

COUNCIL OF AFRICAN DIASPORA OF FRANCE (CDAF)

Association Loi 1901 n° W751252696

FIGHT AGAINST COVID 19:

ADVOCACY BY AFRICAN DIASPORAS OF FRANCE

**INFORM, SENSITISE, PREVENT, TEST, ISOLATE, TREAT, ACCOMPANY,
INCITE, PROTECT**



HE Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic on visit to the Mediterranean infection University teaching hospital, Marseille, in the company of several young researchers from this establishment from African Diaspora (mainly from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, Morocco, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Tunisia)¹.

Executive Summary: Given the lack of definitive treatment scientifically accepted by all at this date, the imperative goal of saving lives recommends applying Western solutions (preventive barrier measures and a combination of various prescriptions), enlightening the general public and also account for African solutions (preventive barrier measures, fagaricin by Professor Bruno Eto, Covid Organics by Pr Albert Rakoto Ratsimamanga, and apivirine by Doctor Valentin Agon available today)

¹ Extract and Image from the Journal Migration, "Coronavirus: these African migrants at the forefront of French research" - April 10, 2020

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The Covid-19 is a world epidemic that started world wide after the discovery of the coronavirus called SARS-Cov-2). It causes respiratory infections in humans, ranging from a common cold to a severe lung infection and can lead to acute respiratory distress sometimes associated with multiple organ failure (kidney, heart, nerve), hypoxia of viral pneumonia, bacterial super infection, severe pulmonary embolism, myocardial infarction, or stroke.

Following the first case of Covid-19 detected in Wuhan, China on November 17, 2019, this disease has spread worldwide, with three cases recorded in France on January 24, 2020². The symbolic rate of 100,000 deaths was reached on April 11, 2020, causing the suspension of several human activities, the confinement of more than half the planet, an unprecedented economic recession; social, societal and human dramas since early 1940s.

Faced with this unprecedented health crisis, the Council of African Diasporas of France (hereafter denominated “CDAF”):

- Given the dedication of doctors, nurses, nursing assistants, researchers, scientists, other African health experts, various hospital workers, in the fight against Covid-19;
- Given the mobilisation of heads of states and of governments, public authorities, multilateral, bilateral, governmental institutions, private institutions faced with the Covid-19;
- Given the implication of the civil society, non governmental organisations, in Africa and in France;
- Given the repercussions and the challenges of Covid-19 in Africa and in France on the human, ethical, political, economic, educational, social, societal, and cultural levels;
- Given the mobilization of human, material and immaterial means, implemented to date, and hoped for in the near future, in Africa and in France for the fight against Covid-19;
- Given from experience on the feedback on information and prevention of populations, epidemiological factors, and the care and monitoring of patients, in this health crisis worldwide of Covid-19;
- Considering the study carried out with suppliers and intermediaries of equipment for prevention, detection and fight against Covid-19, which reveals for example the higher cost of respirators (between US \$ 35,000 and US \$ 72,000 per device) or the cost of air transport and the delivery of equipment to the tarmac of African airports (approximately US \$ 375,000 per cargo plane);
- Given the opinions of the Scientific Councils of France (Metropolitan and Overseas);
- Given the opinions of the Association of African Doctors of France and various Africans diasporas doctors and scientists;

