The Path to COP28
December Event Programme
The Path to COP28, the first and largest finance-focused campaign for COP28, brings together high-profile institutions and thought leaders to raise awareness and drive action from the global finance sector.

Our COP28 Event Programme

- **Sunday 3rd December 2023, 18:00 – 19:30, DIFC Academy**  
  Evening lecture 1: “Adam Smith & Ibn Khaldun at COP28”

- **Monday 4th December 2023, 09:00 - 13:30, DIFC Atrium**  
  Climate Finance COP28 Summit

- **Monday 4th December 2023, 18:00 – 19:30, DIFC Academy**  
  Evening Lecture 2 – “Adam Smith & Ibn Khaldun at COP28”,

- **Tuesday 5th December 2023, 09:00 - 13:20, DIFC Atrium**  
  Unlocking Islamic Finance COP28 Summit

- **Tuesday, 5th December 2023, 18:00 – 19:30, Heriot-Watt University Dubai**  
  Evening Lecture 3 – “Adam Smith & Ibn Khaldun at COP28”

- **Wednesday 6th December 2023, 09:00 - 16:30, DIFC Academy**  
  SDG Hive COP Programme

- **Thursday 7th December 2023, 09:00 - 16:30, DIFC Academy**  
  SDG Hive COP Programme

As a UNFCCC Accredited Observer we are also proactively working on opportunities to deliver events in the Blue Zone.
Evening lecture Series
Adam Smith & Ibn Khaldun at COP28
Sunday 3rd & Monday 4th December 2023, 18:00 – 19:30, DIFC Academy
Tuesday 5th December 2023, 18:00 – 19:30, Heriot-Watt University Dubai

Register for these events now »

Profit & Purpose
المقوَسَد و المَكْسَب

During COP28, we will be exploring the work of two famed economists and philosophers in light of the climate crisis. During COP28 on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of December in Dubai, GEFI are hosting a series of evening lectures on Scottish Enlightenment economist Adam Smith and famed Arab social theorist Ibn Khaldun, tackling their views on profit and purpose, their understanding of the rise and fall of empires, and their approaches to solving collective problems.

The series builds upon our work at Glasgow’s COP26, where we hosted a similar series focused on Adam Smith, and published our Wealth of Nations in the 21st Century essay series, which explored how his theories could be applied to contemporary economic challenges such as the climate crisis.

Unlocking Positive Systemic Change: Identifying Leverage Points for Sustainable Transformation
Monday, 4th December 2023
18:00 – 19:30, DIFC Academy Auditorium 1, Level 2

The Relationship between Profit and Purpose
Tuesday, 5th December 2023
18:00 – 19:30, Heriot-Watt University Dubai, Climate Hub

To discuss speaking and sponsorship opportunities at the Evening Lecture series, please contact chris@globalethicalfinance.org

Register for these events now »
THE TIME FOR GRADUAL CHANGES IS OVER: WE NEED TO FINANCE OUR SURVIVAL

With the global stocktake taking place during COP28, we have developed our COP28 Climate Finance Summit in consultation with the COP28 team, bringing together leading bankers, asset managers, regulators, multilaterals and more to understand how we can finance survival.

Discussion points:
» Transforming finance at pace and scale
» Increasing availability of climate finance
» Developing innovative financial products
» Strengthening voluntary carbon markets
» Fostering effective financial regulations
As COP28 comes to Dubai, all eyes will be on the Islamic finance industry. Interest-free, Shariah compliant finance remains a largely untapped pool of capital for sustainability. This event explores how the two value-driven forms of finance can be aligned through new standards and improved practices.

Discussion points:
» Islamic banking and the UN Principles for Responsible Banking
» Shariah scholars on sustainability
» From Halal to Tayyib
» The Tayyib Project: launch
» Green and Sustainable Sukuk

Join confirmed speakers from:

Sponsor / Speak »
To discuss speaking and sponsorship opportunities at Unlocking Islamic Finance for COP28, please contact chris@globalethicalfinance.org
Workshops and Roundtables

SDG Hive at COP28

Wednesday 6th December 2023, 09:00 - 16:30, DIFC Academy
Thursday 7th December 2023, 09:00 - 16:30, DIFC Academy
(Auditorium 2, Level 2)

The SDG Hive is a global programme convening stakeholders around the aim of driving private capital towards achieving the SDGs.

