

MENA SCF²⁵

MENA SUPPLY CHAIN FINANCE

3 – 4 November 2025

Dubai Chambers, Dubai, UAE



Organised by

BCR

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غرف دبي
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Day 1 - 3 November 2025

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**

09:00 – 09:15 **Welcome and opening remarks**

Michael Bickers, Managing Director, **BCR Publishing**

Chairman Introduction

Welcome remarks outlining conference goals and the current state of MENA trade and supply chain finance.

- Emphasising on the role of banks;
- Fintechs and credit insurers in the evolving ecosystem;
- Geopolitical frictions;
- The effect of weaponisation of trade policy, sanctions and restrictions;
- FDI – examining the trends and impact of the current geopolitical climate.

Speakers TBA

09:15 – 09:45 **Keynote 1: Digital transformation in trade and receivables finance**

A thought leading discussion on how advanced digital tools and e-commerce platforms are reshaping financing structures.

- Examining industry data that demonstrates that trade digitalisation is progressing rapidly in the Middle East;
- Progressive opportunities in e-invoicing;
- Host-to-host connectivity;
- Paperless transactions – where are we and how quickly is this being adopted.

Speakers TBA

09:45 – 10:15 **Keynote 2: The future of factoring & fintech**

Visionary insights on emerging models in trade and receivables finance.

- Trade, factoring and SCF – where are the boundaries and to what extent are they merging?
- Open-banking APIs and platform-based finance examples of how collaboration between banks and fintech can bring rewards;
- Innovation pathways achieving the perfect balance between efficiency with risk control.

Speakers TBA

10:15 – 10:30 **Networking coffee break**

10:30 – 11:15 **Panel 1: Digitalisation of trade and receivables finance**

Senior sector panellists review the new digital platforms of e-invoicing, receivables exchanges and SCF portals.

- Evaluating how technology can drive transparency, speed and cost reduction;
- Processing invoice data using machine learning in scanning, capturing, matching;
- Building in approvals and payment scheduling making the process hands off to automate the accounts payable workflow.

Speakers TBA



Agenda

11:15 – 12:00 **Panel 2: AI & automation in SCF**

This session explores AI-driven underwriting, predictive analytics and robotic process automation. Panelists will share how machine learning makes risk assessment faster and less error prone.

- Tackling potential fraud and mitigating risks by delivering accurate credit scoring to facilitate decision-making and improved customer satisfaction in receivables and payables finance;
- Capturing nonlinear effects between scenario variables and risk factors to improve forecasting.

Speakers TBA

12:00 – 13:00 **Networking lunch**

13:00 – 13:45 **Panel 3: Trade corridors & cross-border finance**

The MENA region is experiencing a surge in trade and cross-border finance. This is being driven by evolving trade corridors and strategic investments. This panel focuses on the financing needs of MENA region's strategic trade routes such as Middle East-Africa and Silk Road corridors.

- Examining how investment in supply chain resilience is spawning new trade corridors;
- How tools like purchase order financing are enabling exporters and importers to tap into new markets;
- Development of new trade routes such as the Northern Sea Route and the need for robust financial solutions, including trade and receivables financing, efficient cross-border payments, and powerful risk mitigation strategies.

Speakers TBA

13:45 – 14:30 **Panel 4: Blockchain, crypto & tokenisation**

Discussion on implementing blockchain solutions in trade and receivables finance as part of a broader trend of leveraging blockchain technology to improve financial processes and transactions. Topics include tokenising invoices and purchase orders, using digital assets (stablecoins) for cross-border payments, and smart contracts.

- Employing smart contracts, tokenising invoices and purchase orders, and using stablecoins for cross-border payments to streamline operations, reduce costs, and enhance transparency in cross-border trade;
- Creating ownership of digital representations of physical or digital assets like invoices or purchase orders on a blockchain;
- Reducing reliance on intermediaries and improving the efficiency of post-trade processes;
- Enhance transparency and increasing market liquidity;
- Using stablecoins to facilitate faster and more cost-effective cross-border payments.

Speakers TBA

14:30 – 14:45 **Networking coffee break**

14:45 – 15:30 **Panel 5: Risk management, credit insurance & factoring**

A comprehensive look at credit risk in global supply chains. Panelists (from banks, insurers and factors).

- Overview of use of trade credit insurance in the MENA region;
- Inter-creditor arrangements and best practices in receivables finance;
- Mitigating defaults in volatile markets - how factoring companies underwrite SME receivables.

Speakers TBA



Agenda

15:30 – 16:15 **Panel 6: Regulatory & compliance landscape**

Experts review regulatory developments affecting SCF and factoring. Topics include new payment services rules, e-commerce finance regulations, Basel capital requirements for trade loans, and the push for standardised data sharing. The panel will address how MENA regulators and trade bodies are adapting to fintech innovations in trade finance.

- What has been the impact of the UAE's Factoring Law (Federal Decree-Law No. 16 of 2021)? Providing a clear legal framework for factoring and receivables assignment;
- How is the Moveables Law and Civil Code updates supporting the rapidly growing trade finance industry;
- To what extent have these developments spurred interest in SCF and factoring as tools for business growth.

Speakers TBA

16:15 – 17:00 **Panel 7: Fintech innovations & partnerships**

Showcase session where fintech innovators and bank leaders discuss collaborative models.

- Demos or case studies of joint platforms that connect buyers, suppliers and funders;
- Discussing embedded finance APIs, and other partnerships that bring cutting-edge technology to traditional SCF.

Speakers TBA

17:00 **Networking drinks reception at the Sheraton Hotel and end of Day 1**

Agenda

Day 2 - 4 November 2025

09:00 – 09:30 **Registration**

09:30 – 09:45 **Chairman's welcome back speech & Day 1 recap**

Brief summary of key insights from the previous day and introduction to Day 2 agenda.

Speakers TBA

09:45 – 10:30 **Panel 8: More bank-fintech collaboration in factoring**

Discussing how banks and fintech lenders can partner to expand receivables financing.

- Co-branding SCF programmes, marketplace lending for trade invoices;
- Leveraging credit bureaus or alternative data to extend factoring to SMEs;
- Strategies to share risk and integrate digital platforms.

Speakers TBA

10:30 – 10:45 **Networking coffee break**

10:45 – 11:30 **Panel 9: Sustainable finance – latest updates on progression in GCC**

- How are corporates and banks promoting the use of sustainable investments and finance?
- How do banks and corporates demonstrate the use and encouragement of sustainable practices?
- Sustainable finance metrics – the good the bad and the ugly

Speakers TBA

11:30 – 12:15 **Panel 10: Islamic finance & sustainable SCF**

Explore Sharia-compliant supply chain finance structures and the role of takaful (Islamic insurance).

- The use of Sukuk Islamic bonds as backing of trade receivables;
- How ESG criteria are integrated into Islamic SCF offerings.

Speakers TBA

12:15 – 12:30 **Closing discussion & takeaways**

Final moderated discussion pulling together lessons learned. Leaders will project future developments (e.g. AI agency roles, new digital currencies, regulatory harmonisation) and advise participants on next steps.

Chairman

12:30 – 13:30 **Networking Lunch and end of conference**

Registration

Pricing

☐ MENASCF 2025 – Early Bird GBP800 (or EURO950)*

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