

# LEADERSHIP SCENE



## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Interview conducted by Ghada Khalafallah, Manager of Communication and Media,  
General Secretariat Office, AlBaraka Forum for Islamic Economy



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### H.E. MR. AHMET BURAK DAĞLIOĞLU

President of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye -  
Investment and Finance Office

The conversation offers an in-depth look at Türkiye's accelerating role within the global value based economy, the emerging strategic alignment between Istanbul and London as influential financial hubs, and the expanding global footprint of Islamic finance beyond its traditional markets.

In this dialogue, H.E. Mr. Ahmet Burak Dağlıoğlu provides insightful reflections on systemic challenges in the global financial system, the future of international cooperation, and the transformative potential of Islamic finance as the world searches for more equitable and sustainable economic models.

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#### Question 1:

**Türkiye is moving rapidly within the global value-based economy. What is the real driver behind this acceleration today?**

Mr. Ahmet Burak Dağlıoğlu:

One of the main motivations is the leadership of the country. As you know, President Erdoğan has given a clear message to the world, stating that a fairer world is possible. Many communities and nations, especially those with large populations, are looking for a more just world in different aspects: a fairer political system, fairer income and wealth distribution, and fairer access to all kinds of opportunities.

Regarding today's topic, especially on the finance side, Islamic finance is based on principles such as risk-sharing, among others. And when we examine the global financial system, it is suffering from a kind of systemic crisis. There are constant cycles of crisis repeating themselves over certain periods. Unfortunately, this is a crisis fed by the system itself, because there is an aggressive appetite for growth within the conventional financial system, and this must be managed through a fairer model.

Furthermore, the growth of Islamic finance extends beyond its importance for Muslim communities. It aims to provide a more responsible financial ecosystem. Today, the whole world is seeking more sustainable growth, and sustainability principles have become very important for corporations, individuals, and nations in recent years. Additionally, Islamic finance makes a major

contribution to sustainable economics. In Türkiye, we emphasize the importance of aligning with sustainability principles, and we are also targeting the growth of Islamic finance, which we refer to as "participation finance" in our country.

It's my first time to be in AlBaraka Summit in another country. And the diversity is huge...I think it is amazing to see representatives from different countries now to speak about the development of the Islamic finance in their respective countries.

#### Question 2:

**After the first Global Islamic Economy Summit in Istanbul last year, held with a strong official backing and in presence of the Turkish president, and as it reconvenes this year for its second edition, and now with your participation in the fourth AlBaraka Summit in London, a new form of alignment is emerging between a global financial hub. How can this alignment between the Istanbul and London Summits reshape international strategies toward adopting a more value-driven economic model?**

Mr. Ahmet Burak Dağlıoğlu:

First of all, we have been closely following the global activities of the AlBaraka Forum and AlBaraka Summits since their inception. We had the opportunity to collaborate with AlBaraka Summits in 2024, when we organized the first event in April of that year. The event was honored by the presence of President Erdoğan, along with several prominent decision-makers from around the world. We also held a successful summit in 2025, which took place in May at the Istanbul Financial Center.

In fact, hosting the event at the Istanbul Financial Center was particularly meaningful, as the center itself is designed to encourage both

local and international companies to export financial services from Istanbul to the broader region.

And since the question relates to the event in London and the connection between Türkiye and London, I believe this summit has been highly successful. It is my first time attending AlBaraka Summit in another country, and the level of diversity is remarkable. I gained valuable insights into developments across Latin America, Africa, East Asia, and Southeast Asia. And I think it is amazing to see that there are representatives from different countries now to speak about the development of the Islamic finance in their respective countries.

With regard to the relationship between London and Istanbul, the two cities are deeply interconnected in both conventional finance and Islamic finance. Today, we also have representatives from the Turkish financial industry participating here. Historically, London and Istanbul have cooperated actively in issuing new financial products, raising funds, seeking syndications, and more.

Therefore, I believe that the AlBaraka Summit is adding a new chapter to this relationship, particularly by strengthening our cooperation in the field of Islamic finance. The summit also provided us with the opportunity to meet key decision-makers from London in both finance and Islamic finance.

