



ASSOCIATION DES COMITES NATIONAUX OLYMPIQUES D'AFRIQUE (A.C.N.O.A)
ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES OF AFRICA (A.N.O.C.A)

XIX ANOC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BANGKOK, THAILAND

7 - 8 NOVEMBER 2014

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF ANOCA

The President of ANOC, Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah,
The President of the IOC, Dr Thomas Bach,
Members of the ANOC Executive Council,
Members of the IOC and Honorary Members of the IOC,
Representatives of National Olympic Committees, International Federations,
Organizing Committees, sponsors and the larger Olympic Family,
Dear Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first thank our hosts, the NOC of Thailand, the government, people and the volunteers for their fantastic organization of this complex event. My colleagues and I from Africa are particularly thankful to the President of ANOC, Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah for his leadership, support and encouragement. Also as President of Olympic Solidarity, the African continent has seen a rise in the utilization of resources that are made available under his leadership of Olympic Solidarity.

Allow me, Mr President, to mention but just a few of the activities that we have engaged in since our last meeting in Lausanne just last year.

1. Elections of ANOCA

ANOCA has since our meeting in Lausanne held its elective General Assembly in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, my home country and city. I am glad to inform you once again that I was retained unopposed as President of the Association. I wish once more to express my gratitude to my African colleagues for their faith in me. I also wish to thank you all for your continued support and friendship. My colleagues who were elected with me into the Executive Committee of ANOCA are here with me today and you would have been meeting with them over the past few days.

2. African Youth Games

ANOCA held the second edition of its African Youth Games. Thanks to our colleagues in Botswana who did a wonderful job of organizing them in Gaborone. The standards were high in terms of competition, not least because of the high standards of organization. The first edition was hosted by Morocco four years ago. The third edition has

already been awarded to Algeria. Knowing the Algerians as we do, they will raise the bar higher and organize memorable games. I wish to state that the games are gaining popularity. We expect them to grow and be marketable as well. ANOCA's intention is to use these Games as a feeder into the Youth Olympic Games and subsequently the Olympic Games.

3. All-Africa Games

Next year, the All-Africa Games will celebrate a half century of their existence. It is fitting that Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of Congo which hosted the first edition in 1965, will host this special edition. As some of you are aware, the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa has been dissolved. This government-related organization had organized the games on behalf of the continent since their inception. Discussions have been going on for the games to be handed over to ANOCA which would turn them into a true Olympic Movement event. Discussions have been difficult for the reason that, as would be expected, governments would like to continue being in charge of certain elements of the Games organization while the ownership remains, as indeed it is for now, with the regional political body, the African Union.

I believe, however, that we are making some headway. I recently held what I believe to be fruitful discussions with the highest authority in AU and with officials in Brazzaville. It might be a little late at this stage for the 2015 Games to be handed over to ANOCA. However, I believe this should happen sometime in the near future.

4. Preparations for Rio 2016

I am glad that the reports I am receiving from African NOCs indicate that they all are already in the preparation mode for the Games in Rio. In 2012 I organized a special stakeholder forum in Abidjan which was dedicated to Africa's preparations for Rio. We agreed on a coordinated approach to our preparations. We also agreed that the special high-level training facilities that have been established on the continent by International Federations should be utilized to the full.

Resources will continue to be a major problem. However, we believe that NOCs can still raise some resources in their own countries to supplement funding from Olympic Solidarity. Special

appeals will be made to you, Your Excellency Sheikh Ahmad as President of Olympic Solidarity, to provide more resources to enable African athletes to engage in expert and meaningful training they will need in order to reach their potential in Rio.

I would like to add too that ANOCA is planning to establish the African Village in Rio. We certainly have learnt from the experiences of London and we are hoping to build on them to organize a highly successful hospitality centre.

5. The Ebola threat

Mr. President, dear colleagues,

The Ebola disease has the potential to decimate some populations unless the situation is contained as a matter of urgency. For us in sport in Africa, this disease has already affected sport, disrupting continental competition such as the very important CAF nations championship. It is causing difficulties in travel and normal life has been disrupted in some African countries.

We discussed this issue in our Executive Committee and agreed that there was need for ANOCA to play a role in the fight against the disease. While ANOCA does not have the capacity to apply financial resources to meet the appeals of the international community, we can at least contribute by using the power of sport to educate youths and communities at large on how they may avoid the spread of the disease.

Much is already been done to help the countries that have been affected the most. However, ANOCA would like to contribute to the awareness programmes through NOCs in countries that do not have a problem for now as there are indications that the very free movement of people is fueling its spread. We hope that all our friends in the Olympic Movement will join us in this endeavor.

6. Conflict Resolution

The few simmering conflicts, mostly between government ministries and NOCs in Africa have either been, or are being resolved. I would like to express our gratitude to the IOC Department of NOC Relations for providing support in this respect.

7. Women and Sport

The ANOCA Women and Sport Commission continue to be very active. Last year, ANOCA partnered with the Olympic Council of Asia and the IOC in organizing the first-ever Afro-Asian Women in Sport forum in Kuwait. Women from the two continents discussed their common problems and shared ideas on how they could overcome them.

This highly successful forum has inspired the two continental associations to organize a second one, again in collaboration with the IOC, and invite representatives from Oceania. This forum will be for women in the media. Discussions are continuing on when the forum should be held. The OCA is again expected to host the forum in Kuwait.

8. African Athletes

The ANOCA Athletes Commission is also another of our most active entities. The commission is made up of current and former high performance athletes who, through their president, have helped ANOCA to understand the needs of athletes. For the first time all African NOCs have included in their executive boards active or former athletes. The majority of them already have established their own athletes' commissions.

9. Presidents of IOC and ANOC visit Africa

We were very happy that the President of the IOC made his first visit to Africa in May on the occasion of the 2nd African Youth Games in Botswana. He also visited Kenya and Ethiopia. We look forward to him visiting all the African NOCs during his tenure as President of the IOC,

The President of ANOC also paid a visit to Africa, all be it to just one country, Ivory Coast and attended the ANOCA General Assembly in Abidjan. We also look forward to him eventually visiting all the ANOC-member NOCs of Africa. In the meantime it is my hope that they both will grace the 50th anniversary of the All-Africa Games in Brazzaville next year.

10. Africa and Olympic Agenda 2020

Finally, we look forward to the outcome of the debate on the Olympic Agenda 2020. ANOCA and other African entities have made their submissions. We are enthusiastic about the proposals that have been inspired by President Bach. We are sure that the proposals that have so painstakingly been put together by teams of experts and the IOC Executive Board will be accepted by the Special Session next month in Monaco.

Thank You

Intendant General Lassana Palenfo

President/ANOCA

Vice President/ANOC