

# MEAL Program Report

African Games  
Accra, Ghana, 2023

## **Acknowledgments:**

During the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the African Games (Games), that were held in Accra, Ghana, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was privileged to extend its support through the Major Event Anti-Doping Legacy (MEAL) Program. The WADA's MEAL Program Project Team (WADA MEAL Team) tasked with overseeing the support provided to the Games was composed of Mr. Valentin Capelli (WADA Sport Movement Relations and MEAL Program Manager) and Mr. Sameh Elray (WADA Africa Office Manager).

Similarly to previous MEAL Programs, the success of this initiative was entirely dependent on the continuous collaboration and unfaltering efforts demonstrated by the core stakeholders and Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) involved in the development and implementation of the Games' anti-doping program.

In this regard, the WADA MEAL Team would like to express its sincere gratitude towards the African Union Commission<sup>1</sup> (AUC), the Technical Committee for the African Games (TCAG), the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), the Ghana Olympic Committee (GOC), the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya (ADAK), as well as the Africa Zone VI and North Africa Regional Anti-Doping Organizations (RADOs) for their dedication to the success of the initiatives and activities of both the Games' anti-doping program, as well as the MEAL Program. The WADA MEAL Team would also like to thank all members of the respective Sample Collection Personnel (SCP) and Educator teams, as well as the experts involved with the Results Management and Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE) process, for their unrelenting efforts and unparalleled commitment, which ensured the continuity of the program.

The development and implementation of the Games' anti-doping program were led by a Coordination Committee that included representatives of the key stakeholders involved. The WADA MEAL Team would like to commend the Coordination Committee members for their leadership and efforts in the lead-up to and during the Games.

In particular, the WADA MEAL Team would like to thank the Committee Chairperson, Dr. Samuel Ogbondeminu (TCAG), for his continuous efforts and resolute determination to ensure the success of the Games' anti-doping program. Additionally, the WADA MEAL Team would also like to thank Committee members Ms. Lina Kessy (AUC), Dr. Beatrice Dwumfour Williams (LOC), Mr. Prince Azanu and Mr. Richard Akpokavie (GOC), as well as Mr. Andrew Kamanga (Africa Zone VI RADO) and Ms. Rym Zerifi (North Africa RADO) for the instrumental roles that they played in the efficient development and implementation of the Games' anti-doping program.

For the WADA MEAL Team, the effective implementation of the MEAL Program's mandate during the Games was made possible through the composition of an Anti-Doping Advisory Group. The Advisory Group provided timely support and close follow-ups when and where needed during the Games. In

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024, the African Union Sports Council (AUSC) has replaced the African Union Commission (AUC) as Code signatory.

this regard, the WADA MEAL Team would like to sincerely thank the Advisory Group members, namely Mr. Yves Kapa Lipoko (Congoese National Anti-Doping Committee), Mr. Maxime Dang (Cameroonian Organization against Doping in Sport), and Dr. Anfel Kechacha (Algerian National Anti-Doping Commission) for their availability, professionalism, as well as their invaluable contributions.

Finally, the WADA MEAL Team would also like to thank all the members of the WADA Athlete Engagement Team, led by Ms. Nathalie Bakome, Office Manager, WADA Africa Office , for their presence and efforts during the Games, as well as the volunteers and support staff for their dedication and creativity in fulfilling all of their responsibilities.



### A. Executive Summary:

Previously, the MEAL Program's main focus was to support [events](#) that were organized by Major Event Organizations (MEOs) that fall under [Tier 3 of the Policy](#) for WADA's Application of the [International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories](#). This was mainly done to ensure that specific attention was given to the reinforcement of the events' anti-doping programs, as well as the capacity building of the ADOs involved.

Nonetheless, due to the exceptional circumstances surrounding the 13<sup>th</sup> African Games, mainly linked to the postponement of the Games' original date and the change of the body responsible for their technical organization, and given the fact that the Games remain an important continental event containing several qualifiers for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games<sup>2</sup>, WADA decided to support the development and implementation of the Games' anti-doping program through the MEAL Program.

In accordance with the MEAL Program methodology, the central objectives of the Program's interventions were to support the Games' anti-doping program, strengthen the anti-doping infrastructure of the MEO, in this case the AUC, as well as the host country, in this case Ghana, and support the capacity building of other ADOs in the region.

