



# ANOCA NEWSLETTER



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

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MONTHLY REVIEW OF AFRICAN OLYMPISM



**INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE**

**THOMAS BACH  
MUST STAY ON!**

International Olympic Committee

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**MUST STAY ON!**

**According to the ANOCA President, Honourable Mustapha BERRAF, the current IOC President should run for another term at the helm of the supreme governing body of the global Olympic movement.**



## Mustapha BERRAF said:

***“In these difficult times, we need a captain with all the necessary experience. The Olympic movement needs stability. On behalf of ANOCA and ANOCA members, I propose that Thomas Bach extend his mandate for another four years.”***

Pursuant to the Olympic Charter, Thomas BACH should have to step down after serving a 12-year tenure. But ANOCA President, Mustapha BERRAF, holds that ***“Thomas BACH must continue his mandate,”*** and notes that ***“This proposal is not a personal idea; it comes from ANOCA and IOC members in Africa.”*** Honourable Mustapha BERRAF thus stands for a tacit re-election of Thomas BACH as IOC President. Speaking at the 141<sup>st</sup> IOC session,

he submitted that the Olympic Charter be amended accordingly.

The ANOCA President was seconded in this move by the President of the NOC of the Dominican Republic, Luis Mejia Oviedo, and IOC member Aicha Garad Ali from Djibouti. IOC Vice-President, John COATES of Australia, Head of the Legal Commission, however, told the delegates that a motion to amend the Charter must be tabled 30 days before a session.



## In response, Dr Thomas BACH said:

***“First of all, I say thank you very much for your kind words of support, because I think these words of support are not only directed to me, they are directed to all of us.”*** He then added that, ***“What made us overcome the challenges we had was exactly this unity, this support which you expressed with regard to many items overall at the time, and we can only be credible if we are appealing to all these divisive forces in the world, if we are appealing to respect the unifying nature of sport, if we ourselves are unified. Otherwise we have no credibility. If we are divided, how can we teach others about unity and our unifying power?”***

Under the stewardship of Dr Thomas BACH, the IOC adopted several major reforms, including Agenda 2020, Agenda 2020+5 and the New Standard, and for the first time in

its history, Africa will host the Dakar 2026 Olympic Games. In the face of various crises, Dr Thomas BACH has handled the situation skilfully and has thus succeeded in securing the resources and sustainability of the Olympic model. His pragmatism has been a shield against all storms since 2013.

In 2021, Thomas BACH was elected for a first 8 year term, and could leverage on his ability to bring people together to get re-elected, given the growing number of calls for his re-election from Olympic and sporting communities around the world.

The African Olympic and Sports Movement, led by Honourable Mustapha BERRAF, believes that Thomas BACH’s re-election beyond 2025 is only normal for someone who has proven his efficiency and the depth of his vision for the sustainable development of a world where sport is a vehicle for youth development in Africa and the world at large.



# NOC CHINA AND ANOCA CONSOLIDATE TIES

**Sign strategic agreement.**

**M**aking Africa its partner is one of the objectives of the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC), which signed a major agreement with ANOCA in Hangzhou.

The agreement focuses on deepening ties with African sport. Honourable Mustapha BERRAF, the ANOCA President:

*“This is a new era of cooperation and exchange between our two communities, opening wide the doors to new visions for a future of solidarity and mutual respect. This Memorandum of Understanding also charts the path for hope and socio-economic unity between our peoples, which will enable meaningful and genuine growth through Olympism and Sport towards modernity and development.”*

This important agreement was signed on the sidelines of the 19<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in Hangzhou by an ANOCA delegation led by the ANOCA President, and which also comprised ANOCA Vice-President, Joao Da Costa Alegre, Vice-President Matlohang-Moiloa-Ramoqopo and ANOCA Athletes' Commission Chair, Gaby Ahrens. The ceremony took place on 23 September, 2023.

