

# Global markets navigate uncertainty with resilience and opportunity, says Standard Chartered

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Standard Chartered (“the Bank”) Wealth Solutions Chief Investment Office (CIO) latest Market View highlights a more complex and evolving macro backdrop, with geopolitical tensions in the Middle East continuing to influence market dynamics and investor positioning.

While escalation risks remain, particularly around energy supply and key trade routes such as the Strait of Hormuz, global growth has shown resilience, supported by steady activity in the US and improving momentum in parts of Asia.

The GCC entered this period from a position of strength, supported by large sovereign balance sheets in most cases. GCC sovereign wealth assets and foreign exchange reserves



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AYESHA ABBAS, MANAGING DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF AFFLUENT AND WEALTH SOLUTIONS FOR EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA, AND THE UAE AT STANDARD CHARTERED

provide a substantial buffer against both domestic and external shocks, helping underpin longer-term macroeconomic stability.

At the same time, inflation pressures, particularly in Eu-

rope, remain elevated, driven in part by higher energy prices. This has contributed to a repricing of interest rate expectations globally, with central banks expected to remain cautious as they balance growth and infla-

tion risks.

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and well-positioned are better placed to navigate volatility and capture opportunities as they emerge,” said Ayesha Abbas, Managing Director and Head of Affluent and Wealth Solutions, Europe, Middle East and Africa, and UAE at Standard Chartered.

Against this backdrop, Standard Chartered continues to favour a disciplined and diversified investment approach. The Bank highlights five key considerations for global market investors:

- Add to diversified portfolios: Market volatility presents opportunities to build exposure to globally diversified portfolios, as the impact of recent developments remains uneven across regions and asset classes.

- Position for inflation risks: Investors may consider inflation hedges, including US

inflation-protected bonds and gold, in case disruption to energy prices persists longer than expected.

- Lock in attractive yields: Elevated yields in high-quality bonds offer opportunities to secure income and enhance portfolio resilience.

- Look to Asia for opportunities: In a scenario of stabilisation, Asian equities – particularly in India and China – could present attractive rebound potential.

- Prepare for US dollar weakness over the longer term: Structural factors continue to point towards a gradual weakening of the US dollar over time.

The Bank also notes that periods of elevated market volatility have historically been followed by strong recoveries, reinforcing the importance of staying invested.

# BBK launches the Youth Advisory Council to empower youth and advance innovation



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BBK, a leader in retail and corporate banking in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has announced the launch of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC), a new initiative aimed at bringing youth perspectives more directly into the Bank’s strategic thinking and future planning.

The move reflects BBK’s continued efforts to invest in emerging talent, strengthen its culture of innovation and create meaningful channels that enable young voices to contribute to the Bank’s long-term development. It also aligns with the objectives of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, which places strong emphasis on empowering youth as active contributors to national progress and prosperity.

The Council brings together a carefully selected group of internal and external young talents,



Ms. Eman Deabil, Head of Strategy and Innovation at BBK



Mr. Mohamed Alaali, Group Chief Strategy & Transformation Officer at BBK

The initiative is also expected to serve as a vital link between youth and the Bank’s executive management, creating a more direct and constructive exchange of ideas that can support the decision-making process and contribute to a more future focused institutional outlook. By combining informed analysis with the ambitions and perspectives of youth, the Council is designed to support more dynamic thinking across the Bank and reinforce BBK’s readiness to the opportunities and challenges ahead.

This Council is a testament to BBK’s approach to innovation, which is grounded in harnessing internal capabilities while remaining open to perspectives from the wider community. It also reinforces BBK’s position as a forward-looking financial institution that recognizes the importance of youth in shaping

the future of the banking and financial services sector.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Mohamed Alaali, Group Chief Strategy & Transformation Officer at BBK, said: “The establishment of the Youth Advisory Council affirms BBK’s belief that youth play a central role in sustainable development and represent a powerful force for progress within any institution that seeks to lead and evolve. We have strong confidence in the ability of youth to contribute high quality ideas and to play a meaningful role in enhancing the Bank’s services and products.”

Mr. Alaali further added, “Our commitment to listening to youth perspectives stems from a strategic approach that seeks to bring together the value of experience and the energy of young minds. Through this balance, we aim to help shape a financial fu-

ture that is resilient, sustainable and aligned with global developments in corporate growth and social responsibility.”

Ms. Eman Deabil, Head of Strategy and Innovation at BBK, commented: “At BBK, youth represent a vital source of fresh thinking and practical insight that can help shape the future of modern banking. We look forward to the Council serving as a dynamic platform for the exchange of ideas and for reinforcing a stronger culture of innovation across the Bank.”

Ms. Deabil further noted that the Council is expected to help turn challenges into opportunities by giving young people an active role in shaping the roadmap for future products and services, thereby supporting BBK’s efforts to remain at the forefront of innovation in the banking sector.