

Dear APBA Community and Conference Participants,

We hope this message finds you well. We are writing to provide an update on the recent earthquake that occurred in the Haouz region, with its epicenter located 70 km from Marrakech city and more than 140 km from the UM6P campus, our conference venue.

First and foremost, our hearts go out to those who have been affected by this tragic event. The loss of lives and the damage to infrastructure have undoubtedly left a significant impact on the affected area.

Despite the challenges posed by this natural disaster, we are pleased to report that Marrakech and the UM6P campus have not been directly affected - except limited damages in the old medina of Marrakech - and all preparations for our upcoming conference are proceeding as planned. We are grateful that none of our events at UM6P and Morocco have been suspended as of now, and everything remains in order and normal.

Furthermore, we are currently organizing a two-day workshop here at UM6P, which began on September 12th. We are delighted to have participants joining us from Ghana, Tanzania, Senegal, and France, all of whom are safely here at UM6P.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that next month, in October, Marrakech will host a significant event involving the World Bank and IMF meetings, with a side event scheduled to take place at UM6P one week before our conference. We want to reassure you that all preparations for this event are progressing smoothly.

Considering the recent earthquake and the challenges it has brought to the Haouz region, we believe that it would be a meaningful gesture for the APBA community and conference participants to come together to send a positive message and offer support to Morocco and its people during this difficult time.

It is during adversity that our resilience and solidarity shine brightest, and we wish to demonstrate that, even in the face of such challenges, life goes on, and our commitment to advancing our shared goals remains unwavering.

We look forward to welcoming you to the upcoming conference.

Sincerely,

Moez Amri, Chair – LOC

Eric Danquah, Chair - IOC, president APBA