*“This will be a mutually beneficial cooperation, and I would like to*

*pay a warm tribute to Africa and its representatives. We are committed to doing our utmost to seal this strategic cooperation, which will promote the spirit of the Olympic values cherished by our communities. This is a landmark agreement for China, and also considering the interest shown by the highest authorities on the African continent,”*



### **Said Gao ZHIDAN, President of the COC and Minister of Sports**

*The Chinese government has invested billions of dollars in infrastructure in Africa, with a peak spending of \$28.5 billion in 2016.*

*Honourable Mustapha BERRAF urged Gao ZHIDAN to relay to the President of the*

*People's Republic of China, Xi JINPING, “the deep feelings of gratitude of the entire African Olympic and Sports Movement and the expression of our utmost respect.”*



# ANOCA AND NOC FRANCE SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE

An agreement has been signed between Honourable Mustapha BERRAF, the ANOCA President and David LAPPARTIENT, President of the French NOC.

This cooperation agreement basically promotes a set of shared values: the Olympic spirit, sport development, combating discrimination, promoting gender parity in sport and sport ethics.



Both parties undertook to cooperate in the areas of sports, anti-doping and unsportsmanlike conduct, among others. Best practices are also a key focus area.

The Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games also feature prominently in this agreement, especially as regards the preparation of African athletes.

The organisation of major international sports events will be boosted through the sharing of experiences and know-how. The agreement, which comes into force on 19

September 2023, will end on 31 December 2025.

During the signing ceremony, Honourable Mustapha BERRAF said: ***“... thank you very much, and I am delighted to sign this agreement, which I hope will open the door to great horizons. Don’t worry, everything will fall into place. Mr President says we shouldn’t get into politics. Let me do my part to calm things down. That’s also sports diplomacy, and we’ll do all we can to ensure that our countries, all African countries and beyond, and especially France, live in peace and tranquility, thank you!”***

**CNOSF President David LAPPARTIENT went on to say:**

***“We are therefore going to sign this agreement, which is rather simple, but which also aims to promote some common points, notably participation in programmes and seminars, so to speak, on both sides, many discussions can be held.”***



# YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES: GREAT STRIDES TOWARDS DAKAR 2026

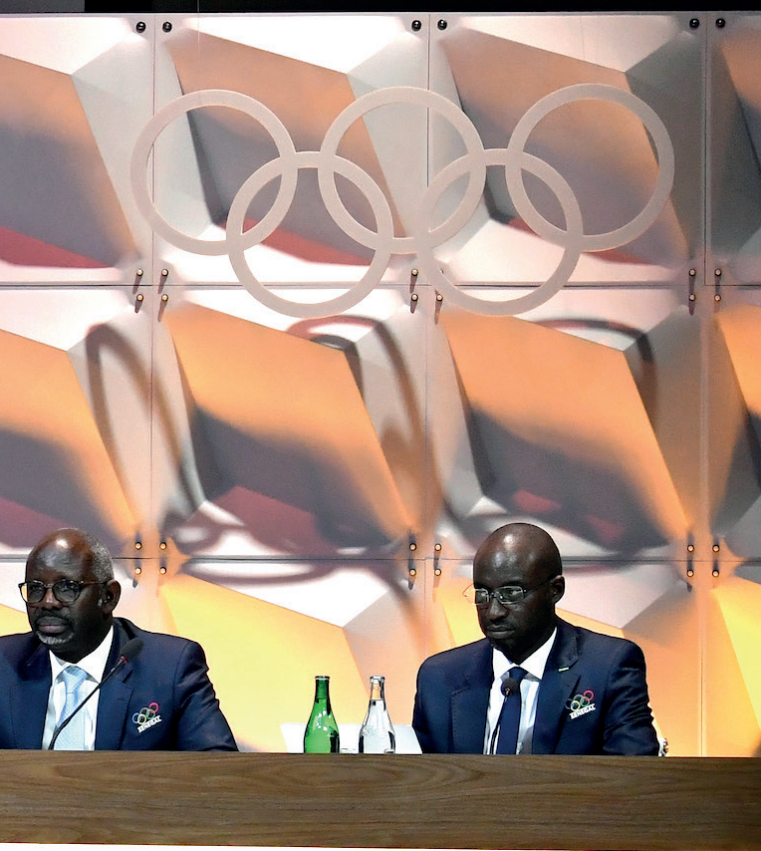
**Three years away from the Youth Olympic Games, preparations well underway.**