We believe that fundamentally, Türkiye offers a solid value proposition for investors, and it has to be communicated in the best way with the investor community in London.

### Question 3:

**Türkiye's decision to maintain an official investment and finance office in London signals a clear strategic vision. What advantage does**

**operating from London create for Türkiye and for the wider global value-based economy?**

Mr. Ahmet Burak Dağlıoğlu:

Right. For the audience, our core responsibility is to facilitate capital inflows into Türkiye, and this is our ultimate target. To achieve these goals, we carry out various promotional activities and provide facilitation services to the international investor community across traditional industries, conventional finance, Islamic finance, and more.

Similarly, since our establishment in 2006, we have built a broad global presence. Our network extends far beyond London, we have offices in Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing, Singapore, and Kuala Lumpur across Asia, as well as offices in Gulf countries such as Abu Dhabi, Doha, and Riyadh. Additionally, we maintain offices in several European countries and in the United States.

Naturally, the team in London has a clear mandate to strengthen our engagement with the community here, with the aim of attracting investments in manufacturing, services, technology, and of course, finance. In recent years, we have been expanding and investing in our London team, given the significant potential that exists between the two countries.

Being close to key decision-makers is certainly an advantage, as it allows us to better understand their priorities and to present them with investment opportunities in Türkiye. We firmly believe that Türkiye offers a strong and compelling value proposition for investors, and it is essential that this message is communicated effectively to the investment community here.

### Question 4:

**As global markets search for a fairer and more sustainable economic models, what is the single idea policymakers need to prioritize to ensure value-driven systems become part of the future economic landscape?**

Mr. Ahmet Burak Dağlıoğlu:

It is indeed a very deep topic, but I believe that we must always consider the human dimension in all activities, particularly in economic ones. We should never forget that these efforts must ultimately create value for individuals and for communities.

And I think they should once again prioritize the expectations of individuals and communities in their pursuit of a more equitable world.

We have to be realistic; Islamic Finance represents a little over 1% of the global financial system. We have to grow the industry on a global scale, and this can be achieved through international cooperation. And for that purpose, gatherings such as AlBaraka summits, are playing an important role to start communication between different geographies.

#### Question 5:

**After joining the 4th AlBaraka Summit in London, what early signals do you see that could define the next major shift in the international value-based economy, especially in the five coming years?**

Mr. Ahmet Burak Dağlıoğlu:

First of all, I am increasingly optimistic. Having had the opportunity to observe the development of Islamic finance across different countries, I believe the future looks quite promising. And importantly, we are not speaking only about Muslim-majority nations. But especially also in non-Muslim countries, this economy and the industry is growing. I think this is a good signal. And another good development is that these products that Islamic financial system offering is not just for the Muslims again. It is available for all people from different backgrounds.

We believe these products are innovative, and because they are built on disciplined and well-defined principles, they are well-received by clients, both corporate and individual. For instance, in housing finance, even non-Muslims are increasingly requesting Sharia-compliant products due to the nature and structure of these offerings.

If you look at the corporate or government level, sukuk for example, it should be understood in a better way. It is not just a kind of bond issued in a Sharia-compliant way. It is a product based on real assets, real projects, and we know that it is more transparent than those bonds, because it is defined how you are spending that raised money, how you are investing it, and what's your plan to deliver the returns and et cetera.

There are meaningful discussions taking place in this regard, and over the next five years, I expect the industry's growth to come not only from Muslim communities but from all regions of the world. I believe we will witness broader global expansion.

While many of us focus on developing the industry within our own domestic economies, we must also be realistic: Islamic finance still represents just over 1% of the global financial system. Therefore, expanding the industry requires growth on a global scale, which is achievable only through international cooperation. In this context, gatherings such as AlBaraka Summits play a crucial role in initiating dialogue across different regions and in aligning the efforts of various industry participants.

I think that for the scalability of the business, if we consider an entity operating in a single country, financing a large project would definitely require support from additional players, as it may not be suitable for that entity's balance sheet. Even from a technical standpoint, international cooperation is essential, and I believe such platforms significantly contribute to supporting one another.

