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General Council for Islamic  
Banks and Financial Institutions



المجلس العام للبنوك  
والمؤسسات المالية الإسلامية

الاتحاد المصرفي العربي  
Union of Arab Banks



**2<sup>nd</sup> CIBAFI – UAB Forum**  
**Islamic Finance for Sustainable Economic Growth in the MENA  
Region: From Crises to Opportunities**

**16<sup>th</sup> of March, 2021 |  
Online**

For more information on the registration or sponsorship

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## About CIBAFI

The General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions (CIBAFI) is an international non-profit institution that represents the Islamic financial institutions (IFIs) worldwide. It was founded by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and a number of leading IFIs. CIBAFI is affiliated with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Today with over 130 members from 34 jurisdictions, CIBAFI is recognized as a key component of the international architecture of the Islamic finance industry. CIBAFI's members vary from Islamic banks, multilateral banks, to Takaful companies, international standard-setting organizations, regulators and other professional services firms.

CIBAFI's mission is to support the Islamic financial services industry (IFSI) by providing specific activities and initiatives, aiming to strengthening the growth of the industry, deepening Shariah objectives in financial dealings and transactions, and facilitate cooperation between members and institutions of common interest.

CIBAFI is guided by its Strategic Objectives, which are 1) Advocacy of Islamic Finance Values and Related Policies & Regulations; 2) Research and Innovation; and 3) Training and Professional Empowerment.

## About the Forum

Following the first joint Forum in September 2016 in Tunisia under the patronage of the Central Bank of Tunisia, CIBAFI and UAB continue their successful collaboration to organize the CIBAFI - UAB Virtual Forum with the theme "**Islamic Finance for Sustainable Economic Growth in the MENA Region: From Crises to Opportunities**".

Amid the current pandemic and growing awareness on sustainable economic growth and sustainable development goals (SDGs), this Virtual Forum will be a timely and an important catalyst in bringing to the discussion table the flexibility of Islamic financial markets in time of crises and the potential role of Islamic finance in the development of sustainable economy, achieving SDGs through digital innovation and related opportunities in the MENA region.

## Who Should Attend

International and national organizations, government officials, ambassadors, financial institutions, Islamic finance practitioners, private sector, policymakers, regulators and academicians seeking industry perspectives and partnerships.

## Benefits from the Forum

Be a part of the valuable discussions brought by internationally renowned speakers and get a unique insight on the future of Islamic finance and sustainable economic growth in the MENA region. Meet virtually with fellow peers from the regional and international fronts and create valuable new connections and get inspired by brilliant minds with innovative ideas and enthusiasm.

## About UAB

Established on March 13, 1973, the Union of Arab Banks (UAB) was created in accordance with its first General Assembly meeting held in Beirut, Lebanon, under the umbrella of the Arab Administrative Development Organization (AADO). Conclusively, this effort was from the desire to establish an Arab Federation that works within the framework of the unions emanating from the League of Arab States. The UAB is financially, administratively, and an organizationally autonomous entity and serves as a comprehensive organization representing the Arab banking and financial community. Giving key support to Arab Banks, financial institutions, economic organizations and banking institutions with mutual support and connections to the Arab world.



## Background and Main Themes

The year 2020 has brought many challenges to the global financial industry, as the economic downturn, triggered by the pandemic, is having an unprecedented impact on the financial markets in the MENA region and elsewhere. Islamic financial markets are no exception to this pandemic, that is posing considerable threats to its efficiency and stability. Nonetheless, the Islamic financial markets have shown greater flexibility and strength in facing the current pandemic.

Even prior to this current global health crisis, many countries in MENA region were formulating and implementing new development agendas to achieve sustainable economic growth that attempts to satisfy the needs of humans in a manner that sustains natural resources and the environment for future generations. Given the current circumstances, a prompt response is more needed than ever before.

This Forum will serve as a platform to demonstrate the flexibility of Islamic financial markets in the current situation and how Islamic finance can help achieve SDGs with increased partnerships among governments, regulators, Islamic financial institutions and other stakeholders. The Forum aims to provide the opportunity to present different perspectives, raise awareness on the potential role of Islamic finance in achieving sustainable economic growth and shed light on the contemporary challenges in the MENA region. Expert industry practitioners from in and around the region will share their insights on approaches and strategies to help tap opportunities and achieve common objectives.

## Agenda

13:00 - 13:30	Welcoming Remarks and Keynote Speeches
13:30 - 14:35	<p><u>Session 1:</u></p> <p><b>Resilience of Islamic Financial Markets under the Crises</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of the current pandemic and its implications on Islamic financial markets in the MENA region</li><li>• Are Islamic financial markets more resilient?</li><li>• Distinctive measures that are taken to mitigate the negative effects of the current pandemic</li><li>• Post-pandemic challenges and opportunities for Islamic financial markets</li><li>• Lessons learned from the current pandemic</li></ul>
14:35 - 14:50	Break
14:50 - 15:55	<p><u>Session 2:</u></p> <p><b>SDGs fulfilment through Digital Innovation in Islamic Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainable development and its significance in times of crisis</li><li>• The alignment of Islamic finance values and modalities with SDGs</li><li>• Digital innovation in Islamic finance and its role in achieving SDGs</li><li>• Global and regional initiatives for the promotion of sustainable development</li></ul>
15:55 - 16:00	Closing Remarks