**S**uch is the conclusion of the 5th meeting of the IOC Coordination Commission. The meeting was chaired by Kirsty COVENTRY, IOC member and Christophe DUBI, IOC Olympic Games Executive Director.

The main item on the agenda was the assessment of preparations for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games. Ibrahima WADE, General Coordinator of the YOG Organising Committee and Cécile FAYE, Deputy Secretary of NOC Senegal, took stock of the level of preparations, following which Kirsty COVENTRY to declare at a press conference that:

***“The good organisation and mobilisation already observed are a reflection of what awaits us in 2026.”***





The TOG Organising Committee Chair underscored that he had presented, at the last meeting, the updated action plan to be implemented over the next three years.

The Dakar en Jeux Festival 2023 will take place from 31 October to 4 November, 2023 in Dakar, Diamniadio and Saly, and will bring together more than 2,000 athletes from across the world. Ibrahima WADE speaks of a highly innovative edition of the festival:

***“What’s new is that, a highly colourful opening ceremony will be held on the emblematic site of the African Renaissance Monument in Dakar. A moment during which sport, culture and education will be at the heart of Olympic values. A green brigade will be held in the form of tree-planting campaigns in sports facilities and localities, under the watchful eyes of Kenyan Olympic medallist Paul TERGAT, patron of the second edition of the festival.”***

He added:

***“Our Dakar 2026 project is currently gathering steam, with work done or almost done in both Diamniado and Saly.”*** He then detailed the ground covered so far with regard to infrastructure construction, noting that ***“... We have prepared a roadmap to help us in our everyday activities and will be fully set for the 31 October 2026 appointment.”***

The YOG will hold from 31 October to 13 November 2026.

According to Ibrahima WADE, ***“This 5th CoCom meeting marks a turning point in the Dakar 2026 project. It was therefore important for us to submit all the work we have done to this evaluation committee. But also, and above all, the recommendations from the last CoCom meeting, which advised that we reach out to 35 international federations, which we did, as is the case with the recent meeting with the International Canoe-Kayak Federation.”***

# MACKY SALL AND THOMAS BACH DISCUSS THE UPCOMING YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES DAKAR 2026



Both dignitaries met on the sidelines of the 78<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly in New York, United States. Presidents Macky SALL of Senegal and Thomas BACH of the IOC discussed the progress of

preparations for the 2026 YOG in Senegal. While Dr Thomas BACH expressed his “*satisfaction with the progress made,*” President Macky SALL termed the meeting “*fruitful*”.



# REVOLUTIONARY INTERNATIONAL ATHLETES' FORUM

**The 11<sup>th</sup> International Athletes' Forum (IAF) afforded the opportunity to ponder the future of athletes in safe sport across the world, and the Paris 2024 Olympic Games will be just the right moment to highlight the effectiveness of reforms on safeguarding athletes within countries and across regions.**

**I**AF 2023 closes with an update on the upcoming OG, safe sport, and a Q&A session with IOC President Thomas Bach

Over the past two days, the 11th IAF brought together over 400 athlete representatives in Lausanne to discuss the most important issues for athletes across the Olympic Movement. These two days of discussion and debate resulted in a series

of outcomes announced today by the IOC Athletes' Commission (AC). AC members from 181 National Olympic Committees (NOCs), 54 International Federations (IFs), the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), Organising Committees for the upcoming Olympic Games (OCOGs) and Continental Associations, as well as members of the Athletes' Declaration Steering Committee and representatives from the World Olympians Association (WOA), were present in Lausanne for the two days.

