

Speaker Profile

## Building the Global Sustainable Islamic Finance Ecosystem

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### Omar Shaikh

Managing Director of Global Ethical Finance Initiative (GEFI)

Omar is a Chartered Accountant (CA) with expertise in ethical and responsible finance, Islamic finance, and private equity. With extensive experience in financial services, he has advised multiple governments and regulators as a leading advocate for sustainable and Islamic finance, specialising in ecosystem building. He began his career at EY London, where he qualified as a CA and served as Head of Islamic Finance.

Omar has led the development of several pioneering initiatives in sustainable and Islamic finance. These include the Path to COP, a project focused on leveraging finance for nature-based solutions, and a SDGs Financial Products Platform, created in collaboration with the UNDP to promote innovative financing structures aligned with the SDGs. He also played a key role in establishing the Global Islamic Finance and UN SDGs Taskforce, launched in partnership with the UK Government and the Islamic Development Bank, which advances the integration of Islamic finance with global sustainability goals. Additionally, Omar co-authored the award-winning Edinburgh Finance Declaration, the world's first interfaith initiative to align Islamic finance principles with those of the Church, creating a shared values approach to ethical finance.

Omar earned a Bachelor of Accountancy (BAcc) from the University of Glasgow and holds select board advisory roles, including with the UK Islamic Finance Council and The Prince's Trust Scotland.