



Dr. Karim Bendhaou (MD, MBA) has served as President of North and West Africa operations (40 countries of Africa) for Merck for over 18 years till September 2018 and since then he heads the Africa Bureau and coordinates all of Merck's corporate, strategic and executive decisions in Africa.

He has been appointed, in August 2019, as Africa Engagement Committee Chair of the IFPMA (International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations).

He holds a Doctorate in Medicine from Algiers and Paris, and a Master's degree in Business Administration.

A real pioneer, he has been working in the pharmaceutical industry for almost 22 years, building up strong pan-African organizations, gaining extensive experience in biotech medicines and biosimilars, and leading a successful enterprise; all the while keeping the patient in mind and increasing the commitment of the organization to the UNDG and to high ethical values.

In 2007, he was one of the initiators of the joint program with the World Health Organization (WHO) for the elimination of Schistosomiasis, a neglected tropical disease in Africa.

Passionate about Africa, he is highly committed to driving the continent forward helping, through public-private partnerships, to lead the improvement of healthcare with a focus on Digital Technology and adoption of innovative ideas. Through the various corporate social responsibility projects, he has worked together with governments and non-governmental organizations to assure access to treatment.

He has recently been involved in equitable access to vaccines through the dissemination of technology allowing the manufacture and local filling of the vaccine.

He is also sponsor of several Startups fighting against falsified medicines and others working for the establishment of a system ensuring the supply sustainability for Africa regardless of the events that may affect the planet.

He is member of different Pharma associations and organizations: PhRMA (Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America), LEEM (Les Entreprises du Médicament), GEIP (Groupement des Exportateurs de l'Industrie Pharmaceutique), LEMM (Les Entreprises du Médicament au Maroc), SEPHIRE (Syndicat des Entreprises Pharmaceutiques Innovantes et de Recherche) and Africa Engagement Committee Chair of the IFPMA (International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations).

In November 2020, he has been appointed as a commissioner for the Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC) 2021.