During COP28, our SDG Hive series provides a platform for high-impact discussions around select COP28 themes. The sessions build upon the SDG Hive from our annual Ethical Finance Global summit, and provide finance practitioners with the skills they need to address the climate crisis and achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Indicative Topics:
» Financing nature and biodiversity
» Investing in the SDGs
» Just transition
» Finance flows from north to south
» Data for climate finance
» Islamic finance

Register your interest in the programme now »

Sponsor / Speak »

To discuss speaking and sponsorship opportunities at the SDG Hive, please contact chris@globalethicalfinance.org
Path to COP28 Launch

The Path to COP28 campaign was formally launched at Dubai International Finance Centre (DIFC) on 24th October 2022. Ahead of the event GEFI Chair Global Steering Group Chair, Dame Susan Rice joined Co-Founder and Managing Director Omar Shaikh to sign a “Host Financial Centre” Memorandum of Understanding with DIFC CEO Arif Amiri. The launch generated 58 pieces of media coverage with the campaign being promoted extensively across the digital DIFC estate.
Path to COP28 - Previous Events

The first Sustainable Finance Summit in Dubai in February, delivered in partnership with DIFC and London Stock Exchange Group, saw over 200 industry professionals come together to inspire and expedite action towards sustainable finance. Speakers discussed topics including delivering net zero, the UN PRI and unlocking Islamic finance.

An invited group of c.15 global and UAE-based banks gathered for a round table on the UN Principles of Responsible Banking in March in Dubai. UNEP FI introduced the PRB, before several signatories shared details of their journeys.

The second Climate Finance Training Series session, delivered in collaboration with DIFC Academy in Dubai in March, brought together finance practitioners to better understand how to navigate global and local climate finance regulations, initiatives, and frameworks.

Dame Susan Rice delivered the keynote address to over 1,000 delegates before participating in a break-out session interview at Global Reinsurance’s Dubai World Insurance Congress in March.

The Women in Finance Symposium in the DIFC Innovation Hub in Dubai in March saw industry professionals join Dame Susan Rice to explore the practical ways that financial institutions are addressing gender equality.

A select group of finance professionals convened in February in Dubai for a private round table on Unlocking Islamic Finance. The productive conversations discussed topics including green Islamic mortgages, insights from the global Islamic retail banking survey, and green sukuk.
June 2023

Path to COP28 - Previous Events

As the four-year anniversary of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Banking approaches GEFI, hosted by PwC, convened the second PRB round table, to discuss the engagement of Middle East banks with the principles. A high-level write up can be found online and a highlights video produced by PwC can be watched on LinkedIn.

Following on from the success of February, June’s Sustainable Finance Summit saw over 250 professionals listen to insights on financing the just transition, climate-aware investing, and financing nature. A highlights video of the event can be watched on LinkedIn.

June’s Islamic finance round table, co-hosted by King & Spalding and S&P Global, saw discussions on opportunities for Islamic finance at COP28 and insights on the current state of play in the green and sustainable sukuk market. A high-level write up of the event can be found online.

In partnership with DIFC Academy, the third instalment of the Climate Finance Training Series looked at global trends in climate finance and best practice approaches to developing and implementing net zero strategies.

A productive Principles for Responsible Investment round table, in partnership with PRI and hosted by PwC, brought together banks, asset managers, sovereign wealth funds and regulatory representatives to discuss and share global best practice. A high-level write up can be found online.

Nick Robins, Professor in Practice at London School of Economics, facilitated a constructive session on the Just Transition which considered practical applications and saw insights from the energy and agriculture sectors. A high-level write up of the event can be found online.

A highlights video produced by PwC can be watched on LinkedIn.
Omar Shaikh, Managing Director of Global Ethical Finance Initiative is joined by Arash Mojabi, UK Lead of Sustainable Finance, ING and Irina Kurochkina, Portfolio Manager, Aegon Asset Management to discuss the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and if they can create tangible opportunities for companies to make a positive contribution to society and the environment.

Asset TV – Unlocking Islamic Finance

For the first in our Asset TV series, GEFI Managing Director Omar Shaikh, an Islamic finance expert, interviews Charles Haesnape, CEO of Gatehouse Bank and Claire Dorrian of LSEG. Gatehouse Bank are a leading Shariah-compliant bank, and LSEG have published ground-breaking research with GEFI and workstream partner UKIFC into sustainable Islamic investment products.

Asset TV – Financing the SDGs

Nick Robins participated in the DIFC Podcast, discussing topics including mobilising the finance industry for climate goals.

Satya Tripathi also participated in the DIFC podcast, discussing financing nature and the work of the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet.

DIFC Podcast

With our partners the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) and the UKIFC, we launched a report on green and sustainability sukuk, examining the potential for Islamic fixed income products to deliver financial returns and impact for the SDGs.

Islamic Finance and the UN SDGs Global Survey Report

The Islamic Finance Council UK, in partnership with GEFI and DIFC, published a pioneering global survey (picked up by The Banker) highlighting strong demand for Islamic finance products to support sustainability goals.