The SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) was first reported in December 2019 in China. It has infected over 19 million people and caused more than 700,000 deaths globally. The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted endemic disease programmes in Africa, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, routine immunization, and non-communicable diseases. It has contributed to severe food insecurity, gender-based violence and economic slowdown as well as disruption of Africa’s Continental Free Trade Area agreement. The First International Conference on Public Health in Africa, organized by Africa CDC, will focus on COVID-19 in Africa: one year later and allow a review of lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and opportunities to re-evaluate the new normal in public health practice in Africa.

**CONFERENCE TRACKS**

**Day 1: Exploring the Science of COVID-19**
- **Track 1**: Epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 in Africa and globally
- **Track 2**: Laboratory diagnosis and molecular epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2
- **Track 3**: Pathogenesis of SARS-CoV-2
- **Track 4**: Clinical management of COVID-19

**Day 2: Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 and our Response**
- **Track 5**: Effects of SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 on emerging and endemic diseases programmes (HIV, TB, malaria), non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and health systems
- **Track 6**: Vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 infection
- **Track 7**: Financing COVID-19 pandemic response
- **Track 8**: Socio-economic impact of SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19

**Day 3: Reflecting on Lessons Learned and Mapping the Way Forward**
- **Track 9**: A new public health order for Africa in the context of public emergency
- **Track 10**: Whole-of-society approach in combatting COVID-19 and other emerging diseases
- **Track 11**: Private sector engagement and leadership in mitigating COVID-19 in Africa
- **Track 12**: Politics and public health in the era of COVID-19

**IMPORTANT DATES**
- 1 October 2020: Launch of call for abstracts
- 31 January 2021: Abstract submission deadline
- 1 February 2021: Abstract review begins
- 27 February 2021: Abstract review ends
- **Week of 7 March 2021**: Results sent to authors
- 31 March 2021: Deadline for presenters to register

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