



ACNOA NEWSLETTER



COMITÉ
INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIQUE

APRIL 2024

MONTHLY REVIEW OF AFRICAN OLYMPISM



**61ST ORDINARY SESSION OF
ANOCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**ANOCA
EXCO LOOKS
FORWARD**



MESSAGE

“THIS IS THE OLYMPIC YEAR, A DECISIVE TURNING POINT THAT AFFORDS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD OLYMPIC AND SPORT MOVEMENT.”

Here is the speech delivered by Honourable Mustapha BERRAF at the opening ceremony of the 61st Ordinary Session of the ANOCA Executive Committee held on 17 and 18 April 2024 in Abuja, Nigeria. The President of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa, ANOCA, was consistent in his vision for the development of sport and Olympism in Africa, barely a few months to the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

- **The Federal Minister of Youth and Sports Development,**
- **Honourable ANOCA Executive Committee Members,**
- **The President of the Nigeria Olympic Committee,**
- **The Representative of Olympic Solidarity, my esteemed Friend Yassine Yousfi,**
- **The President of NOC Chad, my dear Brother,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish to thank the Government and people of Nigeria from the bottom of my heart for the warm and fraternal welcome they have extended to us.

We are particularly grateful to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Bola TINUBU, for this support, in keeping with the legendary African tradition. Our meeting holds great promise for the future. We are delighted to be here and to be able to share our experiences in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

I wish each and every one of you a warm and cordial welcome to Abuja.

I would like to invite you to observe a minute of silence in memory of all those who have carried out unforgettable actions in the interests of sport and of African and world Olympism, and who

have sadly passed on.

Your Excellency the Minister, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This 61st Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa is holding ahead of a momentous event: the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

This is the Olympic year, a decisive turning point that affords an opportunity for us to contribute to the history of the world Olympic and Sport Movement. This session aims to prepare meticulously for the participation of African athletes and countries in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.



This is the Olympic year, a decisive turning point that affords an opportunity for us to contribute to the history of the world Olympic and Sport Movement. This session aims to prepare meticulously for the participation of African athletes and countries in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

It is for this reason that we are going to carry out a thorough evaluation of our activities and review a number of aspects of our governance; we are going to equip ourselves with new and more effective tools to improve our organisational and, above all, managerial outcomes. We are in dire need of them to boost the sports performance of our athletes in Paris.

The performance of our athletes also depends on the decisions we make and our ability to mobilise resources to support African athletes.

Paris, here we come! The medals are within our reach. We have what it takes.

I would like to congratulate the 54 NOCs for their commitment to athletes support and hail the invaluable contribution of IOC's Olympic Solidarity through its scholarships, which benefit our athletes, as well as ANOCA scholarships and grants.

Results-based sports governance is the lever that has enabled us to achieve our shared objectives, which are set out in our 2020-2024 strategic plan.

The strategic plan is nearing completion. We need to close it with a bang. So, let's take stock of what we have achieved. Let's evaluate, plan and set ourselves new targets.

The various reports we are about to review are the compass for our projections. The future lies in our ability to rise to the challenges that lie ahead.

Like I said a year ago, we have undertaken to modernise sports governance on the continent by granting physical, material and immaterial resources to Africa's 54 National Olympic Committees. The aim is to help them step up their efforts, with a direct impact on the development of sport for the benefit of Africa's youth. Our young people are asking for more and we must respond to their deepest aspirations.

One year down the line, our creed remains the same, and ever deep.

Since then, we have put our imprint on this sporting philosophy through a series of events such as the African Athletes Forum, the Hammamet Beach Games in Tunisia, the African Games in Ghana, the Gender Equality Forum, the 40th Seminar for Secretaries General and the African Forum on Environmental Protection and the Fight against Global Warming.

We are now going to present the various updated reports related to ANOCA athletes' scholarships, the NOCs headquarters project, gender equality in Africa, the Sustainability Forum, the Athletes' Commission and the setting up of the Paris 2024 Africa Club at Île-Saint-Denis as part of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Your Excellency the Minister, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

Our agenda features preparations for the 2027 African Games, an event that we must organise with tact and professionalism. These Games will follow



From this rostrum, I stand convinced that your sense of responsibility will lead to successful deliberations during this current session in Abuja, which will take place in a positive atmosphere of commitment, mutual understanding, constructive dialogue and perfect cordiality.

on from the recent African Games in Accra in 2024. In 2025, we will hold our General Assembly in Algiers in a spirit of unity and fraternity.

The African Olympic and Sports Movement has prospects laden with symbolism.

May these deliberations be a memorable success and may we once again make a mark on this event through the quality of the resolutions and recommendations, which must take greater account than ever of the needs and concerns of African youths.

