ANOCA President's Letter

ACNOA - ANOCA

MY FIRST 100 DAYS OF ACTION AND HOPE



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Dear NOC Members,

100 days after 15 March 2025, it is time to take stock. During our 22nd Ordinary General Assembly in Algiers, we laid the foundations of a '*New Deal*' that will guide the destiny of our African Olympic and Sports Movement. We all agreed on key aspects and decided to step up our efforts to chart a new course for success.

It is against this backdrop that you did me the immense honour of once again placing your trust in me, following my re-electing as ANOCA President for the 2025-2028/2029 Olympiad.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I must say that I am also thrilled by this fraternity that inspires and underlies our shared decisions. I do appreciate and am all ears.

In 100 days, we achieved a great deal and, thanks to your profound wisdom and spirit of solidarity, we implemented a wide range of actions, setting in motion our first objectives based on four cornerstones: consolidating and modernising ANOCA, supporting and developing our athletes, making sport a real lever for development and taking into account the challenges of sustainable development and environmental protection in our strategic plan.

With this new term, we have regained serenity in our governance thanks to our Secretariat General.

We carried out several activities with precision, efficiency and professionalism. Here is a breakdown of the first 100 days:

- Our new Executive Committee met for its very first ordinary session on 14 and 15 April 2025 at our headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria. This meeting was crucial to kick off this new Olympiad. The 2025-2028 Strategic Plan and the overall Budget for this period were also adopted. We further assigned responsibilities within the Executive Committee and set up standing commissions for the quadrennial, thus strengthening our structures for better governance, transparency and efficiency. The Executive Committee approved the 2025-2028 Action Plan and took important decisions regarding the next ANOCA Games, strategic appointments and integration of artificial intelligence.

- We organised the 5th Continental Athletes' Forum from 4 to 6 April 2025 in Windhoek, Namibia, which brought together athletes' representatives from all 54 NOCs. IOC President-Elect, Mrs Kirsty COVENTRY, was also in attendance, demonstrating an even more unique and unifying commitment to our vision of supporting African athletes. All key issues regarding athlete support and welfare were addressed with the depth commensurate with the value we place on them. At the Forum, Olympic Solidarity announced an annual activities grant of US$10,000 to each NOC Athletes' Commission.

- Olympic Solidarity Regional Forum. Olympic Solidarity was the focus of our Regional Forum held from 28 April to 5 May 2025 in Cairo, Egypt.

The 2025-2028 Olympic Solidarity Quadrennial Plan was presented at this major event, during which more funding opportunities for our NOCs were also explored. With an overall Solidarity budget of €650 million for this cycle, including a 16% increase in athlete grants, we have substantial resources at our disposal to support the preparation of our athletes for upcoming Olympic Games, in particular Los Angeles 2028. I insist on the need to use these resources transparently and efficiently to make them quite impactful on the ground, for the benefit of young people and African athletes. ANOCA has now adopted an uncompromising stance regarding the judicious and transparent use of financial resources allocated by Olympic Solidarity for the benefit of African NOCs. This projects a good image of our continent.

- We held a virtual Extraordinary General Assembly on 28 April 2025, specifically devoted to the «*African Games of the Future*». The meeting brought together 76 participants representing NOCs and various stakeholders to discuss and harmonise preparations for two major 2025 events: the Maiden African School Games in Algeria and the 4th African Youth Games in Angola.

- Speaking of the African School Games, scheduled from 26 July to 5 August 2025 in the cities of Annaba, Constantine, Sétif and Skikda, more than 3,500 young athletes aged between 14 and 17 years and their escorts from 54 participating countries are expected for the event whose schedule features 25 sports disciplines. The Games will be a very first for our continent, the thrust being talent identification and preparation of our next generation of athletes for the African Youth Games, the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 and the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028. One of the highlights of preparations was the Chefs de Mission meeting in Algiers on 19 and 20 May 2025.