To accomplish this, a Coordination Committee composed of representatives from the key stakeholders involved with the Games' anti-doping program was established six months prior to the

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.accra2023ag.com/disciplines>

start of the Games. The Committee included representatives from the AUC, TCAG, LOC and GOC. Aware of the highly technical requirements related to the development of an efficient anti-doping program, the Committee added two technical experts to its members. The experts represented the Africa Zone VI RADO, of which Ghana is a Member Country, as well as the North Africa RADO, who was responsible for overseeing the anti-doping program for the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the African Games. The two members of the WADA MEAL Team also attended the Coordination Committee meetings in an advisory capacity. The list of members representing each organization can be found later in the report.

In the lead-up to the Games, the Coordination Committee, supported by the WADA MEAL Team, addressed key issues such as the development of Code-compliant anti-doping rules, the preparation of an efficient testing strategy, the establishment of support bodies and committees, as well as the organization of relevant training programs for local anti-doping personnel. While room for improvement has been identified, as outlined further below in this report, the WADA MEAL Team would like to thank the Committee for their efforts and note that these actions greatly enhanced the quality of the anti-doping program during the Games.

At the Games, the implementation of the anti-doping program was impacted by numerous logistical challenges, including issues that were firmly beyond the control of the Committee members. While further details and recommendations are provided below in the report, the WADA MEAL Team would like to express their appreciation to the efforts undertaken by the members of the Committee in order to overcome these obstacles and ensure the continuity of the anti-doping program, as well as the vital role that the SCP played in maintaining the integrity of the program despite various logistical (e.g. uniforms, transportation) and resources (e.g. financial, HR) challenges.

In order to efficiently deliver on their mandate, the WADA MEAL Team composed an Anti-Doping Advisory Group that included additional experts from the African region with prior experience of Major Events. Members of the Advisory Group were present on site throughout the duration of the Games, and were constantly available to provide feedback and suggestions, if and when needed.

Overall, the WADA MEAL Team firmly believes that this experience has left a tangible legacy for all ADOs involved, particularly the AUC and the GOC. Nonetheless, active steps must be undertaken to ensure that this legacy is capitalized upon to strengthen the anti-doping program for future editions of the African Games, the national anti-doping program in Ghana, as well as the respective programs of other ADOs involved. While further details are provided below, the priority areas worth mentioning at this stage include the need for the AUC to build on this initial experience and continue setting-up and reinforcing effective anti-doping structures to start the preparation earlier in the perspective of the next edition of the Games, as well as the need for Ghana to utilize the recently trained local anti-doping personnel efficiently and consistently to strengthen their national anti-doping program.

The report provides a detailed overview of the activities, challenges, achievements and recommendations of the WADA MEAL Team. At the same time, the following table can also be consulted for a succinct summary on these matters.

Program Area	Intervention	Achievements	Recommendations
Coordination between stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordination Committee established six months prior to the start of the Games.</li> <li>- Technical support from ADAK facilitated in the context of Ghana – Kenya NADO partnership agreement.</li> <li>- Anti-Doping Advisory Group established to support WADA MEAL Team operations during the Games.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bi-weekly Coordination Committee meetings held in the lead-up to the Games, with frequency changed to weekly during the final month before the start date, to ensure efficient communications and active preparations.</li> <li>- Training conducted for local anti-doping personnel in Ghana by ADAK (16 Doping Control Officers, 19 Chaperones and 15 Educators).</li> <li>- On-site support and assistance provided during the Games through the presence of the Anti-Doping Advisory Group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clearly highlight roles and responsibilities of each organization involved in the Coordination Committee to avoid confusion, overlap and misunderstanding between stakeholders.</li> <li>- Maintain Coordination Committee model and strengthen the status of its members to increase the already demonstrated effectiveness and avoid overload of responsibilities.</li> <li>- Document expectations and requirements to the LOC and other stakeholders to mitigate the risk of logistical issues during the Games.</li> <li>- Consider cooperation with representatives of the future host of the Games.</li> </ul>
Rules and Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support provided in preparation and adoption of Anti-Doping Rules (ADR) prior to finalization of process for AUC to become a Code Signatory.</li> <li>- Assistance provided in revising ADR to ensure that all provisions are realistic and in-line with AUC resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ADR adopted and implemented during the Games.</li> <li>- ADR shared with participants in advance of the Games and published on the website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beyond compliance with the Code, MEOs must ensure that provisions in their ADR can be implemented in practice prior to their adoption.</li> <li>- The AUC must ensure the continued implementation of the ADR and should consider establishing an Anti-Doping Committee tasked with this matter.</li> <li>- Communicate ADR to all relevant stakeholders as soon as possible to allow adequate preparation.</li> </ul>
Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assistance provided, in coordination with North Africa and Africa Zone VI RADOs, to develop Risk Assessment (RA) and Test Distribution Plan (TDP).</li> <li>- Facilitated in-person training session organized by ADAK for local Sample</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RA and TDP developed, including Dried Blood Spot (DBS) testing for the first time in the African Games.</li> <li>- 608 tests conducted: 544 In-Competition (IC), 64 Out-of-Competition (OOC).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that specificities related to MEO testing are taken into consideration when developing RA and TDP.</li> <li>- Communicate with all relevant stakeholders in advance of the Games in order to receive testing recommendations and coordinate Pre-Games testing.</li> </ul>

