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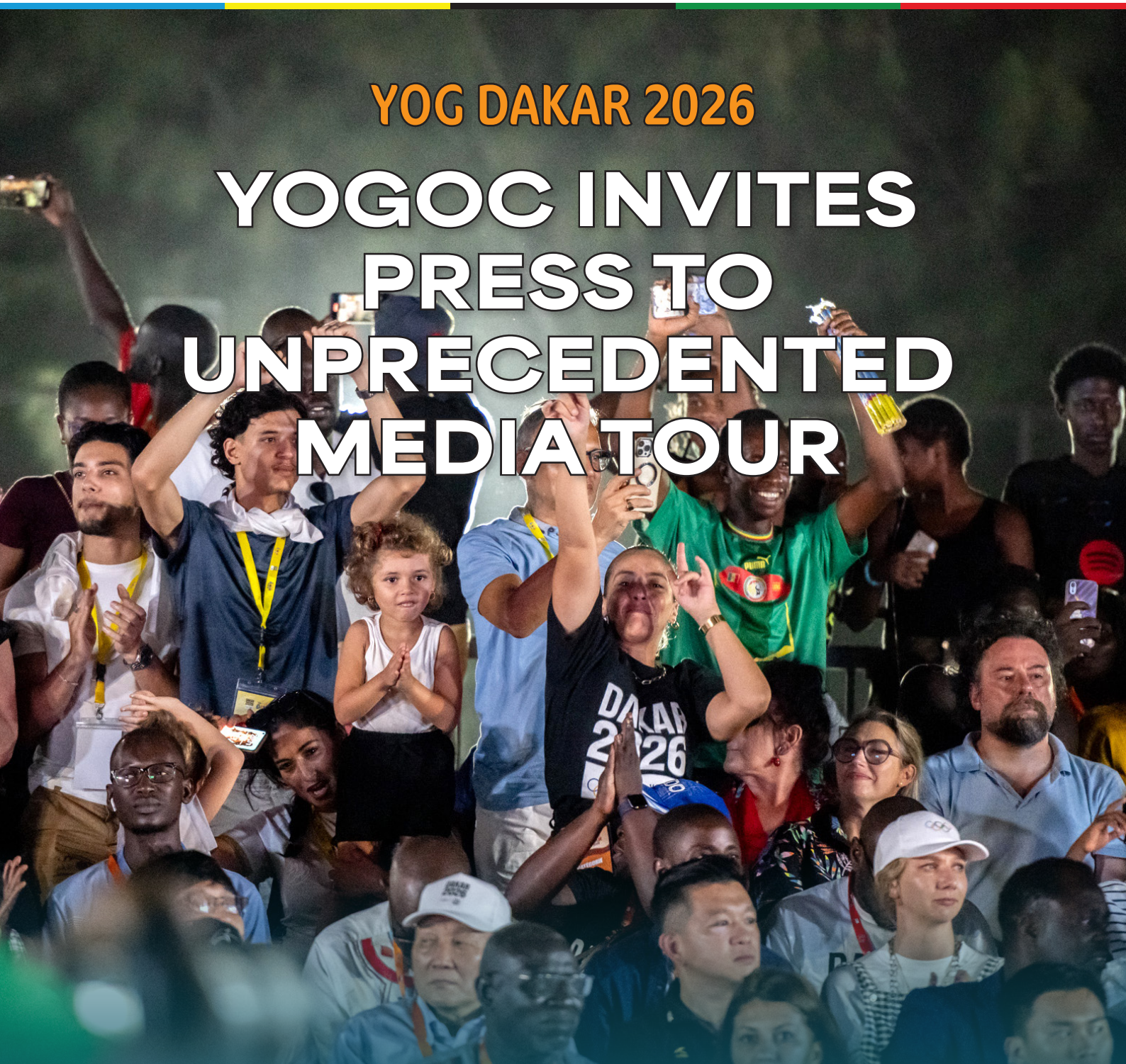
ANOCA NEWSLETTER

Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REVIEW OF AFRICAN OLYMPISM

JULY 2025



YOG DAKAR 2026

YOGOC INVITES PRESS TO UNPRECEDENTED MEDIA TOUR

The Organising Committee of the Youth Olympic Games (YOGOC) Dakar 2026 invited journalists from several African countries and France on 8 and 9 July, to gauge the level of preparations and see for themselves the infrastructure and backstages of the forthcoming event.

