ACNOA - ANOCA

#July 2026

Press Release

ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES OF AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



AN AFRICAN STANDS FOR THE POST OF ANOC'S PRESIDENT

One of the strongest moments of the General Assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) was the organization's unanimous full and total support in favour of Honourable Mustapha BERRAF's candidature to the post of President of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC). ANOC will be electing its new President during its 28th General Assembly that will take place in Hong Kong (China) from 7 to 10 December 2026, to replace outgoing President Robin Mitchell.

This is the decision taken by National Olympic Committees, while underscoring that till date, the continent has never held this position within ANOC's governance. This reason was deemed enough for them to support an African candidature.

In their motion of support, NOC Presidents are encouraging Mustapha BERRAF, ANOCA President, Member of the International Olympic Committee and current ANOC Vice-President, to stand for the post of ANOC President.

General Assembly members declare as follows:

« ***We are in unconditional, full and total support of Honourable Mustapha BERRAF's candidature to the post of ANOC's Presidency ». The motion invites the entire African Olympic and sports movement to unite and mobilize behind this historic candidature, while « ...encouraging all fellow NOCs from other continents to support this African candidature***», while hailing Honourable Mustapha BERRAF's managerial skills. To conclude, NOC Presidents have this to say:

« ***We commend his decisive action at the service of Olympism and reaffirm our confidence in his capacity to lead ANOC to new successes.*** »

This is the full reaction of candidate Mustapha BERRAF, in response to African NOC' motion of support in favour of the call for candidature:



1. CANDIDATE'S MESSAGE

- **Dear Presidents,**
- **Honourable Members of the General Assembly,**
- **Dear colleagues,**
- **Dear sisters and brothers,**

Some encounters shape destiny.

For the vast majority of us, that encounter was with sport and Olympism.

Long before we took on the responsibilities we hold today, we learned that true victory is never measured solely by results, but by the way in which it is achieved – and also by accepting defeat with dignity. We were taught that respect always comes before victory, that excellence is an ongoing pursuit, that friendship brings together what borders sometimes divide, and that the greatest achievements are always the outcome of a collective effort.

The values of sport have guided me every step of the way: as an athlete; as Federation President; as NOC President; as Vice-President and later President of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa; and as an IOC member.

I wish to note that, from the age of eleven after my father's passing, I was guided in my sport journey and my education by my coach.

That is one of the reasons why you will always see me championing the education and training of children in need.

Over the years, I was privileged to meet remarkable women and men across all five continents. Despite the diversity of our cultures, our circumstances and our challenges, I always found the same passion for supporting athletes, the same commitment to the values of Olympism and the same determination to serve the common good.

This experience taught me one essential truth.

No athlete succeeds alone.

No NOC progresses alone.

No great institution is built alone.

The greatest successes always stem from trust, solidarity and cooperation.

For over a century, the Olympic Movement has brought people together around an ideal that transcends borders, cultures and differences.

It reminds the world that respect, excellence and friendship constitute a universal language.

In a world where geopolitical tensions are undermining dialogue among nations, the Olympic Movement remains one of the last truly universal spaces where competition brings people together rather than dividing them, where respect prevails over confrontation, and where sport reminds us that peace is built first and foremost on trust among peoples.

Every NOC contributes, in its own way, to bringing this ambition to life.

This mission makes the Olympic Movement one of the greatest forces for dialogue, cooperation and hope of our time.

We are the custodians of an exceptional legacy.

But we are not gathered here to preserve the past.

We are gathered here to prepare for the future.

Some generations inherit an institution.

Others have the responsibility to transform it.

Our generation has a duty to do both.

The world is developing at an unprecedented pace.

Artificial intelligence, the digital revolution, climate change and profound geopolitical shifts are reshaping our environment.

These changes affect each of our 206 NOCs.

These changes warrant us to rethink the way we work together, innovate, train, share our knowledge and support our athletes.

In the face of these challenges, I am guided in my commitment by one certainty.

In the 21st century, the strength of the Olympic Movement will not be measured by the power of a few nations.



It will be measured by the ability of its 206 NOCs to move forward together, to share their experiences, to build their capacities and a shared future.

It is this conviction that has led me today to ask for your trust.

Not to hold a position.

But to take on a responsibility, together, with you.

