



CONFERENCE SERIES

« Exchange to Better Understand »



PRESS RELEASE

Covid-19: The Attijariwafa Bank Foundation Reports on the Health Situation in Morocco and Africa

Casablanca, October 5th, 2021 - «Covid-19 Health Issues: What is the Status of Morocco? Where does Africa Stand?» As part of its cycle of «Exchanging to Better Understand» digital conferences, this is the theme that the Attijariwafa Bank Foundation has chosen to deal with to mark this fall.

The meeting, which took place on Thursday, September 30th, 2021, in Live streaming on the Foundation YouTube channel and Facebook page, brought together a panel of quality, composed of **Dr. Maryam Bigdeli**, WHO Representative in Morocco, **Pr Kamal Marhoum El Filali**, Medicine Professor, Head of Infectious Diseases Department at the CHU Ibn Rochd in Casablanca and **Pr Ahmed Rhassane El Adib**, Professor of Anesthesia-Resuscitation at the CHU Mohammed VI in Marrakech. The **moderation was ensured by Mrs. Sara Rami**, Journalist and Radio presenter.

Constantly listening to the concerns of citizens as a whole, and in particular young academics and civil society actors, the Attijariwafa Bank Foundation has chosen to give the floor to health experts and medical professors to review the health situation in our country and in the Continent. While providing the general public keys to understanding the situation and giving it certain visibility for the months to come, the speakers have thus analyzed the pandemic evolution and its management by the public authorities since March 2020.

The reasons for the choice of Morocco in terms of mass vaccination were among the points explained by the participants, especially that of young people aged 12 to 17 years and the imminent launch of the operation to grant the 3rd dose for the elderly and the most fragile.



CONFERENCE SERIES

« Exchange to Better Understand »



The panelists also took stock of the progress made in the field of screening tests to enable better prevention of contamination, as well as in the field of drug treatments. Innovation efforts in these two areas will allow States to act on the triptych (vaccines, tests, drugs) to contain the pandemic and allow a gradual return to normal life. However, the three professors sounded the alarm on the need to improve access to vaccines in the poorest countries, particularly in Africa, as this is a prerequisite for limiting the appearance of new variants that are increasingly resistant to vaccines and moving towards collective immunity. For the time being, some countries in sub-Saharan Africa are lagging far behind in their population vaccination campaigns. The health situation in Morocco seems to be under control thanks to the progress made in mass vaccination. The Kingdom will be in a position to show regional solidarity as soon as local vaccine production begins. In the meantime, the three speakers called for citizens to be vigilant because the number of contaminations could rise again at any time, in the event of widespread non-compliance with barrier gestures and social distancing.

Through this new conference-debate, which generated numerous questions from Internet users to which the speakers responded, once again, the Attijariwafa Bank Foundation demonstrates its willingness to enlighten public opinion on complex and topical issues by calling on experts recognized for their competence and field experience.

To watch the entire conference, please click on the following replay link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfz5rD54FL4&t=14s>