



**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

# 2023

Bamako, March 2024

Gentlemen, 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 for the year 2023. We are grateful to each actor who, directly or indirectly, contributed to the realization of the activities covered by this report.

We would like to express our gratitude to the President of the World Karate Federation, Mr. Antonio ESPINOS, for his unwavering support for UFAK. Our greetings to the dedicated members of the UFAK Executive Committee, in particular to the Interim President Mr. Souleymane GAYE for his unflinching commitment to the construction of a united and strong African karate.

We would like to salute all the Presidents of the Regions, the National Federations, as well as the Presidents of the various UFAK commissions, whose exemplary collaboration has been an essential pillar of the success of our organization.

It is with enthusiasm that we share with you the achievements, challenges and promising prospects of our union during this year 2024.

## **I. Major achievements :**

During 2023, UFAK held the Senior, Junior and Cadet African Championships in Casablanca, the Regional Championships and participated in the 26<sup>st</sup> Senior World Championships in Budapest, Hungary, and the Beach Games in Hammamet in Tunisia and at the Indian Ocean Islands Games in Antananarivo Madagascar.

Below we will give you a summary of these different activities:

### **A. The African Championships in Casablanca Morocco 2023 :**

From August 14 to 20, 2023, the Union of African Karate Federations UFAK organized the 22<sup>nd</sup> African Senior, 14<sup>th</sup> Junior and 6<sup>th</sup> Cadet Championships in Casablanca Morocco. The Championships were contested with 24 countries compared to 29 countries in 2022 in Durban, a drop of 17%, moreover the number of participating athletes fell by 2.8% from 390 athletes in Durban to 379 athletes in Casablanca.

Morocco ranked first with 17 Gold, followed by Egypt 14 Gold and Tunisia 5 Gold.

Our very warm congratulations and thanks to the President of the Royal Moroccan Karate Federation for the great success of the event.

### **B. The 2023 Regional Championships :**

The following Regional Championships were held:

- (1) The Northern Region Championships;
- (2) The Western Region 1 Championships;
- (3) The Western Region 2 Championships;
- (4) The 2023 Southern Region Championships.

The Central and Eastern Region Championships were not held in 2023 but were scheduled for 2024. Our thanks to the Presidents of the WKF Mr. Antonio ESPINOS and congratulations to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Coordinator of the regions Mr. Bechir CHERIF.

### **C. Other tournaments :**

#### **(1) The 11<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Islands Games :**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Islands Games took place in Madagascar in August 2023 with the support of the WKF, which appointed Mr Papa Ismaïla BA technical delegate for Karate. We congratulate him for a job well done.

#### **(2) The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the 2023 Beach Games :**

The beach games took place in Hammamet in Tunisia.

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

Beyond these activities, the President of UFAK Mr. MESBAHI Mohamed Tahar was re-elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of UCSA.

## **II. Challenges :**

During the year 2023, we can note the definitive management of the governance crisis of the Malagasy Federation.

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

Confirmation of membership in the WKF program in support of disadvantaged countries was not obtained for all of the 23 countries selected, despite the insistence and all the efforts made by Vice-President Souleymane GAYE in charge folder. There are still many administrative management problems to overcome in certain countries, unfortunately. Also, it should be noted that several African countries and karate executives encountered serious difficulties in obtaining visas from Hungary for their participation in the 26<sup>st</sup> Senior World Championships.

Establishing strategic partnerships with key organizations in the world of sport, as well as with private and public sector players 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 referees (Mrs Safiatou TOURE and Marie Caroline NGONO) were appointed members of the arbitration commission, thus increasing the number of women in the four (4) CA, 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 global technical commission, we congratulate him, encourage him and thank the President of the WKF Mr. Antonio ESPINOS for the trust and choice. Mr. Olusegun Akinola secretary of the UFAK arbitration commission has been appointed member of the World Arbitration Commission, we congratulate him and wish him every success.

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

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

### **III. Perspective :**

The organization of the African Games in Accra, Ghana, and the next African and regional championships are the priorities for the year 2024.

The calendar for the 2024 regional championships was proposed by the coordinator and 1st<sup>Vice</sup> - President Mr. Béchir CHERIF.

In order to support the host countries of the Regional Championships, a rebate on event revenues will be paid to them from 2024.

Several applications have been registered for the organization of the 2024 African Championships, these are Egypt, Guinea Conakry, Morocco and Tunisia.

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

For the Executive Office  
Secretary General of UFAK

Madani BA