² Source: Mediapart Newspaper, Saturday 11, 2020 by François Bonnet

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- Considering the information published by African states' ministries of health and scientific research
 - Considering the diplomatic note entitled "the pangolin effect: the storm coming from Africa?" From the Centre for Forecasting and Strategy Analysis of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of April 24, 2020;
 - Considering the impact of the measures to fight against the Covid-19 on the liberty of individuals and fundamental rights of citizens in general,
 - Considering the discriminations and abuses, noted by the African Union, of which the members of the African diasporas were victims in China within the framework of the fight against Covid-19, and the 10 resolutions adopted during the meeting of April 13 2020 between the heads of diplomatic missions of African countries and the Chinese authorities;
 - Considering the outrage provoked within the African diasporas and the French and African populations by the regrettable comments made on French television about the tests of vaccines on the populations of Africa, and the public apologies that followed;
- 1. Welcomes the entire human, psychological, health, scientific, material, financial, and social, individual and collective efforts made in Africa and in France by all in the fight against Covid-19;**
 - 2. Recognizes the heterogeneous nature of the situations and accepts that the measures to combat Covid-19, to be operational, must be realistic and adapted to the different contexts of each country;**
 - 3. Urges the Public Authorities of France and Africa to strengthen, among other things, the prevention, detection, treatment and care against cardiovascular diseases, respiratory inflammations, diabetes, malnutrition, lifestyle, which are breeding grounds for the spread of Covid-19;**
 - 4. Calls for the guarantee of essential principles such as (i) the human dignity of the population in general and of the African diasporas in particular, (ii) greater transparency in the information concerning patients admitted to hospitals and health institutions, (iii) appropriate support for families and the end-of-life care of patients, (iv) respect for the burial procedures of deceased persons, and if necessary, (iv) repatriation to Africa of the bodies of members of African diasporas who have died of coronavirus if that is the desire of their families in compliance with health security conditions. In this regard, welcomes the decision of the Kingdom of Morocco to cover the costs of the burial of the remains of the Moroccan deceased in precarious situation in their country of residence;**

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5. *Regarding the prevention of Covid-19:*

- Notices that in the current state of knowledge, prevention remains the cornerstone of the fight against Covid-19. As such:
 - Urges the strict application of social distancing measures and barrier gestures which reduce the mechanisms of contamination of the population, and recommends the dissemination of these measures very closely to African populations in their local languages,
 - Recommends the compulsory wearing of masks in public spaces in France and in Africa,
 - Recommends the generalisation of temperature controls and screening in France and in Africa, in particular in ports, stations, airports, in a preventive and proactive approach of countries, Regions and Territories,
 - Takes note of the important role played by confining populations at home ifor the prevention against the spread in France of Covid-19,
 - Takes note of the peculiarity of African economies characterized in particular by the predominance of the informal sector, and the imperative need for the greatest number of populations to provide for their daily needs do not agitate for the establishment of the containment of these populations at their homes,
 - Recommends the installation in public spaces of decontamination gantries in Africa and France,
 - Welcomes the efforts made in France and in other developed countries towards the discovery of a vaccine against Covid-19,
 - Notes from public studies stand point that Africa is rarely involved in carrying out vaccine tests in general,
 - Considers that contrary to popular belief, it is not a question of testing a new vaccine in Africa, but rather of evaluating the “cross-efficacy” on Covid-19, of an already existing tuberculosis vaccine used for over a century in all corners of the world, including African countries. In this very particular context of the fight against the pandemic, studies carried out on this vaccine in European countries and in Australia have produced very encouraging results. Hence the idea of extending the study to Africa where tuberculosis is endemic,
 - Nevertheless recommends caution and vigilance in carrying out technical trials of a coronavirus vaccine in Africa, and, in any event, the participation of medical and scientific experts from the African diasporas, as well as members of organizations representative of these in the procedures, works and information relating to any relevant tests and results in Africa

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- Takes note of the existence of Fagaricine, phytomedicine created by Professor Bruno Eto whose object is to strengthen the immune defences of patients infected with the coronavirus and / or people at risk, benefiting from marketing authorisations (AMM) in several African countries and sold in pharmacies (Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Gabon, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Conakry, Republic of Congo, and Chad),
- Asks WHO, Africa's development partners, and the Community of Health and Research Experts to disseminate information to the general public on the existence of Fagaricine and its usefulness in prevention against Covid-19;
- Asks African countries and France to allow the provision of Fagaricine to patients infected with Coronavirus to strengthen their immune defences,

6. Approves the systematic quarantine (generally for fourteen days) of persons tested positive for Covid-19, in an appropriate therapeutic environment;

