

Concept Note

I. BACKGROUND AND PRESENTATION OF THE GALIEN FORUM AFRICA

Awarded for 50 years, the Prix Galien is positioned as the counterpart of the Nobel Prize for pharmaceutical innovation. Since 2009, the Galien Foundation has been organizing a Scientific Forum in the United States on the sidelines the Prix Galien International. The first edition of the Galien Forum Africa thus took place in December 2018, in Dakar, under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Macky SALL, President of the Republic of Senegal.

This year, for the 7th time in row, the Galien Forum will take place in Africa, on Senegalese soil. From 22 to 25 October 2024, Dakar will be the African capital of health, innovation and leadership of women and young people.

It will also be the opportunity to award the Prix Galien Africa for the fourth time, for which the call for applications was launched in the 1st quarter of 2024.

I. HEALTH CONTEXT

Africa is the most vulnerable continent to the harmful effects of climate change. The effects are disproportionate, given that Africa has about 17% of the world's population but contributes to only 4% of greenhouse gas emissions. According to the latest report by the Australian think tank, the "Institute for Economics and Peace" 7 out of 8 countries with the highest ecological risk worldwide are located in sub-Saharan Africa.

"Climate change is making millions of people sick or more vulnerable to diseases, and it is increasing the destructive effect of extreme weather events that disproportionately impact poor and marginalized communities", said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General (COP 27).

If no measures are taken:

- Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause around 250,000 additional deaths per year due to malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress (WHO).

Moreover,

- According to the UN, more than 37 million people suffer from hunger in the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya).
- Climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health: clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure housing.
- In vulnerable communities, people are faced with the urgent need to reorganize the supply and use of key health services.

Discussions will mainly focus on the above themes throughout this year's Galien Forum Africa.

II. GOAL OF THE FORUM

Since the first edition in 2018, the Galien Forum Africa has been working to strengthen research and sustainable development through experience sharing in the face of major public health issues. The Galien Forum Africa provides a platform for high-level scientific discussions on issues of common interest and on our continent's health priorities. It is an opportunity to share lessons learned and discuss challenges and prospects.

III. THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

This year, the main theme of the Forum is *“Health and community actions under climate and environmental crisis in Africa”*

The panels will focus on various sub-themes and will provide an opportunity to assess the progress made and, above all, to make recommendations to mitigate the health impacts of climate and environmental change.

IV. CONDUCT OF THE FORUM AGENDA

The event will be organized in a hybrid format (in-person and virtual): (i) the Youth Forum, the Women's Forum and the Scientific Forum, during which international experts will speak on the topics, will be held in in-person sessions and will also be made available online via webinars. Interaction between the virtual participants and those present will be facilitated. There will also be time for questions and answers from the audience. (ii) The Prix Galien Africa 2024 award ceremony will be held in-person.

Key events will be broadcast on YouTube and via Social Networks.

V. PARTICIPANTS

For the 2024 edition, more than 3,000 participants are expected from all over the world. They include Nobel Prize winners, political leaders, experts, researchers, students, community leaders, doctors, social anthropologists, biologists, innovators, investors, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, etc.

VI. DATE

The Galien Forum Africa will be held in Dakar (Senegal) from 22 to 25 October 2024.