ACNOA - ANOCA

ANOCA NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY REVIEW OF AFRICAN OLYMPISM

FEBUARY 2026

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



ANOCA PRESIDENT CHATS

“AFRICAN SPORT IS UNDERGOING A TRANSFORMATION: IT IS STRUCTURED, FORWARD-LOOKING AND FOCUSED ON EXCELLENCE”



ANOCA-OCA COOPERATION

ANOCA PRESIDENT, HONOURABLE MUSTAPHA BERRAF, WAS GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE OCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY


pic Council of Asia
neral Assembly
6th January, 2026
Tashkent, Uzbekistan



At the invitation of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), ANOCA President, Honourable Mustapha Berraf, attended the 46th OCA General Assembly, held from 23 to 27 January 2026 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. He received a very warm welcome at every stage of his visit from various officials of the country and the Olympic and sports community.

The President's visit, which is part of efforts to strengthen partnerships and exchanges between ANOCA and OCA, demonstrates the special relationship between the two continental organisations and is in line with the strategic cooperation agreement that has united them for several years.

During his stay, the President held meetings with a number of dignitaries. The highpoint was the meeting with the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, His Excellency SHAVKAT MIRZIYOYEV, and which was attended by all presidents of Asian Olympic Committees, IOC representatives, International Sports Federations and high-profile international sports figures.

MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS

Honourable Mustapha Berraf's held other important meetings with the Minister of Sport of the Russian Federation, Vitaly Logvin, and the President of NOC Qatar and Vice President of ANOC, Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani, in his capacity as the newly elected OCA President.

President Mustapha Berraf's busy schedule also featured a strategic meeting with Vitaly Logvin, Pre-



sident of the International Robot Sports Federation, with whom he discussed the proposal to sign a memorandum of understanding between the two parties.

During this mission, President Berraf held strategic discussions with Asian Olympic leaders for joint initiatives aimed at addressing the shared challenges faced by athletes and coaches on both continents. These focused particularly on strengthening technical exchange programmes, training sports managers and Olympic preparation for LA 2028.

OVER 100 NOCS REPRESENTING 75% OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION

The discussions afforded an opportunity to lay the groundwork for specific cooperation frameworks that promote meaningful exchanges between athletes and coaches from these nations and their African counterparts. The ANOCA President, who has



ACNOA - ANOCA



always strongly advocated ANOCA - OCA cooperation, stated: "***Our vision is clear: ANOCA and OCA, which represent over 100 NOCs and nearly 75% of the global population, could be a transformative force for the future of the Olympic Movement. Our enhanced cooperation will open up new horizons for our budding talents and contribute to a more harmonious balance in world sport***."

This vision is in line with the momentum he has been building since his re-election as ANOCA President at the 22nd General Assembly in Algiers in March 2025, and after the exceptional extension of his term as IOC member.

Under his leadership, ANOCA has significantly developed its youth programmes, notably through the African Youth Games, the African Beach Games and the maiden African School Games. The icing on the cake will be the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026. These events are essential platforms for African talent identification and support on the journey to sports excellence.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Undertaken in excellent conditions and featuring high-level meetings, the mission afforded an op-



portunity for both parties to reaffirm their shared determination to strengthen cooperation and share experiences that will enable ANOCA to develop more cooperation opportunities with a view to rising to future challenges and achieving the objectives set by the ANOCA General Assembly.



Asia and Olympic Africa strengthened their cooperation ties on 22 October 2025 in Bahrain following the signing of a strategic partnership agreement, in the presence of all Executive Committee members. The collaboration aims to strengthen both sports and cultural cooperation, demonstrated by the launch of the 'Silk to Sahara' cultural project in early 2026 in Kuwait, and exchanges aimed at revitalising the Olympic Movements of both continents.

The partnership aims to unite the voices of Africa and Asia, marking a turning point for the Olympic Movement. This collaboration with OCA complements ANOCA's sports development initiatives, particularly the 2025-2028 plan. The agreement lends momentum for strengthened partnership, facilitated by the expertise of ANOCA President, Mustapha Berraf.