7. With regard to the treatment and management of Covid-19:

- Notes the absence to date of a scientifically proven treatment against Covid-19, in phase 3 test,
- Takes note of the studies being carried out (in progress):
 - in France testing (i) hydroxychloroquine against a placebo on a sample of 600 people, and (ii) Kaletra against a placebo on another sample of 600 people, with the aim of seeing if one of the groups will develop less often, the sickness than the other,
 - In Africa testing hydroxychloroquine and apivirine,
 - Takes note of the following treatments administered to patients with Covid-19: hydroxychloroquine associated with azithromycin,
 - microlide (zithromax, zeclar, rulid or josacine), in cases with poorly tolerated pneumonitis, the combination of microlide with a C3G (ceftriaxone) or Cefpodoxim,
 - specific antiretrovirals (several of which are in the current evaluation protocols) such as Lopinavir- Ritonavir (used in HIV), Remdesivir (used against Ebola), Favipiravir (Avigon),
 - Serine Protease inhibitors (Camostat, Nafamostat),
 - specific drugs on pathophysiology (LMWH on the consideration of the thromboembolic phenomenon), or even in anticoagulant doses,
 - corticoids which would find a place after the 7th day to fight against the diffuse and complex Inflammatory Syndrome,
 - vitamin C and Zinc,

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- Takes note of the difficulty in reconciling the imperative of prudence which requires prescribing a treatment having been scientifically tested according to the canons and deadlines of medical science, and the requirement of emergency in the face of the daily spread of Covid-19. However, given the particular context of health war, daily increase in the number of victims, and the primacy of saving lives:
 - approves the administration by a doctor of any life-saving treatment, within the framework of a doctor-patient dialogue and following appropriate prior examinations (cardiac, neurological, pneumological or others);
 - approves the decision taken by African countries to produce, store, authorize the marketing of chloroquine, the purchase cost of which remains within the reach of African populations, and which is already subject to medical prescription in Africa and in France within the framework of the doctor-patient dialogue,
 - approves the decision of the pharmaceutical company Sanofi to make available to French public authorities several million doses of chloroquine marketed under the name of Plaquenil,
 - approves the decision taken by pharmaceutical companies Bayer, Ipca, Mylan, Novartis, Teva, Zydus Cadila, among others, to resume the production of their chloroquine-based medicines,
- Welcomes the alert launched by the WHO of the prevention and fight against counterfeit hydroxychloroquine,
 - Takes note of the existence of Apivirine created by Doctor Valentin Agon from Benin used in Africa against malaria, which could be used to treat coronavirus, and approves the decision taken by the government of Burkina Faso in the Council of Ministers of March 27, 2020 to launch clinical tests on the efficacy of this drug in the fight against Covid-19,
- Urges African States to accede to Dr Agon's request to objectively test the efficiency of Apivirine and to publish the results obtained,
- Takes note of the clinical tests carried out in Madagascar by the National Center for Pharmaceutical Research Application which led HE Mr. Andry Rajoelina, Head of Madagascar State, to proclaim the discovery "of an improved traditional remedy for preventive and curative treatment" against Covid-19 called Covid Organics, composed of Artemisia and locally cultivated medicinal plants,
- Urges the Malagasy State to share its Covid Organics experience with other African States, the whole world, and WHO, for the benefit of humanity,

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- Welcomes the efforts of the French and African Public Authorities to strengthen their capacities in terms of reanimation beds for patients in respiratory distress. However, in the specific case of Africa, notes to date the financial difficulties of countries in having (i) a number of intensive care beds in proportion to the high potential of patients, (ii) a substantial staff trained in resuscitation skills in adapted premises, (iii) a substantial number of respirators available in proportion to the potential of patients with all the consumables necessary for their proper functioning,
- Notices, at the psychiatric level in France:
 - o the significant increase in consultations since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic,
 - o the arrival in psychiatry of new patients suffering psychologically and subjected to strong emotional variations and difficult to manage, of patients absolutely unconscious of the measure of what is happening,
 - o the awakening of several types of anxiety (death, contagion, lack for anxious addicts who can no longer get their product, conflicts within the family or an already fragile group, boredom, the confinement, the inability not to be able to anticipate, the fall in income, immobility, isolation, fear of contaminated neighbors or even their rejection, fear of having to find oneself alone, fear of having to reflect on the meaning of life, the need to talk about your life and what you want to do with it afterwards, questions about balance, what is essential or relative, the real priorities in life),
 - o worsening symptoms of mental disorder,
 - o the break in the course of healthcare or non-adherence to therapy in patients with diseases other than Covid-19,and urges Public Authorities to pay particular attention to the psychiatric management of the effects of Covid-19,