The responsibility of preparing ANOC for the coming decade.

I am asking for your trust today, because I am convinced that our Movement has all the resources necessary to write one of the finest chapters in its history.

Our responsibility is simple.

To enable every athlete, wherever they live in the world, to find within their NOC the conditions that will allow them to achieve their full potential.

We have styled that vision as.



2. ANOC VISION 2036

One Olympic family, a shared future.

This vision is based on a deep-seated conviction.

The true wealth of our Movement lies neither in its structures nor in its resources.

It lies in its 206 NOCs.

I do not believe there are ‘big’ or ‘small’ NOCs.

I believe there are 206 institutions, all of which are essential to the Olympic Movement, each with its own history, identity and responsibility.

Our responsibility is not to standardise the NOCs.

Our responsibility is to create enabling conditions for each of them to achieve their full potential, whilst respecting their history, culture, priorities and ambitions.

The ANOC that I wish to serve will be an organisation that trusts its members, supports them in their projects and considers each of the 206 NOCs as an essential partner in our collective success.

Its role is not to take their place.

Its role is to listen to them.

To support them.

To foster cooperation.

And to create conditions for their success.

I am convinced that the role of a President is, above all, to create conditions for everyone's success.

To bring people together.

To nurture talent.

And to give every NOC the opportunity to display its full potential.

This vision of leadership will guide every decision I make.

I have never thought that the diversity of our Olympic family is a weakness.

I have always considered it as our greatest asset.

We have different histories, cultures, realities and priorities.

Yet we are united by a shared responsibility: to bring the universal values of Olympism to life, everywhere in the world, and to pass them on to future generations.

The ANOC of my dream is one that brings the continents closer together.

An ANOC that encourages the sharing of experiences, expertise and best practice.

An ANOC that fosters innovation.

An ANOC that nurtures talent.

An ANOC that creates the conditions for sustainable cooperation among the 206 NOCs.

I am convinced that advances in artificial intelligence, digital transformation, research and new technologies represent a historic opportunity.

It is our responsibility to ensure that this transformation benefits each and every one of our NOCs.

That it bridges inequality gaps rather than widen them.

That it enables every NOC, regardless of its size, resources or level of development, to have the skills, tools and partnerships needed to prepare for the future.

I also believe that the greatest asset of the Olympic Movement will always be the women and men who serve it.

Our responsibility is to uncover talent.

To strengthen female leadership.

To prepare the next generation of leaders.

To encourage youth engagement.

And to build governance that is increasingly inclusive, representative, and true to the diversity of our Olympic family.

Sport is much more than just competition.

It is a universal language.

It educates.

It protects health.

It promotes inclusion.

It strengthens social cohesion.

And it reminds people that it is always possible to dialogue despite their differences.

Preserving this purpose is one of our greatest responsibilities.

That's why ANOC Vision 2036 isn't just a programme.

It is a commitment.

A commitment to athletes.

A commitment to NOCs.

A commitment to future generations.

No vision, however ambitious, can become a reality without the trust and commitment of its developers.

Because the real strength of ANOC does not lie in its headquarters, or its structures, or its programmes.

It lies in its 206 NOCs.

It lies in the women and men who lead them, run them, and bring them to life every day.

You are the strength of the Olympic Movement.

You are its legitimacy.

You are its energy.

You are its ability to inspire future generations.

I am not asking you to choose a person.

I am requesting you to choose a direction.

A direction based on trust.

On solidarity.

On innovation.

On cooperation.

And on the strong belief that our future will be built together.

History will remember the decisions we make.

Future generations will live with their consequences.

We therefore have a huge responsibility.

I urge you to embrace it with confidence.

With ambition.



And with loyalty to the values that have united us for over a century.

I am not just calling on you to elect a President.

I am inviting you to build a legacy.

A legacy in which each of the 206 NOCs will be stronger, more independent, and better prepared for the future.

Because we are one Olympic family.

Because we have a shared future.

That is what feeds my commitment.

And it is with humility, confidence, and determination that I ask for your trust today.

«***When the 206 NOCs progress together, the entire Olympic Movement moves forward.***»

With my most devoted Olympic regards,

Mustapha Berraf

3. MUSTAPHA BERRAF

A life dedicated to sport and Olympism



For over forty years, Mustapha Berraf has devoted himself to sport development, serving athletes, and promoting the Olympic Movement.