YOG Dakar 2026

LEARNING ACADEMY TRAINS AND INTEGRATES 163 YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE





A few months to the kickoff of the Youth Olympic Games, the first ever Olympic event on the African continent, the Organising Committee is focusing on training, thanks to this academy, whose mission is to prepare for Dakar 2026 YOG. The initiative, which is supported by IOC and the Dakar 2026 Organising Committee (COJOJ), is partly funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to France, this initiative is a *"win-win"* partnership based on expertise sharing and local capacity building.









It is a huge challenge for the organisers, and the stakes involved in organising such an event on African soil are high. Of the 419 young people from across Africa who will be trained in sports event management over the coming months, 163 have already been trained by Learning Academy, and more than half of them are female.

For several weeks, these young people from 22 countries across the continent were drilled in the intricacies of organising major sports events, through project management, marketing and legal aspects. Joiris Minneci (Cape Verde) who holds a certificate in sports management, was excited to take part in this training: "***With a Master's Degree, you know the theory, but being there, talking to people who are experts in the field, they teach you things that will help you in your job***."

Jana Malbrook from Seychelles, considers this training as a golden opportunity to acquire long-term skills that she can build on during similar events in the future: "***This training is like a springboard for me, so that I can represent my country at other Olympic Games***."

Mohamed Ali El Majdaoui from Morocco, also sees the training as a learning experience and a way to plan for the future: "***I'm here to learn how to organise the Olympic Games, because Morocco might host them in the future.***"

Taking advantage of her visit to Dakar on 26 January 2026, the French Minister Delegate for la Francophonie and International Partnerships, Éléonore Caroit, met with young learners, whom she did not hesitate to encourage. "***We are making huge investments in this sector. After successfully hosting the Olympic Games Paris 2024, we want to support Senegal in organising the Youth Olympic Games. This is important because these are inclusive Olympic Games, with a refugee team***," she said.



Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026

A FRENCH DELEGATION VISITS LEARNING ACADEMY TO SUPPORT AFRICA AND PASS THE MANTLE TO DAKAR AFTER PARIS 2024



An important French delegation led by Éléonore Caroit, Minister Delegate to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, in charge of la Francophonie, International Partnerships and French Nationals Abroad, and Christine Fages, French Ambassador to Senegal, was received on 26 January 2026 in Dakar by the General Coordinator of the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Dakar 2026 Organising Committee, Ibrahima Wade, and youths of the Learning Academy.

Attended by Organising Committee officials and trainees of the Learning Academy, the visit was part of efforts to strengthen cooperation between Senegal and France ahead of the YOG Dakar 2026.

During this meeting, two partnership agreements were signed with the Team France Fund (FEF) and the French Fund for Studies and Aid to the Private Sector (FASEP). The agreements aim to support training, capacity-building and support initiatives for the organisation of the YOG. Senegal and France are, by these agreements, reaffirming their shared commitment to making Dakar 2026 an event that will leave a lasting legacy, focused on youth, training and skills transfer.

Recalling the ambition of the Learning Academy programme, Ibrahima Wade expressed his satisfaction: "***We have set up the Learning Academy to train 400 young people from more than 20 countries, enabling them to acquire essential skills for organising the Youth Olympic Games in Senegal. France has decided to support this initiative. This is the main purpose of these agreements.***"

Impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of the young participants, Minister Éléonore Caroit shared the same feeling of satisfaction: "***It is very rare to see young people so committed and full of joy. France is here to support and participate in this wonderful adventure, but also to pass on the mantle***," she asserted.



Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028

NINE IVORIAN ATHLETES TO BENEFIT FROM OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY SCHOLARSHIPS



On 8 January 2026, NOC-CIV officially presented the Olympic Solidarity Scholarship, a financial support programme aimed at assisting athletes in their preparation for LA 2028.

Nine Ivorian athletes have been selected to benefit from the programme, including four athletes in athletics, three in taekwondo, one in rowing and one in fencing. Each athlete will receive a monthly allowance of $1,000, or approximately CFA 500,000 to improve their training conditions.