The IAF ended with an in-depth, two-hour Q&A session with the IOC President, Thomas Bach. In typical IAF fashion, the IOC President took to the stage and engaged directly with athlete representatives to answer their questions - no topics were off limits. Safe sport, the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the participation of individual neutral athletes with a Russian or Belarussian passport in international competitions during the qualifiers, and the mission of the Olympic Games to unite the world in peaceful competition and contribute to peace and understanding were all part of the discussion.

Other topics raised and addressed by the IOC President were: the situation of athletes from countries and regions affected by the too many wars and conflicts around the world; the digitalisation of sport, with Artificial Intelligence on the rise; the growing popularity of e-sports; the inclusion of AC chairs in NOC delegations at the Olympic Games; the inclusion of new sports in the Olympic programme; cooperation with the Deaflympics; the length of the stay of athletes in the Olympic Village; the support of the IOC for the Olympic Community of Ukraine; the YOG 2026 as an event for the entire African continent; and safeguarding and protection for athletes.



***“You can all look forward to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, which will be the Games of a new era,”*** the IOC President said. ***“They will be the first Olympic and Paralympic Games to be planned and delivered in line with the reforms of our Olympic Agenda. They will be sustainable, urban, inclusive and youthful Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Paris 2024 Olympic Games will also be the first-ever Olympic Games with gender parity. The IOC has allocated exactly the same number of quota places to female and male athletes.”***

Summarising the Forum, IOC AC Chair Emma Terho said: ***“Over the past two days, we’ve covered topics ranging from what it takes to build an***



***effective AC to what it means to be an Olympian. We've looked ahead to Paris 2024, Milano Cortina 2026 and LA2028, highlighting the huge number of programmes and initiatives in place to support athletes on their journeys. We've discussed how to support a safe space for us to speak openly about the issues that matter most to us as athletes and athlete representatives."***

***She continued: "On a personal note, I've been touched by the honesty and courage so many of you have displayed during these sessions, particularly in our discussion on neutral athletes. This remains a difficult topic, but I come away from this Forum inspired and with very valuable feedback."***

The key points that emerged from the various discussions and sessions in three areas were:

### **1. OLYMPIC GAMES-RELATED INITIATIVES:**

- “Road to Paris” Pilot Project – an initiative giving more flexibility to sporting good brands to promote their sponsored athletes in the run-up to and at the Paris Games.
- Social Media Guidelines - innovative opportunities for athletes during the Games to raise their profile by sharing their Olympic journey with their fans. The guidelines will be released in the next few weeks.
- Professional experience for athlete representatives - NOCs were encouraged to have the Chair or a member of their AC as part of their delegation to support them during the Games, learn about the work of other NOCs and use this operational experience as an asset for their career transition.

### **2. SUPPORT FOR THE NETWORK OF ACS:**

- Administrative Support to ACs- Building on the dedicated support to ACs that the continental associations are already providing, NOCs and IFs are encouraged to provide their ACs with administrative support, to support the running of the commissions and assist in the delivery of athlete-centred activities.
- Safe Sport - AC members to be safe sport ambassadors, including participation in the Safeguarding Officer in Sport, and put into practice the important learnings they received



during the dedicated safeguarding workshop.

- Athlete rights, clean sport and integrity - It was announced that new implementation guidance will be launched soon to support the Olympic Movement stakeholders in the important work of adopting and implementing the Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration in their respective organisations.

### **3. SUPPORT FOR ATHLETES DIRECTLY:**

- Olympic Movement funding model - Participants were presented with the

Olympic Movement funding model and were informed about the athlete support programmes that exist for all athletes globally through the IOC, NOCs and IFs thanks to the Olympic Solidarity model.

The IOC AC will look into ways to further promote and explain the details of Rule 40 and the impact for athletes during the Olympic Games.

- Mental Health
- A dedicated mental health helpline will be available for all Paris 2024 Olympians and Paralympians. Athletes competing in the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games will then have



access to the fully confidential and 24/7 Mental Health Helpline (in 70 languages) for the entire Olympiad (i.e. the four-year period).

