



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



ANNUAL REPORT

OF UFAK

Period Covered: December 2021 – August 2023

Bamako, August 2023

Dear members of the Executive Committee and Presidents of the National Federations of the Union of African Karate Federations UFAK, the honor falls to me on the occasion the immense pleasure to present the Activity Report of the period from December 2021 to August 2023.

We thank the President of the World Karate Federation, Mr Antonio ESPINOS, for his constant support for the development of African Karate, all members of the Executive Committee of the UFAK, starting with President MESBAHI Mohamed Tahar for his leadership, Vice-Presidents Bechir Cherif and Souleymane GAYE for their tireless efforts.

We also thank all the Presidents of the Regions and National Federations and Presidents of the various UFAK commissions for the good collaboration and the work well done.

We are pleased to share with you the achievements, challenges and perspectives of our organization during this period.

I. Major achievements :

After the organization and success of the African Championships in Cairo, Egypt in December 2021, UFAK organized in December 2022 its African Championships in Durban, South Africa.

Between the holding of the African Championships in Cairo in 2021 and those in Durban in 2022, UFAK supervised under the control of Mr Béchir Cherif, Vice-President of UFAK and WKF and Coordinator of the Development Regions of UFAK, the organization of the Championships in all regions with the support of the WKF.

As was the case in 2022, the Regional Championships from 2023 to today were held in most regions.

Alongside these activities, UFAK participated on the mainland at the Beach Games in Hammamet, Tunisia in June 2023 and off the continent at the 2022 World Championships in Konya, Turkey.

Below is a summary of these activities:

A. The African Championships in Cairo Egypt 2021:

The Union of African Karate Federations UFAK organized the 20th Senior Africa Championships, 12th June and 4th Cadet from 30 November to 5 December 2021 in Cairo, Egypt.

The following 17 African countries took part in the Championships:

Algeria, Benin, Burkina, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo DRC, Egypt, Guinea, Libya, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Chad, Tunisia.

The Championships were largely dominated by Egypt with 26 gold, followed by Algeria and Tunisia with 4 gold each.

During these Championships, the UFAK held its Congress on December 2, 2021 in the presence of its guest of honor Mr Antonio ESPINOS President of the World Karate Federation. The Congress validated the activity and financial reports of the closed mandate, adopted amendments to the statutes and elected a new Board Presided by Mr MESBAHI Mohamed Tahar for a term of four years. The Congress minutes are attached to this report.

The Executive Committee, meanwhile, met on December 5, 2021 before the end of the Championships. The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting are attached to this report.

We thank the President of the Egyptian Karate Federation Mr Muhammad Al Dahrawy and all members of his Executive Committee for their hospitality.

B. Durban African Championships 2022 :

From November 28 to December 4, 2022, the African Karate Federations Union UFAK organized the 21st Senior Africa Championships, 13th June and 5th Cadet in Durban, South Africa.

The 29 countries listed below took part in these Championships:

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Central Africa, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

These Championships recorded a 71% increase in the participation rate of countries compared to the previous edition.

As part of the policy of preserving the interests of athletes from countries experiencing governance turmoil in their National Federations, UFAK has authorized these athletes to participate in these Championships under the banner UFAK/ WKF.

At the end of the Championships, Egypt ranked first with 19 gold, followed by Morocco 9 gold and Algeria 6 gold.

The Executive Committee meeting and the UFAK General Assembly were held on 1 December 2022, the minutes of both meetings are attached to this report. The General Assembly approved the activity and financial reports.

We thank the President of the South African Karate Federation Mr Sonny Pillay, all members of his Executive Committee and the Mayor of Durban for their hospitality.

C. 2022 Regional Championships:

The 2022 UFAK six Development Regions Championships were held. Details can be found in the report of the Vice-President of UFAK/WKF, Regional Coordinator Mr Bechir Cherif whom we thank and congratulate.

These are the Regions below:

- (1) 2022 North Region Championships;
- (2) 2022 West Region Championships;
- (3) 2022 West Region Championships;
- (4) 2022 Central Region Championships;
- (5) 2022 South Region Championships;
- (6) 2022 Eastern Region Championships.

