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	• Naveen Raza, Head of Net Zero Transition, HSBC MENAT
Host Welcome Address	• Alya Al Zarouni, Chief Operating Officer, DIFC Authority
Welcome Words	• Omar Shaikh, Managing Director, GEFI
Keynote: **Permacrisis and the Reshaping of Global Markets**	• Sasja Beslik, Chief Investment Strategy Officer, SDG Impact Japan
Keynote: **GCC Markets Review and Outlook**	• 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
Fireside: **The Economics of Resilience: Adaptation and Strategic Trade-Offs.**	• 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 • (Moderator) Omar Shaikh, Managing Director, GEFI
Break	**1040-1100**
SUSTAINABILITY: Trends and Tensions	
Participants' Views: **Where We Stand**	• Naveen Raza, Head of Net Zero Transition, HSBC MENAT
Presentation: **Data that Matters: Sustainable Finance in Numbers**	• Lina Abou Diab, Sustainable Debt - EMEA Team Leader, Bloomberg
Panel: **Sustainability in Transition: Market Trends, Business Realities and Emerging Tensions**	• Dr Mohamed Damak, Managing Director, Global Head of Islamic Finance MEA, S&P Global Ratings • Vijay Bains, Chief Sustainability Officer and Group Head of ESG, Emirates NBD • Jonathan Keyes, Head of Sustainability for the Middle East, ING • Tara Smidt, Senior Advisor, GEFI • (Moderator) Nadia Boumeziout, Head of Sustainability & Information Governance, Zurich Insurance
Presentation: **Islamic Sustainable Finance- Introducing a Tayyib Inspired Framework for Climate and Nature**	• Tariq Al Olaimy, Islamic Finance Advisor, Greenpeace MENA
PURPOSE: Rewriting the Market Agenda	
Panel: **Looking Back, Moving Forward**	• Jessen Shah, Energy and Climate Policy Manager, British Embassy UAE • Andy Homer, Chief Customer Officer, Gatehouse Bank • (Moderator) Layla El-Wafi, Founder & Principal Advisor, Actionism Advisory
Wrap-up	• 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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