	<p>Collection Personnel (SCP) in Ghana.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participation of international DCOs encouraged in order to strengthen Games' anti-doping program.</li> <li>- Facilitated purchase of sample collection kits and signing of agreement with WADA-accredited laboratory.</li> <li>- Support provided in creation, activation and use of ADAMS accounts for AUC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Testing program included urine, blood, blood passport and DBS testing.</li> <li>- Communication established between the Coordination Committee and the relevant International Federations (IFs), Testing Agencies and National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs) to improve target testing.</li> <li>- Local SCP trained in Ghana (16 Doping Control Officers, 19 Chaperones) by ADAK.</li> <li>- International DCOs recruited from 15 NADOs in the African region.</li> <li>- Sample Collection kits purchased prior to the Games, with supplementary kits donated to GOC.</li> <li>- Agreement signed with WADA-accredited laboratory in Lausanne, Switzerland for analysis of samples collected during the Games.</li> <li>- AUC ADAMS account activated and staff trained prior to start of the Games.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finalize purchasing of material, printing of Doping Control Forms (DCFs), signing of agreement with accredited Laboratory sufficiently in advance to facilitate planning of activities.</li> <li>- Ensure a direct link between the Coordination Committee and the relevant Functional Areas within the LOC to avoid logistical issues.</li> <li>- Maintain participation and presence of experienced international DCOs considering the concrete added value that they continue to bring to the testing program.</li> <li>- Ensure that the working conditions of SCP (local and international) are clearly defined and approved prior to the start of the Games to avoid any potential issues.</li> <li>- Ensure that a test event is organized to comfortably ascertain the functionality of all aspects related to the testing program prior to the start of the Games, including transport of blood samples.</li> <li>- Ensure that the Coordination Committee is on-site prior to the start of the Games to address any issues and verify that all Doping Control Stations (DCS) are fully equipped.</li> <li>- Capitalize on capacity building conducted for local stakeholders in Ghana to accelerate the operationalization of their newly established NADO.</li> </ul>
Results Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Connect AUC with the African Continental Panel.</li> <li>- Support provided in constitution of the AUC Results Management Panel, in line with the provisions of the AUC rules.</li> <li>- Sharing of all the relevant resources with AUC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Results Management Panel for the Games constituted for a four-year term with 8 members from 7 different African countries including Ghana.</li> <li>- Support from RADO VI &amp; North Africa RADO on initial review process for AUC.</li> <li>- 5 potential Anti-Doping Rule Violations managed by AUC (one during the Games and four after)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For future events, contact members of Results Management Panels and TUE Committees well in advance of the event to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities as well procedures in place during the event.</li> <li>- Once finalized, publish all relevant information regarding the composition of their Results Management Panel and TUEC on MEO website for clarity and consistency.</li> <li>- For both the Results Management Panel and TUEC, ensure continuity by keeping members</li> </ul>

