

Leveraging Islamic Finance for Developing Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure

Opening Remarks Speakers:



H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser
Chairman, IsDB Group



H.E. Yasir bin Othman Al-Rumayyan
the governor of the Public Investment Fund (PIF), chairman of Newcastle United and Saudi Aramco



H.E. Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad
Chief Executive Officer and Board member of Saudi Fund for Development



H.E. Amadou Hott
Special Envoy of the President of the African Development Bank



Yves Jacob
Managing Director, Global Head of Public Sector

Moderated by



Ms. María del Pilar Gonzalo
Director for Development Co-operation, OECD



Khawaja Aftab Ahmed
Regional Director for the Middle East, Pakistan, and Afghanistan



Dr. Walid Abdelwahab

Estimates suggest a potential funding gap of USD 15 trillion by 2030 for infrastructure projects worldwide. Institutional investors, including large pension funds, government retirement funds, and global asset managers, increasingly seek unlisted infrastructure assets for their portfolios. IsDB's recent strategic realignment prioritizes "resilient recovery" and "green economic growth," and its focus on sustainable infrastructure financing helps bring bankable infrastructure projects. Islamic finance, with its focus on real sector and asset-based financing, is well-suited for infrastructure financing, which involves long-term investments in tangible assets. Sukuk, the primary financial instrument in Islamic capital markets, holds significant potential for boosting investment in infrastructure projects, as evidenced by the growing global Sukuk market. The discussion addresses what institutional investors look for when investing in infrastructure projects and explores ways to attract asset managers for funding. The panel discussion aims to raise awareness of the potential of Islamic finance in tackling global infrastructure needs and promoting sustainable development, particularly in IsDB member countries.

The panel discussion will address the following key questions:

- What are the investment criteria utilized by institutional investors when evaluating infrastructure projects?
- What are the major obstacles hindering the development of bankable infrastructure projects?
- How can member countries (MCs), financial institutions (including multilateral development banks MDBs), and other stakeholders attract asset managers for infrastructure project funding?
- Would asset managers participate in issuing Sukuk, particularly labeled options like Green, Social, and Sustainability Sukuk?
- What is the Bank's experience in developing its infrastructure funds, focusing on book building and identifying suitable projects?
- How can MCs and institutional investors benefit from IsDB's experience and expertise in this area?

By addressing these questions, the panel discussion aims to understand the viewpoint of infrastructure fund managers while making their investment decisions and enhance the audience's knowledge of Islamic finance, Sukuk, and their role in addressing global infrastructure needs and promoting sustainable development.