On this occasion, Algeria made a historic announcement that the country will cover participation fees for African athletes in full. This is a huge gesture of solidarity that guarantees the inclusion of all. The next EXCO meeting will be held in Algeria on the sidelines of the Games.

- The 4th African Youth Games, billed for Angola from 10 to 20 December 2025, represent another crucial stage for African youths. As such, an ANOCA delegation was on a coordination visit to Angola from 8 to 11 April 2025 to inspect sports and social facilities. Angola proved it is capable and ready to host this major event, with a strong commitment from its government, under the leadership of President João LOURENÇO. The Games will serve as qualifiers for YOG Dakar 2026 and will help promote integration and cultural exchanges on the continent. The Angolan Youth and Sports Minister assured that the required financial conditions have been met via the General State Budget and a Chefs de Mission meeting has been scheduled for September 2025 to fine tune preparations.

- Commissioning of the headquarters of NOC Chad. The project to provide each NOC with a modern and functional headquarters is a priority in our strategic plan, and a symbolic moment of this ambition was the commissioning of the new headquarters of NOC Chad (COST) in N'Djamena, during an official ANOCA visit from 23 to 25 May 2025. The project funded by ANOCA is a 'strategic tool for the sustainable development of Chadian sport, and embodies our vision of sports sovereignty and good governance for all. ANOCA seeks to provide almost all 54 African NOCs with their own premises by 2030. During this visit, the President of the Republic of Chad, H.E. Marshal Mahamat Idriss DEBY ITNO, was also decorated with the African Recognition Trophy for his commitment.

- We also consolidated our strategic partnerships. Our landmark agreement with FIFA and the IOC to build 50 football pitches in Olympafrica Centres shows our commitment to leveraging sport, and football in particular, as a powerful tool for education, inclusion and talent identification at the grassroots. Present in more than 40 countries today, these centres are essential for grooming our budding sportsmen and women. The agreement further aims to provide underprivileged young Africans with modern and safe facilities and promote educational values and talent identification.

- Afro-Asian cooperation and global influence. Strengthening Afro-Asian cooperation is our priority, as proven by my participation in the Ordinary Elective General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) in Kuwait City on 11 and 12 May 2025. This cooperation aims to develop joint initiatives for the benefit of our athletes and sports managers. On that occasion, I underscored that ANOCA and OCA, representing together over 100 NOCs, can be a transformative force for the future of the Olympic Movement. We are also pursuing dialogue with partners such as World Boxing and World Aquatics to secure a place for our sports disciplines in Africa and ensure the development of infrastructure such as Olympic pools.

All this was achieved with the support of the IOC, Olympic Solidarity, International Federations, African governments and, above all, African NOCs.

Our schedule of upcoming events is equally very tight, yet exciting for us all. It features the AI Forum , the Maiden African School Games from 26 July to 5 August in Algiers, the Chefs de Mission meeting on the African Youth Games on 13 and 14 September, the Seminar for Secretaries General on 27 and 28 September in Maputo, the Sustainability Forum from 2 to 5 October in Tunisia, the Gender Equality Forum on 2 and 3 November in Burundi, and the African Youth Games from 10 to 20 December in Angola.

We must also gear up for the historic transition, which will take place on 23 June 2025, when our friend, President Thomas BACH, will officially hand over the IOC presidency to the President-Elect, Kirsty COVENTRY, during a ceremony at the Olympic House in Lausanne. Our Olympic champion will thus become the first African woman to head the IOC.

At 41, she is not only the youngest IOC President, but also one of the most decorated athletes. 23 June, which is also Olympic Day 2025, will therefore be an extra special day.

All these upcoming events are highly important and our schedule urges us to sustain the momentum of unity and solidarity that drives our African Olympic and Sports Movement.

Long live ANOCA!

Long live the African Olympic Movement!

Long live Africa!

Fraternally yours.

Mustapha Berraf

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