Approved on 12 December 2025 and operational since 1 September 2025, the scholarship scheme was launched in the presence of DGSVF, federations, coaches and several beneficiary athletes. The Secretary General of the NOC, Jeannot Kouamé Kouadio, and the Executive Director, Mrs Nah Aminata Fofana Sidibé, gave details on the rights, obligations and terms and conditions for the use of these funds.

The Ministry of Sports, represented by Lydie Gninkibo, commended this exemplary initiative of good governance and

encouraged athletes to use their grants responsibly in order to achieve the main objective: qualifying for the 2028 Olympic Games, to be held from 14 to 30 July in Los Angeles. Three of the nine beneficiaries, including Asthan Bathily, Diakité Issa (taekwondo), and Franck N'Dri (rowing), and their coaches were present at the ceremony and expressed their satisfaction regarding this golden opportunity.

SUPPORTING ATHLETES AND FUNDING TRAINING FOR COACHES

Generally speaking, Olympic Solidarity Scholarships are financial assistance from the IOC aimed at supporting elite athletes, particularly those with limited resources, for their qualification and participation in the Olympic Games. They cover training and competition expenses, with a monthly allowance of $1,000.

The main objective underpinning this IOC initiative is to promote the universality of the Games by supporting elite athletes selected by their NOCs.

The grants are meant to defray expenses related to training, accommodation











and participation in qualifiers. In addition to financing the training of coaches and sports structures, the programme is now focused on the 2025-2028 cycle for Los Angeles 2028, with the number of scholarships per NOC increased to six.



In a chat with ANOCA MAGAZINE, ANOCA President, the Honourable Mustapha BERRAF, shares his vision for upcoming sports events of the African Olympic and Sports Movement.

ANOCA PRESIDENT CHATS

"AFRICAN SPORT IS UNDERGOING A TRANSFORMATION: IT IS STRUCTURED, FORWARD-LOOKING AND FOCUSED ON EXCELLENCE."



ANOCA MAGAZINE: Mr President, what measures has ANOCA taken to ensure that African athletes put up a stellar show at LA 2028?

Mustapha BERRAF: Thank you for this question, which is focal to our mission. African athletes are at the heart of all our concerns and ambitions. You see, LA 2028 is more than just another Olympic event; it is a historic opportunity for Africa to show the world that our continent has an inexhaustible talent pool.

We have put in place a comprehensive, coherent and ambitious strategy. First, we are working closely with the IOC and particularly with Olympic Solidarity, whom I would like to thank warmly for their invaluable support. Olympic grants to athletes through our 54 NOCs aim to improve the quality of their athletic preparation. These are concrete measures that enable our champions to train in ideal conditions.

Next, and this is fundamental, we have built an ecosystem for talent identification and development through several initiatives. The 2027 African Games in Egypt, which we absolutely hope will serve as qualifiers for Los Angeles 2028, will be a major springboard. It is not normal to organise African Games that do not serve as qualifiers for the Olympic Games. We have agreed on this with African confederations and international federations to make these Games an unforgettable event.

However, our vision goes beyond that. The African Youth Games, the African School Games, the maiden edition of which we successfully hosted recently in Algeria, and the network of Olympafrica Centres that we are expanding across the continent are all budding talent identification and support tools. It is an ongoing, painstaking process, which is already bearing fruits.

We also invest in infrastructure. Our NOC headquarters construction and renovation programme provides them with enabling working conditions. Well-equipped NOCs ensure better preparation for our athletes.

I am saying this with conviction: Africa will shine brightly at the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028. We are going there to deliver outstanding performances. Our goal is clear: to improve our medal tally and, above all, to show that African sport is undergoing

a transformation. It is structured, forward-looking and focused on excellence.

The Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 will kick off soon. Is Africa set to take on this challenge?

Let me to say this with joy and pride: yes, Africa is ready! Dakar 2026 is much more than just a sports event. It is a historic moment for our continent. Africa will host an Olympic event on its soil for the first time in the history of the Olympic Movement. Senegal, Land of the Teranga, whose legendary hospitality has made our continent famous, will have the great honour of organising these Youth Olympic Games.

