

CLOSING REMARKS

by

Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal Rawther
President, Global Muslim Business Forum
(GMBF)

8 December 2025,

InterContinental Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, Alhamdulillah,
wassalatu wassalamu 'ala Rasulillah.

Distinguished leaders, eminently respected
speakers and guests, brothers and sisters from
across the Muslim world,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

As we conclude this year's Global Muslim Business
Forum, let us take a moment to reflect on what
has been a day of real clarity, rich ideas and
purposeful connections. We gathered here not
merely as delegates, not just as industry
representatives or government decision-makers,
but as a global ummah entrusted with
responsibility, capacity, influence, and a shared
destiny.

Today, we reaffirmed something powerful: the Muslim world is not a passive market, it is an engine of global growth.

With 1.9 billion Muslims worldwide, consumer spending reaching USD 2.29 trillion, and Islamic finance assets projected to exceed USD 6.7 trillion by 2027, we together represent one of the most dynamic economic blocs on the planet.

This Forum has reminded us that our strength is not in numbers alone, but in the values that anchor us integrity in commerce, fairness in finance, compassion in development, and innovation rooted in ethics and sustainability.

What emerged today?

From Session 1, we recognised that trade, investment and innovation will shape our competitiveness and collaboration, not isolation, will unlock new opportunities across food security, energy, digital technology, and high-growth industries.

From Session 2, it became clear that the future of Islamic finance is digital, decentralised, inclusive and impact-oriented, moving beyond compliance to purpose-driven financial ecosystems that empower communities.

Session 3 reminded us that Islamic tourism and hospitality are not just commercial sectors, but cultural bridges expanding halal travel, Muslim-friendly infrastructure, premium experiences and cross-border mobility.

And in Session 4, we were humbled by the insight that our greatest asset is not capital — it is people. Women and youth must not be peripheral participants; they must be central architects of the Muslim economic future. When we empower women, we strengthen families. When we empower youth, we secure generations.

Today, we didn't just speak, we built consensus, renewed purpose, and charted a path forward.

And so, the question becomes, what must we do next?

First: We must institutionalise partnerships forged here through bilateral agreements, capital flows, trade linkages and shared technology transfer.

Second: We must elevate Islamic finance into a mainstream global engine — enabling green sukuk, halal supply-chain financing, digital banking and inclusive fintech for SMEs.

Third: We must advance sustainability not as a slogan, but as a strategy because climate, food security and responsible stewardship are Islamic obligations, not options.

Fourth: We must connect our markets from ASEAN to the Gulf, from Africa to Central Asia, not as scattered economies, but as a networked civilisation of enterprise and knowledge.

We are many nations but one ummah. Many markets but one economic destiny.

Malaysia's Role & Our Shared Mandate

As the host nation and as ASEAN Chair in 2025, Malaysia stands ready to facilitate business diplomacy, south-south cooperation, OIC-linked trade, Islamic capital markets and halal innovation.

GMBF will continue to champion this agenda, convening leaders, nurturing partnerships, and ensuring that this Forum becomes not just an event, but a movement.

Before we depart, let me leave you with a thought. The world often measures strength by GDP, military power or technological advantage. But the ummah carries something far more powerful — values that uplift humanity.

If we combine faith with strategy, innovation with ethics, and prosperity with justice, we will not just build stronger economies, we will build a better world.

On behalf of the Global Muslim Business Forum, I extend my profound appreciation to our Guest-of-Honour, our distinguished speakers, our sponsors, partners, and every delegate who travelled near and far to be here.

May today be remembered not as an end but as a beginning.

Thank you.

Wa billahi taufiq wal hidayah, Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.