



**FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE AFRICAN UNION SPORTS COUNCIL
REGION 5 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ORDINARY MEETING
AVANI LESOTHO HOTEL,
MASERU, LESOTHO,
12th OF NOVEMBER 2019**

PREAMBLE

WE, the Ministers responsible for Sport of the African Union Sports Council Region 5 Member Countries, during the Ordinary Council of Ministers meeting held in Maseru, Lesotho on 12 November 2019.

NOTING with concern the magnitude and adversity of pressures in the macro-economic environment on the performance in sport by Member Countries and the risk placed on countries' ability to fully participate in sport and the activities of the Region;

DETERMINED to promote, cultivate and nurture regional solidarity and continuous review of provisions of existing organisational policies and governance instruments to promote and uphold consistent implementation of Council of Ministers' collective decisions;

DETERMINED to rid sport of all unethical practices that threaten its integrity as an industry and committed to create a conducive legislative and policy environment that provides athletes with a voice in the decision-making processes and safeguard them against use of performance enhancement and banned substances and other rights violations in sport.

NOTING with satisfaction the role played by the Region 5 Games as a catalyst for investment in the development of the Youth through sport in the Region and the need to consistently promote Sport for All among all citizens of the Region;

DESIROUS to build a case for sport by harnessing social capital and enhancing demographic dividends towards economic transformation through the irresistible power of sport.

NOTING with concern the less prominent performance by the Region at the 2019 African Games in comparison with that of the 2015 African Games and the need to review existing and develop new strategies and policies that stimulate performance and redirect the Region's athletes on a podium performance trajectory.

WE COMMIT TO:

1. **Strengthen** our determination by building durable collaborations to conquer all forms of challenges threatening the gains of our regional sporting heritage by adopting collective transformational strategies that enhance our comparative advantage;
2. **Transform** sport into a viable economic industry that stimulates business investment and creates a corridor for accelerated youth empowerment and employment creation, social cohesion and social capital;
3. **Promote** bilateral and multilateral collaborations meant to create hope and social cohesion for our people through sport

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

- i. Remain consistent in implementation of agreed strategies, programmes and activities in order to build sporting critical mass that attracts serious investment into sport by the private sector.

- ii. Use sport as a vector for social transformation and development, to build and sustain excellence through sport by creating a winning culture and active nations as well as fight against lifestyle ailments through promotion of healthy living and community physical activity.
- iii. Implore all members of the Region to preserve the Region's legacy in spite of our sovereign diversity.

1. WE HEREBY RESOLVE THAT:

- 1.1 The structure of meetings be reviewed to allow Member Countries enough time to consider recommendations contained in reports. The Executive Committee has to find less expensive ways of conducting meetings and ensuring that meeting documents are received in advance of meetings.
- 1.2 Member Countries commit to adhering to and complying with the current obligations of the Region with consistency for the sustainability of the Region.
- 1.3 The structure of the penalties regulations for participation in the Region 5 activities be urgently reviewed and modernized into a structure that is sustainable to avoid excluding other countries from participating in the Games and activities of the Region.
- 1.4 Council of Ministers reaffirms its commitment to support the Secretariat to implement decisions made by Council of Ministers by ensuring adherence to agreed upon decisions, rules and regulations as approved by the Council of Ministers.
- 1.5 Member Countries make vigorous commitment to implement the Region's programmes for sustainable development of sport and plead with Member Countries to support the realisation and actualisation of the 2018 – 2028 Strategic Plan and urge all Member Countries to domesticate this plan into their respective plans.
- 1.6 The African Union be requested to re-affirm their position to guide Member Countries regarding the status of Saharawi's participation in future African Games and activities of the Continent as the position of the Region still stands.

2. HEREBY APPROVE;

- 2.1 The Executive Committee Chairman's report on the activities of the Region including all recommendations as amended during the Council of Ministers meeting.
- 2.2 Policy on prioritization of sports codes and request Member Countries to deploy efforts towards supporting prioritised sports codes in their respective countries.
- 2.3 Minimum eligibility criteria for those aspiring to serve in national sports structures and urge the sports movement in their respective countries to amend their governance architecture to incorporate these requirements.
- 2.4 The commitment by South Africa to settle their debt to the 2018 Games and grant Mozambique's request for the Region to consider engaging for purposes of restructuring the method of payment of their existing debt due to the 2018 Region 5 Youth Games.