The countdown is on. 16 months to the kick-off of the Youth Olympic Games billed for Dakar from 31 October to 13 November 2026, the Organising Committee (YOGOC) invited the African and international press to an unprecedented Media Tour on 8 and 9 July 2025, to take stock of preparations for the Games. Journalists from across Africa (Algeria, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria and from France), were invited to see for themselves the infrastructure and backstage of what will be the first ever Olympic event held on African soil.

It all began on Tuesday 8 July with a reception ceremony at the spacious conference room of the Abdoulaye Wade Stadium in Diamniadio, a key infrastructure of the Dakar 2026 project. Welcoming the guests, the General Coordinator, Ibrahima WADE, hailed a «*collective victory and a symbolic milestone in the committee's roadmap.*» «*Your very presence here is already a victory for Africa,*» he told the audience, before presenting the major thrust of the upcoming event.

The day continued with a detailed presentation of the progress of the works, followed by a marathon tour of the sports venues currently under development. From the Iba Mar Diop stadium to the Dakar Arena, via the Diamniadio equestrian centre, the exhibition centre and the Place du Souvenir, participants were able to measure the scope and pace of the




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INITIATIONS SPORTIVES
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Place de l'Obélisque
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TOURNOI BASKETBALL 3X3
DAKAR 2026
Festival DAKAR EN JEUX
10 Novembre 2024
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works. While some venues are already operational, others such as the equestrian centre should be delivered by the end of 2025, reassured Thierno CISSÉ, Deputy Director of Operations.

The message is clear: Dakar will be ready. What's more, Senegal wants to offer Africa an event that lives up to its ambitions. With 2,700 young athletes expected to take part, representing 207 delegations (including a refugee team, a first for the YOG), across 35 sports disciplines, YOG Dakar 2026 marks a turning point. «*We're not just building infrastructure, we're writing a page in the continent's Olympic history,*» said Mouhamad SANÉ, representative of the Ministry of Sports.

It is highly symbolic. After Singapore (2010), Nanjing (2014) and Buenos Aires (2018), Africa is finally hosting the YOG. And for this, Senegal is putting all hands on deck: public institutions, private partners, technical experts, and above all young people. More than 6,000 volunteers will be involved in the organisation, with over a million spectators expected. The IOC is keeping a close eye on preparations, while YOGOC Chair Mamadou Mbaye NDIAYE, is keeping things on the rails.



> It's not just a competition; it's a celebration of African youth in all its diversity.

For the organisers, these Games are much more than just a competition. They are intended to be a true laboratory for the future, a melting pot of African youth talent. Dakar 2026 intends to offer this opportunity to the continent's future champions. The programme includes a crucial educational and cultural dimension, with festivals, fan zones, introductory sports and civic engagement initiatives. «*It's not just a competition; it's a celebration of African youth in all its diversity,*» said a member of the committee.

This Media Tour also afforded an opportunity for the African press to take ownership of the event, understand the issues involved and act as a relay to the people. AIPS Africa President, Abdoulaye THIAM, stressed the crucial role of journalists in the success of this continental undertaking. «*The IOC has put its trust in Africa. Now it's up to us to prove them right.*»

The second day of the programme featured a press conference at Azalaï, meetings with athletes and sports demonstrations. The aim was to share the vision of a historic event, garner popular support and show that Africa is no longer just a sports ground, but also a major player within the global Olympic Movement.

Preparations for YOG Dakar 2026 are taking a new turn, with barely over a year to go before a spectacular celebration. Senegal, host of this historic event, is celebrating this symbolic milestone with a series of


DAKAR 2026
YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES
Festival DAKAR EN JEUX
7 au 10
SALY • DIAMNIADIO
KHALEF
7



cultural and sports activities across the country, featuring frescoes, sport and education. To mark the occasion, the organising committee has unveiled a highly symbolic official video. Combining visual poetry and inspirational messages, it highlights youth, African diversity and the Olympic heritage. The video features Amadou DIA BA, runner-up at the 1988 Olympics in the 400m hurdles, surrounded by promising young Senegalese athletes.

