



ADVANCING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, COMPETITION, AND INSTITUTIONAL GROWTH



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

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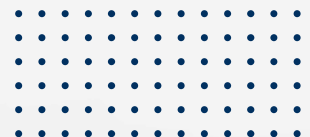
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

ACC ONLINE MEET-AND-GREET

AFRICA AT FIDE JUNIOR U-20

AFRICAN JUNIOR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2025

ACC COMBINED MEDAL RANKING 2025



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Greetings to the African Chess Confederation family,

The year 2025 presented its challenges, but it also marked a period of significant progress and historic achievement for African chess. Our continent continued to assert itself on the global stage, highlighted by Abdulrahman Salem's gold medal victory at the 2025 FIDE World Youth/Cadets Championship (U-12) the third such achievement by an African player in nearly two decades.

Team Africa also delivered commendable performances at the FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Team Championship, with our sincere appreciation to World Logistics for their valued support. At continental level, we strengthened collaboration through online engagements and launched the African Online Chess League, a flagship initiative promoting inclusivity, gender balance, youth development, and participation of players with disabilities.

The African Individual Chess Championship in Egypt saw GM Bilel Bellahcene become the first Algerian to win the champion title. While WGM Shrook Wafa claimed her fifth title. Kenya hosted a record-breaking African Individual Schools Chess Championship in Mombasa with over 1,000 players from 12 nations, and Cape Verde proudly staged its first ACC event with the African Junior Chess Championship.

Beyond our borders, Africa was represented at the inaugural China-Africa Friendship Chess Tournament, while capacity building remained central to our mission, with five members graduating from the ECU Chess in Education course.

As you read this annual report, you will encounter stories of growth, resilience, and unity. I extend my sincere gratitude to our players, officials, sponsors, and federations for their continued dedication. Together, we are shaping a strong and promising future for African chess.

Warm regards,



TSHEPISO LOPANG

ACC PRESIDENT



More Info

www.africachessconfederation.com

STRENGTHENING BONDS AND SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AFRICAN CHESS

We began the year with an Online Meet and Greet that brought together chess stakeholders from across the African continent. The purpose of this engagement was to strengthen collaboration, foster open dialogue, and align our shared vision for the development of chess in Africa.

It provided a valuable platform for federations, officials, arbiters, technical officials and organizers to exchange ideas and collectively chart the course for the year ahead. The sessions were graced on the final day by FIDE President, Arkady Dvorkovich, whose participation underscored the growing partnership between FIDE and the African Chess Confederation.

During his address, President Dvorkovich reaffirmed FIDE's commitment to supporting the African Chess Confederation in hosting an increased number of continental competitions.

Notably, two new competitions the African Chess Online League and the African Super Zonal Championship were established during these Meet and Greet Sessions.

Reflecting on these milestones, the African Chess Confederation President Tshepiso Lopang expressed appreciation and optimism:

'The support from FIDE and our member federations was a strong testament to the growing recognition of African chess. The Online League brought together youth players, players with disabilities, and senior players from across the continent demonstrating that African chess is truly inclusive and dynamic.'

Meanwhile, the Super Zonal Championship united several Zonal Champions in one competitive arena, with winners earning qualification spots for prestigious global events which are the FIDE Grand Swiss and the Chess Grand Prix.'

SOUTH AFRICA MAKES ITS MARK AT THE FIDE WORLD CADETS AND YOUTH RAPID AND BLITZ 2025

The sun-soaked arenas of Greece were alive with chess fever as the 2025 FIDE World Cadets and Youth Rapid and Blitz Championship brought together young minds from across the globe.

Representing the African Chess Confederation were South Africa and Tunisia, with South Africa making a particularly strong statement.

The South African team was the second largest delegation at the event, fielding an impressive 102 players just 12 fewer than the host nation. Young talents from across the country showcased their skills on the world stage, with the majority scoring 5 points or more, underlining the growing strength and depth of youth chess in South Africa.





AFRICA'S RISING STARS SHINE AT THE FIDE WORLD JUNIOR UNDER 20 CHAMPIONSHIP 2025



HAMED Wafa

Africa's chess talent was on full display at the FIDE World Junior U20 Championship 2025, where Egypt, Kenya and Tunisia proudly flew the continent's flag. The trio of nations represented the African Chess Confederation with determination and spirit, competing against some of the world's most promising young players.

Leading the African charge was Egyptian sensation IM Hamed Wafa, who turned heads with his solid performance, finishing with 5½ points. His compatriot, FM David George, also impressed, ending the campaign matching Wafa's tally of 5½ points.

In the girls' section, WIM Joy Romany of Egypt and Kenya's Zuri Kaloki demonstrated resilience and skill, securing 4 and 3½ points respectively. Their participation reflected not only individual growth but also the steady progress of African women's chess on the international stage.



