



# 2026 | IsDB Group Private Sector Forum

16-19 June 2026 | Baku, Azerbaijan



## 5<sup>th</sup> ISDB GROUP STARTUPS AND INNOVATION PITCH COMPETITION



17 JUNE 2026



17:15 - 19:15



PSF HALL (A6 + A7)

### Background

The rapid growth of AI, cloud technologies, and digital transformation is reshaping global economies, creating both opportunities and challenges for IsDB Member Countries.

Against this backdrop, the 5<sup>th</sup> IsDB Startups & Innovation Pitch Competition 2026 will host a high-level Knowledge Dialogue to position the IsDB Group as a catalyst for responsible and inclusive innovation across the OIC region.

The session will bring together policymakers, global experts, development finance institutions, and ecosystem builders to explore how AI, digital infrastructure, and blended finance can support startups and SMEs.

### Objectives

- Highlight the potential of AI and digital technologies for inclusive economic development.
- Showcase best practices and global experiences in building innovation ecosystems in emerging markets.
- Explore co-investment, blended finance, and partnership opportunities to scale startups across IsDB Member Countries.
- Promote dialogue on enabling regulatory frameworks, data ecosystems, and innovation policies.
- Strengthen the IsDB Group's role in AI-enabled development and startup support globally.

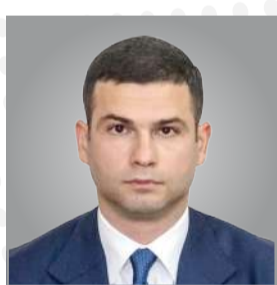
### Opening Remarks



**Eng. Mohammad Jamal Alsaati**

Special Advisor to the President,  
and OIC Director Special &  
Trust Funds Department  
Islamic Development Bank Group

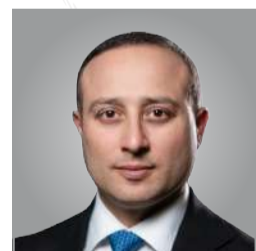
### Welcoming Remarks



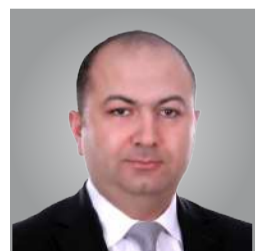
**Mr. Orkhan Mammadov**

Chairman of the Management Board, KOBIA  
Chairman of the AZHAB Forum, Azerbaijan

### Speakers



**Mr. Fariz Jafarov**  
Executive Director  
C4IR Azerbaijan



**Dr. Zaur Gardashov**  
Advisor to Chairman  
Small and Medium Business  
Development Agency (KOBIA)  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan



**Dr. Riad Hartani**  
Co-founder  
Xona Partner And iiValley.co



**Mr. Yasser Alaki**  
Director,  
Business Development  
Department  
Islamic Corporation for  
the Insurance of  
Investment and Export  
Credit (ICIEC)



**Mr. Sahal Almarwai**  
Division Manager,  
Outreach & Events Management  
Islamic Development Bank  
Group Business Forum  
(THIQAH)

### Moderator



**Mr. Mohamed Hedi Mejai**

Advisor to H.E. the President  
Islamic Development Bank Group

### Closing Remark



**H.E. Dr. Khalid Khalafalla**

Chief Executive Officer  
Islamic Corporation for the Insurance  
of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)  
& Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Islamic Corporation for the Development  
of the Private Sector (ICD)



**Mr. Orkhan Mammadov**

Chairman of the Management  
Board, KOBIA  
Chairman of the AZHAB Forum,  
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