

Victoria Forum Casablanca Round 2025

“A Better Africa for All: Building Trust and Empowering People”

Opening Remarks

Empowering Africa's Youth and Addressing Geopolitical and Health Challenges
17 February 2025

9:30 am – 9:40 am
Welcome Remarks

Thami Ghorfi,

Dean, ESCA Ecole de Management

Saul Klein,

Executive Director, Forum de Victoria Forum.

9:40 am – 9:45 am
Opening Address

Isabelle Valois

Ambassador of Canada to the Kingdom of Morocco

9:45 am – 9:50 am
Special Address

Ava Hill,

Member of the National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development at the University of Victoria

9:50 am – 10:10 am
Keynote Speech:

Harnessing the Youth Bulge: Creative Pathways to Africa's Demographic Dividend

Lahcen Haddad,

Vice-President of the House of Councillors, Kingdom of Morocco

10:15 am – 12:00 pm

Opening Panel:

**Empowering Africa's Youth for a Sustainable and Trustworthy Future
(Open to students and the public)**

Moderator:

Thami Ghorfi,

Dean, ESCA Ecole de Management

Speakers:

Arkebe Oqubay,

Former Senior Minister and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

Jaloul Ayed,

Former Minister of Finance of Tunisia.

Luís Filipe Tavares,

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Former Minister of Defense of Cape Verde.

Mohamed Abdirizak,

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia.

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Session 1
Navigating Africa's Geopolitical and Socio-Economic Complexities

Moderator:

Ahmed Iraqi,
Professor and Researcher,
ESCA Ecole de Management

Speakers:

El Mokhtar Ghambou,
President of the Atlantic Foundation

Moubarack Lo,
President of the Emergence Institute and Senior Fellow at
the Policy Center for the New South (PCNS)

Rym Ayadi,
Professor, Senior Advisor at the CEPS. Founder and
President of the EMEA, Founder and Director of the
EMANES

03:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Coffee Break and Networking

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Session 2
Innovative Solutions for Africa's Future: Bridging the Health Divide

Moderator:

Adel Guitouni,
Professor and Researcher,
Gustavson School of Business,
University of Victoria.

Speakers:

Adrienne Leussa,
Scientist, Business Leader, Consultant, and Expert in Life
Sciences and Healthcare in Africa

Bukola Salami,
Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Black and Racialized
Peoples' Health and Full Professor at the Cumming
School of Medicine, University of Calgary

Jaâfar Heikel,
Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, Specialist in
Infectious Diseases and Public Health, and Health
Economist, CEPN, Sorbonne-Paris

Kenza Zerrou,
Director of Innovative Finance at the World Health
Organization

Saverio Stranges,
Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology
and Biostatistics in the Schulich School of Medicine &
Dentistry, and Director of the Africa Institute

Driving Climate Action and Innovative Solutions for Africa's Future
18 February 2025

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Session 3

**Addressing the Impact of Climate Change:
Migration and Economic Realities for a Resilient Africa**

Moderator:

Rihab Abba,
Professor and Researcher,
ESCA Ecole de Management

Speakers:

António Henriques da Silva,
Founder and Managing Director (INVEST-A), Expert in
Investment Promotion and Economic Development

Balgis Osman Elasha,
Climate Change and Green Growth Expert, African
Development Bank

Melanie Katsivo,
Associate Director, Programs & Partnerships, The Africa
Institute & International Partnerships Lead, Frugal
Biomedical Innovations Program

Nouzha Bouchareb,
Former Minister of Urban Planning, Housing and Urban
Policy of the kingdom of Morocco

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Coffee Break and Networking

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Session 4

From Tensions to Trust: Fostering Dialogue for Co-Prosperity in Africa

Moderator:

Saad Laraqui,
Associate Dean of Research,
ESCA Ecole de Management

Speakers:

Abdou Souleye Diop,
Managing Partner of Mazars in Morocco and
President of the Africa Commission of the CGEM

Driss Benomar,
Founder and Chairman, Atlantis Center for Research and
Geostrategic Studies

Mohamed Abdirizak,
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation of Somalia

Mareike Schomerus,
Vice President, Busara Lab; Visiting Lecturer, Harris
School of Public Policy, University of Chicago

12:30 pm – 12:45 pm
Closing Remarks

Aziz Qadiri,
Chair of the Strategic Council at ESCA Ecole de Management

Saul Klein,
Executive Director, Forum de Victoria Forum.