

Subject: Proposal to Encode the UAE Dirham Currency Symbol in Unicode

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Submission Type: New character proposal (non-emoji)

Purpose

This proposal seeks to encode the newly introduced UAE Dirham currency symbol into the Unicode Standard. The symbol was unveiled by the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates in 2025 and is currently being integrated into financial systems and digital communications. Unicode support is required to ensure interoperability and adoption across platforms and languages.

Background

The UAE Dirham is the official currency of the United Arab Emirates. Until now, it has been represented using the three-letter ISO 4217 code “AED” or a localized Arabic abbreviation “.د.إ”. Neither of these are formal typographic currency signs.

In 2025, the UAE government introduced a distinct, modern symbol for the UAE Dirham. The character is intended to be language-agnostic and usable in both Latin and Arabic script contexts.

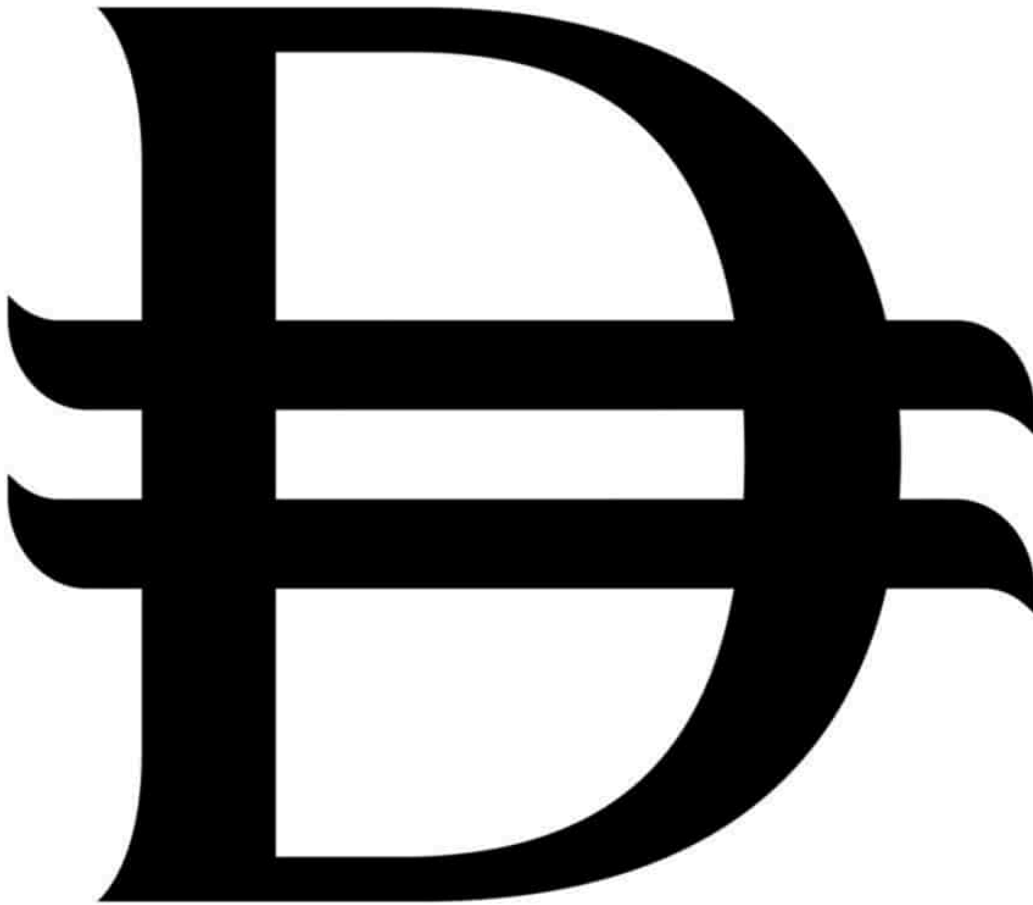
The symbol is not yet present in the Unicode Standard.

Proposed Character

Property	Value
Name	UAE DIRHAM SIGN
Tentative Code Point	U+20F1
Block	Currency Symbols (U+20A0–U+20CF)
Category	Sc (Symbol, Currency)
Script	Common
Bidi Class	ET (European Terminator)
Line Break	AL

Combining Class	0
Mirrored	No
Decomposition	None
East Asian Width	Neutral

Reference Glyph



This symbol is a stylized form based on the Arabic letter د (dal), the first letter in “Dirham”. It was designed by or on behalf of the Central Bank of the UAE and is used in both Arabic and Latin contexts.

Image credit: Central Bank of the UAE, 2025. The proposer is not the designer.

Justification

- The UAE Dirham is a widely used national currency and a key financial symbol in the Middle East.
- Other currencies (€, ₹, ¥, ₪) have distinct code points and benefit from Unicode support.
- This symbol is already being rolled out in government and retail contexts.
- Digital and mobile users will require system-level support in fonts, keyboards, and input methods.