I would like to thank Olympic Solidarity for its immense support and its attentive ear

in responding to our multiple requests. We are relying mainly on IOC agenda 20/25. Our sincere gratitude goes to IOC President, Dr Thomas BACH, whose great wisdom is a proven asset in terms of advice and commitment. We hereby reassure him of the support of the African Olympic Movement and reassert our total solidarity.

**Mr Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,**

From this rostrum, I stand convinced that your sense of responsibility will lead to successful deliberations during this current session in Abuja, which will take place in a positive atmosphere of commitment, mutual understanding, constructive dialogue and perfect cordiality.

Let's work in solidarity. It is the cornerstone of our joint actions. Together we can avoid many mistakes. We are less vulnerable, mentally and morally strong, so it is imperative that we work together for the full development of African youths.

Therefore, with total confidence and serenity, I wish each and every one of us a fruitful year. I wish we put our convictions and skills to good use all through this session.

I thank you for your kind attention and wish you all wonderful deliberations.

Mustapha BERRAF
IOC member
ANOCA President



RESOLUTIONS PAVING THE WAY FOR MORE EFFECTIVE SPORTS GOVERNANCE



Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, on 17 and 18 April 2024, at the ANOCA headquarters for its 61st Ordinary Session, the ANOCA Executive Committee, based on a working schedule that initially featured speeches by high-profile dignitaries, listened to various reports, namely: the Executive Board's activity to the Executive Committee, the financial report, the reports on the

ANOCA athlete support grants, the Ethics Commission's report, the situation of gender equality in Africa, the sustainability report, the Olympic Solidarity report, the NOCs headquarters construction project, as well as guidelines for the Accra 2024 African Games and the ANOCA African Games Cairo 2027, took the following resolutions aimed at enhancing sports governance:

The ANOCA Executive Committee, after listening to and considering the various reports presented:

- Expresses total satisfaction with the President's leadership and general policy and approves his guidelines as a roadmap for ANOCA operations.
- Expresses sincere appreciation and highly commends the leadership of the IOC under Dr Thomas Bach in protecting the interests of the movement in the face of tough global challenges.
- Sincerely thanks the Federal Republic of Nigeria and requests the Federal Minister of Youth and Sports to convey their gratitude to the President of the Republic, His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for his solicitude and constant support to the African Olympic and Sports Movement.
- Appreciates Olympic Solidarity for the continuous and unlimited support given to ANOCA, with special thanks to the director and his collaborators for the excellent work
- Appreciates and thanks H.E. the Federal Minister of Youth and Sports, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the people of Nigeria for their continued hospitality and all facilities made available for the smooth running of the organisation.
- Unanimously approves the Executive Board's report presented by the Secretary General;





Appreciates and thanks H.E. the Federal Minister of Youth and Sports, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the people of Nigeria for their continued hospitality and all facilities made available for the smooth running of the organisation.

- Unanimously approves the 2023/2024 financial report as presented by the Treasurer General;
- Approves and endorses the report and recommendations of the Sustainability Forum held in Algiers, Algeria, on 5 and 6 March 2024;
- Approves the report of the Gender Equality Commission and endorses its call for action.
- Approves the ANOCA Athlete Support Programme and congratulates all athletes, beneficiaries of scholarships, qualified for the Paris 2024 Games.
- Approves the report of the Ethics Commission and decides to no longer associate or collaborate with the President of the Association of African Sports Confederations (AASC), in all Olympic Movement related matters in Africa and the Olympic Games qualifiers;
- Commends the efforts of the Secretary General and the Secretariat, the Treasurer General and the Accounts Department and urges them to keep up the productive momentum;
- Approves the launch of the recruitment of a new Technical Director.

It was further discussed and agreed as follows:

- The ANOCA EXCO shall set up a task force comprising Zone



Presidents, to coordinate the boxing file with the NOCs and National Federations and put in place a body that will help chart the way forward for boxing. The sole objective of this initiative is to prevent this exceptional sport, referred to as the Noble Art, from being withdrawn from the Olympic Games.

- ANOCA underscores its commitment to working with the African Union and the host country, Egypt, to successfully organise the African Games Cairo 2027. ANOCA will do



its utmost, with the support of the IOC and International Federations, for as many sports as possible to be qualifiers for the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028.

- The ANOCA EXCO confirms its willingness to cooperate and work to maintain a cordial relationship with the African Union and the host country, Egypt, in a bid to organise African Games in compliance with international standards and regulations in 2027.
- The ANOCA EXCO notes athletes' concerns regarding World Athletics' new reward policy and its potentially negative effects on clean sports and requests that athletes be placed at the centre of all future conversations. They are protesting against this unilateral decision which does not sit square with the fundamental principles of Olympism.
- The ANOCA EXCO unanimously supports the stance of the ANOCA President and the ANOCA Athletes' Commission against the new World Athletics reward policy.