His journey is that of a man who has experienced all aspects of sport: elite athlete, international Algerian basketball player, sports leader, President of NOC Algeria, Vice President of ANOC, ANOCA President and IOC member.

With this experience, gained both on the field and within the highest levels of global sports governance, he has a deep understanding of the expectations of NOCs, the challenges they face, and the changes that will shape the future of the Olympic Movement.

A former Algerian international basketball player, he represented his country for many years. His journey as an athlete instilled in him a belief that has always guided his actions: sport is above all a school of responsibility, self-improvement, respect, and solidarity.

From the very beginning, his commitment extended to serving sports institutions. At every step of his journey, he worked to strengthen governance, develop sports organisations, support athletes, and promote cooperation between nations.

At the helm of ACNOA, he initiated a modernisation drive for the organisation, strengthened cooperation among the 54 African NOCs, supported the development of institutional capacities, encouraged female leadership, mentored youth, promoted parasports, and helped boost Africa's presence within the global Olympic Movement.

As Vice President of ANOC and IOC member, he actively takes part in major discussions guiding the evolution of global sports and maintains an ongoing dialogue with NOCs across all five continents.

Convinced that sport is a powerful tool for human development, he advocates for a vision of Olympism that goes far beyond just competition. To him, sport is also a driver of education, health, inclusion, dialogue among peoples, sustainable development, and international cooperation.

Convinced that 21st century challenges require collective responses, he makes innovation, digital transformation, knowledge sharing, and cooperation between continents strategic priorities for the future of the Olympic Movement.

His commitment to sport and Olympism has earned him international recognition. He has notably been awarded the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee and the ANOC Order of Merit. Several countries have also conferred him their highest honours, including the Order of Merit of Hungary, the rank of Commander of the Central African Order of Recognition, as well as the rank of Commander of the National Order of Mali, in recognition of his contribution to the development of sport, dialogue among peoples, and international cooperation.

Throughout his career, Mustapha Berraf has had one consistent approach: listening before deciding, bringing people together before taking action, and building sustainable solutions rather than temporary fixes. Convinced that an institution's strength relies on the trust of its members, he supports governance based on dialogue, respect for differences, collective responsibility, and the ongoing pursuit of the common good.

He is running for the post of ANOC President based on the conviction that a strong ANOC is one that supports each of its members, promotes cooperation across continents, and prepares athletes and future generations for the challenges of the 21st century.

His proposed agenda places special importance on building NOC capacities, female leadership, youth, para-sports, innovation, digital transformation, and governance that is increasingly open, responsible, and inclusive.

More than just a programme, it offers a method. More than just a candidacy, it offers a vision: that of an ANOC that brings people together, supports them, innovates, and puts each of its 206 NOCs at the heart of its action.

Apart the posts he has occupied, his commitment is guided by one conviction:

One Olympic family, a shared future.

4. THE TEN GUIDELINES OF ANOC VISION 2036

The world is changing. Challenges are being globalised, and the responses need to be too. ANOC Vision 2036 aims to make ANOC the major platform for cooperation across the five continents, where experiences are shared, skills are strengthened, innovations flow, and everyone's successes become progress for all. More than a vision, it is a collective ambition: bringing our Olympic family together to prepare the future of the Olympic Movement together.

1. Empowering the 206 NOCs

The primary mission of ANOC is to support each of its members in carrying out their mission.

Our priority will be to build the institutional capacities of the 206 NOCs, advocate for their independence, and develop the sort of collaboration that will allow them to better support athletes.

When each NOC progresses, the entire Olympic Movement becomes stronger.

2. Athletes at the heart of every decision

The Olympic Movement exists because of Athletes.

All our policies should help improve their training, support, protection, well-being, and future, before, during, and after their sports careers.

We have the responsibility to give them the best conditions to achieve their full potential.

3. Intercontinental cooperation

The diversity of our Olympic family is our greatest asset.

ANOC will continue its mission as a global cooperation platform by encouraging exchanges, partnerships, and the sharing of skills so that everyone's achievements become progress for all.

4. Exemplary governance

Every great institution is built on trust.

We aim to promote governance based on integrity, transparency, accountability, listening, and excellence so that every NOC can rely on a modern, efficient ANOC that is fully committed to supporting them.