Ten young artists have been mobilised to paint frescoes in Dakar, Diamniadio, Saly, Ziguinchor and Saint-Louis. Through this campaign, Dakar 2026 is taking to the streets to bring the Games closer to communities. The works combine cultural identity, YOG slogans and national pride. «*Africa welcomes, Dakar celebrates.*»

Another highlight: Olympic Day 2025, organised in Dakar on 23 June, brought together more than 1,000 school children to take part in sports activities, educational workshops and demonstrations. A foretaste of what Dakar 2026 promises to offer to the world: an event where Africa shines with its youth, energy and creativity. The Games, which will be held from 31 October to 13 November 2026 at eight venues in three host cities, and will give thousands of young athletes aged 15 to 17 from every continent the opportunity to write a new page in Olympic history on African soil for the very first time.



DAKAR 2026

YOGOC ON THE STARTING BLOCKS

The General Coordinator, Ibrahima WADE, gave assurances on 9 July 2025 as he announced the organisation of test events to enable the teams to fine-tune their preparations for the sports event.


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YOGOC is on the starting blocks, virtually up to date with preparations for the sports event, the coordinator Ibrahima WADE was keen to assure: «*We're up to date. But we won't indulge in self-glorification.*» According to Ibrahima WADE, the pressure will mount every day until the opening ceremony, noting that the authorities are taking them «very seriously».

Ibrahima WADE also pointed out that YOGOC, through its sports department, together with a good number of federations, will be organising test events to enable the teams fine-tune their preparations for the sports event. He cited, among others, the organisation of African championships, world championships, national championships and other sports events to 'test the infrastructure'.

«*Our teams will organise themselves during the Dakar en Jeux Festival in November 2025, as if we were organising the YOG,*» assured the YOGOC coordinator. He announced that agreements on the use of competition venues would soon be signed with the owners of the infrastructure to specify when they will be made available to YOGOC.

About 2,700 athletes are expected to take part in Dakar 2026, with more than twenty disciplines on schedule, including athletics, swimming,

skateboard, judo, sailing, beach volleyball, rugby sevens and fencing. Adding breaking (urban dance), baseball 5, triathlon and wushu, demonstrate the desire to include a diversity of modern sports disciplines.

Meanwhile, YOGOC Dakar 2026 is smoothly securing funds and budget "*execution [is] under control*," confirmed the Committee's Deputy Coordinator, Babacar WADE, who also specified that: "*To date, there are no particular concerns regarding the mobilisation of funds.*"

Babakar WADE underscored that the YOGOC Steering Committee, which acts as the governance body, "*met on 30 June not only to review the mobilisation of resources, but also to assess the level of expenditure commitments, overseen by auditors and the fiduciary agent*," concluding on an optimistic note: "*Based on our conclusions, things are well on track.*"

He insisted that YOGOC was not facing any 'major difficulties' in securing funds, particularly those expected from the government. The former president of the Senegalese judo federation pointed out that the State's contribution is spread over three years (2024, 2025 and 2026). In this regard, he noted that YOGOC has already received the expected contribution for 2024.

«*Today, the Organising Committee of the Youth Olympic Games (YOGOC) signed its first commercial deal with SONATEL, and other deals are in the pipeline. The budget expected from YOGOC commercials will be secured accordingly,*» he revealed.



> Our teams will organise themselves during the Dakar en Jeux Festival in November 2025, as if we were organising the YOG.


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EN JEUX
3ème PRIX
DAKAR
2026






Academy
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3X3

TRAINING

NOC CENTRAL AFRICA (CNOSCA) ORGANISES TRAINING COURSES FOR SPORTS MANAGERS

Granted to NOCs by Olympic Solidarity, these training courses aim to inculcate in National Sports Federation officials the fundamentals managerial culture.




INISTRATION POUR DIRIGEANTS SPC



As part of its capacity building efforts for the benefit of National Federations and sports associations, CNOSCA organised a Management Training Courses for Sports Managers from 7 to 9 July 2025. The courses were preceded by the training of National Course Directors, supervised by Expert Clément Anicet GUIYAMA MASSOGO. Granted NOCs by Olympic Solidarity, the trainings aim to instil in National Sports Federations officials the fundamentals of managerial culture. Trainees were handed their certificates at the CNOSCA headquarters on 9 July 2025.