- ANOCA calls for the observance of the Olympic Truce during the period of the Paris Games, as ardently desired by the citizens of the whole world and recorded in the annals of the Olympic Games.
- It calls for the safeguarding and protection of disadvantaged groups, in particular women and children.
- The ANOCA EXCO decided to increase the annual budget of the ANOCA Athletes' Commission to USD 50,000.
- The EXCO appreciates the work of the Olympafrica Foundation, commends the efforts of the director and expresses its satisfaction with the creation of the Patrons and Ambassadors Club;
- The EXCO also took note of the new logo and the Facebook page of Olympafrica and leaves it to the General Assembly of the Foundation to decide;
- The ANOCA EXCO expressed its appreciation for the "One Child, One Tree" project proposed by Olympafrica in support of ANOCA's sustainability initiatives.
- The ANOCA EXCO confirms that the 2025 Ordinary General Assembly will hold in Algiers.
- ANOCA unconditionally supports the IOC and the organisation of the Olympic Games devoid of politics. It calls on Athletes across the world and from Africa in particular to take



part in the Paris Olympic Games in compliance with the values and principles of our Olympic and Sports Movement.

- The ANOCA EXCO confirms that it has been informed that all facilities



will be made available by the French Government for the entry into French territory of all delegations, irrespective of the nationality.

These resolutions are the essential hallmarks of the Abuja deliberations,

which herald better outcomes in the overall implementation of ANOCA's prospective and effective vision for the days ahead, with a focus on Africa's participation in the Olympic Games Paris 2024.



**“THANK YOU FOR THE
PERFECT HARMONY
AND YOUR GREAT
COLLABORATION”**



ANOCA President, Honourable Mustapha BERRAF, presented his policy statement at the ANOCA EXCO meeting. He started by expressing his satisfaction with the recent report on activities undertaken in the following words:

“I wish to thank our Gender Equality Committee for the numerous activities organised and the efficient communication on this very important issue. The Secretariat General and the Treasurer General and his team are to be congratulated for the

significant work done. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and express my gratitude for the perfect harmony that prevails amongst us and your great collaboration. The Vice Presidents were up to their tasks, and I wish to thank them for that.”

Mustapha BERRAF also showed a keen interest in the work of various commissions, revealing the consistency of the actions taken by all key players.

In addition, administrative measures have been taken for a more rigorous regulatory and statutory monitoring of several operations, to prevent attitudes that do not comply with professional management standards. Concrete measures have been taken in this regard, he stated:

“The first initiative was a scrutiny of the behaviour of a continental multi-sports association President, who took upon himself to associate his activities with an international federation whose recognition had been withdrawn, and who unfortunately resorted to insults and invective. (The ANOCA Ethics Commission Chair will provide further details). He also took upon himself to introduce them at the African Games in Ghana, thus allowing them to run competitions of an Olympic discipline. The second initiative was to initiate talks in a bid to seek an amicable solution based on the reality of services provided under a previously rejected unjustified invoice. In the event where an amicable settlement is not reached, a complaint may be filed against this foreign company.

The company neither has a contract nor a purchase order, but invoiced services which, upon verification, turned out to be unfounded. In the event where there is no possibility to reach an agreement, complaints will be filed with the relevant bodies. You all know that these unfortunate situations are not new to us; we experienced them in 2012, 2016 and 2019 when some ill-intentioned people tried to extort funds meant for our young athletes. We were vigilant enough and, with concerted efforts, avoided significant losses, winning our case from court to court. I am pleased to inform that we were awarded USD 400,000 following the latest ruling by a Swiss court in the case against one of our former senior staff.”

There's good news with regard to cooperation, with many agreements signed between ANOCA, National Olympic Committees, Sports Federations and some partners:

“I wish to also inform that we have engaged in in-depth discussions with the ASOIF President and his team to initiate a qualification process for the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028 during the 2027 African Games in Cairo. These discussions were very fruitful and we look forward to a more promising future for the African Olympic Movement. It is worth recalling that, following the tremendous success of Tunis, we signed an agreement for the next Beach Games with NOC Equatorial Guinea, in the presence of their







Minister. Talks are currently underway with the NOCs of Angola and Togo and their Ministers to host the next Youth Games. We have also initiated talks with the President of the International School Sport Federation for a cooperation and trade agreement, as well as the organisation of future African School Games with ANOCA.”

