

Ethical Finance GCC 2026

RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY: One Agenda, Shared Purpose?

Thursday 5th November, 09:00-12:30
DIFC Conference Centre, Dubai

Amid a fracturing global economy, geopolitical uncertainty and intensifying climate risks, financial institutions stand at a pivotal crossroads **reassessing capital allocation, sustainability commitments and strategic priorities**. How much capital should remain committed to **transition pathways**; whether existing sustainability **targets remain credible**; how emerging risks should be priced; when **resilience** warrants additional cost; and how institutions balance near-term efficiency and commercial viability against longer-term resilience.

These are not discrete questions of **resilience** and **sustainability**, but increasingly interdependent ones that require revisiting our **purpose** and direction. Underpinning them all is a broader opportunity: for **finance** to help **shape the future**, and for **ethics** to **shape finance**.

Session*	Speakers
Registration & Networking 0830 0930	

RESILIENCE: The Economics of Disruption, Uncertainty and a Fracturing World

Welcome Words	- Naveen Raza, Net Zero Transition & Partnerships, HSBC MENAT - Omar Shaikh, Managing Director, GEFI
Host Welcome Address	Alya Al Zarouni, Chief Operating Officer, DIFC Authority
Permacrisis and the Reshaping of Global Markets	- Sasja Beslik, Chief Investment Strategy Officer, SDG Impact Japan
GCC Markets Review and Outlook	H.E. Maher Al Kaabi, Advisor to the Chairman, Al Serkal Group
The Economics of Resilience: Adaptation and Strategic Trade-Offs.	(Moderator) Omar Shaikh, Managing Director, GEFI - H.E. Maher Al Kaabi, Advisor to the Chairman, Al Serkal Group - Sasja Beslik, Chief Investment Strategy Officer, SDG Impact Japan
Break	

SUSTAINABILITY: Trends and Tensions

Where We Stand: Participants' Views	Naveen Raza, Net Zero Transition & Partnerships, HSBC MENAT
Data that Matters: Sustainable Finance in Numbers	Lina Abou Diab, Sustainable Debt - EMEA Team Leader, Bloomberg
Sustainability in Transition: Market Trends, Business Realities and Emerging Tensions	- Sebastian Frederiks, Country Head - ING Wholesale Banking - Middle East - Vijay Bains, Chief Sustainability Officer, Emirates NBD - Tara Smidt, Senior Advisor, GEFI - Dr Mohamed Damak, Managing Director, Global Head of Islamic Finance MEA, S&P Global Ratings
Islamic Sustainable Finance: Introducing a <i>Tayyib</i> Taxonomy	Tariq Al Olaimy, Islamic Finance Advisor, Greenpeace MENA

PURPOSE: Rewriting the Market Agenda

Looking Back, Moving Forward	Charles Haresnape, CEO, Gatehouse Bank
From Smith 250 to Khaldoun 650	
Wrap-up	- Naveen Raza, Net Zero Transition & Partnerships, HSBC MENAT - Omar Shaikh, Managing Director, GEFI
Lunch, Networking & Close 1230 – 1330	
Invite-only ESG Majlis starts at 1330	

* Please note sessions and speakers are subject to change.

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