

PLENARY SESSIONS

(as of 23 June 2025)

Format: Moderated Panel Sessions

THE DAILY SCHEDULE WILL BE RELEASED BY 13 AUGUST 2025

Notice: The Plenary Session Schedule and Content are subject to change at the discretion of the Organising Committee. While every effort will be made to adhere to the announced timings and line-up, unforeseen circumstances may necessitate adjustments. The Secretariat will endeavour to communicate any significant changes to all delegates in a timely manner.

Plenary Session **1**

Reimagining Islamic Social Finance in a Fractured World: Bridging Geopolitical Divides and Economic Inequality

Background

The world is facing unprecedented levels of inequality, conflict, displacement, and geopolitical polarisation. Islamic social finance—through Zakat, Waqf, Sadaqah, and Infaq—has the potential to provide cross-border solidarity and economic justice but remains under-leveraged globally.

Key Issues

- How can Islamic social finance mechanisms operate effectively across borders despite geopolitical tensions?
- What innovations in governance and accountability are needed to build global confidence in these mechanisms?
- Can Islamic social finance help bridge divides in fragile and conflict-affected regions?

Intended Outcomes

- Frame Zakat, Waqf and Sadaqah as tools for global resilience and justice.
- Inspire innovative cross-border frameworks and partnerships.
- Challenge institutions to move beyond localised models toward international collaboration.

Plenary Session **2**

Disruptive Innovation for Good: How Next-Gen Tech Can Make Islamic Social Finance Scalable, Traceable and Impactful

Background

Emerging technologies—from blockchain and AI to digital ID systems—are reshaping finance

and philanthropy. Can Islamic social finance harness these technologies to ensure transparency, efficiency, and impact at scale?

Key Issues

- What cutting-edge technologies can most powerfully transform Zakat, Waqf and Sadaqah?
- How do we balance innovation with Shariah, ethical and operational safeguards?
- What new partnerships between tech, finance, and faith sectors are needed?

Intended Outcomes

- Inspire tech-enabled solutions for Islamic social finance.
- Frame innovation as a necessity, not an option.
- Promote responsible, impact-driven technology adoption.

Plenary Session 3

Trust Under Siege: Redefining Integrity, Transparency and Governance of Zakat and Waqf in the Age of Accountability

Background

With increasing scrutiny on institutions globally, public trust in charities and faith-based organisations is under threat. Islamic social finance must lead the way in demonstrating governance excellence, transparency, and accountability.

Key Issues

- What should 21st-century integrity standards for Zakat and Waqf institutions look like?
- How can international standards (e.g. AAOIFI, country standards) align without stifling local innovations?
- How do we tackle corruption, mismanagement, and inefficiency in social finance institutions?

Intended Outcomes:

- Frame trust and accountability as central pillars of Islamic social finance.
- Catalyse alignment between global standards and local governance practices.
- Promote practical tools for transparent, ethical operations.

Plenary Session 4

Global Advocacy for Zakat and Waqf: Shaping Purpose-Driven Narratives to Inspire Action Across Cultures

Background

In a crowded philanthropic space, Islamic social finance needs a stronger global voice. Waqf and Zakat must be positioned as universal tools for justice and sustainability—not just obligations for Muslims but as contributions to global good.

Key Issues

- How do we build brands and narratives for Zakat and Waqf that resonate with a global, multi-faith audience?
- What role can communications, media, and advocacy play in repositioning Islamic social finance?
- How do we mobilise global partnerships for advocacy campaigns that inspire real action?

Intended Outcomes

- Encourage development of modern, inclusive narratives for Zakat and Waqf.
- Promote advocacy as a strategic priority alongside operations and governance.
- Inspire collaboration with media, CSR, and civil society sectors.

Plenary Session 5

The Future of Faith-Driven Wealth: From Gold to Digital Assets – Building New Pillars for Economic Justice

Background

With growing interest in gold-backed Waqf, digital currencies, and tokenised assets, Islamic social finance stands at the cusp of transforming traditional views of wealth. But are institutions ready to rethink Waqf and Zakat beyond land, cash, and conventional endowments?

Key Issues

- How can gold, digital tokens, and other emerging assets be structured within Islamic social finance for equitable economic development?
- What Shariah, legal and operational frameworks must evolve to embrace these new pillars of wealth?
- How do we prevent wealth concentration and ensure these assets serve communities meaningfully?

Intended Outcomes

- Inspire bold thinking on integrating non-traditional assets in Islamic social finance.
- Challenge participants to rethink how Waqf and Zakat can fuel inclusive growth.
- Encourage dialogue on regulatory, ethical and practical pathways.

All enquiries, requests for information, or clarifications regarding the Plenary Session Schedule and related matters may be forwarded to: connection@wzwf.ai

The Secretariat will make every effort to respond promptly and provide the necessary assistance.