

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	0900-0930

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

Welcome Words	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Naveen Raza, Head of Net Zero Transition, HSBC MENATOmar Shaikh, Managing Director, GEFI
Host Welcome Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alya Al Zarouni, Chief Operating Officer, DIFC Authority
Permacerisis and the Reshaping of Global Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sasja Beslik, Chief Investment Strategy Officer, SDG Impact Japan
GCC Markets Review and Outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">H.E. Maher Al Kaabi, Advisor to Group Chairman and Independent Board Member at Alserkal Group of Companies, UAE Circular Economy Council Member and UAEIIC Member
The Economics of Resilience: Adaptation and Strategic Trade-Offs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">H.E. Maher Al Kaabi, Advisor to Group Chairman and Independent Board Member at Alserkal Group of Companies, UAE Circular Economy Council Member and UAEIIC MemberSasja Beslik, Chief Investment Strategy Officer, SDG Impact Japan(Moderator) Omar Shaikh, Managing Director, GEFI
Break	1040-1100

SUSTAINABILITY: Trends and Tensions

Where We Stand: Participants' Views	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Naveen Raza, Head of Net Zero Transition, HSBC MENAT
Data that Matters: Sustainable Finance in Numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lina Abou Diab, Sustainable Debt - EMEA Team Leader, Bloomberg
Sustainability in Transition: Market Trends, Business Realities and Emerging Tensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr Mohamed Damak, Managing Director, Global Head of Islamic Finance MEA, S&P Global RatingsVijay Bains, Chief Sustainability Officer and Group Head of ESG, Emirates NBDJonathan Keyes, Head of Sustainability for the Middle East, INGTara Smidt, Senior Advisor, GEFI(Moderator) Nadia Boumeziout, Head of Sustainability & Information Governance, Zurich Insurance
Islamic Sustainable Finance: Introducing a Tayyib Inspired Framework for Climate and Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tariq Al Olaimy, Islamic Finance Advisor, Greenpeace MENA

PURPOSE: Rewriting the Market Agenda

Looking Back, Moving Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Charles Haresnape, CEO, Gatehouse BankRahma Alshamsi, Partnerships Director, Global Climate Finance Centre(Moderator) Layla El-Wafi, Founder & Principal Advisor, Actionism Advisory
Wrap-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Naveen Raza, Head of Net Zero Transition, HSBC MENAT
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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