JOY ROMANY



ZURI KALOKI

The championship once again reaffirmed Africa's growing footprint in global youth chess, with young talents gaining invaluable experience and continuing to bridge the competitive gap with the world's best.

The African Chess Confederation extends heartfelt appreciation to all the players for their dedication, the coaches and team managers for their guidance, and the respective federations and governments for their continued support in developing youth chess. Together, their collective efforts continue to shape a stronger, more competitive future for African chess on the world stage.

2025 AFRICAN INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP-CHAMPIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS



The 2025 African Individual Chess Championship concluded with remarkable performances across the open and women's sections.

GM Bilel Bellahcene of Algeria emerged as the open section champion, ending Egypt's nine-year streak and becoming the first Algerian to claim the title. In the women's section, WGM Shrook Wafa of Egypt secured her fifth championship title, making history as the first player to achieve five titles in this category and joining Bassem Amin, the only other player with five or more continental titles, in African chess history.

Bassem Amin and Ahmed Adly completed the open section podium in second and third place, respectively.

The championship also showcased the continent's rising talent. Junior players Hamed Wafa and David George were recognized as the best U18 and U14 performers, respectively, both finishing within the top ten.

In the women's section, Lina Nassr and Jana Mohamed finished second and third, with Jana Mohamed, Dema Alaa, and Joy Romany standing out as the best players gaining valuable FIDE rating points, underlining the event's role in nurturing emerging talent.

The African Chess Confederation expresses sincere appreciation to the Egyptian government for its steadfast support, continuing to be a dependable partner in advancing chess across Africa.

A MOVE TOWARD HOPE ZIMBABWE'S HISTORIC TRIUMPH IN CONTINENTAL PRISON CHESS

Behind prison walls, where opportunity is often limited, chess created a pathway to purpose and hope. At the Inaugural Online Continental Chess Championships for Prisoners, Zimbabwe made history by emerging as overall champions, with both their men's and women's teams winning gold against competitors from Malawi, Kenya, and Ghana.

More than a sporting victory, the achievement reflected the rehabilitative power of chess. Long-time inmates Leo Matibe and Nicholas Damota, who previously represented Zimbabwe at the 2021 Intercontinental event, once again played key roles. For Matibe, the title symbolized "a step in the right direction," describing chess as a source of healing, dignity, and mental freedom.

Zimbabwe's men's team went undefeated, while the women's team delivered an equally commanding performance a sign of the growing strength and inclusivity of chess programs within correctional facilities. In the Youth Category, Ghana 1 Youth claimed top honours, highlighting chess's expanding role in guiding young offenders across Africa.

This landmark championship reaffirmed a powerful message for the African Chess Confederation: chess is not only a game of competition, but a tool for education, rehabilitation, and renewed hope.



KENYA SHINES AT RECORD - BREAKING 2025 AFRICAN INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Kenya proudly hosted the 2025 African Schools Individual Chess Championship (ASICC), a landmark event that brought together 11 African nations in a thrilling celebration of young chess talent. The tournament made history as the most attended ASICC ever, attracting an impressive 1,109 participants, with the host nation fielding a record 999 players.

Kenya's young stars rose to the occasion, fully capitalizing on home advantage to dominate the championship. The hosts claimed a remarkable 22 out of the 36 medals on offer a clear reflection of the nation's growing strength and investment in youth chess development. Uganda followed in second place with six medals, while South Africa secured third place with two medals.

Among the standout performances was Namibia's Frederick Cronje, who ended his country's six-year medal drought in continental chess by capturing gold in the Under-9 Open category a proud and historic moment for Namibian chess.

In the Under-17 Open, South Africa's Jorah Soojay produced a flawless performance, winning gold with a perfect score. His compatriot Weilun Yan followed closely with silver, completing a dominant 1-2 finish for South Africa in that category.

Meanwhile, Uganda's Juliet Asaba made a remarkable international debut, clinching gold in the Under-13 Open. Her inspiring performance marked the beginning of what promises to be a bright international chess journey.



The African Chess Confederation extends its heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Kenya for its unwavering support and partnership in hosting this historic championship. The event's success was made possible through the dedication of countless volunteers, the generosity of sponsors, and the hospitality of the Kenyan people, whose collective efforts ensured the smooth running of every aspect of the tournament.

This edition of the ASICC will be remembered not only for its record breaking participation but also for the unity, passion, and sportsmanship that continue to define Africa chess.

OLISA AND NASSR CROWNED INAUGURAL ACC SUPER ZONAL CHAMPIONS IN LAGOS



Tennyson Olisa and Lina Nassr emerged as the inaugural champions of the ACC Super Zonal Chess Championship, hosted in Lagos, Nigeria, marking a historic milestone for African chess.

