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

**CAMS/Decl.(V)**

**THEME: “*HARNESSING THE POWER OF SPORT TO CONTRIBUTE TO  
THE BROADER GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT AGENDA*”**

**ABIDJAN DECLARATION**

**ABIDJAN DECLARATION ON “HARNESSING THE POWER OF SPORT TO  
CONTRIBUTE TO THE BROADER GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT AGENDA”**

**WE**, The Ministers of Sport, of the African Union, at the 5<sup>th</sup> ordinary Session of the Conference of AU Ministers of Sport, in Abidjan, Cote d' Ivoire From 25 to 26 July 2013, Focusing on the Theme ***“Harnessing the power of sport to contribute to the broader government development agenda”***;

**RECALLING** the AU Policy Framework for Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa (2008-2018) and the new Architecture for Sport in Africa endorsed by the AU Executive Council in its Decision EX.CL/Dec.680(XX);

**NOTING with significance** the progress made in the implementation of the AU Policy Framework for Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa (2008-2018) and the new Architecture for Sport in Africa;

**NOTING with satisfaction** the role played by sport in the activities marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the OAU/AU with the theme: “Pan Africanism and African Renaissance”;

**AWARE** of the ongoing consultations on the post-2015 Development Agenda and the AU Agenda 2063 and the need to advocate for the role of sport as enabler for development;

**NOTING** with concern the declining performance of African countries at the Olympic Games and other international sport events;

**MINDFUL** of the need for athletes and technical personnel to benefit from the investment by governments in hosting major international events;

**NOTING** with concern the adverse effects of doping in sports and the risks it poses to the African athletes;

**NOTING ALSO** with concern that countries in other continents are enticing young African athletes to change their nationalities so that they could represent those countries at international sporting events;

**RECOGNISING** the need for more investment in sport, as investment in sport has a great impact;

**NOTING** with satisfaction the progress report on the preparation for the 2015 African Games in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo;

**CONSCIOUS** of the need to encourage non-sport sectors to include sport in their development initiatives;

**DETERMINED** to continue the broader use of sport as a vehicle for development, integration and social cohesion, in particular focusing on youth, girls and women and people living with disabilities in Africa; as well as a tool for cooperation, solidarity, progress and the development of the continent;

**DETERMINED ALSO** to restore Africa's greatness in sport and to facilitate the implementation of AU vision of a united, prosperous and peaceful Africa;

**WE COMMIT TO:**

1. **Accelerate** the implementation of the AU Policy Framework for Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa (2008-2018) and the new Architecture for Sport in Africa;

To this end, we **UNDERTAKE** to:

- (i) **Restructure and revitalize** the Sport Development Zones in line with the Five AU Regions; and **Request** the AUC to facilitate the process;
- (ii) **Request** ANOCA to align their sport zones to the AU Regions to facilitate synergy;
- (iii) **Request** the revitalized AU Sport Development Regions to submit their Strategic and Sport Development Plans to the AUC;
- (iv) **Request** also Member States and Sport Development Regions to support anti-doping organizations and commit resources towards the implementation of relevant anti-doping education programmes;
- (v) **Take action** to facilitate the immediate functioning of the Specialized Technical Office for the new Architecture for Sport in Africa and **urge** Member States and Sport Development Regions to second personnel to the Specialized office as contained in the AU Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.680(XX);
- (vi) **Take action** to conduct scientific and cultural research to identify barriers and factors affecting the effective participation of women in sports at all levels with a view to formulate strategies to remove these barriers;
- (vii) **Take action** to ensure an inclusive sport development through the contribution and participation of women, youth and people living with disabilities at sports events and in sport administration;
- (viii) **Ensure** that strategies and incentives that promote public-private sector partnerships are in place for a diversified and sustainable financing for sport, in particular for the training and development of athletes and technical personnel;

- (ix) **Take action** to ensure that strategies are put in place for the creation of sports industries through the development of public-private partnerships with sports bodies at national and continental levels;
  - (x) **Promote** accountability in the implementation of commitments undertaken in respect of sports and in the use of resources allocated to sport;
  - (xi) **Implement** effective and targeted strategies that integrate sport into the wider human capital development sectors, in particular health, education, science and technology and culture;
  - (xii) **Undertake** to implement social protection measures for athletes after retirement from active sport;
  - (xiii) **Provide** favourable conditions and opportunities for athletes to train and compete at acceptable standards and engage the international community in order to minimize the exodus of African athletes;
  - (xiv) **Establish** a Fund for Sport Development and Development through Sport from the proceeds of the African Games;
  - (xv) **Grant priority** to sport in the post-2015 Development Agenda and the AU Agenda 2063. In this context, **call upon** Member States to urgently submit proposals and recommendations to the AU Commission by 31 August 2013; and **request** the Commission to facilitate the inclusion of these proposals and recommendations into the post-2015 Development Agenda and AU Agenda 2063;
2. **REQUEST** the AU Commission to conduct a midterm review of the **AU Policy Framework** for Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa (2008-2018) and to submit periodic report on the implementation of the new Architecture for Sports Africa;
  3. **COMMEND** the Republic of Congo for the infrastructure being put in place for the African Games in 2015 in Brazzaville;
  4. **CONGRATULATE** Africa on the Golden jubilee of our continental organization OAU/AU and **Commend** the leadership of African Union Commission in organizing successfully the anniversary and year-long celebration;
  5. **ACCEPT WITH THANKS** the offer by the Republic of Botswana to host the Sixth Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Sport in 2015;
  6. **EXPRESS** our gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Cote d' Ivoire for hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of AU ministers in Abidjan Cote d' Ivoire from 22<sup>nd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

**Done in Abidjan, 26 July 2013**