



DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

RESPONSE TO THE INDEPENDENT OBSER REPORT

The Commission has taken note of the issues raised in the Independent Observer Report, and wish to make the following observations/comments:

The AU Commission wishes to commend WADA for expressing professionalism and dedication in the delivery of one of the largest anti-doping programs in the history of the African Games. The DCO's and Chaperons, though worked under very difficult circumstances showed a lot of professionalism in their work.

The AU Commission shares the concern raised in the Report that the overall management of the African Games, including the doping control program was chaotic and unorganized in all aspects;

However, having undertaken an audit of the overall organization of the 2015 African Games, the following reasons are attributed to some of the challenges:

- I. It should be noted that although the 2015 Brazzaville Games was the first edition to be organized under the auspices of the African Union Commission after the dissolution of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, Congo was awarded the rights to host under the terms and conditions of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa. The Games should be considered as transitional as such; As such, the overall organization, management and coordination of the 2015 African Games was chaotic and unorganized;
- II. Insufficient organizational skills and capacity on the part of the Local Organizing Committee (COJA). The African Games Technical Committee, a Technical Body appointed by the Commission to provide technical guidance to COJA in accordance with the Architecture for Sport in Africa, provided all the necessary expertize that it could to the COJA, but again due to weaknesses in the COJA Structures, this yielded to nothing;
- III. The AU Commission inherited Instruments governing the organization and management of the African Games from the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa. The Instruments are outdated, hence the challenges encountered;
- IV. Due to weak Instruments Governing the organization and management of Games the owners of the Games, AU did not have enough authority and control on the Local Organizing Committee (COJA) over the organization and management of Games including doping matters.

The way forward:

The Specialized Technical Committee (STC) Sub-Committee of the Ministers of Sport which met on 3 September in Brazzaville on the margins of the African Games decided that the Technical Committee of the African Games (TOCAG) a Technical Body appointed by the Commission to provide technical guidance on the organization and management of the Games be charged with full mandate and authority to organize and cause the organization of the Games, a trend obtaining in other continental games. In this respect, the Technical Committee will be strengthened to include competent Anti-doping personnel;

The Ministers also requested the Commission to facilitate the review all the governing instruments for the Games. The Games Instruments have been revised accordingly.

It is against this background that the Commission would like to assure WADA that in the light of the actions that have been undertaken the delivery of the Anti-doping programs will be more organized and effective the next editions.