5. Innovation as a development driver

Artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and new technologies are opening a new chapter for global sports.

Our goal is to turn these changes into tools for modernisation, cooperation, and performance that are accessible to all NOCs.

Innovation should never widen the gaps between nations.

It should help bridge them.

6. Skills and knowledge sharing

The most sustainable investment is investing in the women and men who bring the Olympic Movement to life.

We will support training, sharing best practices, expertise, and building capacity so that every NOC can confidently face the challenges of tomorrow.

7. Preparing the leaders of tomorrow

The future of our Movement will depend on our ability to identify talent.

We will continue developing female leadership, supporting youth engagement, strengthening the role of parasports, and promoting governance that is increasingly inclusive, representative, and true to the diversity of our Olympic family.

8. Sport as a driver of peace and development

Sport is much more than just competition.

It promotes education, health, inclusion, sustainable development, and dialogue among people.

In a world marked by tensions and uncertainties, sport remain one of the most powerful ways to foster peace, mutual understanding, and international cooperation.

9. Strategic partnerships

The challenges of the 21st century require ambitious partnerships.

ANOC will consolidate cooperation with the IOC, International Federations, continental associations, international organisations, governments, universities, the private sector, and development partners to create new opportunities for NOCs.

10. Building the ANOC of tomorrow

Our desire is to build a stronger, more innovative, more influential, and more useful ANOC.

An organisation capable of anticipating changes in world sport, strengthening solidarity among continents, and passing on to future generations an Olympic Movement that is ever more united, resilient, and forward-looking.

ANOC Vision 2036 is based on the ten guidelines above. They will guide our actions throughout the next decade and inspire every initiative we carry out in service of the 206 NOCS. Together, they reflect the same ambition: to make ANOC an organisation that is ever closer to its members, more open to the world, and able to unite the five continents around a shared vision for the future of Olympism.

5. A VISION OF INTERCONTINENTAL COOPERATION

No continent can succeed alone

The 21st century will not belong to a single dominant continent.

It will be one of cooperation among continents.

In a world marked by geopolitical tensions, technological changes, climate challenges, and deep transformations in our societies, no nation, region, or continent can face the challenges of the Olympic Movement on its own.

We have the responsibility to build bridges and not barriers.

The Olympic Movement remains one of the few truly universal communities where the five continents meet, talk, cooperate, and build together.

This uniqueness is our greatest strength.

My candidacy is not guided by blocs, influence, or geopolitical balances.

It is based on a simple belief: the future of the IOC depends on our ability to unite the continents around a common ambition.

Each continent brings an essential contribution to our Olympic family.

Africa brings the youth of its population, its energy, resilience, and immense development potential.

Europe brings its institutional experience, governance expertise, and a unique heritage to serve sport.

Asia brings its capacity for innovation, technological excellence, infrastructure, and economic dynamism.

The Americas contribute through their experience in sports development, organising major events, research, marketing, and partnerships.

Oceania brings its recognised leadership in sustainability, environmental protection, and responsible development.

Our goal is not to pit these experiences against each other.

It is to bring them together.

To make the diversity of the five continents our greatest shared wealth.

To make cooperation our way of governing.

To make solidarity our strength.

ANOC should become the global platform where skills flow freely, where experiences are shared, where innovations spread, and where everyone's successes become progress for all.

This cooperation must not be occasional.

It should guide each of our decisions, each of our programmes, and each of our partnerships.

Beyond sport, we have a greater responsibility.

To preserve one of the last spaces where all nations continue to dialogue with mutual respect, cooperate in a spirit of trust, and build a common future together.

Sport remains one of the most powerful tools for peace, understanding between peoples, and international cooperation.

ANOC must continue to undertake this universal mission.

This ambition also involves an ever more balanced representation of our Olympic family.

Every NOC, regardless of its size, history, level of development, or resources, must be able to fully contribute to the major decisions of our organisation.

Our governance should reflect the diversity of our members, their wealth of experience, and the variety of their realities.

Because the true strength of the ANOC lies in neither a few nations nor a few continents.

It lies in the trust that binds the 206 NOCs around the same vision, the same values, and the same responsibility towards future generations.

By bringing continents together, we will strengthen the NOCs.

By strengthening the NOCs, we will strengthen the Olympic Movement.