<p>Therapeutic Use Exemptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support the development of TUE forms and process documents to ensure alignment and coordination with anti-doping rules.</li> <li>- Support provided in constitution of TUEC, in line with provisions of anti-doping rules.</li> </ul>	<p>according to relevant provisions of anti-doping rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approved TUE form and process published on AUC website in advance of the Games.</li> <li>- Effective communication with the TUEC constituted for a four-year term with 15 members from 8 different African member countries.</li> <li>- TUEC received training material and pertinent information on the TUE process.</li> <li>- Two TUEs received by the TUEC for assessment.</li> </ul>	<p>engaged and active in the period between events so that they remain updated and operational notably by encouraging members in being involved in other national, regional, international panel and to be nominated for further education e.g. GLDF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ghana to ensure that they benefit from the local Panel and Committee members within their national anti-doping program.</li> </ul>
<p>Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Material and modules provided from Anti-Doping Education and Learning platform (ADEL) to assist with Pre-Games education and awareness programs.</li> <li>- Support provided through intervention of Athlete Engagement programs experts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pre-Games education material communicated to participants during Chef de Mission meetings and when sharing information packaged for the Games.</li> <li>- Training conducted by ADAK for 10 Educators from Ghana.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that the requirements of the ISE are met including those related to event-based education, including establishing an education pool, developing an education program and delivering an education plan.</li> <li>- Strengthen the pre-Games education program by setting clear pre-Games education requirements for athletes and ASP, increasing cooperation and communication with NADOs, NOCs or any relevant actors.</li> <li>- Make completion of relevant courses and modules on ADEL or any other platform or ADO pre-Games education program mandatory for participation.</li> <li>- Develop education activities to be delivered at the event to target groups.</li> <li>- Ensure that efficient education programs are organized, even if with limited financial means.</li> <li>- Ensure the event-based education program is monitored and evaluated.</li> <li>- Ghana NOC, and the future NADO, to make use of the experience gained by educators and the material available to strengthen its educational activities.</li> </ul>

Athlete Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support the work conducted by WADA Athlete Engagement Team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Athlete Engagement program conducted with participation from several different delegations.</li> <li>- Five National trained educators volunteered during the event to maintain the Athlete Engagement booth alive after the departure of athlete leader and WADA team with the support of an expert from CNAD present during the Games.</li> <li>- Athlete Engagement material remained available for Ghana NOC future activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> </ul>
Confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Templates provided to assist with development of Declaration of Confidentiality and Conflict of interest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Declaration of Confidentiality and Conflict of interest developed and signed by all relevant stakeholders within the anti-doping program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop an efficient Data Privacy policy in advance of future events to ensure that all individuals can complete and sign the relevant forms and documents prior to being involved in the anti-doping program</li> </ul>



## B. Project Overview

In this report, we will first outline the initial situation for the Games' anti-doping program prior to the intervention of the MEAL Program, we will then provide an overview of the Program's methodology and activities, and in conclusion we will provide a summary of the achievements of the intervention as well as the recommendations for the way forward.

### i. State of play prior to the project (October 2023)

Before describing the situation when the MEAL intervention officially started, it is worth mentioning that the African Games in Accra were originally scheduled for the first half of 2023 without any anti-doping responsibilities for the AUC. Following the postponement of the event to March 2024, the AUC took the decision to apply to become a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code, which became effective in October 2023.

#### ➤ Coordination between stakeholders

- Prior to the MEAL intervention, there had been little contact between AUC anti-doping representatives and the Accra 2023 Medical & Anti-Doping Commissions regarding the preparation of the Games' anti-doping program. No clear project plan or list of actions had been developed to guide their activities, as roles and responsibilities remained unclear, as did AUC's expectations and requirements.
- Contacts between the Ghana NOC/interim NADO Committee (was it not more the interim NADO Committee) and ADAK were already well established, with a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two organizations in 2022. However, further discussions were needed to put the support mechanisms and cooperation into practice, as few activities had taken place.
- Regarding contacts with WADA, the AUC was in close contact with the Africa Office and the Compliance Unit to finalize the signatory status and the preparation and adoption of the anti-doping rules. There was also regular contact between the Ghana NOC and the Africa Office to facilitate the participation of the SCP in the event.
- Although initial discussions were held among the stakeholders, roles and responsibilities were not clearly defined, nor was the involvement of regional ADOs and SCPs.

#### ➤ Rules and Regulations

- The AUC had just adopted anti-doping rules which had been declared compliant with the Code by the WADA Compliance Unit. However, no specific planning had been done to consider how the practical implementation of certain provisions, including results management, would take place.
- The AUC had not yet published the rules on its website.
- AUC was considering the possibility of developing an anti-doping guide to be shared with relevant stakeholders, but many areas remained to be completed before it was in a position to proceed with the work.