Usage Evidence

- Official symbol introduction:
[CBUAE press release](#)
- Planned rollout: Government systems, financial platforms, and keyboard layouts
- Estimated usage: All UAE residents, businesses, and government entities

Proposed Character Properties

20F1;UAE DIRHAM SIGN;Sc;0;ET;;;;;N;;;;;

Confusables & Collation

- Not confusable with existing currency signs
- No special collation or sorting needed

Appendices

- Press release PDF
- Glyph references
- Screenshot of absence from Unicode 16 roadmap

Appendice 1 - Press release PDF

<https://www.centralbank.ae/media/ckkp3s3f/cbuae-unveils-new-dirham-symbol-en.pdf>

Appendice 2 - Glyph references

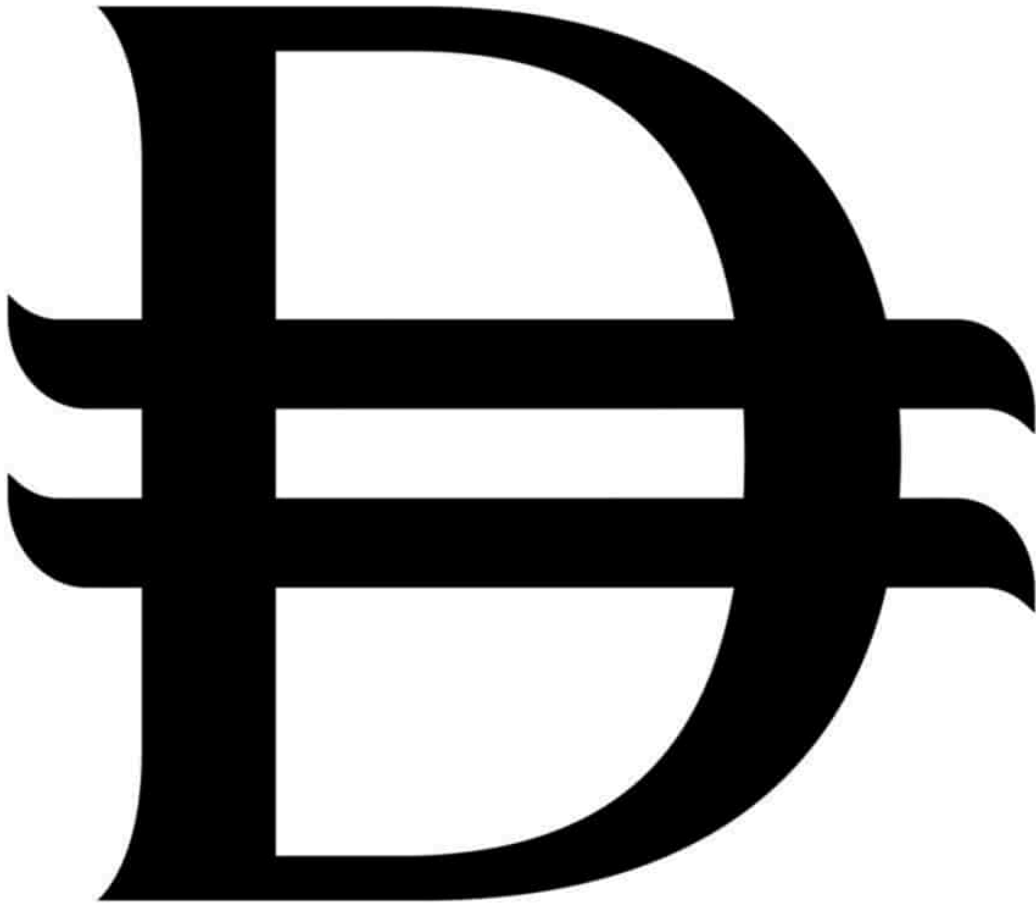


Figure 1: Reference glyph (not designed by the proposer), from the UAE government release.

Appendice 3 - Screenshot of absence from Unicode 16 roadmap

			Accepted	
1ADD	1	COMBINING DOT-AND-RING BELOW	2023-Nov-02 Provisionally Assigned 2024-Nov-08 Accepted	177-C39 181-C60
1AE0..1AE8 1AEA..1AEB	11	Combining diacritical marks for IPA (alt positions)	2024-Apr-25 Provisionally Assigned 2024-Nov-08 Accepted	179-C58 181-C60
1AE9	1	COMBINING LEFT ANGLE CENTRED ABOVE	2024-Apr-25 Provisionally Assigned 2024-Nov-07 Name changed 2024-Nov-08 Accepted	179-C58 181-C47 181-C60
20C1	1	SAUDI RIYAL SIGN	2025-Apr-22 Accepted	L2/25-075
2B96	1	EQUALS SIGN WITH INFINITY ABOVE	2024-Jan-25 Provisionally Assigned 2024-Nov-08 Accepted	178-C33 181-C60
A7CE..A7CF	2	LATIN CAPITAL LETTER PHARYNGEAL VOICED FRICATIVE LATIN SMALL LETTER PHARYNGEAL VOICED FRICATIVE	2023-Nov-02 Provisionally Assigned 2024-Nov-08 Accepted	177-C20 181-C60
A7D2	1	LATIN CAPITAL LETTER DOUBLE THORN	2023-Jul-26 Provisionally Assigned 2024-Nov-08 Accepted	176-C32 181-C60
A7D4	1	LATIN CAPITAL LETTER DOUBLE WYNN	2023-Jul-26 Provisionally Assigned 2024-Nov-08 Accepted	176-C32 181-C60
A7F1	1	MODIFIER LETTER CAPITAL S	2024-Apr-25 Provisionally Assigned 2024-Nov-08 Accepted	179-C61 181-C60
FR03..FR0A			2024-Apr-25	

Figure 2: The Unicode roadmap for Currency Symbols (as of June 2025) does not include any UAE Dirham character.