- Additionally, it was announced that athletes will be able to benefit from one-year premium subscriptions to a leading mindfulness app to improve their sleep, enhance focus, alleviate anxious thoughts or for any other reasons. This offer will be launched on Athlete365 on 10 October, to coincide with World Mental Health Day.
- OBS opportunities - In collaboration with Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS), two OBS training programmes

will take place from September to November. This initiative provides training for Olympians and Paralympians, preparing them for career opportunities during the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

- Athlete365 app - Athlete representatives gave their feedback on the development of the Athlete365 app. This will be available in time for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games to facilitate access to all the information and resources available for athletes and their entourage before, during and after the Games.



# ACs REQUEST MORE ATTENTION

They put it out bluntly in 4 major points.

**D**uring breakout sessions by continent, ACs expressed their frustration at not being able to fulfil their mandate without the support and acceptance of their NOCs.

ACs do not only have to be highly credible, they also need to know what resources are available to them.

4 major points were raised by African ACs:

1. The need for strengthened collaboration, shared knowledge and solidarity between ACs on the African continent.

2. The IOC should encourage NOCs to support and reinforce the importance, role, and relevance of ACs.
3. The IOC should communicate its support directly to ACs (e.g. activity grants) and facilitate communication on current NOC AC grant processes and their use.

The pivotal role played by AC members in achieving our mission to serve the athletes we represent. It's a role that requires patience and dedication. Thus, when athletes win, ACs win.





## ACCOLADES TO DIGNITARIES OF THE AFRICAN OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

As part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> African Gender Equality Forum, held on 2 and 3 October 2023 in Sal, Cape Verde.

ANOCA honoured five iconic figures of African sport for their leadership, governance, and services to the African Olympic and Sports Movement with the Olympic Order.

They are: Julien V. MINAVOA of the Benin National Olympic and Sports Committee,

Antonio GOPAL of the Seychelles Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association, Gulam Abdulla RASHID of NOC Tanzania, Filomena Maria FORTES President of NOC Cape Verde and Nawal El MOUTAWAKEL, Olympic champion.



## 141<sup>st</sup> IOC SESSION

# NEW TERMS FOR AFRICANS

At the 141<sup>st</sup> IOC session in Mumbai, India, several leading figures from the international Olympic movement were elected as IOC members.

**A**mong the Africans who were re-elected for another 8-year term were **Kirsty COVENTRY** from Zimbabwe, re-elected as IOC Commission member, Olympic champion **Nawal El MOUTAWAKEL** as IOC member, and **Mehrez BOUSSAYENE** as IOC member.

During the session, **Beatrice ALLEN**, President of NOC Gambia, was awarded the Olympic Order.

All these dignitaries are reaping the rewards of their hard work, bolstered by their brilliant actions in fostering sport and Olympic values.

Comité National Olympique et Sportif Centrafricain (CNOSCA) organise  
LES COURS D'ADMINISTRATION POUR DIRIGEANTS SPORTIFS  
Sous l'égide de la Solidarité Olympique



## SPORTS ADMINISTRATION COURSES FOR HEADS OF NATIONAL FEDERATIONS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**S**ports administration courses for Presidents and Secretaries General of national sports federations were officially launched on 19 October 2023 in Bangui at the headquarters of the Central African National Olympic and Sports Committee (CNOSCA), under the auspices of the Minister for Youth Empowerment, Sports and Civic Education, Mr Aristide Briand REBOAS.

These CNOSCA-organised courses were designed to enhance the administrative, financial and sports management skills of

sports leaders. They targeted 20 participants from 10 national sports federations and executives from the Ministry of Sports.

The opening ceremony was an opportunity for the Minister of Sports to underscore the importance of sport in the development of Central African youth. ***“Sport is a vehicle for peace, social cohesion and development,” he said. “It is important that we invest in sport for the future of our country.”***

CNOSCA President, **Mr Gilles Gilbert GESENGUET**, maintained that there is



no doubt this course was of great interest to CNOSCA, as it provided training and capacity-building for leaders of the National Sports Federations that make up the NOC.

