

## 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.