D. 2023 Regional Championships:

The following Regional Championships were held:

- (1) 2023 North Region Championships;
- (2) 2023 West Region Championships 1;
- (3) 2023 South Region Championships;

The Championships of the Regions below are to be realized:

- (1) 2023 West Region Championships;
- (2) 2023 Central Region Championships;
- (3) 2023 Eastern Region Championships.

E. Other tournaments:

(1) The 2022 Great Lakes Tournament:

This tournament was organized in Goma, Congo DRC, in conjunction with the Championships of the Central Region. UFAK sent a strong delegation led by Vice President Souleymane GAYE to accompany and encourage the revitalization of Karate in this region of Africa.

(2) The 2nd edition of the 2023 Beach Games :

The beach games took place in Hammamet, Tunisia.

These events not only promoted Karate, but also strengthened ties between UFAK member countries.

II. The challenges :

Like any human organization, the UFAK has challenges to overcome, the most striking of which remain the improvement of the stability of the governance of the member national federations.

The UFAK decided at its General Assembly on 01 December 2022 to entrust the management of these various crises to the Executive Board.

Vice-President Souleymane GAYE, whom we thank and congratulate for his speed, with the support of the members of the Executive Board and the WKF, managed the following cases:

- Madagascar;
- Central African Republic.

We are experiencing major management challenges in some regions of the UFAK, but we hope that with the sense of responsibility and measurement, solutions will be quickly provided for the efficient restart of activities in these regions.

The continued participation of Karate in the next African Games in Accra was achieved thanks to the dedication of the President of UFAK, of the Executive Board and the involvement of the President of the Ghanaian Karate Federation Mr Nataniel JOHNSON and former President Melvin Brown whom we congratulate. We also take the opportunity to thank again President Antonio ESPINOS, the President of the Local Organizing Committee of the Games in Accra Dr Kwaku Ofofu-Asare, the authorities of Ghana, ANOCA and its President Mustapha Berraf, and UCSA, General Nasser, for the maintenance of Karate in the list of sports disciplines selected.

The confirmation of membership of the WKF program in support of disadvantaged countries was not obtained for all 23 countries selected and this despite the insistence and all the efforts provided by Vice-President Souleymane GAYE in charge of the file. Unfortunately, there are still many administrative problems to be overcome in some countries.

Establishing strategic partnerships with key organizations in the world of sport, as well as with private and public sector actors to increase visibility and obtain financial and logistical support for our activities is a great challenge for UFAK.

As part of strengthening our structures, the Para Karate Commission was created, headed by Mr Fateh BENATHMANE, two arbitrators (Ms Safiatou TOURE and Ms Marie Caroline NGONO) were appointed members of the referee commission, Thus bringing the number of women in the Board to four (4), parity requires.

At the global level, we welcome the appointment of the Chairman of the UFAK Technical Commission Mr Papa Ismaila BA member of the World Technical Commission, we congratulate him, encourage him and thank the President of the WKF Mr Antonio ESPINOS for the confidence and his choice. Mr Olusegun Akinola Secretary of the Referee Commission of the UFAK was appointed member of the World Referee Commission, we congratulate him and wish him full success.

In addition Mohamed El Hosseiny of the Egyptian Karate Federation, was appointed by the WKF as Chairman of the World Technical Commission.

We learned of the successful outcome of the trial of the leading members of the Cameroonian Karate Federation, who were cleared of sexual harassment charges, which contributes to the restoration of the good image of African Karate.

III. Perspective :

The organization of the African Games in Accra, Ghana, the next African Championships and the regions are the priorities of the year 2024.

Calls for applications are open for the Regional Championships, to this end we have received confirmations for the following regions:

- Northern Region – Egypt 2024;
- Western Region 1 – Conakry 2024.

For the remainder of 2023, we have the following activities:

- The Island Games in Madagascar from August 30 to September 2, 2023;
- West Region 2 championships in Accra from 13 to 17 September 2023.

We intend to improve our communication strategy by using social media, online platforms and traditional channels to increase the visibility of our activities and interact with our audience. It is in this context that the work to bring back online the UFAK website was started, with proposals, first from Sudan and now from Tunisia.

We thank the members of the UFAK Executive Committee, the WKF, all members, the various UFAK commissions and the Presidents of the National Federations for their commitment and continued support. The achievements of this period were made possible through our collaboration and dedication to Karate and its values.

For the Executive Board
Secretary General of the UFAK



Madani BA