#### ➤ Testing

- No specific RA or TDP had been developed.
- Initial discussion had already taken place with regional experts with the capacity of supporting AUC in developing and implementing an effective testing program but no agreement at this stage.
- The number of trained and accredited SCP in Ghana was very limited, with no practical experience in international events.
- No provisions had been made for the recruitment of international SCP to support the testing program.
- No contact with manufacturers regarding the acquisition of a sufficient number of sample collection kits. Initial contacts was made with different WADA-accredited Labs to discuss cooperation. However, due to the fact that the relevant information for the testing program was not yet available, this was still pending.
- The AUC was only in the process of creating an active account on ADAMS and did not have any trained officials that could manage the system during the Games.

➤ **Results Management**

- An independent Results Management Panel had not been composed to address any potential Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV), as outlined in the adopted rules.
- No trained personnel were available to conduct the initial review of potential ADRVs.

➤ **Therapeutic Use Exemptions**

- A TUE application form had not been developed and declared in-line with the Code and International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (ISTUE) by WADA. In addition, the form and process were not published on AUC's website.
- A TUEC had not been composed to evaluate and decide on TUE applications, as outlined in the adopted Rules.

➤ **Confidentiality**

- No policies, procedures or documents had been developed to ensure the confidentiality of the information related to the anti-doping program.

➤ **Education**

- There was no education program, pool or plan established.
- Contact had not yet been made with participating countries to ensure that pre-Games anti-doping education is provided to all participants.
- Relevant material and courses on WADA's ADEL had not been shared by the AUC.
- Ghana did not have any trained and accredited Educators that could participate in the Games' anti-doping education program. However, initial discussions with ADAK in the framework of the MoU already took place.

➤ **Athlete Engagement**

- Initial discussions with WADA Athlete Engagement Team (outside of the scope of the MEAL intervention)

- The discussion to guarantee the sustainability of the activity for the remainder of the event after the departure of athlete leader and WADA staff had not started.

## ii. Methodology of intervention and activities

### ➤ Coordination between stakeholders

As was the case with previous MEAL Program interventions, WADA suggested establishing a Pre-Games Anti-Doping Coordination Committee to oversee the preparations, developments and implementation of the program.

With an initial meeting in October 2023, the Coordination Committee was composed of the following representatives:

Name	Organization	Title
Samuel Ogbondeminu	AUC	Chair Head, Medical and Anti-doping Portfolio, TCAG 13th AG, Accra 2023
Decius Chipande	AUC	Coordinator of the African Union Sport Council, TCAG 13th AG, Accra 2023
Lina Kessy	AUC	Senior Sport Officer, member TCAG 13th AG, Accra 2023
Beatrice Dwumfour Williams	Accra 2023	LOC Medical and Anti-doping subcommittee, Accra 2023
Kwadwo Marfo Obeng	Accra 2023	LOC Medical and Anti-doping subcommittee, Accra 2023
Prince Pambo	Accra 2023	LOC Medical and Anti-doping subcommittee, Accra 2023
Prince Azanu	Ghana NOC	Representative – GOC
Rym Zerifi	North Africa RADO	Executive Manager
Andrew B. Kamanga	Africa Zone VI RADO	Manager
Richard Akpokavie	Ghana NOC	Representative – GOC
Valentin Capelli	WADA	Manager – Sport Movement Relations & MEAL Program
Sameh Elray	WADA	Manager – Africa Office

Bi-weekly Coordination Committee meetings and weekly coordination meetings in the final weeks prior to the Games were held to discuss the developments and agree on the way forward for the anti-doping program. Despite the different participants' busy schedules and the important number of uncertainties accompanying the preparation of the Games, the majority of them managed to maintain consistent and active participation, which was instrumental to guarantee progress in the plan implementation.



### ➤ Rules and Regulations

- The Coordination Committee consulted the approved and adopted anti-doping rules to decide on the practical steps that will be taken to implement some of their provisions. This included discussions on the composition of a Results Management Panel, a TUEEC, and the engagement of other ADOs to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities, among others.
- Through support from WADA at the Coordination Committee meetings, amendments were made to ensure alignment with the anti-doping rules. The guide was published on the AUC website and sent to all participating delegations close to the Games.

