosted by and
25 supported through the efforts of over 3,000 volunteers on site, and
26 countless more across the world, demonstrating the virtue of *khidma*
27 (service) and the spirit of volunteerism; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Global Encounters Festival brings together
2 individuals of all ages for a joyous celebration of empowerment,
3 tolerance, and environmental stewardship, and it is a pleasure to
4 join in honoring this spirited event; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
6 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby commemorate the 2025 Global
7 Encounters Festival and extend sincere appreciation to all those
8 who helped bring this year's celebration to fruition.