Africa has a date with history. And I can assure you that we cannot afford to let down our young people, our continent, or the world, which is watching us with keen interest and, dare we say, with admiration.

Preparations are well underway thanks to close collaboration with ANOCA, the IOC, NOC Senegal, under the able leadership of Mamadou Diagna NDIAYE, and the Government of Senegal. President Bassirou Diomaye FAYE has clearly expressed Senegal's unalloyed commitment. The facilities are ready: the Diamniadio Stadium, the Olympic Village, and the sports venues in Dakar, Saly and Saint-Louis demonstrate the rigour, pride and commitment of a continent on the rise.

I am saying this with conviction: Africa will shine brightly at the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028. We are going there to deliver outstanding performances. Our goal is clear: to improve our medal tally and, above all, to show that African sport is undergoing a transformation. It is structured, forward-looking and focused on excellence.

I am particularly grateful to the IOC and its new President, Mrs Kirsty COVENTRY, the first woman and first African to hold this position. She has reaffirmed the IOC's unwavering commitment to supporting Senegal and ANOCA in making



this event a success. We are honoured by this trust and feel a great sense of responsibility.

But beyond the sports facilities and logistics, Dakar 2026 affords an ideal opportunity to change the lives of millions of young Africans. The name of these Games is quite fitting: they are dedicated to promising young athletes, to those teenagers who dream of Olympic glory, to those budding talents who embody the future of African and global sport.

Under the motto "*Africa welcomes, Dakar celebrates*", we are preparing to offer the world a celebration of youth, peace and diversity. This is much more than just a showcase; it is a promise for the future. Dakar 2026 must mark the beginning of a new era for African sport, an era in which our young talents make a lasting mark on the international stage.

I am fervently appealing to all stakeholders of African sport: let's join forces, mobilise our resources and coordinate our actions to make Dakar 2026 a resounding success that will echo far beyond our borders and long after the closing ceremony. I once again appeal to all African countries to develop and take sport seriously on our continent.



What your appraisal of the Fourth African Youth Games Angola 2025? Are you satisfied with this competition?

I am very proud and deeply satisfied with the success of the Fourth African Youth Games in Angola. It was much more than a sports competition; it was a real catalyst for social transformation and unity on the continent.

Angola rose brilliantly to the challenge of organising these Games, becoming the first Portuguese-speaking country to host this major event. The fact that the Games coincided with Angola's celebration of its 50 years of independence gives even greater symbolic significance to this achievement. I would like to warmly congratulate His Excellency President João LOURENÇO, the Government of Angola, NOC Angola and all stakeholders for their exemplary commitment.



The Angolan authorities made tremendous efforts to ensure the success of the event and to provide young athletes with ideal competition conditions. The modern infrastructure and state-of-the-art facilities that hosted our competitions are more than just infrastructure – they are a tangible symbol of what Africa can achieve when it believes in its young people.

More than 2,100 young athletes aged 14 to 17 from 54 African nations gathered in Angola to celebrate sports excellence, friendship and mutual respect. Beyond the competition, these Games provided a platform for cultural exchange and dialogue among African youths, thereby strengthening the bonds of solidarity and cooperation among the nations of the continent.

The Games embodied the future of African sport and offered young people an exceptional platform to showcase their talent, build bridges between nations and fly the flag for Africa on the international stage. They also served as qualifiers for the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026, giving them an additional strategic edge.

The success of these Games is a testament to the determination and hard work of the entire ANOCA team and African NOCs. I pay tribute to all those who worked hard to make these Games a memorable success. Under the theme *"Building the Africa of tomorrow today"*, we have demonstrated that when Africa invests in its youth, it invests in a future where all is possible.

How far have preparations for the 14th African Games, billed for 2027 gone?

Preparations for the 14th African Games, set to take place in Egypt in 2027, are already well underway and progressing very satisfactorily. Egypt, which successfully hosted the 5th edition in 1991, is returning to the African Games with

greater experience and capabilities.

Firstly, I would like to commend the commitment of the Egyptian Government, particularly Professor Ashraf SOBHY, Minister of Youth and Sports, and Yasser Mohamed Ibrahim IDRIS, President of NOC Egypt. Their determination and vision are remarkable. Egypt now has a new generation of sports facilities, which are ideal for hosting this event.