3. HEREBY RATIFY;

- 3.1 The decision by the Executive Committee to embark on an organisational re-engineering process and that an extra-ordinary Council of Ministers meeting be convened to adopt the amendments in line with the existing constitution.
- 3.2 That Botswana authorities be engaged to explore possible ways of expediting the process of concluding the signing of the office hosting agreement and mandate the Troika to make the necessary decisions on behalf of Council for closure of the matter.
- 3.3 That the Region in consultation with its partners and stakeholders expedites the process of aligning existing programmes and activities in order to create clear athlete pathways and eliminate undue duplicity and maximise value for the limited resources available.
- 3.4 Introduction of qualifying standards for the Region 5 Games starting with the Malawi Games and the need to review and strengthen interventions that will assist all Member Countries to attain long term athlete excellence and that all Member Countries make deliberate efforts to host National Youth Games that will serve as a vector for talent identification and nurturing.
- 3.5 The Audited financial statements for the year 2018
- 3.6 The recipient of the Ten-Year Service Award.
- 3.7 Ratified the motion to transfer the Chairpersonship of the Council of Ministers from Botswana to Lesotho and the subsequent appointment of Malawi as the new member of the Troika together with Botswana in line with the provisions of the Region 5 Constitution. Council further ratified a decision that the AUSC Region 5 Executive Committee Chairperson hands over the flag to the new Council Chairperson noting the circumstances surrounding the inability of the Botswana Minister of sport to attend the meeting Council.

4 WE HEREBY NOTE;

- 4.1 The imperative need for Member Countries to review their existing policies to harmonise them with other international protocols for sustainable development of sport.
- 4.2 With satisfaction, progress made by Lesotho in preparation for the successful hosting of the 2020 Region 5 Youth Games including commitment to develop new and refurbish existing facilities to meet international standards.
- 4.3 With satisfaction, steps already taken by Malawi towards successful hosting of the 2022 Games and the stage at which the country reported regarding signing of the Protocol Agreement.
- 4.4 Presentations made by Honourable Ministers on the implementation of the Regional programmes and efforts being made to continuously improve the Region.
- 4.5 The need for the Secretariat to conduct a detailed analysis of the factors affecting the Region's performance at major international competitions with the view to suggesting interventions that can make the Region more competitive.

- 4.6 Discussions underway in Eswatini towards seeking Government guarantees for the hosting of the Regional Annual Sports Awards. Council emphasised the need for Eswatini to comply with the obligation to host and the need for the Region to interact with Eswatini to make due considerations that ensure successful hosting of the event.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 5.1 Council acknowledged and congratulated South Africa for winning the 2019 Rugby World Cup as well as South Africa, Malawi and Zimbabwe for being three of only four African countries that participated in the 2019 Netball World Cup.
- 5.2 The Council of Ministers acknowledged efforts by Lesotho and commitment of the Government towards successful hosting of the 2020 edition of the Games.
- 5.3 Appreciated and applauded the contribution, loyalty and hard work by the Region 5 staff in ensuring the Region remains functional and organised and the need to put all measures towards their safety and security.
- 5.4 The Council of Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Lesotho for the warm reception and generous hospitality extended to all delegations during their stay in Maseru.

MINISTERS FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES ATTENDED THE MEETING

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| 1. | Angola | Honourable Ana Paula da Sacramento Neto |
| 2. | Eswatini | Honourable Harries Bulunga |
| 3. | Lesotho | Honourable Dr Mahali Phamotse |
| 4. | Malawi | Honourable Francis Lucky Phisso |
| 5. | South Africa | Honourable Nkosinathi Mthethwa |
| 6. | Zambia | Honourable Emmanuel Mulenga |

DEPUTY MINISTERS FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES ATTENDED THE MEETING

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| 1. | Mozambique | Honourable Ana Flavia De Azinheira |
| 2. | Namibia | Honourable Agnes Tjongarero |

APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES

1. Botswana
2. Zimbabwe

***Done at Avani Lesotho Hotel, Maseru, Lesotho
on 12 November 2019***