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PRESS RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES OF AFRICA



ANOCA CHARTS COURSE IN LUANDA

SUCCESS OF PARIS 2024, ENHANCED GOVERNANCE, AND GENERAL MOBILISATION FOR DAKAR 2026



The Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) held its General Assembly in Luanda, Angola, on 16 December 2025, on the sidelines of the 4th African Youth Games. Following the welcome remarks by the representative of the Minister of Youth and Sports, the session took a pivotal turn, highlighting past successes and outlining a new continental strategy.

I. REVIEW OF SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT (2021-2025)

ANOCA hailed the success of the 2021-2024 Olympiad, characterised by continuous implementation of the strategic plan at all levels (sports, educational, and social).

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES PARIS 2024

Africa demonstrated increasing dynamism with a total medal haul of 39 (13 gold, 12 silver, and 14 bronze), as against 37 in Tokyo. The medals were won by 12 African countries.

- **Highlights**: Letsile Tebogo (Botswana) won gold in the 200 meters, placing Africa among the leaders in sprinting. Algeria's Kayla Nemour made history by becoming the first African to win a medal in gymnastics (gold on uneven bars). Kenya ranked first among African nations thanks to its performances in long-distance running.

- **Athlete Support**: This success was partly driven by the support programme launched in August 2022, offering medical and scientific support plus access to facilities. ANOCA allocated $2 million in grants to 48 athletes from 11 NOCs.

INSTITUTIONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ANOCA stepped up efforts in governance and inclusion:

Key Initiative	Details of the Resolution or Achievement
Governance and Equality	The Gender Equality Forum (Cape Verde, 2023) recommended that women be given greater exposure. During the Athletes' Forum (Algiers, 2023) Gabi Ahrens (Namibia) and Victoire Ngon Ntame (Cameroon) were respectively elected as Chair and Vice Chair of the Athletes' Commission.
Infrastructure and Support to NOCs	The NOC headquarters construction project is ongoing, with the inauguration of the Eswatini NOC headquarters in February 2023. ANOCA released a $125,000 grant for all NOCs.
Youth Programme	The Olympafrica programme is expanding, with three new centres in 2024. The O!YES programme, focused on e-sports and youth education to promote Olympic values among youths aged 10 to 15, is gaining momentum.



II. INSTITUTIONAL DECISIONS AND 2026 STRATEGY

ADOPTION OF 2026 BUDGET

The General Assembly adopted the ANOCA budget for 2026, which had been previously approved by Olympic Solidarity. The Treasurer General, ENGR. HABU AHMED GUMEL, reminded the NOCs of the need for judicious use of funds allocated for their activities.

RECOGNITION OF A NEW DISCIPLINE

The Assembly granted provisional recognition to MMX (Mixed Martial Arts), represented by the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (FEMA). This discipline, which combines judo, boxing, karate, and other martial arts, is distinct from MMA. The Assembly recommended caution to ensure it remains a sport and not a show. FEMA committed to supporting the 50 Olympafrica centres by donating equipment rather than money.



FIVE STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR 2026

President Mustapha Berraf presented the five strategic pillars that will guide future action:

1. **Invest heavily in young people: Launch of the «Champion of Tomorrow» programme for talent identification and support.**

2. **Enhance governance and build institutional capacities: ANOCA management must be exemplary.**

3. **Promote gender equality and inclusion: The goal is to reach 40% women in the governing bodies of NOCs by 2028.**

4. **Develop sport for all: Expansion of community outreach programmes to 5 million African youths.**

5. **Greater exposure and international influence.**

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III. TURNING POINT: OLYMPIC GAMES AND THE SELECTION OF ETHIOPIA

MOBILISATION FOR DAKAR 2026

ANOCA called for a general mobilisation ahead of the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Dakar 2026, a historic milestone marking the first Olympic competition to be held on the continent. The countdown has begun, with more than 12,000 applications already received for 6,000 volunteer positions. The renovation of venues and the development of human legacy (Dakar Learning Academy) are underway. The IOC representative noted that Africans will be given priority in allocating the 2,700 global quotas, acknowledging that «***these are games in Africa for Africans***.»

TOWARDS CONTINENTAL QUALIFIERS

President Berraf underscored the action taken with the IOC for the African Games and continental championships to become qualifiers for the Olympic Games, in order to ensure the participation of the best athletes. This idea was supported by then IOC President, now IOC Honorary President Thomas Bach.





SELECTION OF THE HOST FOR THE 5TH AFRICAN YOUTH GAMES

The General Assembly unanimously approved Ethiopia's bid to host the 5th African Youth Games. The President of NOC Ethiopia, Dr Ashebir Gayo, assured that the Prime Minister, Dr Abiy Ahmed, gave his authorisation, guaranteeing state protocol, security, and coverage of costs for all athletes and staff hosted in the village.

IV. CRITIQUES AND COMMITMENTS

While lauding efforts made by the Angolan authorities, the Assembly pointed out «***significant anomalies and dysfunctions***» in the organisation of the Luanda 2025 Games. Issues with transportation, accommodation (delegates staying in hotels rather than an Olympic village), unofficial visas, and non-compliance with age rules by certain federations were reported. The Moroccan representative, Mr Idriss Hassar, called on ANOCA to develop «***clear, precise, and binding***» specifications to ensure the safety and well-being of young athletes.

President Berraf apologised for the inconveniences, while pleading for understanding. Angola made the effort to support the organisation of these Games financially and materially, though the country is emerging from a long war.

ANOCA committed to taking these remarks into account to improve the organisation of competitions in future.


Gaby
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THANK YOU !
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