These measures should help increase the number of sports events for young people, and foster harmony among our sporting communities.

Finally, I wish to inform that we spoke at length with the President of the French National Olympic and Sports Committee (CNOSF), Mr David



LAPPARTIENT, about the situation of some African delegations who do not have French consulates in their countries, and he assured me that all the necessary steps would be taken to issue them visas and all the necessary facilities to take part in the Paris Olympic Games. Our partner PUMA has also promised to fully provide all

Presidents and Secretaries General the sports equipment they need.”

These and many other prospects are in line with the strategy of harnessing resources and developing collaborative frameworks for action, with the aim of flying even higher the flag of African sport and Olympism.



**“THIS IS A VERY
IMPORTANT
MEETING!”**



“Let me, on behalf of the Nigeria Olympic Committee, sincerely welcome each and every one of you to Nigeria for this very important meeting, that is, the EXCO meeting of ANOCA. It is not the first time you all are coming to Nigeria, of course. You have been coming to Nigeria because this is where the headquarters of ANOCA is,

that is, the Olympics centre of Africa. This meeting, the 61st session of the ANOCA Executive Committee, will take place today and tomorrow. I am happy to say that the Honourable Minister of Sports Development is here himself today, physically, to welcome each and every one of you, and also to make a speech and declare the meeting open.”

These were the opening remarks of the President of the Nigeria Olympic Committee, Engr. Habu Ahmed GUMEL, as he welcomed ANOCA EXCO members to the 61st Ordinary Session of the ANOCA Executive Committee in Abuja.

Engr GUMEL, who doubles as the ANOCA Treasurer General, deemed this is a historic and unifying moment,

“It is a very important meeting as I have already said. As far as I am concerned, this is your country, all of you. You are Nigerians, because you have been here many times. Africa is one, we are all together and we are all working together for the sake of Africa, which is very important to each and every one of us.”

Engr. Habu Ahmed GUMEL, also welcomed the Honourable Minister of Sports Development, Senator John Owan Enoh, and all the participants, foremost amongst them ANOCA President, Honourable Mustapha BERRAF.



**“THANK YOU VERY
MUCH, MR MUSTAPHA
BERRAF”**





The Honourable Minister of Sports Development, Senator John Owan Enoh Endorses the Vision of the Deliberations at the Opening Ceremony.

Addressing the EXCO members, the Honourable Minister began a show of concern:

“Thank you very much, President of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa, my friend, Mr Mustapha Berraf. I recall the very first time I met Mr President that was in South Korea during the Winter Games.”

After these words of appreciation, the Senator and Minister of Sports Development added:

“Nigeria adopted the National Sports Industry Policy in 2002, which promotes Sports as Business. So as Sports Development Minister, it would have been awkward and out of placed not to take the opportunity of that conference to at least speak to the participants and be able to explain most of the strategic plans of the Ministry in trying to promote sports as business. As a country, we are fully committed to the enthronement and realisation of the noble ideals of the Olympic Movement in Africa. This commitment is sacrosanct and has been amply demonstrated by the country’s hosting and construction of a befitting headquarters of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA). Let



“I am pleased to inform that, here in Nigeria, a few of our athletes vying for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games tickets are benefitting from Olympic Solidarity and ANOCA Athletes Support Grant. Recently, our Super Falcons qualified for the Paris 2024 women’s football competition. Also, our basketball, athletics, wrestling, weightlifting, canoeing and cycling teams qualified to participate in the Paris 2024 Olympics. I thank you, Mr President and ANOCA most sincerely, for the support that you have continued to extend to the development of sports in our country and indeed across Africa.”

John OWAN ENOH believes, however, that the support given to athletes is encouraging and inspiring.

me use this opportunity to commend the President and all ANOCA Executive Committee members for your passion and commitment to the realisation of the lofty vision of the association. Mr. President, I want to assure you and the Board that Nigeria is ready to partner with ANOCA to ensure that Africa’s dream at the Olympics and other sports is realised through the provision of resources and support for athletes.”

The Paris 2024 Olympic Games are just around the corner and Nigeria, one of the leading sports nations in the Olympic and Sports Movement in Africa, is preparing its athletes thanks to ANOCA’s support:

“The performance of our athletes, Mr President, indicates that we can do a lot better with additional funding and support through ANOCA Athletes Support Grant; I have no doubt that this incentive will go a long way to stimulate and reawaken the fighting spirit and determination of our athletes for qualifications and podium performance during the Paris 2024 Games. Nigeria and the Ministry of Sports Development under my leadership will continue to provide all the necessary support to ANOCA, to enable it operate smoothly at its headquarters here in Abuja, Nigeria, as enshrined in the protocol agreement of 7 February 2007, and gazetted in the Official Gazette of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.”





