



UNITED WORLD WRESTLING AFRICA

Activity Report **of the UWW-Africa during the period between 2014 and 2016**

In this report we are keen to mention the most relevant activities of the UWW-Africa during the period between 2014 and 2016, as follows: -

➤ **Signing a strategic partnership between the UWW-Africa and the Iranian Wrestling Federation.**

On the occasion of the 2014 GR World Cup, a strategic partnership was signed under the supervision of the UWW President “Mr. Nenad LALOVIC” between the UWW-Africa and the Iranian Wrestling Federation. And it was agreed to organize an annual Iranian-African Friendship Cup between the Iranian Wrestling team and the United African team of the African gold medalists of the last Senior African Championship.

The 1st edition of the Iran-Africa Cup was organized in 2014 in Tehran, the capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This Friendship Cup is a leading, distinctive and unique experience that will be a supporting step to help the African continent for developing the wrestling sport.

➤ **African Championships organized between 2014 & 2016.**

In 2014	The Senior African Championship GR-FS-FW	Organized in Tunis (TUN)
	The Cadet & Junior African Championship GR-FS-FW	Organized in Alexandria (EGY)
	The African Qualifier for the YOG	
In 2015	The Cadet, Junior and Senior African Championship GR-FS-FW	Organized in Alexandria (EGY)
	The 11 th All African Games GR-FS-FW	Organized in Brazzaville (CGO)
In 2016	The Senior African Championship GR-FS-FW	Organized in Alexandria (EGY)
	The Africa/Oceania Qualifying Tournament for RIO Games	Organized in Alger (ALG)
	The Cadet & Junior African Championship GR-FS-FW	Organized in Alger (ALG)

➤ **The International Wrestling Center of El-Jadida has been officially approved as a UWW Continental Center of Africa**

The 2nd part of the center has been already finished. And the center is going to be ready for use within two months from today. The second building contains hotel, restaurant, sauna, swimming pool, Gym, and other high level facilities. The General Secretary of the United World Wrestling “Mr. Michel Dusson” sent recently a confirmation letter that The International Wrestling Center of El-Jadida has been officially approved as a UWW Continental Center of Africa. The UWW has approved also the assignment of the expert Mr. Juan Luis Maren Delis officially to work for the UWW Continental Center of El-Jadida after the Olympics. And it is expected that the Center will host programs of the Olympic Solidarity as one of the UWW centers. The center is also ready to host the 2nd edition of the African Week of Wrestling, whose 1st edition was successful in 2014 with the participation of 27 African countries, as well as 8 members of the UWW Bureau.

Mr. Ibrahima Sarr, the General Director of the UWW center of Thies – Senegal has visited the UWW-Africa headquarters in El Jadida MAR between 10 to 15 February 2016. He was greeted by a special reception. He expresses his appreciation and admiration for the achievements he touched.

➤ **33 wrestlers from Africa have been qualified to Rio Olympic Games 2016.**

Through the different Qualifying phases 33 wrestlers from the African continent {10 GR + 10 FS + 13 FW} have been qualified to Rio Olympic Games 2016. Two wrestlers have been qualified through the 2015 Senior World Championship in Las Vegas. Algeria (ALG) Tarek Aziz BENAÏSSA, Fifth Place at the GR 66 kg & Nigeria (NGR) via Odunayo Folasade ADEKUOROYE, World Championship, Bronze at the FW 53 kg. The other 31 wrestlers have been qualified through the Africa/Oceania Qualifying tournament organized in Algeria.

➤ **Plan of development of the African Continent**

Just after his appointment as a continental development officer for Africa, Mr. Vincent AKA was invited by the UWW-Africa President at the beginning of 2015 to visit the new headquarters of the UWW-Africa in Morocco to discuss the future development strategy of the UWW-Africa. During this visit a development plan for the African continent has been approved.

➤ **Set up a development project for the referees in the African Continent.**

By the beginning of 2016 the UWW and its Refereeing Commission have approved to increase the number of the I-S category referees of the African continent to be 06 Referees. It is the first time in the history of Africa to have such number of referees at the highest category of the UWW.

