

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

**5TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF SPORT
22-26 JULY 2013
ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE**

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OPENING REMARKS

BY

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**At the Experts' Meeting of the Fifth Session of the AU Conference of
Ministers of Sports (CAMS5), Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire**

22 July 2013

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Distingués Experts

Membres du Bureau de la 4^{ème} Session de la Conférence des Ministres Africains du sport

Le Gouvernement de la République de Côte d'Ivoire

Représentants des Fédérations Sportives Internationales

Représentants du Mouvement Sportif Africain

Représentants des Communautés économiques régionales

Distingués Délégués

Mesdames et Messieurs

C'est pour moi un immense plaisir de prendre la parole à la cérémonie d'ouverture de la cinquième session de la réunion des Experts de la conférence de ministres africains du sport, qui se déroule dans la belle cité d'Abidjan. Nous apprécions à sa juste valeur l'hospitalité offerte aux participants par le Peuple et le Gouvernement de la République de Côte d'Ivoire. Au nom de la Présidente de la Commission de l'Union africaine, S.E Dr. Dlamini Nkosazana Zuma et de S.E le Commissaire aux Affaires sociales, Dr. Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, ainsi qu'au nom de tous les participants présents, je voudrais exprimer notre gratitude à la République de Côte d'Ivoire.

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

The theme for 5TH Session of the AU Commission Conference of Ministers of Sport is "***Harnessing the power of sport to contribute to the broader government development agenda***". This theme is chosen out of the growing evidence and recognition that well-designed sport based initiatives

that incorporate the best values of sport can contribute to broader government development agenda and sustainable development. But the theme is also of crucial importance for two other related factors.

First, the MDGs have about 800 days to go and there are ongoing discussions and consultations on the post-2015 Development Agenda. The role and contributions of sport to development need to be captured in these discussions and consultations. Similarly, the African Union Commission is putting together the AU Agenda 2063, a Framework for the realization of the AU vision of a prosperous and united Africa at peace with itself. Agenda 2063 is a projection of the type of Africa we want for the next generations in the next 50 years and it will be submitted to the AU Assembly for endorsement in January 2014. As Experts, we have the chance at this conference of making significant inputs into the post-2015 development agenda and the AU Agenda 2063. This leads me to the second crucial factor.

The Fifth Session of AU Conference of Ministers of Sport is taking place at a time when Africa is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the formation of the OAU/AU with the theme “***Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance***”. Sport had already featured prominently and will continue to feature among the year-long activities marking the 50 years Anniversary. For instance the Confederation of African Football (CAF) dedicated the entire 2013 AFCON to celebrate Africa at 50. Congratulations to the Super Eagles of Nigeria who emerged as champions of Africa. CAF also organized a special international friendly between Ethiopia and Sudan on 25th May 2013 – Africa Day. Congratulations to Ethiopia that won the match.

However, of equal importance is the relationship between the theme of this conference - “***Harnessing the power of sport to contribute to the broader government development agenda***” and the theme of the 50th Anniversary - “***Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance***”. The 50th Anniversary celebration is an opportunity to reflect on the roles and achievements of sport and to take stock of the key milestones on the road Africa has travelled over the past 50 years as far as the management and coordination of sport is concerned on the continent. We must also reflect on

how we can take sport to the greatest height on the continent while harnessing its power and multiplier effects to the development of the continent.

African Renaissance implies restoring Africa's greatness. As Africans we must establish a well-functioning sport system on the continent that will be flexible enough to adapt to changes and new realities, as well as facilitating the implementation of Vision and Mission of the AU and to meet the sport challenges of the 21st century. We must ensure an inclusive sport development through the contribution and participation of Women and People with Disabilities at sports events and in sport administration

Fortunately, in pursuit of the African Union agenda on sport for development and the development of sport, the Commission has developed the Policy Framework for Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa (2008-2018) and the new Architecture for Sport in Africa adopted in 2011 as a guide for African governments seeking to strengthen sport development and sport contribution to development and peace. These two policy documents also give due recognition to the central role that governments and non-government actors play in sports. At the Commission, we have begun the implementation of the new Architecture for Sport in Africa and we shall be presenting to you the concrete measures and steps we have taken in this direction and seeking your guidance as we play our part in restoring Africa's sport greatness.

Therefore, in addition to discussing the theme of the conference and making appropriate recommendations to the Ministers, the Experts are also expected to make concrete recommendations on other issues, including the following:

- Way forward and guidance on the implementation of the new Architecture for Sport in Africa;
- Measures to improve the standard and performance of African Athletes at the Olympics and other international sporting events; and

- Organization and management of the African Games including the preparations for the 2015 African Games in Brazzaville.

Distingués Délégués

Mesdames et Messieurs

La Commission voudrait, tout d'abord, exprimer sa satisfaction pour l'engagement continu et renouvelé de l'ACNOA et de l'AASC pour l'organisation des jeux Africains en 2015 à Brazzaville. L'Afrique se doit d'offrir à sa jeunesse et à ses sportifs des cadres de compétition pouvant les préparer et qualifier pour les Jeux Olympiques de Rio de Janeiro en 2016. Les Jeux de Brazzaville constituent une étape importante et motivante pour toute la jeunesse du continent.

La Commission voudrait également, à l'avance, apprécier l'engagement continu et renouvelé des Etats Membres, des Communautés Economiques Régionales, du Mouvement Sportif Africain et des partenaires internationaux, à traduire dans la réalité les résultats de notre réunion.

Je ne pourrai conclure sans exprimer une fois de plus la gratitude de la Commission de l'Union africaine au Peuple et au Gouvernement de la République de Côte d'Ivoire et à tous nos partenaires; en particulier la CAF, l'ACNOA, l'AASC, l'AWISA et tant d'autres pour leur soutien pour assurer le succès de cette réunion.

Je vous souhaite des délibérations fructueuses. Merci pour votre aimable attention.