8. Regarding research:

- Welcomes the efforts of the French and African Public Authorities in research to stop the Covid-19, in particular the cooperation existing at the Mediterranean Infection University Hospital Institute (UHI) in Marseille (Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire (IHU) Méditerranée Infection de Marseille) between French scientists and scientists from the African diasporas
- Takes note of the commitments made by His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, during his speech to the Nation on April 13, 2020, to strengthen the resources devoted to research for the fight against Covid-19,
- Urges African countries to come to realise the fact that scientific research is an essential dynamic for the development of the continent, and consequently, to strengthen the national systems of financial and fiscal incentive for Research – Development (fundamental research, applied research, and experimental development) and innovation, like the French R&D tax credit and the French Youth Innovative Enterprises Tax Incentive,

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- Encourages the French and African Public Authorities to develop all possible forms of medical and scientific cooperation, sharing and transfer of knowledge, and in particular the incentives of the African diasporas working in France in these fields to intervene in Africa in support of local specialists,

9. With regard to accompanying measures:

- Request, for health staff, hospital hygiene workforce and all those who intervene directly in the healthcare of patients, the recognition of Covid-19 as professional disease,
- Provide support and management measures in psychiatry for post-traumatic stress disorder for healthcare professionals who have taken care of Covid-19 patients, and who are confronted with heavy responsibilities of the choices they were forced to make despite their ethics,
- Urges the French and African Public Authorities to anticipate and plan at the population level (i) the treatment of moral and psychiatric pathologies which could result from measures to combat Covid-19, and (ii) in the specific case of Africa the interactions / interferences of Covid-19 with some diseases such as malaria, sickle cell anaemia and others,
- Welcomes the financial support set up or expected for at the international and national levels for the fight against Covid-19, and urges the French public authorities (within the framework of the Amended Finance Act for 2020) and African Authorities (within the framework of their respective Amended State Budget for 2020) to make the necessary financial adjustments, allocations or reallocations for this fight,
- Welcomes the decision taken by the Governments of India and China to once again authorize the export of drugs and inputs for the production of Covid-19 drugs,
- In accordance with the commitment made by the President of the French Republic in his speech of April 13, 2020 to support Africa, urges the National Agency for the Safety of Medicines and Health Products to authorize the export to Africa of specialities for anaesthesia-reanimation and emergency medicine,
- Encourages all initiatives taken by the African Union (example the African Operational Task Force against the coronavirus announced on April 12, 2020) or envisaged by African States (for example the project to create an African Alliance to fight against the coronavirus announced on April 14, 2020 by Ivory Coast, Morocco and Senegal), but calls for coalition and coordination of energies and initiatives (and not dispersion) at the level of the African continent for the fight against this pandemic,
- Urges all Africa development partners to direct their actions towards the creation or consolidation within the continent of industrial production, scientific, epidemiological, therapeutic and molecular researches, awareness raising and dissemination of information, sharing of experiences and good practices, in connection with the fight against Covid-19,

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- Calls on France and the African countries to anticipate, plan and manage the moral, psychiatric and even paediatric pathologies which will undoubtedly result and develop following Covid-19 and measures to combat this pandemic,
- Calls for the development and deployment of new technologies such as digital, like the provision of telemedicine to simplify care access,
- Urges Public Authorities to prevent, denounce and punish all attacks on persons, fundamental freedoms and human rights that people of France and Africa in general, and members of the African diasporas all around the world in particular, have suffered in the context the fight against Covid-19;
- Recommends that a possible digital tracking system of the Covid-19 epidemic by identifying people who have been in contact with the disease must guarantee scrupulous respect for individual freedom and fundamental rights of people. In particular:
 - o transparency in the operation of such system,
 - o the consent of the users of this device,
 - o security, protection and the right to rectify the data collected,
 - o the guarantee of the use of data strictly for sanitary purposes,
- Urges WHO and its Member States (African countries and France in particular) to ensure the control, surveillance and police of laboratories manipulating the genes of pathogens agents in humans, animals and plants,
- Calls for the creation of the African Health Organization, one of the objectives of which would be the management of health crisis in Africa, for mutualisation of prevention, care for the health of Africans, and medical research,