Our vision for these Games is clear and ambitious. Our goal is first to ensure that as many sports as possible are qualifiers for the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028. I have said it insistently; it is not normal to organise African Games that do not serve as qualifiers. ANOCA, African Olympic Sports Confederations and International Federations have all agreed on this, so that the 2027 African Games in Cairo will be memorable and serve as qualifiers for the Olympic Games. We are working closely with the IOC, the African Union and all stakeholders for a smooth organisation.

It is also worth mentioning that we are fostering a spirit of fraternity and cooperation among African countries. The Democratic Republic of Congo, for example, which had also expressed interest, decided to fully support Egypt's bid for 2027 and is positioning itself to host the 2031 Games. This enhanced collaboration and pan-African solidarity is exactly what ANOCA advocates.

The Angolan authorities made tremendous efforts to ensure the success of the event and to provide young athletes with ideal competition conditions. The modern infrastructure and state-of-the-art facilities that hosted our competitions are more than just infrastructure - they are a tangible symbol of what Africa can achieve when it believes in its young people.

For Egypt, these Games are also a step towards a greater ambition: demonstrating their ability to organise major sports events ahead of their bid to host the Olympic Games. We are supporting them in this endeavour.

The African Olympic Movement is preparing in harmony, and I am convinced that the African Games 2027 will be an exceptional moment for African sport, a stepping stone for Olympic excellence and a celebration of our continent's unity.

Mr President, how do you envision the 2025-2028 quadrennial?

This new Olympic mandate for 2025-2028 will be marked by continuity, innovation and ambition for African sport. After my re-election in March 2025 in Algiers, with the unanimous support of all 54 African NOCs, we now have the huge responsibility to consolidate our achievements and go even further in transforming African sport.

This quadrennial centres around several strategic focus areas. Firstly, investing more in our youths. This is our top priority. The Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026, the African Youth Games and the African School Games - which we have just successfully institutionalised - are all platforms for identifying, training and supporting our future champions.



Young people are our most valuable asset.

Secondly, we are resolutely pursuing our infrastructure development policy. We are continuing our NOC headquarters project, as well-equipped and professional NOCs guarantee better governance and better support for our athletes. We are also working towards further developing the network of Olympafrica Centres across the continent.

Thirdly, gender equality is at the heart of our work. We have taken steps to improve women's representation in African and international sports bodies. For instance, the Zone 3 Games for women and our gender equality forums - we recently organised one in Burundi – attest to our unwavering commitment to gender parity in sport.

Fourthly, sustainability and environmental protection. We organised forums on these issues, such as the one in Luanda in



December 2025, because African sport must be responsible and contribute to the fight against global warming.

We also have transparency and good governance. I am fully determined to instil a participatory approach in ANOCA operations. We must modernise our operations to give ANOCA a fresh start. I attach great importance to governance that builds on transparency, consultation and dialogue.

This term of office is also marked by enhanced collaboration with the IOC. I welcome the commitment of Mrs Kirsty COVENTRY, the new IOC President, the first woman and first African to hold this position. Her election is historic, and we are fully committed to assisting her in the discharge of her duties at the IOC. She expressed her commitment to continuing efforts towards developing African sport during her tenure, and we are truly honoured.

I would also like to pay tribute to Dr Thomas BACH, IOC Honorary President for Life, for his exceptional contribution to safeguarding the Olympic Movement in times of global crises. His support for Africa has been invaluable.

I also hail the outstanding cooperation agreement that we signed with OCA in October 2025. This is proof of the excellent international relations we enjoy, particularly with the IOC, Olympic Solidarity, and the International Federations of Football, Handball, Basketball and Swimming.

In a nutshell, this quadrennial will build on unity, solidarity and excellence. Together with the ANOCA EXCO, our 54 NOCs and our partners, we will continue to develop a modern, successful and inclusive African sport

that is respected on the international stage.

Mr President, has the Olympafrica project reached cruising speed so far?

