



PRESS RELEASE



ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES OF AFRICA

MARCH 2024



ALGIERS

CLIMATE ACTION HUB





The capital city of Algeria played host to a select group of dignitaries of the African and Global Olympic and Sports Movements who attended the **ANOCA FORUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE** on 5 and 6 March 2024.

Under the distinguished patronage of the Prime Minister, Mohamed Ennadir LARBAOUI, this high-profile Forum was organised by the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa, ANOCA, in collaboration with the IOC, the Algerian Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of the Environment and Renewable Energies. The two-day event was attended by all 54 African NOCS.

The opening ceremony featured various addresses and messages delivered by the following officials: Fazia DAHLAB, Algerian Minister of Environment and Renewable Energies, Abderrahmane HAMMAD, Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr Robin MITCHELL, President of ANOC and Vice President of the IOC, Mustapha BERRAF, ANOCA President, Dr Thomas BACH, IOC President and His Excellency Mohamed Ennadir LARBAOUI, Prime Minister of Algeria who officially opened the Forum.





I hail the major importance that the IOC and ANOCA attach to the issue of environmental protection, as demonstrated by the strong presence of the Olympic family here in Algeria to take part in the deliberations of this forum.

In his welcome address, the **Minister of Youth and Sports, Abderrahmane Hammad** said:

“The Algerian authorities, led by the President of the Republic, His Excellency Abdelmadjid TEBBOUNE, are working to put in place environment friendly development and energy policies, as demonstrated by the project to rehabilitate the green dam by planting 70,000 shrubs across 13 wilayas, under the supervision of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.”

He then expressed satisfaction with efforts made in support of climate action:

“The Olympic Forest in Africa Project initiated by the International Olympic Committee has had a great impact in Algeria, where reforestation campaigns are commonplace... I hail the major importance that the IOC and ANOCA attach to the issue of environmental protection, as demonstrated by the strong presence of the Olympic family here in Algeria to take part in the deliberations of this forum ... the environment remains one of the pillars of Olympism after sport, the culture and respect for oneself and others.”





As ANOC President, I must commend ANOCA, led by President BERRAF, for organising a dialogue on these issues. Time is not on our side.

For his part, **ANOC President Robin MITCHELL**, said:

“This is a crucial subject, our attendance here today demonstrates our shared commitment to addressing it. And to our recognition that we all have a role to play, individually and collectively. As ANOC President, I must commend ANOCA, led by President BERRAF, for organising a dialogue on these issues. Time is not on our side. We must ensure that the discussions we have during this forum and the knowledge we gain is turned into tangible climate action. At ANOC, we fully support ANOCA and all Continental Associations in leading sustainability discussions with their regions and encouraging NOCs to take concrete action.”





Thank you Mr President for organising this conference aimed at building a better and more sustainable world through sport.

In his message, a video projection, **IOC President Dr Thomas BACH** underscored the IOC's concern for the environment and the fight against global warming, and hailed ANOCA's efforts in all areas.

"The climate crisis is a call to action for all of us in the Olympic community, because we all share the same mission: to make the world a better place. This is why I would like to congratulate ANOCA and in particular the President, my dear friend Mustapha Berraf. Thank you Mr President for organising this conference aimed at building a better and more sustainable world through sport. Sport is the low-cost, high-impact tool par excellence for all countries to build this more sustainable world. The IOC is fully focused on strengthening this important enabling role of sport, to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. With our "Olympism 365" strategy, we have a framework to strengthen collaboration and collective action. Climate action is a team effort. We have a role to play."





Sport must be able to raise public awareness of the dangers of climate change and variations, which result from the pollution of the environment by all types of waste.... This Forum will analyse the impact of sport on the environment.



ANOCA President, Honourable Mustapha BERRAF, for his part insisted that:

“We need to brainstorm ways of developing sports governance policies to protect nature. Sport must be able to raise public awareness of the dangers of climate change and variations, which result from the pollution of the environment by all types of waste.... This Forum will analyse the impact of sport on the environment. Some major sports events have an impact on the environment, from the design of equipment and awards, to waste management.... Allow me congratulate the International Olympic Committee and its illustrious President, my friend Dr Thomas BACH, who is working for a clean and waste-free sporting planet and also for a change in the behaviour of all sports stakeholders to preserve the environment.... The ANOCA 2020 - 2024 strategic plan is strongly committed to the fight against global warming.”





At that time, the IOC recommended that all its components commit to sustainable development, and ANOCA has since made the environment one of its priorities by committing to a sustainability strategy.



There were three sessions, moderated respectively by Paul TERGAT, Dr Filomena FORTES and Wedu MOSWETTA, on a wide range of sub-themes: environmental strategy and youth in sustainable development; policies and measures to address climate change; IOC sustainability strategy; changes in environmental action at local level; Algeria's energy transition policy and its role in mitigating environmental and atmospheric impacts; towards a waste-free wWorld; Agenda 2063 – clamouring for the Africa we all want; sustainability of sports events; way forward for African sport.

Suffice it to note that the environment is the third pillar of Olympism, a critical aspect enshrined at the World Sport and Environment Congress in Rio (1999). At that time, the IOC recommended that all its components commit to sustainable development, and ANOCA has since made the environment one of its priorities by committing to a sustainability strategy.





Discussions thus focused on sustainable transformation via Olympic agendas 2020 and 2020 + 5, which set out 15 recommendations. IOC's commitment to the climate, which involves reducing emissions pursuant to the Paris Agreement, which calls for a 50% reduction in direct and indirect emissions by 2030 and 30% in 2024. The goal is to offset more than 100% of our residual emissions, an equivalent of 200,000 tonnes of CO2 sequestered by the Olympic Forest, and use our influence to encourage our stakeholders and Olympic fans to fight against climate change. Priority areas for the Olympic Movement for the period 2021 – 2024 are sustainability strategies covering environmental, social and economic aspects, action in the service of climate and nature, and sustainable supply and circularity. The aim is for the African Olympic Movement to put sport at the service of climate action and nature. The IOC pledges to help NOCs take action for the climate through its Sustainability Commission, which provides technical assistance through individual support, workshops or working groups and guidelines, and Olympic Solidarity, which conveys consistent messages and provides specific support and funding to NOCs.





All these aspects were addressed during the Forum. Participants concluded that joint and concerted action is the best option in addressing the threats of climate change.

At the end of their deliberations, participants thanked the President of the Republic, His Excellency Abdelmajid TEBBOUNE, for the warm welcome and royal hospitality accorded them. They also thanked the IOC president for his unwavering support as well as the ANOCA president and all ANOCA Executive Committee members for their foresighted and efficient governance for the benefit of sport and the good of the African Olympic Movement.

The participants expressed their desire to come up with an operational plan and a concrete programme to further develop the action of the African Olympic Movement and its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The aim will be to ensure that all human beings and the African continent live in a healthy and clean world.












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