### ➤ Testing

- Through the leadership of the North Africa and Africa Zone VI RADOs during the Coordination Committee meetings, the AUC managed to develop a RA and TDP to guide the activities of the testing program including for the first time in African Games the conduct of DBS testing. Delays in receiving the final athletes' participation list as well as the final planning of competitions forced the team to be flexible and prevented further coordination with WADA testing and I&I team that could have strengthened the intelligence-based approach adopted.
- Few weeks before the event, ADAK facilitated an in-person training of SCP in Ghana. During this training, 16 DCOs were trained by ADAK to support International DCOs for the implementation of the testing program during the Games.
- In addition to the DCOs, ADAK also facilitated training for chaperones to support the implementation of the testing program.
- Following discussions at the Coordination Committee, it was agreed that the presence of international and experienced SCP was necessary to guarantee the quality of the testing program. Following Coordination Committee members' advice, 15 International DCOs from the region were recruited. In particular, ADAK facilitated the presence of an experienced DCO from their organization to oversee the involvement of locally trained DCOs and chaperones in the SCP team. The many logistical challenges on the ground confirmed that the presence of the IDCs was critical to the success of the program.



- The Coordination Committee allowed for continuous discussions between AUC, Accra 2023 and the RADO managers, which allowed them to finalize all details regarding the purchase of sample collection kits as well as the signing of an agreement with the WADA-accredited laboratory in Lausanne just before the start of the Games.

### ➤ **Results Management**

- After several discussions at the Coordination Committee meetings, the AUC managed to compose an independent Results Management Panel for the Games to address potential ADRVs, as per the provisions of their approved and adopted anti-doping rules. Discussion are currently taking place to ensure the continuity of activities with Panel members.
- The Panel is composed of 6 members of the African Continental Results Management Panel from 6 different member countries and two experts from Ghana. The Panel members have been nominated for a period of four years.
- Two individuals oversaw the conducting of the Initial Review process for all potential Anti-Doping Rule Violations for the AUC with the support of the North Africa and Africa Zone VI RADOs. In addition, WADA provided the necessary material and templates to facilitate the delivery of activities.

### ➤ **Therapeutic Use Exemptions**

- As per the provisions of their approved and adopted anti-doping rules, the AUC managed to compose a TUEC to evaluate and decide on incoming applications for the Games.
- The Committee was composed of 15 members from 8 different African countries and included one representative from Ghana. The Committee members were nominated for a period of four years.

### ➤ **Confidentiality**

- Despite a delay in the process, the AUC developed a Declaration of Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest. Which was communicated to and signed by all relevant stakeholders within the anti-doping program. WADA assisted by providing relevant guidelines and templates to develop the document.

➤ **Education**

- Following discussions at the Coordination Committee, and several recommendations by WADA, the relevant ADEL modules and courses were shared with the delegations and participants were strongly encouraged to complete them before the Games.
- Aspart of their MoU and in prevision of the Games, ADAK trained a group of Educators from Ghana that could be used to support potential activities during the event.

➤ **Athlete Engagement**

- WADA agreed with the AUC to deliver its Athlete Engagement program with a booth at the Athletes' Village (outside of the scope of MEAL program activities).
- The Coordination Committee agreed on the necessity to prolong activities beyond WADA's involvement.
- WADA facilitated the participation of a regional Education Officer from CNAD (NADO Algeria) to support the volunteers after the departure of Athlete leaders.

### iii. **Achievements and legacy**

➤ **Coordination between stakeholders**

- While the Coordination Committee model once again proved to be very fruitful in obtaining tangible cooperation from the various stakeholders and allowing much progress to be made in a limited period of time, some challenges could have been better addressed with more realistic feedback from the Committee members.
- Coordination Committee members, managed to have in-person meetings during the Games to discuss the developments and necessary actions for the anti-doping program.
- While the cooperation in the run-up to the Games was commendable, there were some miscommunications during the event, mainly due to different interpretations of the roles and responsibilities of the various parties, as well as difficulties in working with other functional areas of the LOC.
- The support provided by the WADA MEAL Team continued during the Games through participation in an Advisory Group which also included two experienced experts from NADO Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Advisory Group had two main objectives:
  - Observe and support the implementation of the anti-doping program during the Games;
  - Provide feedback to the operational team via daily meetings.
- Thanks to the support of the Games operational team and SCP, the Advisory Group members had full access to the Doping Control Command Center (DCCC) and all DCS to observe the operations team in action, as well as sample collection. It should be noted, however, that circumstances on the ground led the Advisory Team experts to become involved in the implementation of the program, in consultation with the Coordination Committee.
- Nonetheless, the various stakeholders overcame the difficulties and ensured that work continued in good conditions.

## ➤ Rules and Regulations

- Following the discussions held at the Coordination Committee meetings prior to the Games, the AUC managed to develop concrete methods to implement the provisions included in their anti-doping rules and guide.

