

Chronicle of the African Beach Games

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SECOND AFRICAN BEACH GAMES

**CHINA AND ANOCA CALL FOR
GREATER SOLIDARITY WITH
AFRICAN SPORT**



2^E JEUX AFRICAINS DE PLAGES
HAMMAMET • 2023

"Africa in Solidarity"





An important meeting was held this evening in Hammamet between ANOCA, led by Mustapha Berraf, and a delegation from NOC China led by its President Gao ZHIDAN. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the African Beach Games (ABG) Hammamet 2023, and fused on consolidating friendship and cooperation ties between Africa and China in the field of Youth and Sport.

It was graced by ANOC President, Robin Mitchell, who took the opportunity to highlight the excellent work accomplished by ANOCA, stressing that the report presented to the last IOC Executive Committee meeting shows that ANOCA is among the two best continental Olympic associations in terms of promotion of Sport, Olympic Values and Governance. He pointed out that ANOCA made good use of Olympic Solidarity funds, and therefore deserves greater representation among IOC members.



President Berraf on his part said he was pleased and honoured that NOC China heeded ANOCA's invitation, welcoming the already exemplary relations between China and Africa, which he described as «**indivisible and bound by ties of sincere and unflinching friendship**».

He further thanked the President of ANOC, the Secretary General of CONFEJES, the Chair of the Organising Committee of the African Games Ghana 2023, the President of NOC Tunisia (CNOT) and COJAP, as well as IOC members in Africa and officials, for their presence, recalling that the aim of this meeting was to consolidate the foundations of a lasting partnership between China and Africa.





He then reviewed the areas to be developed through this partnership:

- 1.** Preparing athletes for upcoming international events, in particular the Olympic Games,
- 2.** Training coaches and managers to improve governance within African NOCs.
- 3.** Coordination for mutual support during elections,
- 4.** Olympic Values promotion, joining forces to fight against doping and to address global warming,
- 5.** Maintenance and development of sports infrastructure,
- 6.** Joint commitment, in collaboration with the IOC, to strict compliance with the rules and principles of the Olympic Charter.





President Berraf noted that these will be set out in a cooperation agreement to be signed next September in China.

The President of NOC China, for his part, said he was delighted to be among the African Olympic family and expressed his deep gratitude to ANOCA for the invitation.

He thanked the IOC for its support to China during the 2008 Summer Olympic Games and the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

President ZHIDAN highlighted Africa's role in promoting the international Olympic and sports movement, underscoring its rich pool of high-performance athletes and its capacity to host the biggest international events, including the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games. **«This, he said, opens up the possibility of the continent becoming the hub of the international Olympic movement.»**

President ZHIDAN especially noted that the Chinese Head of State greatly values relations with Africa in all areas, and that **«it is only logical that, as President of the Olympic Committee and Minister of Sport in China, I should take this approach.»** He pointed out that there was great potential for cooperation in disciplines such as athletics, swimming and football, which are high-performance areas in Africa, and gymnastics and table tennis, which are the most successful sports in China.

President ZHIDAN concluded that cooperation ties with Africa are characterised by the values of Sincerity, Friendship and Progress, and that they need to be strengthened.

It is only logical that, as President of the Olympic Committee and Minister of Sport in China, I should take this approach.





Mr James Maleod and Ms Kristy Coventry, in turn, highlighted the value of partnerships between the various Olympic bodies, welcoming the approach taken by NOC China and ANOCA.

Invited to take the floor, CNOT President, Mehrez Boussayene, thanked ANOCA for the trust placed in Tunisia to organise the ABGs. He insisted that it was an honour for their country to host the African and international Olympic family, including the ANOC President and the President of NOC China.

The meeting was also an opportunity for participants to engage in other meaningful discussions with a view to strengthening the role of the Olympic movement for a better world.



“Africa in Solidarity”





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