Thanking the Minister of Sports, he said:

***“Your commitment to facilitating these courses in administration is a demonstration of the high quality of your leadership in the development of sport in Central Africa. We are sincerely honoured by this and support your various initiatives, which are commendable for the excellent health of our sport and vital for the Central African Olympic and Sports Movement. We must work together for the benefit***

***of young people and Central African sport; together for the progress or development of Central African sport in peace and understanding. The time has come for those involved in Central African sport to join forces with the government to ensure development in the country, particularly to modernise sport development and athlete training, because the government cannot do everything alone.”***

This session was organised in collaboration with Olympic Solidarity. Courses were held over three days and covered a wide range of subjects, including sports governance, sports marketing, sports finance and the organisation of sports events. A peculiarity of



this course was that it complied with the IOC 40% gender quota for women.

Courses were given by:

- **Mr Gilles Gilbert GRESENGUET**, CANOSC President;
- **Mr Jacob GBETI**, Former CANOSC President and CANOSC Honorary Member;
- **Mr Guy - Armand BENINGA BALCILIA**, CANOSC Secretary General, MEMOS Holder;
- **Mrs Cecile KOLINGBA**, CANOSC Deputy Secretary General, MEMOS Holder;

- **Professor Clément Anicet GUIYAMA - MASSOGO**, MEMOS Holder, Director of the IOC-accredited CAMS Programme;

- **Mr Simon DEGOTO**, National Course Director;

It is worth mentioning that sports administration courses are a major sport development initiative in the Central African Republic. They will enable sports leaders to better manage their federations and contribute to the furtherance of sport in the country. The course ended on a note of great satisfaction on 21 October 2023, with participants receiving training attestations.



## NOC MALI HOLDS ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY EVEN AS IT PREPARES FOR THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

On 21 October 2023, the headquarters of the National Olympic and Sports Committee of Mali was visibly busy as the NOC held its statutory Ordinary General Assembly.

The agenda featured a review of reports for the 2022 financial year, the verification of mandates and the adoption of the minutes of the 2021 Ordinary General Assembly.

All the documents were adopted by representatives of federations.

Featuring prominently were preparations for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, with the football team having qualified. The Assembly urged the other disciplines to follow suite to

ensure that Mali stages an exemplary show at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The Assembly deliberations were chaired by President Habib SISSOKO, who said at the opening ceremony that:

***“This year, we are meeting again because we have understood that the essence of community life lies in the unquenchable desire for accountability.”***

The official opening of the event was graced by the National Director of Sports and Physical Education, the ANOCA Zone 2 Secretary General, the President of the Association of Sports Journalists of Mali, the Secretary General of MoovAfricaMalitel, the

official CNOSM sponsor, and representatives of National Sports Federations.

At the end of it all, the spokesperson for the National Sports Federations congratulated the CNOSM President, noting that:

***“All the Federations congratulate you on your transparent management and efforts.”***

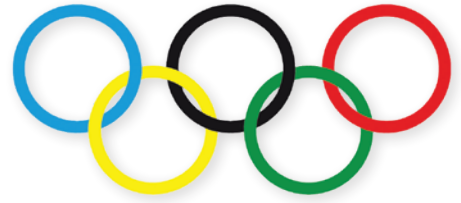
Defending the Olympic ideal was the watchword that guided the discussions in charting the way forward.

***“Our gratitude and thanks go to all those who have mobilised to defend the Olympic ideal...,”*** concluded the CNOSM President, Habib SISSOKO.





# ACNOA - ANOCA



**Contacts**  
 contact@afraolympic.com  
[www.africaolympic.com](http://www.africaolympic.com) [Facebook: AcnoaAnocainfos](https://www.facebook.com/AcnoaAnocainfos)  
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