The ceremony was chaired by the Director of Cabinet at the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Civic Education, Mr Jean Muller SENA. It was also attended by the First Vice President, Mr Yhon Loutomo KOTOKE, the expert Clément Anicet GUIYAMA MASSOGO, CNOSCA Exco members, national federations Presidents, National Course Directors and the trainees, as well as media professionals.

The Sports Management Course had 5 modules including the organisational structure of sports organisations, strategic management, human resources management, financial management, marketing and organisation of major sports events.

Through this Course, CNOSCA supports national federations and sports associations to rise to the new



challenges of training and human resources development. A total of 20 participants, including 8 (eight) women, from sports federations and associations were the happy recipients.

«*On behalf of all trainees, we would like to thank you! We encourage you to continue on this path, which is an important capacity building step to help develop our various disciplines and promote Olympism in our country*,» said Serge SINGHA BENGBA, President of the Central African Basketball Federation.

CNOSCA believes that to achieve results and improve the performance of sportsmen and women, it needs managers who are up to the task. It is in this regard that CNOSCA is committed to providing training.



WINDHOEK

ANOCA ZONE VI BOARD ORGANISES STRATEGIC ORIENTATION MEETING

On 7 July 2025, the capital city of Namibia hosted a physical orientation session, which marked a key milestone in strengthening governance, unity and strategic alignment within the region's Olympic Movement. The event was graced by Mr Alfred FOKOLO, former President of the Zone and an iconic figure in African sports leadership.





The ANOCA Zone VI Board recently held a physical orientation session at the headquarters of NOC Namibia (NNOC) in Windhoek. Held on 7 July 2025, this event marked a key milestone in strengthening governance, unity and strategic alignment within the region's Olympic Movement.

The session took place on the sidelines of the AU Region 5 U20 Youth Games, and underscored the region's commitment to youth empowerment through sport.

It was graced by Mr Alfred FOKOLO, former President of ANOCA Zone VI. As an iconic figure in African sports leadership, Mr FOKOLO shared valuable insights and lessons learned from his tenure. He urged the new committee members to prioritise athlete development, regional cooperation and efficient governance.

Organised by NNOC, the meeting afforded an opportunity for the new Board to align with strategic objectives, define operational frameworks and strengthen collaboration among member



countries. Discussions also focused on ways to give the region a stronger collective voice on the continental and global Olympic stages.

Speaking after the session, the Secretary General of ANOCA Zone VI, Mr Maxwell JELE, expressed his optimism for the future: "*I can say the meeting went very well, with all ANOCA Zone VI Board members present. We were honoured to be joined by the former President, Mr. Alfred Foloko, whose attendance formed part of the handover process from the outgoing to the incoming Board. This orientation happened on the sidelines of the Region 5 Youth Games, where the ANOCA Zone VI Board was also invited. We participated in various activities, including the Inter-Ministerial Forum held on 6 July. A key outcome of the session was the establishment of ANOCA Zone VI Commissions, each chaired by board members. These commissions will soon be expanded to include skilled individuals from our member National Olympic Committees (NOCs) across the 10 countries, in line with the terms of reference,*" he projected.

The orientation session highlighted the region's collective ambition to build a more united, informed and action-oriented leadership, while upholding the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect.

While the Games were going on in Namibia, ANOCA Zone VI displayed renewed determination and a clear vision, standing ready to advance the regional Olympic agenda and empower the next generation through sport.



DAKAR 2026

NOC ZAMBIA (NOCZ) STEPS UP PREPARATIONS

NOCZ Secretary General and CEO urges sports federations to ensure selection of best-performing athletes only.


ZAMBIA



NOCZ has stepped up preparations for the YOG to be held in Senegal, focusing particularly on team selection, sports codes and age eligibility.

During a preparatory meeting on 27 June 2025 at the Lusaka Olympafrica Centre, NOCZ Secretary General and CEO Boniface KAMBIKAMBI requested sports federations to express interest in participating, and ensure that only outstanding athletes are considered for selection. The meeting was attended by secretaries general, technical directors and coaches from various national sports federations.

