

**PRESS RELEASE N°201/2015****11th AFRICAN GAMES - BRAZZAVILLE, REPUBLIC OF CONGO,
04-19 September, 2015**

Addis Ababa, 26 August, 2015: The 11th Edition of the African Games is scheduled to take place on 4th to 19th September, 2015, in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. This edition will mark the 50th Anniversary of the African Games, since the 1st edition in 1965 that was also hosted by the Republic of Congo. Approximately 7000 athletes from 50 African countries will converge back to the birth place of the African Games in Brazzaville to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the African Union in the spirit of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance.

This edition is also a milestone for the AU as it is the first one under the auspices of the African Union as the owner of the Games, following the dissolution of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa (SCSA) as well as the integration of the functions of the SCSA into the AU. The integrated functions of the SCSA include the ownership, coordination and organization of the African Games.

The opening ceremony will take place on 4th September, 2015, and will be presided over by H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, and attended by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, H.E. Dr Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, Commissioner for Social Affairs and H.E. Martial de Paul Ikounga, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology. The African Games will be preceded by the Bureau Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committees on Youth, Culture and Sport and a Sub-Committee of the STC Ministers of Sport on 3th September, 2015.

During the games, the AU will rally the continent around the spirit of Pan-Africanism through its key message i.e. "I am African, I am the African Union" and through its 50 year Agenda 2063 development framework. Agenda 2063" is an approach to how the continent should effectively learn from the lessons of the past, build on the progress now underway and strategically exploit all possible opportunities available in the immediate and medium term, so as to

ensure positive socioeconomic transformation within the next 50 years. The agenda will assist the continent achieve its vision, i.e. an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.

“Because of the power of sport, we see this event as an important milestone on the road to achieving the objectives of our continental vision and action plan, which Africa has christened Agenda 2063: the Africa We Want”, said AU Commission Chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma.

Background information:

The African Games is a Pan-African Multi-disciplinary sport event that takes place every four years, and attended by AU Member States and aimed among others to build unity and foster friendship among African nations and their youths. The idea of Panafrican Games was initiated by the founder of the Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin in 1920.

After several attempts, the first African Games known as the "Inaugural Games" were played from 18th July to 25th July in Brazzaville, noticing the participation of 2500 athletes from 29 countries. Egypt won the first edition with an overall of 30 medals among which 18 gold medals.

The Republic of Congo won the bid to host the African Games in 2011 and the host agreement was signed in Brazzaville in November 2013 between the African Union and the Republic of Congo.

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