I am particularly pleased that you asked me this question, because Olympafrica is truly the heartbeat of our long-term development strategy. As President of the Olympafrica Foundation, I can proudly say, '*Yes, we have reached our cruising speed, but we are far from reaching our goal*!'

Olympafrica is primarily a philosophy: using sport as a youth education, social cohesion and development tool. These centres are a permanent structure that will provide Africa with tangible and intangible infrastructure designed to provide more opportunities for African youths. The need for guidance is a reality. That is why these centres have been set up and spread across Africa.

Today, there are 48 Olympafrica Centres across the continent, and we are continuing to expand the network. Each centre is a place for living, learning and practising sport, welcoming thousands of children. It is a space where character,



discipline, hard work, respect for opponents and the pursuit of excellence are forged – just what young Africans need to shine through sport. Our goal, healthy minds in healthy bodies.

However, what makes me particularly optimistic is the momentum we have built in terms of partnerships. For example, we signed an agreement with FIBA to develop 3x3 basketball in 20 of our centres, with a commitment to enroll at least 1,000 children under the age of 16 in each centre. FIBA Africa President, Anibal MANAVE, also acknowledged the importance of this partnership.

We also signed partnership agreements with NOC China, NOC France and other international institutions. These collaborations are helping us enrich our programmes, train our coaches and improve our equipment.



Their impact is tangible. Olympafrica regularly provides significant sports, educational, cultural and economic benefits to the relevant communities. It is a model that works, transforms lives, and gives hope.

What we have achieved so far is exemplary and effective, but we must keep reinforcing it. It is an ongoing process. It is henceforth critical to boost our Olympafrica centres with strategic partnerships such as the one we have with FIBA, and others that are currently in the pipeline.

Olympafrica's strategic plan, which ran from 2021 to 2025 and which we will be extending, is an integral part of our overall African sport development vision. These centres are laboratories where future champions are trained and nurtured, where talent is identified, and where Olympic values are embodied.

I am convinced that Olympafrica will play a decisive role in preparing our youths for Dakar 2026, LA 2028, and all the major upcoming sports events. It is an investment in the future, and the outcomes are already evident.

Basketball, like many other sports, is a tool for inculcating Olympic values in our youths, who represent the Olympic and sports future of Africa and the world. Olympafrica builds character, discipline, hard work, respect for



opponents and the pursuit of excellence – all that young Africans need to shine through sport.

So, yes, Olympafrica has reached cruising speed, but our goal is to scale up in the coming years.

What is your take on the organisation and conduct of the 2026 Africa Cup of Nations, and above all, how does the ANOCA President view the unfortunate incidents that marred the Morocco-Senegal final of this competition?

The 2026 Africa Cup of Nations football tournament was overall well organised, particularly in terms of the quality of the infrastructure and other facilities provided by the host country. However, this great 30-day sports event was unfortunately marred by certain behaviours and the aftermath of the final between Morocco and Senegal was overshadowed by regrettable incidents.

We are deeply concerned and strongly condemn these incidents, which





smear the image of African sport, especially coming from certain leaders. I call for unity and fair play, and I urge the Sports Movement to demonstrate solidarity and responsibility, to build an exemplary future for Olympic Africa. We deplore the scenes of violence and tension, and would like to remind everyone that the values of fraternity must take precedence over sports and political rivalries. Finally, I would like to congratulate Senegal on their victory and the enlightened leadership of their star, Sadio MANÉ.

However, what makes me particularly optimistic is the momentum we have built in terms of partnerships. For example, we signed an agreement with FIBA to develop 3x3 basketball in 20 of our centres, with a commitment to enroll at least 1,000 children under the age of 16 in each centre. FIBA Africa President, Anibal MANAVE, also acknowledged the importance of this partnership.

Thank you for answering our questions, Mr President!

Thank you! I avail myself of this opportunity to pay tribute to all the Authorities who have supported us in bringing out the best in Africa's young people by organising continental events such as the African Youth Games and the African School Games.



ANOCA
JEUX AFRICAINS
AFRICAN GAMES
ACNOA

UNITY
SOLIDARITY
FRATERNITY

ANOCA