

CSSA

CONSEIL SUPERIEUR
DU SPORT EN AFRIQUE



SCSA

SUPREME Council
FOR SPORT IN AFRICA

**STATEMENT BY THE SCSA
SECRETARY GENERAL
H. E. SONSTONE Y. KASHIBA
ON THE FIRST SESSION OF THE
AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS OF SPORTS,
ADDIS-ABABA, ETHIOPIA,
04 - 08 JUNE 2007**

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Chairman of African Union Commission,
Chairman of African union Advisory Committee of sport,
Honorable Ministers of Sports from Across Africa,
African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs,
President of International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF),
President of Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa,
President of Association of African Sport Confederations,
Presidents of Sport Confederations,
Experts,
Invited Guest,
Members of the Media/Press,
Ladies and gentlemen.

I heartily welcome you all to this important session and thank you for honouring the invitation by African Union to serve the continent through sport. Your turnout today is a clear demonstration of your commitment and passion to see Africa claim her stake on the international sporting arena.

I would also like to thank the African Union for convening this special session of Ministers of Sport. This is a clear testimony of the emphasis that the African Union places on sport. The Supreme Council for Sport in Africa (SCSA), as an autonomous political sporting body, welcomes the initiative by the African Union and is convinced that with the commitment and honour that has been shown, today, a long lasting vision for sport in Africa will be defined.

Your Excellencies, you may recall that when you elected me as SCSA secretary General in April 2005 in Algiers, I pledged with you that we shall never reject the past because it is on the basis of that past that we shall shape our future destiny and today two years on, we are here in Addis Ababa to , reflect back and shape our future.

Your Excellencies, the SCSA is in its 40 years of existence, having been established on the 14th December 1966 in Bamako, Mali. At its inception, the Council had three main objectives and these were:

To establish an effective and stable structure in conformity with the role of Olympism and of International Sport Federations,

To adopt structures in conformity with the African situation,

To use sport to fight all forms of discrimination including Apartheid.

Your Excellencies, the SCSA through a cooperation agreement with the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) now African Union (AU) signed on 14th February 1980 here in Addis Ababa, has been able to successfully carry out its objectives outlined above. The SCSA together with OAU, and Sport

Confederations which were in existence at that time, spearheaded the expulsion of South Africa from the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) during the FIFA Congress in Montreal in July 1976, and the withdrawal of African countries from Montreal Olympic Games in 1976 as a protest against the participation of New Zealand which had sporting contacts with South Africa.

On the other front, the SCSA strengthened itself through the creation of specialised bodies such as; Association of National "Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) and Association of African Sport Confederations (AASC).

Your Excellencies, the SCSA created ANOCA in Lome, Togo on 28th June 1981 with the sole mandate of advancing Olympism in Africa so that Africa gets its fair share from the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Your Excellencies, it is with no doubt that, ANOCA has achieved a lot within its 26years of existence, but the full vision is yet to be realized; Africa is yet to host the Olympic Games.

The SCSA also created the Association of African Sport Confederations (AASC) on 23rd July 1983 in Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire to serve as its Technical Organ and we are happy that they have been playing that role effectively. The SCSA mandated AASC to continue to spearhead the formation of more Sport confederations in conformity with International Sport Federations and as a result today we have more sport confederations established and others are still being processed. Africa today can boast of having Sport Confederations who can match technically and professionally with those of other continents

on earth. Testimony are confederations like Football, Athletics, Basketball, Handball, and Boxing only to mention a few, who have produced world class athletes who have and continue to bring glory to Africa. Further, Africa has played host to World, Cup events in Athletics, Rugby, Boxing, Cricket, and come 2010, Africa shall witness the spectacular FIF A World Cup.

Your Excellencies, we are proud of the role played by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and South Africa in bringing the FIFA World Cup to Africa, and we are truly indebted to the vision of His Excellency Thabo Mbeki the President of the Republic of South Africa for declaring the FIF A World Cup 2010 an African Legacy.