**Thank you very much,
President of the
Association of National
Olympic Committees
of Africa, my friend,
Mr Mustapha Berraf. I
recall the very first time
I met Mr President that
was in South Korea
during the Winter
Games.**

A partnership built on a global vision of fruitful collaboration:

“Once again, let me commend the current leadership of ANOCA for its commitment to the lofty goals for which it was founded. Africa is endowed with sports talents and opportunities and I urge you to leverage these assets through strategic interventions which, I sincerely believe, will make Africa the pride of the world. I urge you to build on the achievements you have already recorded by putting in place sports governance policies and development programmes to address specific needs.”

61ST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ANOCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

Meeting on 17 and 18 April 2024 in Abuja, Nigeria, under the chairmanship of the ANOCA President, Honourable Mustapha Berraf, ANOCA, expressed satisfaction with the harmony and serenity that prevail within the great African Olympic family and reasserted its total support for the International Olympic Committee and its leadership. *“Together, by dint of our solidarity and fraternity, through dialogue and consultation, we have succeeded in giving our continental organisation, ANOCA, another dimension, another image, that of progress and modernity,”* said the ANOCA President.

AFRICA has, during this tenure, demonstrated its human, educational and social potential. Our Olympafrica Foundation clearly illustrates this, and we are sure that our participation in the Paris Olympic Games will showcase the intrinsic qualities of our athletes. All ANOCA Executive Committee members condemned the unethical behaviour of some officials, who use disrespectful language to undermine the Solidarity within the International Olympic Movement and its President who, for his part, spares no effort for the good and development of all. The

members undertook to lead African delegations together for the success of the forthcoming African Games in Cairo, the Youth Olympic Games and the Beach Games, while paying the required attention to good governance and the high standard of management befitting of our continental organisation. ANOCA Executive Committee members strongly urge athletes from all countries of the world who have qualified for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games to participate in compliance with IOC standards. They call on political authorities across the world to uphold the Olympic TRUCE, which is synonymous with peace and respect for the welfare of mankind. They are appealing that children and women be safeguarded by providing them with the necessary protection and food aid.

They reassert their willingness to provide the necessary assistance and support to African NOCs in need of such for their development. They call for a show of international solidarity to support athletes and NOC Sudan. ANOCA is pleased with the cooperation agreements entered into with International Federations and world organisations for the benefit of athletes and various stakeholders of

the African Olympic Movement. It would like to express its gratitude to all African IOC members for their support and the harmony they have skilfully maintained in the interests of the African Olympic Movement, as well as sharing their wealth of experience and knowledge with their NOC peers.

Once more, ANOCA expresses its disapproval of the latest decision by World Athletics to offer prize money to gold medallists at the Paris Olympic Games. This decision of the International Federation, albeit sovereign, is repugnant to the fundamental principles of the Olympic Movement. ANOCA calls for the neutrality of sport and the non-politicisation of its many multidimensional activities. ANOCA further recalls that it was the first to support the participation of all athletes, including those from Russia and Belarus, in the Olympic Games, this in compliance with IOC obligations and pursuant to the Olympic Charter.

The ANOCA Executive Committee commends the precious collaboration established with Olympic Solidarity and ongoing consultations that serve the best interests of the African Olympic Movement. The ANOCA Executive Committee confirms that a single edition of the African Games will be held in Egypt in 2027, to be organised jointly by the African Union (AU), the Egyptian government and ANOCA. Finally, ANOCA members expressed their sincere gratitude to the Government of Nigeria and the Nigeria Olympic Committee.



The ANOCA Executive Committee commends the precious collaboration established with Olympic Solidarity and ongoing consultations that serve the best interests of the African Olympic Movement. The ANOCA Executive Committee confirms that a single edition of the African Games will be held in Egypt in 2027, to be organised jointly by the African Union (AU), the Egyptian government and ANOCA. Finally, ANOCA members expressed their sincere gratitude to the Government of Nigeria and the Nigeria Olympic Committee.




















**UNITÉ,
SOLIDARITÉ,
FRATERNITÉ**

**UNITY,
SOLIDARITY,
FRATERNITY**




Contacts


contact@africaolympic.com

 www.africaolympic.com

 [AcnoaAnoca](https://twitter.com/ACNOAAnoca)

 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwVDOzHZQ8YNvVI0Srl2ubA/videos>

 [AcnoaAnocaInfos](https://www.facebook.com/ACNOAAnoca)

 [acnoaanoca](https://www.instagram.com/acnoaanoca)



ACNOA - ANOCA