Because no continent can succeed on its own.

6. THE THREE HORIZONS OF ANOC VISION 2036

The time for transformation. The time for evaluation. The time for legacy.

Building a vision is not just about setting goals. It is about embedding an ambition over time, leading change methodically, and passing on to future generations an institution stronger than the one we inherited.

ANOC Vision 2036 revolves around three complementary horizons that will guide our actions throughout the next decade.

2027 - 2030: Time for transformation

The first years of the term will be devoted to action.

Our priority will be to build the capacities of the 206 NOCs, support their modernisation, develop skills, accelerate digital transformation, and consolidate intercontinental cooperation.

This first step will lay the foundations for a more modern, vibrant, and member-focused ANOC.

Change will not be an end in itself.

It will be a means to better serve athletes and NOCs.

Brisbane 2032: Time for Evaluation

Every vision must be accompanied by a culture of responsibility.

The Olympic Games in Brisbane will be a major milestone to gauge the results achieved, assess the impact of the reforms undertaken, and adjust our actions where need be.

This approach will ensure governance based on transparency, continuous improvement, and the constant pursuit of excellence.

A strong organisation is one that knows how to learn, grow, and improve.

2036: Time for Legacy

The year 2036 will the end-point of our vision.

Our ambition is to pass on to future generations a stronger, more innovative, more inclusive, and more influential ANOC.

An organisation where the capabilities of the 206 NOCs will be sustainably strengthened, where cooperation across the five continents will become a standard approach to governance, and where every athlete can grow in an environment increasingly supportive of their development.

Beyond the achievements, we will bequeath a true legacy if we succeed in strengthening trust among National Olympic Committees, bringing the continents closer together, and preparing the Olympic Movement to meet future challenges.

A term of office cannot be judged just by what it accomplishes.

It is also judged by what it passes on.

ANOC Vision 2036 is more than a programme. It is a path. A method. A collective commitment to build, together with the 206 NOCs, a stronger ANOC for future generations.

One Olympic family, a shared future.

7. MY COMMITMENT

Trust is not inherited. It is built, day by day, through listening, dialogue, and actions.

If you give me your trust, I pledge to lead ANOC with humility, integrity, independence, and a deep sense of responsibility.

I commit to being the President of all 206 NOCs, without distinction of continent, size, resources, or level of development.

I commit to making sure that each of the 206 NOCs is heard, respected, and fully involved in strategic discussions as well as in major decisions that will shape the future of our Movement.

I commit to making ANOC an organisation that is closer to its members, more transparent in its governance, more effective in its actions, and more ambitious in the services it provides.

I am committed to putting athletes at the heart of every decision we make, to defending their well-being, safeguarding, health, education, and future, before, during, and after their sports careers.

I am committed to promoting governance based on ethics, transparency, accountability, and compliance with the Olympic Charter, in order to sustainably deepen the trust that unites our Olympic family.

I am committed to making female leadership, youth, and para-sports priorities in our actions, convinced that the diversity of talent is one of the greatest strengths of our Movement.

I am committed to supporting the 206 NOCs in their digital transformation, in developing their skills, and in the responsible use of artificial intelligence, so that each nation can benefit from the same opportunities for progress.

I am committed to strengthening cooperation among the five continents, to promoting the sharing of knowledge, expertise, and best practices, because I am convinced that no continent can succeed alone and that our future depends on our ability to move forward together.

I am also committed to discharging this responsibility with the mindset that has guided my entire life: listening before deciding, bringing people together before acting, serving before leading, and always putting the general interest of the Olympic Movement above all else.

I am not asking for your trust to hold a position.

I am asking for it to pursue, with you, a shared vision.

A vision in whereby every NOC matters.

A vision whereby every athlete is at the heart of what we do.

A whereby the five continents cooperate in a spirit of trust, solidarity, and mutual respect.

A vision whereby ANOC remains the common home of the 206 NOCs.

This is the commitment I make before you.

With humility. With determination. With loyalty to the values of Olympism.

Mustapha Berraf

IOC Member
Vice President of ANOC
ANOCA President
Running for the post of ANOC President



ACNOA - ANOCA

ANOCA
JEUX AFRICAINS
AFRICAN GAMES
ACNOA

UNITY
SOLIDARITY
FRATERNITY

ANOCA