The SCSA together with members of the African sport Movement has successfully and consistently commemorated African unity and solidarity through the hosting of the All Africa Games. The Games which are in their 9th Edition this year in July in Algiers bring together African Youth; Sport Administrators and Political Leaders to a sport and cultural festival that brings the whole attention of the world to Africa. It should be emphasized that the All Africa Games are organized first and foremost to foster UNITY of African youth. It creates a forum where African youth meet once every four years to express their Africaness, oneness, and unity as a continent. These Games, you will agree with me Your Excellencies, are uniquely

African and shall always be our mirror through which the whole world shall experience Africa.

The SCSA, having achieved to a greater extent its objectives, the spirit in which the Council was created for is not lost. Sport being dynamic, new challenges have emerged and the Council has to respond to the emergencies

of cross-cutting issues and use sport as a tool for social, economic, and political development of Africa.

Throughout the 40 years, of useful existence, the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa has evolved and learned the importance of knowing its competencies and role. This includes identifying the specific expertise it can offer in addition to being the oldest and only Sport Political Continental body that offers a platform to political leadership to make decisions on major policy issues concerning sport.

From a conceptual perspective there is urgent need to reposition the important role that SCSA plays to make it more responsive to the changing needs, demands and challenges while upholding its traditional standpoint. To this end, SCSA may be transformed without sacrificing the same basic authenticity concept of using the proven powerful tool of sport to address Africa's Cross-cutting challenges as war, poverty, HIV/AIDS, social exclusion and underdevelopment.

SCSA has acknowledged the factor of conflicting demands, power struggle and unclear roles with some of its stakeholders. To this end:

There is need therefore to process and figure out priorities,

There is need to clarify what SCSA does well so that it can do it better, and also need to figure out what SCSA should be doing that is new in order to improve productivity and recognition, especially that sport has been endorsed and proven to be a non-negotiable tool of social

rehabilitation and transformation for the socially excluded peoples by African Governments.

There is also need to engage in partnerships with other organisations with common interest, cognisant of the fact that the world today has become a global village where partnership and exploitation of each partner's strengths have become a necessity

Hence the realisation of the need to put in place a strategic planning process. Since its establishment in 1966, the SCSA has never had 'a Strategic Plan to review the past, present, forecast the future, weigh the strengths and weakness, assess opportunities and threats. It is with this view in mind that SCSA has 'planned to hold it's first ever Consultative Strategic Planning Conference in Ghana before the end of this year, (2007) involving African Union, IOC, ANOCA, AASC, directors of Sports, SCSA development Zones, all Sport Confederations and other stakeholders to assist in the definition of destiny of the African Sport Movement. To this end we thank the Republic of Ghana for accepting to take up this challenge on behalf of Africa

Your Excellencies, it goes without saying that to achieve all our intended objectives, a common rallying point is imperative, hence our indebtedness to the Peoples Democratic' republic of Algeria for hosting the Special meeting of Ministerial Task Force on Relations between Governments and International Sport Federations.

Your Excellencies, the Algiers Declaration of 2006 is an excellent blue print to guide us in laying a solid foundation for cooperation between

Governments, Sport Confederations and other Partners and we are convinced that it shall stand the test of time.

Having received positive comments from member countries and partners the implementation of this Declaration has been put into motion and we are grateful to many of you Honorable Ministers who have provided input. I am happy to announce that around table conference of Executive Committees of SCSA, ANOCA, AASC and CAF will take place on the 13th July 2007 in Algiers, Algeria during the 9th All Africa Games as provided for in the Algiers Declaration.

Finally, Your Excellencies you should be aware that the SCSA Secretariat General is only a coordinating organ of your policies, the responsibility of developing sport in Africa is all yours, and should never be relegated to any other body. However the choice is yours.

I thank you!

Je vous remercie!

Shukran!

Obrigado!

Sonstone Y. Kashiba
SCSA Secretary
General