## ➤ Testing

- As a result of the fruitful discussions at the Coordination Committee meetings, the AUC and RADO experts were able to adjust the games RA and TDP to reflect the information received as part of the revised competition calendar and athlete participation list. However, the operational team had to be reactive and flexible to adapt the documents daily to the many challenges on the ground, including the lack of an accurate rooming list to conduct out-of-competition testing.
- With the support of the RADO experts and despite the delay in receiving the list of participants, the AUC managed to contact the relevant ADOs to obtain testing recommendations and intelligence to strengthen their anti-doping program.
- The last-minute cancellation of a test event in February 2024 did not allow the Coordination Committee to identify key challenges such as courier pick-up and transportation or inadequate DCS before arriving in Ghana and jeopardized some of the planned activities, in particular the collection of out-of-competition samples.
- At the start of the event, the inventory provided was inadequate, necessitating last-minute efforts to source additional supplies, including DCFs and refractometers from other NADOs and RADOs.
- The AUC, although deviating from the original plan, still managed to implement an ambitious testing program, with 647 tests conducted during the Games, including, for the first time in the African Games, 12 DBS analyses.
- The newly trained DCOs from Ghana, the most advanced of whom were given progressively more responsibility until they conducted the entire Sample Collection Session under the supervision of the IDCOs. Despite their limited previous experience of international events, they were able to perform their duties efficiently with dedication, creativity and commitment. WADA facilitated the participation of an expert from ADAK to assist with coordination between the operational team and the local SCP.



- The 15 international DCOs proved to be a key asset to the Games' testing program. Particularly as the majority of local DCOs and chaperones were newly trained, the international DCOs played a pivotal role as DCS managers. Despite the challenges on the ground, they were able to provide guidance and support to the DCOs as needed, resulting in a very productive working relationship.
- With the assistance of the North Africa RADO expert, the appropriate sample collection kits were purchased and delivered, the agreement with the WADA-accredited laboratory in Lausanne, Switzerland, was signed, and an arrangement was made with the courier company to transport the samples to the laboratory.
- With regards to ADAMS, the AUC managed to activate its account in advance of the Games. All DCFs were entered into the system in a timely manner, despite major obstacles caused by challenges with the ADAMS system and internet outage during the event.

### ➤ **Results Management**

- The AUC Results Management Panel was duly constituted but the relevant information regarding its composition were only later communicated to delegations.
- At the time of writing this report, the AUC is prosecuting five potential ADRVs. If needed, the cases can be referred to the Results Management Panel.

### ➤ **Therapeutic Use Exemptions**

- All of the relevant information and forms regarding TUEs were published on the Games website in advance of the event.
- The TUEC was operational during the Games, and the details regarding its composition were made available to delegations.
- Two TUE applications were received and dealt with during the Games.

### ➤ **Confidentiality**

- While the Declaration of Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest documents were ready prior to the Games, completion by all relevant stakeholders involved with the anti-doping program were only completed once the event started.

### ➤ **Education**

- The relevant modules and materials were provided by the AUC in the information package sent to the delegations so that participants could consult and complete them prior to the Games.
- The AUC had intended to link the approval of registration to the presentation of an anti-doping education certificate, but the overall challenges of the registration process forced them to revise their plan.
- While the 10 local educators have not been used to deliver in person education, they volunteered in the Athlete Engagement booth and will hopefully continue to be engaged with the future NADO in Ghana for future activities.,

### ➤ **Athlete Engagement**



- Athlete Engagement materials were created specifically for the event and handed over to the Ghanaian NOC for future use.
- The important number of technical issues at the Village prevented athlete leaders present onsite to deliver as much activities as expected with the Athlete Engagement program but the presence of one WADA Regional Office staff, one education officer from the CNAD and the volunteers allowed the implementation of an efficient Athlete Engagement program once all technical issues had been resolved by the organizers.
- The program was present in the Athletes Village and promoted daily in the Village cafeteria.
- The program reached various participants from different delegations who were informed of their rights and responsibilities under the anti-doping program. Various tools, such as the WADA Play True Quiz, were used to deliver clean sport messages in a smooth and direct manner.



