



PRESS RELEASE



ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES OF AFRICA

OCTOBER 2023



SECOND GENDER EQUALITY FORUM SIGNALS THE GREEN LIGHT!





... to congratulate all 54 National Olympic Committees of Africa, who have made it possible to hold the 2nd Gender Equality Forum on the theme of «Sport and Gender Equality.



Sal Island, Cape Verde: the 2nd Gender Equality Forum opened on 2 October 2023 with a well-attended official ceremony that featured a series of keynote speeches reflecting the importance of the deliberations.

In his opening address, ANOCA President, the Honourable Mustapha BERRAF, sought ***“... to congratulate all 54 National Olympic Committees of Africa, who have made it possible to hold the 2nd Gender Equality Forum on the theme of «Sport and Gender Equality”***. In the same vein, he made it a point of duty to express his thanks: ***“I wish to thank in particular the ANOCA Gender Equality Commission and all the gender equality or women in sport commissions, which are doing a remarkable job to promote gender equality in sport on our continent.”***





This set the tone, as this speech-making phase also featured an address by Dr Filomena FORTES, President of NOC Cape Verde, and was spiced by a video message from IOC President, Dr Thomas BACH, “*who welcomed the deliberations and urged all stakeholders to further foster gender equality in sport and Olympism and to promote women in various organisations*”. There was another video message from the President of the Republic of Cape Verde, His Excellency José Maria NEVES, who thanked ANOCA and the entire African Olympic and Sports Movement for choosing his country to host the 2nd Gender Equality Forum. “*We are deeply honoured,*” he said.

Nearly 200 delegates are taking part in the Forum, including Presidents of African NOCs, IOC members, Olympic Solidarity representatives and Olympic champions.





One of the highlights of the opening ceremony was the presentation of the IOC Africa **WOMEN AND SPORT PRIZE**, which was awarded to Natsiraishe Maritsa of Zimbabwe for her efforts to empower young girls in her country through Taekwondo and her Vulnerable Underaged Peoples Auditorium Foundation.

This project is part of Olympism 365, an IOC strategy aimed at strengthening the role of sport in society and driving positive change through sport.

At just 17, Natsiraishe Maritsa was on the verge of becoming a champion of gender equality in 2021 when she was named winner of the IOC Africa Women and Sport Prize in 2021.





The main themes of the first day of the 2nd Gender Equality Forum were the presentation of the ANOCA Gender Equality Plan by Ms Mathlohang Moila-Ramoqopo, ANOCA Second Vice-President and IOC Member, sustainable growth, the implementation of zonal gender equality plans, and the allocation of resources for gender equality by Olympic Solidarity. Moderated panels discussed a range of concerns that are holding back the promotion of gender equality in sport in Africa.

The second day of the 2nd Gender Equality Forum heralds further high-level panel discussions on 3 October 2023.

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