The 4th Summer Youth Olympic Games will be held in Dakar, Senegal, the first country on the African continent to host an Olympic event. The Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 are a catalyst for sporting, social, cultural, educational and economic transformation, bearing renewed hope, offering opportunities and imbuing youths with much confidence.

YOG Dakar 2026 will be a two-week event, starting on 31 October and bringing together the world's top young athletes aged no more than 17. Competitions will be hosted at three venues: Dakar, Diamniadio and Saly.

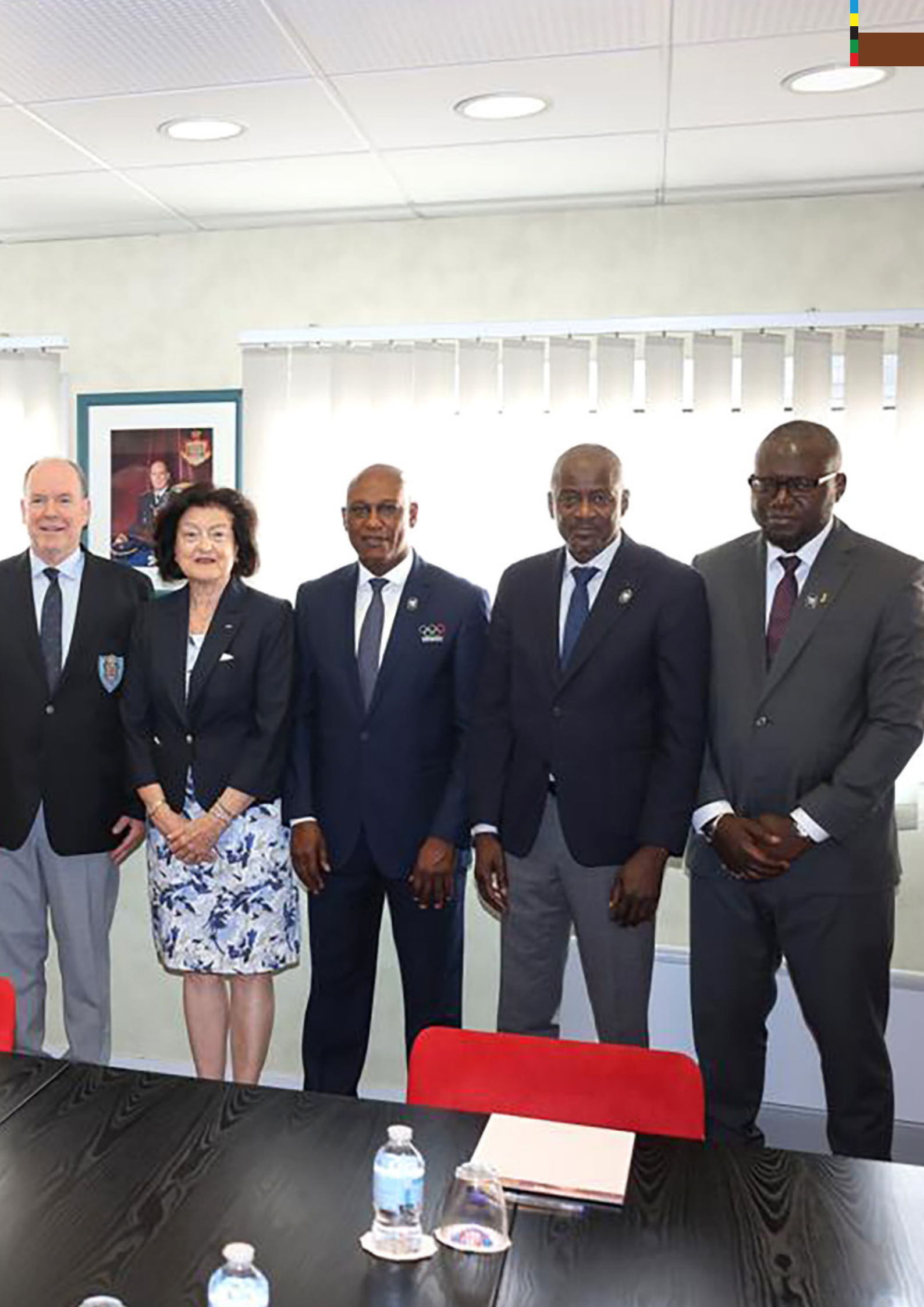

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YOG DAKAR 2026

SENEGAL AND MONACO SIGN STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

Under this agreement, the Principality of Monaco and His Serene Highness Prince Albert II officially committed to collaborating with YOGOC to make the Games a resounding success.