10. Regarding Post Covid-19 perspectives:

- Strongly calls for awareness of the new challenges of planetary civilization which will characterize the world, Africa and France, after the Covid-19 health crisis,
- On the medical and scientific level:
 - o rethinking the health systems of France and African countries, particularly in terms of healthy life expectancy for populations;
 - o rethinking models for forecasting, organizing and managing health crises in order to face them better in the future,
 - o put back people, innovation, research and development, and collaborations between States in these fields at the heart of public policies,
 - o generalize universal health coverage in African countries in order to improve access to healthcare for the poorest populations, with the help of development partners and other financial institutions (such as banks, insurance companies),

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- On the educational, social and societal levels:
 - review priorities by put back human beings at the centre of concerns,
 - rethinking the educational, social and societal systems in order to favour intelligence (the formulation of problems, asking of good questions), and draw lessons from the experience acquired to find the answers,
 - living differently, adapting to uncertainty, restoring relationships with others and collective solidarity while preserving one's own little world,
 - rethinking the social models of France and Africa in terms of work, education and socialisation,
 - Rethinking the relation to death, bereavement, and support for end-of-life,
- On the economic plan:
 - get out of the dominant economic discourse (accumulation of wealth, financial economy, money production and multiplication) and return to the ethical dimension of economic thinking,
 - attenuate the neoliberal economic model by quality of national interventionism in the economy,
 - identify and define sovereign, strategic goods, services, needs, resources and applications (uses) for Nations,
 - investments actions from Public Authorities, Multilateral or Bilateral Institutions should be directed towards (i) building or strengthening national industrial and production capacities in order to reduce States dependencies, (ii) the development, renewal and maintenance of land, rail, air, sea, and energy infrastructures and (iii) digital economy (digital infrastructure, electronic money and payments, digital platforms). In this respect, civil societies and diasporas must be taken into account in the value chain, monitoring and control of the such investments,
 - civil societies will increasingly demand for balanced economic and commercial relations within Nations,
 - France and African countries will increasingly specialize their economies, strengthen their competitive advantages, and return to State economic planning,
 - State budgetary policies should be reviewed in the direction of (i) improving the quality of public expenditure and (ii) consolidating appropriate network between all the actors (State, Local authorities, Businesses, Civil Societies, Development Partners),

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- At the entrepreneurial level:

- entrepreneurship will be the main engine for growth and wealth creation in France and Africa. As such, demand for entrepreneurship support and incentive will increase,
- post Covid-19 value-added entrepreneurship will be directed towards meeting basic needs, technology, engineering, medical-scientific entrepreneurship (in areas such as health protection, telemedicine electronic platforms for prescriptions, patient care, inventories management and drug distribution), infrastructures optimizing physical, human and financial flows, logistics, digital activities, activities related with artificial intelligence applications. As such, entrepreneurs and businesses' organizations will have to identify the underlying trends and adapt accordingly,
- applying Agile methods and intelligent work will be the key success factors of the Post Covid-19 entrepreneurship,

-At the political level:

- demand for transparency, reliable information, new and shared ideas, mutual construction of solutions, and balanced political relations respectful of the sovereignty of countries and nations and people identity will be reinforced,
- politics will increasingly consist in supplying citizens with tools enabling them to understand better (i) their environment, their territory, their country, their continent and the world, and (ii) the interactions within their day to day life,
- participatory democracy (taking into account civil societies and citizens in the elaboration process, execution, implementation, follow-up and control of rules and standards) will be increasingly requested,

11. Regarding relations with African Diasporas:

- Confirms the position of the Centre for Analysis, Forecasting and Strategy of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs stating that African diasporas are key interlocutors within the Africa – France new deal,
- Recommends that the inclusion of African Diasporas within public policies in France and African countries enters now into reality.

Paris, April 21, 2020

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Honorary President of the Association of Elected officials in France of Origin or Cameroonian Nationality
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With following medical and scientific contributions:

- **Association of African Doctors in France**, headed by Doctor Juliette Tchuenbou (Gastroenterologist and Cancer specialist)
- **Professor Bruno Eto** (Drug science and research)
- **Doctor Bakary Diallo** (Anesthesiologist Reanimator – Intensive care unit)
- **Doctor Alhousseynou Sall** (Virologist)
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