



UNION DES FEDERATIONS AFRICAINES DE KARATE (UFAK)

AFRICAN KARATE FEDERATIONS UNION (AKFU)

Affiliée à : **Fédération Mondiale de Karaté (FMK) / World Karate Federation (WKF)**
Affiliated to : **Union des Confédérations Sportives Africaines (UCSA) / Union of African Sport Confederations (UASC)**
Association des Comités Nationaux Olympiques d'Afrique (ACNOA) / Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA)

SECRETARIAT GENERAL / GENERAL SECRETARY



ANNUALS REPORT

OF UFAK 2024

Period Covered: January to august 2024

Bamako, August 31, 2024

Dear Members of the Executive Committee and Presidents of the National Federations of the Union of African Karate Federations (UFAK), It is with great pleasure that we present to you the activity report covering the period from January 1 to August 31, 2024. This period was marked by the 13th African Games in Accra, Ghana, as well as the Regional Championships. We express our deep gratitude to everyone who, directly or indirectly, contributed to the completion of the activities detailed in this report.

We would like to extend our special thanks to Mr. Antonio Espinos, President of the World Karate Federation (WKF), for his unwavering support to UFAK. We also extend our greetings to the members of the UFAK Executive Committee, and particularly to Mr. Souleymane Gaye, Acting President, for his exemplary commitment to strengthening and uniting African karate.

We also commend the invaluable efforts of the Presidents of the Regions, the National Federations, and the various UFAK Commissions, whose collaboration has been essential to our success.

We present below the major activities carried out during this period, along with other achievements, major events, and challenges.

I. Major Activities:

The participation of Karate in the 13th African Games was the culmination of a long process, which nearly faced significant obstacles. Had it not been for the relentless tenacity of the leaders of UFAK and WKF, African Karate would have missed the opportunity. The challenges of this participation were met with great success. Following these Games, UFAK focused on taking up the challenge of organizing the Regional Championships.

A. The 13th African Games in Accra, Ghana:

From March 7 to 10, 2024, 28 national federations with 233 athletes participated in the 13th African Games in Accra. UFAK organized several meetings in Ghana and abroad to ensure the success of this participation. In preparation, UFAK offered a free refereeing seminar to the referees of the Ghana Karate Federation from February 9 to 11, 2024. An evaluation mission of the Games preparations was conducted by President Souleymane Gaye.

The World Karate Federation (WKF) supported the event by providing two mats to the Ghana Karate Federation. It is worth mentioning that the Local Organizing Committee of the Games, led by Dr. Kwaku Ofose-Asare, also provided four additional mats for the same event.

We thank Mr. Antonio Espinos, President of the WKF, who, in addition to his donation, traveled to Accra, met with local authorities, and actively participated in the Executive Committee meeting and the UFAK General Assembly, providing valuable advice during a challenging time for our union.

The success of these Games is attributed to the WKF, the UFAK Executive Committee, the various UFAK Commissions, as well as the Local Organizing Committee, the President of the Ghana Karate Federation, Mr. Nathaniel Johnson, and his predecessor, Mr. Melvin Brawn, First Vice-President of the West 2 Region. A special thanks is extended to Mr. Zitouni Metyout, UFAK Technical Delegate to the Games. The Games were also marked by the presence of Major General Ahmed Nasser, President of the UCSA, at the final ceremonies.

These Games saw the participation of 28 countries, compared to 32 at the previous African Games in Rabat, Morocco, in 2019.

Egypt topped the standings with 10 gold medals, followed by Algeria with 3 gold medals, and Morocco with 2 gold medals.

The detailed activity report, including images and complete results, is attached to this activity report.

B. The 2024 Regional Championships:

The 2024 Regional Championships were conducted under the coordination of Mr. Bechir Cherif, Vice-President of UFAK/WKF, with the support of WKF and UFAK. Five of the six regions have already organized their championships:

- East Region from June 6 to 9, 2024, in Antananarivo, Madagascar
- South Region from June 21 to 23, 2024, in Swakopmund, Namibia
- West 1 Region from July 3 to 7, 2024, in Conakry, Guinea
- Central Region from July 10 to 15, 2024, in Yaoundé, Cameroon
- North Region from August 17 to 19, 2024, in Cairo, Egypt

All of these championships were successful. In addition to the competitions and technical seminars, UFAK leaders, including President Souleymane GAYE and the Regional Coordinator, whom we acknowledge and thank, visited the highest authorities of these countries to enhance the image of Karate.

Thank you to all the Presidents of the national federations who made these activities possible, and a special thank you and hearty congratulations to the Presidents of the host federations who spared no effort in ensuring the success of these activities.

The only remaining regional competition is that of the West 2 Region, scheduled to take place in Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire) in December 2024.

Additionally, UFAK has included the Great Lakes Tournament in its calendar, to be held in Goma, DR Congo, from October 23 to 27, 2024.

The detailed reports of these various regional championships, including images and complete results, are also attached to this activity report.

II. Other Major Events, Achievements, and Challenges:

- Between January and March 2024, in response to a delicate governance situation within UFAK, Mr. Yacine Arab, President of the Organizing Committee, and Mr. Mesbahi Mohamed Tahar, President of UFAK, resigned from their positions. The UFAK Executive Committee then unanimously appointed Mr. Souleymane Gaye as Acting President.
- The drafts of the regional statutes have been prepared in accordance with UFAK and WKF regulations, with each region given the option to adapt them to its local context.
- As part of the revitalization of UFAK, the Executive Committee held 5 online meetings and several consultations between January and August 2024.
- Organizational adjustments have been made to increase efficiency, including the following appointments:
 - Mr. Cheick Condé, Assistant General Treasurer
 - Para-Karate Commission: Mr. Mohamed Ramadan
 - Organizing Committee: Mrs. Shani Lakram (President), Mr. Soumaila Ouédraogo, Rabia Karafi, Jérémie Moutombo (Members)

- Technical Commission: Mr. Sameh El Shadrawy, Mr. Mohamed El Hosieny (ex officio member as President of the WKF Technical Commission)
- Disciplinary and Legal Commission: Mr. Louis Ondongo (Member)

UFAK also provided financial support averaging 1,500 USD to the host countries of the regional championships and granted discounts on the fees for referee's courses and exams.

The Executive Committee has been strengthened by the election of Mr. Tchang Wei Tchang Houloulou (Chad), President of the Central Region of UFAK, who joins our team as the representative of his region.

UFAK has initiated the creation of its new website. We thank Mr. Hassen Korbi, President of the Tunisian Karate Federation, for his commitment to this project.

We are also proud to celebrate the promotion of two national federation presidents within their respective countries:

- Mr. Andres Ikuga Fernandez, appointed Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.
- Mr. Silas Agara, appointed Director General of the National Employment Directorate of Nigeria.

We also sadly mourn the deaths of Master Antonio Oliva, WKF Expert who contributed greatly to Africa, Mr. Teddy Jackson, President of the Karate Federation of Liberia, the African referee from Burkina Faso, Mr. Brice Tapsoba, as well as several close relatives of UFAK members. We pray for the repose of their souls and extend our sincere condolences to their families.

However, the major ongoing challenge is the reintegration of karate into the list of disciplines for the Youth Olympic Games in Dakar in 2026.

For the Executive Board
Secretary General of UFAK
Madani BA