During a high-level official visit to Monaco on 25 June, Mamadou Diagna NDIAYE, YOGOC Chair, was received in audience by Prince Albert II to take the pulse of preparations for the very first Olympic event to be held on African soil.

At the personal invitation of Prince Albert II, who is also an influential IOC member, the Senegalese delegation presented a progress report on the Games in several points: reception of delegates, logistics and accommodation, accreditations, sports infrastructure and schedule of competitions.

Taking the floor, Prince Albert II lauded the meticulous work done by the YOGOC, highlighting the exemplary nature of the sustainable heritage model promoted by Senegal, notably through the Learning Academy, the Dakar en Jeux Festival and the Education through Sport Programme. These are all projects that bring together young Senegalese from every region of the country.

Monaco took a step further, confirming its presence in Dakar to honour the two key dates of 2025 and 2026: NOC Open Days in November 2025 and the Chefs de Mission Seminar in April 2026.

> It is very reassuring to see great progress made in the preparations for YOG Dakar 2026. The Principality of Monaco will stand with Senegal and the Organising Committee to make this a resounding success.



One of the most impactful joint projects under this already active cooperation is the «*Learn to Swim to Save Lives*» initiative, funded by the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation.

To date, 1,000 children have been introduced to swimming and drowning prevention, and 24 lifeguards - including 14 women - have been trained.

Satisfied with the progress, Prince Albert II reasserted his support for YOGOC: «*It is very reassuring to see great progress made in the preparations for YOG Dakar 2026. The Principality of Monaco will stand with Senegal and the Organising Committee to make this a resounding success.*»

With the Principality's support for Dakar 2026, the countdown has already begun. This Senegal/Monaco strategic alliance confirms the global momentum surrounding the Games. More than just games, YOG Dakar 2026 is a historic turning point for Africa.

The audience ended with a lunch hosted by His Serene Highness Prince Albert II.



OLYMPIC DAY

GUINEA MOBILISES UNDER THE THEME «LET'S MOVE!»

On 23 June, Guinea joined the rest of the world to celebrate Olympic Day, an IOC initiative, under the theme «Let's Move!»


Journée Olympique
GUINEE



To mark Olympic Day, the headquarters of NOC Guinea (CNOSG) hosted a colourful ceremony in Conakry on 23 June 2025, featuring artistic performances, engaging speeches and massive mobilisation around the values of Olympism. This year, the IOC launched a universal appeal: Move for Health, Move Together, Move for Peace. A call for movement not just as a physical activity, but also as a shared commitment to well-being, solidarity and social harmony.

The President of the country's National Olympic Academy, Germaine MANGUÉ, emphasised the importance of the day's three cornerstones: learning, moving, discovering: «*By moving, we take into account Olympic values. We've brought children here to help them discover sports, athletes and the values of respect, friendship and excellence.*» CNOSG President Ben Daouda NANSSOKO, stressed the cross-cutting dimension of Olympism, saying: «*Olympism is more than just sport. It's education, it's culture. The theme «Move for Peace» resonates*



> We are celebrating our commitment and determination to showcase our nation's greatness to the world through our performances.

deeply with the aspirations of our nation. Sport is a vehicle for social cohesion, lasting peace and the upliftment of people's spirits.»

A symbol of this new generation of Guinean athletes, Fatoumata SYLLA, expressed her pride in having represented her country at the Paris 2024 Games, highlighting: «*We are celebrating our commitment and determination to showcase our nation's greatness to the world through our performances.*» For his part, the Minister of Youth and Sports, Kéamou Bogola HABA, recalled the unifying power of sport, pointing out that «*sport can be the most powerful common language, bringing people together, and fighting against war to make our world more peaceful.*»

Clearly, this Olympic Day was not just a celebration of sport, but also a declaration of the dedsire to build a stronger, more united Guinea through sport and Olympic values. By bringing together young people, athletes, leaders and citizens, CNOSG made this event a showcase for Guinea's commitment to the global Olympic Movement.


DAKAR 2026
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