#### iv. Recommendations for AUC, other involved stakeholders and other MEOs

##### ➤ Coordination between stakeholders

- Due to the high level of success that the model has presented so far, it is recommended for AUC to maintain the Coordination Committee structure, specifically for similar sized events, to allow for fruitful discussions between stakeholders.
- Building on this first experience, the AUC should reinforce the anti-doping provisions in the host city contract to detail its expectations to the LOC in the early stage of the process.
- It is notably recommended to guarantee that other LOC functional areas are fully aware of the specificities of anti-doping activities including for transportation and meals as well as accreditations and access to stadium areas.
- The AUC should explore possibilities of involving additional ADOs on a consultative basis (e.g. IFs and NADOs) to increase pre-games activities on testing and education.

- Through the Coordination Committee model, it is strongly recommended to have transparent conversations between the different stakeholders in order to ensure that an accurate and realistic way forward can be determined on all pertinent issues.
- When agreements are signed, it is preferable to produce a short document outlining the responsibilities that each party is committed to covering, in order to avoid confusion and miscommunication.

### ➤ Rules and Regulations

- While the development of Code-compliant rules is an essential step for any anti-doping program, it is as equally important to ensure, before their adoption, that the provisions of those rules can be implemented by the relevant organizations. It is therefore recommended for the AUC and other MEOs to consult internally with the relevant stakeholders prior to finalizing the adoption of anti-doping rules.

### ➤ Testing

- For the development of documents such as the RA and TDP, an event remains highly dependent on the provision of information and documents such as the calendars for competitions, the athletes' participation list as well as the relevant rooming information. As such, it is strongly recommended for AUC and the LOC to ensure that these documents are provided to the ADOs involved in the event as early as possible, even if subsequent changes will occur. This would allow for the strengthening of AUC anti-doping program, increasing the opportunity for pre-Games, out-of-competition testing, as well as continue diversifying sample collection methods (e.g. Blood testing, DBS testing).
- International and experienced SCP continue to prove that they constitute a positive addition to anti-doping programs. As such, it is recommended for AUC and other MEOs to ensure that budgetary provisions are made for their presence going forward.
- For AUC and other MEO it is also crucial that all financial arrangements are clearly taken into account and communicated by the LOC and agreed by all personnel involved in the Games prior to the start of their mission.
- Courier arrangements have proven to be a critical issue during the African Games that can have direct impact on the anti-doping program. As such, it is recommended that sufficient attention is given by AUC and the LOC it in the preparation phase for any event. If possible, the organization of a test event can provide an important estimated depiction, thus allowing for potential issues to be addressed in a timely manner.



- It is strongly recommended for Ghana to ensure that they optimally use the human resources trained and the capacity built as part of the Games. Now that accredited DCOs and access to ADAMS are available, this should be directly reflected in the activities of their national anti-doping program.

#### ➤ **Results Management & Therapeutic Use Exemptions**

- It is strongly suggested for the AUC to ensure continuous communication between the Panel and Committee members in the period between events to ensure that they remain active and up to date with the latest developments. The AUC must also consider ways to ensure continued training for these Committee member including via Global Learning & Development Framework (GLDF) program.
- It is important for Ghana and other ADOs to utilize the experts trained as part of this program in the context of their own national anti-doping program.
- When composing a new Panel or Committee, it is recommended to ensure that all relevant information is communicated to the members well in advance, and that clarity is provided regarding the expectations in terms of workload and availability.

#### ➤ **Confidentiality**

- Due to the sensitive nature of the information shared as part of anti-doping programs, it is strongly recommended for the AUC to ensure that the developed Data Privacy documents will be updated and used in the next edition of the Games to ensure that all relevant declarations are signed and completed by all relevant individuals before the start of preparations for the anti-doping program.

#### ➤ **Education**

- The sharing of relevant ADEL modules and courses has proven to be an effective tool to encourage the organization of pre-Games education. Accordingly, and to further encourage participation, it is strongly recommended that the AUC make the completion of relevant courses on ADEL mandatory for individuals participating in a Major Event, including athletes, coaches and medical professionals.
- It is essential for the AUC that a clear education program and plan are developed in advance of the event and any requirements communicated early to participating countries, ADOs, athletes and ASPs, especially if testing is to take place at the event.
- Ghana is strongly encouraged to utilize the experience and creativity of their newly accredited educators to continue the development and delivery of their education programs as part of their national anti-doping program.
- Similarly to the testing program, the effectiveness of pre-Games education activities is highly dependent on athletes' participant list and the smooth cooperation with the sending delegations and the responsible ADOs.

#### ➤ **Athlete Engagement**

- The AUC must ensure that arrangements are made early in the preparation process to ensure that the Athlete Engagement program discussed with WADA is in place when the first athletes arrive at the Village.