Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa

ACNOA - ANOCA

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

6 APRIL 2025



ANOCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE


"WHEN SPORT
TEACHES
PEACE"

Dear brothers and sisters of the African Olympic and Sports Movement,

Dear partners in sport and peace,

Dear children of Africa and the world,

On 6 April, the world celebrates the transformative power of sport. At ANOCA, we genuinely believe that every field of play is a classroom where we learn the noblest of lessons: the art of living together in peace.

Today, 460 million children live in conflict zones, prone to instability, violence and distress. In the face of this harrowing reality, sport stands as a bulwark against adversity, a universal language capable of transcending divisions and bridging communities.

Sport builds bridges where conflict has erected walls. On the field of play, erstwhile enemies become teammates. Rivalries morph into mutual respect. Differences are eroded by the sheer beauty of the game.

In Africa, where too many young people grow up in the shadow of conflict, sport offers much more than entertainment. It is a universal language that unites over and above divisions, a school of tolerance where every pass is a message of fraternity.

ANOCA is committed to a future of peace

The Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa hereby reasserts its commitment to using sport as a tool for:

- **Conflict prevention**: Through educational sports programmes, we teach young people to shun violence.

Neutral ground where the future is rewritten

Our '*Olympafrica*' programmes demonstrate this on a daily basis: when a child is given a ball instead of a gun, when a young girl discovers her worth through sport rather than exclusion, society as a whole progresses towards peace.

On this symbolic day, let us all pledge to:

1. **Increase the number of safe areas for sports practice**

2. **Train sports educators as peacemakers**

3. **Make competitions a celebration of our common humanity**

Sport does not stop to wars, but it prepares people for peace; it does not resolve all conflicts, but it teaches people to overcome them.

On this symbolic day, I appeal to:

- **African governments**: Invest in sports infrastructure accessible to all, especially in crisis-affected regions.

- **African athletes**: Be ambassadors for social cohesion. Your voice resonates far beyond the podium.

Together, Let us continue to write this beautiful story where every match becomes a lesson in peace, every athlete a messenger of hope, every stadium a sanctuary of fraternity.

Long live sport for peace!

Long live a united Africa!

Mustapha Berraf

ANOCA President
IOC Member of the
Vice President of ANOC
President of the Olympafrica Foundation

ANOCA

JEUX AFRICAINS

AFRICAN GAMES

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UNITY,
SOLIDARITY,
FRATERNITY

UNITÉ,
SOLIDARITÉ,
FRATERNITÉ

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Contacts

contact@afrcaolympic.com

www.africaolympic.com

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