



ANOCA PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE ANOC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

President of ANOC, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah,
President of the IOC, Dr. Thomas Bach,
Ladies and Gentlemen Members of the Executive Council of ACNO,
Ladies and Gentlemen Members of the IOC and Honorary
Members of the IOC,
Ladies and Gentlemen Representatives of the National Olympic
Committees, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Organizing Committee
and the larger Olympic Family,
Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first extend my best compliments of thanks for the NOC of
the United States for their excellent organization of this major event
and for their hospitality and warm welcome they have conveyed to
all of us.

ANOCA would like to express its gratitude to the President of
ACNO, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah for his leadership, and
permanent support for the African continent.

Allow me, Mr President, to give a brief account of the activities that
we have implemented for the current year.

1. Introduction

ANOCA had the pleasure to welcome into the Olympic Movement
the newest member of the family, South Sudan who were granted
recognition by the IOC at its 128th Session in Kuala Lumpur. Upon
being recognized, ANOCA immediately took measures to include
the new NOC in all its activities. This despite the fact that its formal
recognition by NOC will only be regularized by the General
Assembly when it next meets in Mauritius in November. South
Sudan has gone through, and still is going through, a difficult
period. A country that needs support like many other developing

countries, South Sudan's situation is made all that difficult by the fact that it is still experiencing internal instability.

With many young people either being involved in the conflict or were yet to be demobilized from the number of armed movements that were involved in the country's long war of independence, sport is just what may be needed to help heal divisions in society. ANOCA is happy that the IOC has taken into consideration this special aspect of South Sudan and has promised to support sports-related projects that are directed at displaced young people.

2. All Africa Games

The 11th edition of the African Games was held in Brazzaville, Congo last month. Unfortunately, by the time the games were held the African Union and ANOCA had not yet reached final agreement on negotiations that would have seen the organization and management of the games being transferred in principle to ANOCA following the dissolution of the Supreme Council of Sport in Africa. The negotiations have experienced challenges but both the since, including the other partner, the Association of African Sports Confederations, will go back to the drawing board to find a better solution for this continental product.

Following an extraordinary session of its Executive Committee, which was held in Algiers on 27th September 2015, ANOCA has reaffirmed in its final communiqué, which was made public, the need to collaborate with the governments in the promotion of sport, culture and education through the continent in the interest of the youth and Olympism in Africa, to conform with the letter and the spirit of the Olympic Charter.

In anticipation of a quick solution to the management and organization of the Games, ANOCA was grateful to be represented by me, its President, and other members of its Executive Committee at the inaugural European Games. Obviously, the nature and size of the European Games would hardly be related to that of the African Games. However, the fact that these were inaugural Games gave us an idea about where we would start if we were going to be organizing and managing our continental Games. I wish, on behalf of ANOCA, to thank the President of ACNO, Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah and the President of the

European Olympic Committee, Mr. Patrick Hickey for affording my colleagues and me the opportunity.

3. Building the administrative capacity of ANOCA

ANOCA has started taking steps to recapitalize its administrative human resource at its headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria. A Technical Director has just been employed and has been tasked with the management of the Olympic Solidarity programmes, providing technical advice to ANOCA and NOCs on the management of resources; coordinating continental training programmes and generally be the entry point in all cases related to training of athletes in Africa.

4. ANOCA in Nigeria

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has just published in its national gazette notice officially granting diplomatic status to ANOCA. The Olympic Movement in Africa is grateful to the Nigerian government for hosting ANOCA and providing services, office accommodation and hospitality. Under hosting agreement, the Nigerian government is also providing some staff to ANOCA. A whole new office building is being constructed for ANOCA in Abuja. We look forward to its completion so that we can all attend its inauguration.

5. African Youth Games

The 3rd edition of the African Youth Games will be held in Algiers, Algeria in 2018. We had the opportunity earlier this month as ANOCA Executive Committee to inspect the preparations. The first and second editions were held in Morocco and Botswana respectively. We are very happy with the preparations and we are looking forward to growing this product so that it provides opportunities for young athletes in the continent to develop themselves into world-class Olympic competitors. Algeria is sparing no effort in organizing the youth games. This African sports powerhouse is known for its organizational capacity and sports pedigree. It is in this country too that the next Mediterranean Games are also being organized.

