H.E. Marwan bin Jassim Al Sarkal Chief Executive Officer Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq) Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

HE Marwan bin Jassim Al Sarkal, Chief Executive Officer of Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq), has been integral to the success of the Authority since its inception in 2009, with the guidance of HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah and Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairperson of Shurooq.

Shurooq is the driving force behind the transformation of Sharjah as an investment, tourism, and business destination, guided by the Emirate's traditions and inspired by innovation. Steered by Al Sarkal's creativity and drive, the Authority has adopted world-class standards in providing services and studies to attract investors from the UAE, the Middle East, and all over the world.

Possessing a sharp understanding of the market and in-depth insight into the functioning of economies and international legalities and legislation, Al Sarkal has proven his mettle in quality, operations control, and strategic planning.

Among his many achievements, Al Sarkal was instrumental in establishing Al Qasba as a prominent tourist destination, one which is now attracting well-known brands, including popular restaurants and cafes, to the neighbourhood.

He is distinguished for his exceptional leadership style, as an excellent motivator who strives to create a friendly working environment in which all employees are encouraged to create, innovate and openly express their ideas. At Shurooq he leads a team of 240 people – the passion and loyal dedication of which, nurtured in this climate, has driven the Authority's success. He is a keen proponent of giving opportunities to talented local people: 40% of the team at Shurooq – as well as a number of management positions – is made up of UAE nationals.

Alongside his role at the helm of Shurooq, Al Sarkal is a Board Member of the Sharjah Sports Club, a patron of Design Days Dubai, Board Member of the German Emirati Joint Council for Industry & Commerce (AHK), and a former Board Member of Sharjah Tourism and Development Authority. Having held a multitude of senior positions, he is widely considered a key figure in Sharjah's growth ambitions.

An independent government entity, Shurooq facilitates partnerships and connects investors, corporations, and entrepreneurs with the right opportunities. Since the Authority's creation, Sharjah's GDP has grown from AED 61 billion in 2009 to AED 114 billion today.