

(Draft February 7th)

**Under the patronage of HRH Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa
Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain**

**World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum: “Achieving the SDGs through
Empowering Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Mobilizing Capital for Resilient
Communities”**

Date and Venue: February 10 and 11 at the Exhibition World Bahrain – Sakheer

Tuesday February 10th, 2026

Masters of Ceremony: Ms. Zeinab Badawi and Ms. Julnar Albitar, Multimedia Journalist

10:00 - 11:00 WEIF Official opening

**11:00 – 11:45 High Level Plenary: Igniting Innovation, Empowering
Entrepreneurs, and Driving Global Impact**

Moderated by Ms. Zeinab Badawi

- HE Mr. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Bahrain
- HE Shaikh Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Chairman Board of Trustees, International Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation and Chairman Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions
- Dr. Khaled Hanafy, Secretary General, Union of Arab Chambers

11:45 – 12:00 Networking Break

**12:00 – 13:00 Side Event 1: League of Arab States Side Event Inaugurating the
high-level Arab International Event and Expo under the theme:
“Inclusive Growth: Aligning Social Protection with
Entrepreneurship and Innovation Mechanisms.”**

12:00 – 15:00 Side event 2: The 3rd International Forum for Social Entrepreneurship 2026 (Tajseer – Building Bridges)

12:00 – 13:00 Panel 1: Islamic Finance and Banking for Sustainable Development: Financing Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Resilient Economies

Moderator: Reem Badran Chairperson, Jordan Partners

- HE Dr. Obaid Saif Hamad Al Zaabi, Chairman of the Board of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development
- Ms. Sabah Al Moayed, Chairman Al Baraka Islamic Bank
- Mr. Omar Mustafa Ansari, Secretary General Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions
- Ms. Umaima Al Ghadani, Investments Manager, Sharakah Oman

13:00 – 13:45 Light Lunch Break

13:45 – 15:00 Panel 2: Women-Led Innovation: Scaling Impact Across Borders

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Hoda Galal Yassa, President of the Arab Women Investors Union

Moderator: Ms. Anna Dorangricchia, Programme Manager on Gender Equality, Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat

1. H.E. Aisha Mohammed Al Mulla, Chairwoman of the Emirates Businesswomen Council
2. Ms. Ibukun Awosika, Chairperson International Women Entrepreneurial Challenge (IWECE) Foundation
3. Ms. Pamela D. Pascual, Chairman and CEO, World Trade Center Metro Manila
4. Mrs. Pramila Acharya Rijal, Founder and President of the South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF), Nepal
5. Ms. Meriem Chehah, Chairwoman and Founder, Algerian Women Foundation
6. Ms. Brigitte Sardo, President CONFAPID national group of women entrepreneurs Confapi and CEO of Sargomma Srl
7. Ms. Afnan Al Zayani, Founder MENA Businesswomen Network

19:30 – 21:00 Gala Dinner – Bahrain Creative Pearling Night

Wednesday February 11th, 2026

10:00 – 10:10 **“The Export Bahrain Blueprint: The Bridge & The Engine”, by Ms. Rabab Khalaf, Head of Planning & Market Intelligence at Export Bahrain**

10:10 – 11:10 **Panel 3: Building Resilient Ecosystems for Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Linking Ideas, Social Protection, and Economic Infrastructure**

Moderator: Dr. Hashim Hussein, Head UNIDO ITPO Bahrain

- Mr. Abdulrahman Hesham Al-Sowaidi, CEO Qatar Development Bank
- Ms. Dalal Al Qais, Group Chief Executive Officer, Bahrain Development Bank
- Mr. Taha Ayhan, President Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum
- Dr Ashish Mohan, Executive Director - Technology, R&D, Innovation and Design, Confederation of Indian Industry
- Ms. Douja Gharbi, CEO Red Start, Tunisia

11:10 – 12:10 **Panel 4: Innovation at the Source: Empowering Entrepreneurship Education, Research, and Capacity Building**

Keynote: Professor Tshilidzi Marwala, Rector of the United Nations University (recorded statement)

Moderator Dr. Sara Al Gazzar, Senior Economic Advisor at the Union, Dean of the College of International Transport and Logistics, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport

- Dr. Amir Reza, Dean of Global Education at Babson
- Prof. Riyad Hamzah, President, Royal University for Women
- Dr. Abdelgadir Mohamed Ahmed Abdalla, Professor and Associate Dean at Lusail University
- Dr Yianni Doumenis, SFHEA, Associate Professor, Finance and Risk Management, The Claude Littner Business School, University of West London
- Ms. Fadwa Suleiman Hussein, Director General, Suleiman Hussein Academy
- Mr. Mohamed Al-Faris, Advisor - Arabian Gulf University Center for Consultancies and Training

12:10 – 12:20 UNIDO WTCA Global Call 2026 on Blue Economy: Mobilizing High-Impact Solutions for the Future of the Blue Economy”

12:30 – 13:30 Panel 5: Tri-Economy Advantage: Leveraging Green, Blue, and Orange Innovation for Sustainable Growth

Keynote: HE Dr. Terry Tamminen, President Alta Sea (recorded statement)

Moderator: Ms. Sonya Janahi, Board Member Bahrain Chamber

- Mr. Paolo Montemurro, co-founder and Director of Materahub
- Professor Ibrahim al Dukheri, Secretary General Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
- Ms. Noora Jamsheer, CEO DANAT
- Dr. Jamila Atannaz, Serial Entrepreneur Investor and Plastic Surgeon
- Ms. Tamara Hostal, Founder and CEO of ESMOD French Fashion Institute, France

13:30 – 14:00 Light Lunch Break

14:00 – 14:10 Special intervention Strong Mind, Strong Business: Wellbeing Strategies for the Modern Entrepreneur by Dr. Amal Al Jowder, Senior Health Promotion Expert

14:10 – 15:30 Panel 6: Voices of the Future — Youth Speak Out

Moderator Dr Hashim Hussein, Head UNIDO ITPO Bahrain

- Noora Alshamsi, founder of Noora Shamsi Jewelry, UAE
- Ms. Lamy Gabir, Sudan
- Mr. Abdel Malek Al Mouzayen, Founder Bee Order, Syria
- Ms. Djita Cisse, Mali
- Mr. Ahmad Dirya, Palestine
- Ms. Alaa Abdulrahman, Bahrain
- Talal AL Ansari, Bahrain
- Dr. Hany Ayyad, Innovest, Egypt
- Dr. Abdulla Alawneh, Jordan
- Mr. Patrick Kimathi, Kenya

15:30 – 16:00 Networking Break

16:00 – 16:30 WEIF 2026 Closing

Signing Ceremony

WEIF 2026 Manama Declaration

UNIDO Global Call 2025 Creative Orange Economy Awarding

Side event / Workshops:

- **Side event 1:** Inaugurating the high-level Arab International Event and Expo under the theme: “Inclusive Growth: Aligning Social Protection with Entrepreneurship and Innovation Mechanisms.”
- **Side Event 2:** The 3rd International Forum for Social Entrepreneurship 2026 (Tajseer – Building Bridges)