The African Games in Brazzaville referred above were provided with some of the best facilities in the 50-year history of the event by the Government of Congo. While congratulating the government for

that ANOCA is hopeful that one of the future plans would be to consider hosting the Youth African Games.

ANOCA have also been looking into the possibility of establishing its own continental beach games. More research is yet to be done into this possibility. We are grateful that some of the continent's officials were provided the opportunity to observe the Asian Beach Games in Phuket by the President of OCA and ACNO, Sheikh Ahmad.

6. Media and African Sport

ANOCA are following with keen interest the decision of the IOC to establish its own Olympic Television channel. Coverage of sport in Africa suffers from the fact that electronic media is still dominated by government organisations which are taking long to focus specifically on sport. ANOCA are happy that there are new developments across the continents which have seen most of the countries liberalizing their electronic media in particular.

Taking advantage of this liberalization will take time since only one country in all of sub-Saharan Africa has developed its media enough to pay for sports television rights and the Olympic Games, both summer and winter.

We see therefore the establishment of the Olympic Television as an important contribution to our desire to project sport in the continent on a wider scale especially as this will be free. ANOCA have been looking into possibility collaborating with other interested parties in the Olympic Movement on the possibility of pooling resources in order to better provide coverage of Olympic-related activities and sport in and about Africa.

7. Meetings of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has met on two occasions, one of those being in extra-ordinary session to address an emergency issue that arose out of the complication in the negotiations with African ministers on the future of the African Games. After concluding its meeting, ANOCA has emphasized the fact that the Olympic movement in Africa is willing to continue to partner with the African Union and the governments in the promotion, the management and organization of the African Games.

The ordinary session was held in Sao Tome and the special session in Algiers. The next session will be held in Port Louis, Mauritius ahead of the general assembly. I'm glad to report that the President of the IOC, Dr. Thomas Bach and the President of ANOC, Sheikh Ahmad have both accepted our invitation to join us at the general assembly.

8. Seminar of the General Secretaries

This annual event was held in Maseru, Lesotho and was attended by 50 NOCs. ANOCA's desire to raise the administrative capacities of its members, each NOC was provided with a laptop donated by the USOC under a long-standing cooperation agreement. The secretaries general also underwent specialized training in the access and use of software that we wish to be a standard platform for the ANOCA. Our continental organization aims to build an efficient system for information sharing and exchange, communication and education.

The forum also thoroughly examined the IOC Agenda 20-20 and discussed how the NOC could implement the recommendations. The contribution and guidance of Olympic Solidarity in this particular aspect was timely and helpful. The recommendations of the Secretaries General were handed over to the President of for further discussions at the General Assembly in Mauritius.

9. First African Athletes Forum

The first African athletes' forum was held in Marrakech, on 3rd-4th October 2015, Morocco.

The meeting that gathered around forty countries adopted some important recommendations. They aim to optimize the available resources and networks to provide the best service to the athletes from the continent that stand as remain the core priorities of the African and international Olympic movement.

ANOCA extends its gratitude to the NOC of Morocco, especially its president, Mr. Housni Benslimane for making the seminar happen at all. They provided the resources for the successful hosting of the forum. These included accommodation and internal transport.

10. Conclusion

ANOCA would like to extend its most sincere congratulations to the President of the IOC for his bright speech given on 26th September in New York in front of the United Nations Summit on the global goals of the sustainable development, as part of the programme to be achieved for the next 15 years. The African Olympic movement is delighted for the steady efforts which were engaged by Dr Thomas Bach to get the recognition by the UN of the important contribution of sport for sustainable development worldwide. This is a new historic asset that stresses out the important role sport plays in society, one of the main stakes of our Olympic Agenda 2020.

ANOCA remains committed by a deep willingness and ambition to get sport as a full part of the African sporting scenery and a factor of education and social development.

ANOCA member NOCs are, without exception, will be encouraged to play their part by offering their services to the authorities in order to go in for sport as a tool for development and social and economic global change.

**LASSANA PALENFO
WASHINGTON DC
OCTOBER 2015**