Following to a development project presented by the UWW-Africa to promote the referees in the African Continent and to increase their numbers, the UWW has also approved adopting a continuing training program to support and educate the African referees through different training courses in different regions of Africa.

➤ **An initiative from the UWW-Africa to ensure a fair, neutral and impartial refereeing during the Continental Rio Games Qualifying Tournament in Algeria**

The UWW and its Refereeing Commission accepted the proposal of the UWW-Africa assigning six competent referees bearing the characteristics of neutrality and professionalism, to officiate during the Africa/Oceania Continental Rio Games Qualifying Tournament in Algeria. The « UWW-Africa » covered their flight tickets, as well as their accommodation and lodging in Algeria.

Obviously the expected goal of this initiative was to ensure the smooth running of the competitions by an impartial arbitration and to ensure equal opportunities for all African participants for the qualification to the Olympic Games which are the dream for all African athletes.

➤ **Encouraging the African Countries for participation at the 2016 African Championship and the Qualifying tournament**

Through an unprecedented initiative by the UWW-Africa President, most of African countries having difficulties in preparing their wrestlers have been invited to prepare their wrestlers in Morocco before the 2016 Senior African Championship and the Africa/Oceania Qualifying Tournament. Some African Countries accepted the invitation sending their wrestlers to train in Morocco for more than two months. Some countries such as Namibia and through its NOC sent their wrestlers in the framework of the Olympic Solidarity. The UWW-Africa hosted all the wrestlers free of charge during the period of their stay in the training camp in Morocco.

➤ **The efforts of the UWW-Africa President to promote and develop Wrestling in the Kingdom of Bahrain**

Mr. Fouad MESKOUT, the member of the executive board of the UWW and the President of the UWW-Africa, was welcomed at the royal palace of Bahrain by His Highness Sheikh Khalid Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council of Youth and Sport. On behalf of the UWW, Mr. MESKOUT decorates His Highness Sheikh Khalid the gold necklace of the United World Wrestling.

His Highness Sheikh Khalid Bin Hamad Al Khalifa expressed his gratitude to the President and the members of the UWW, and especially to Mr. Fouad MESKOUT for this prestigious distinction. During this meeting, His Highness also raised many areas of cooperation and collaboration in order to promote the sport of Wrestling in Bahrain and to encourage its presence at the Arab and World levels to serve the aspirations of Bahrain to reach more sports achievements through "Wrestling".

As a fruit of this initiative, Bahrain this year and for the first time in the history achieved 2 medals at the 2016 Senior Asian Championship {1 Gold + 1 Bronze}. Bahrain also has a qualified wrestler to Rio Olympic Games through its gold medalist at the Asian Qualifying tournament.

➤ **Field visits of the UWW-Africa President to encourage and assist the African Countries in their development.**

The UWW-Africa President "Mr.Fouad MESKOUT" was very keen to make field visits to some African countries such as Niger and Cameroon to encourage and assist them in their development. Mr. Meskout has attended the International traditional wrestling tournament, which took place during two days in Niger. That event was attended by seven presidents of African National Wrestling Federations, and it was a good opportunity to meet and work together charting a development program for both traditional and Olympic wrestling. In Cameroon Mr. Meskout visited the National Olympic Committee, and he was greeted by a warm reception by its president "Mr. Hamad Kalkaba Malboum".

The UWW-Africa also encouraged and assisted some African National Wrestling Federation to attend the United World Wrestling Forum on the Associated Wrestling Styles, which was held in Istanbul.

➤ **New website of the UWW-Africa**

The UWW-Africa has now a new website. And it is now available in both languages English and French

www.unitedworldwrestlingafrica.org

That was a concise report of the activities of the UWW-Africa during the period between 2014 and 2016. At the end of the activity report we would like to thank the UWW for its kind support and help to enhance the level of Wrestling in the African Continent.

El Jadida on Friday: 01 July 2016.

*General Secretary of the UWW-Africa
CHEBBAH Rabah*

*President of the UWW-Africa
MESKOUT Fouad*

United World Wrestling Africa
Centre continental Africain de Lutte Olympique, Salle Sportive Ben Charki,
Elmanar, El-Jadida 24 000, MOROCCO
T. 00212 05 2335 1881 F. 00212 05 2335 1884