Olisa claimed the title in commanding fashion, finishing on 7½ points out of 9. His impressive campaign included a single loss to Shrook Wafa and a hard-fought draw against silver medalist Lina Nassr. Nassr secured 6½ points, recording six victories, one draw, and two defeats to claim the silver medal after a highly competitive tournament.

The two youthful chess sensations earned qualification tickets to represent Africa at the FIDE World Cup 2025 and the FIDE Grand Swiss, further underlining the championship's role as a key pathway for elite African talent to the global stage.

The African Chess Confederation (ACC) extends its sincere gratitude to the Nigeria Chess Federation and the Government of Nigeria, through the Nigerian National Sports Commission, for successfully hosting the maiden edition of the ACC Super Zonal Championship.

ACC Vice President Nadezhda Marochkina commended the players for their commitment and fighting spirit, praising the historic significance of the event.

“This first edition of the ACC Super Zonal Championship has set a strong foundation for the future. The level of competition, professionalism, and passion shown by the players was truly encouraging. We believe this championship will continue to grow bigger and stronger, becoming one of Africa’s most important platforms for producing world-class chess players,” said Marochkina.

The successful staging of the inaugural Super Zonal Championship represents a major step forward in the ACC’s ongoing efforts to strengthen elite competition and elevate African chess on the world stage.

MOHAMED JANA AND HAMED Wafa CROWNED 2025 AFRICAN JUNIOR CHESS CHAMPIONS IN HISTORIC CAPE VERDE EVENT

Mohamed Jana and Hamed Wafa of Egypt emerged as the champions of the 2025 African Junior Chess Championship, hosted in Cape Verde Islands marking the nation's first-ever hosting of an African Chess Confederation (ACC) event.

Entering the championship as top seeds, both players lived up to expectations with commanding performances that underlined their dominance on the continental junior chess stage.

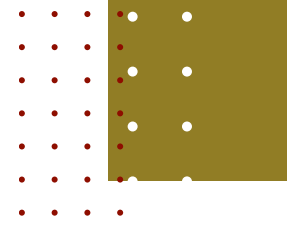
In the Open section, defending champion Hamed Wafa successfully retained his title, finishing with an impressive 8 points from nine rounds. His campaign included seven victories and two draws, the latter against David George and Xavier Mompel, who went on to claim the silver and bronze medals respectively.

The Girls section saw Jana Mohamed deliver a composed and unbeaten performance, scoring 7½ points from six wins and three draws to secure the championship title. She finished ahead of Uganda's Sana Omprakash, who took silver, while Kenya's Zuri Kaloki completed the podium with a bronze medal.

African Chess Confederation Vice President Nadezhda Marochkina commended Cape Verde Islands for the successful organization of their inaugural ACC event, praising the hosts for their professionalism, hospitality, and commitment to chess development. She expressed confidence in Cape Verde's growing capacity to host more continental competitions in the future, noting that this championship marked an important step in expanding ACC activities to new territories across Africa.



ABDALRAHMAN SAMEH WINS FIDE U-12 GOLD, BECOMING AFRICA'S THIRD FIDE WORLD CHAMPION



Abdalahman Sameh etched his name into African chess history after winning the gold medal at the 2025 FIDE World Under-12 Chess Championship, becoming only the third African player to win a FIDE world competition.

His triumph places him in an exclusive group of African champions who have reached the pinnacle of FIDE-organized world events. Before Abdelrahman's historic achievement, only two African players had managed this remarkable feat.



In 2007, Adly became the first African to win a FIDE world title after claiming the World Junior Chess Championship, while Yassine Rafik (U1700) added to the continent's legacy by winning the World Amateur Chess Championship in 2024.

Reacting to Abdalahman's achievement, the President of the African Chess Confederation (ACC) Tshepiso Lopang praised the young champion and highlighted the broader significance of the victory.

"This is a historic and deeply proud moment for African chess," said the ACC President. "For Abdelrahman to win a FIDE World Championship at Under-12 level shows that Africa's future in chess is exceptionally bright. This is not an isolated success it is the result of years of deliberate investment in youth development, structured competitions, and capacity building across the continent."

The ACC President further emphasized the inspirational value of the achievement:

"Abdalahman's gold medal sends a powerful message to every young African player the world stage is within reach. He now joins an elite group alongside Adly and Yassine Rafik, whose achievements have paved the way and raised Africa's profile in global chess."

Abdalahman's U-12 world title stands as a defining milestone for African chess, reinforcing the continent's growing competitiveness and affirming its place among the world's leading chess regions. As Africa continues to produce champions capable of excelling at the highest level, Abdalahman's victory will be remembered as both a triumph of talent and a beacon of possibility for generations to come.

ZAMBIA CLINCHES DOUBLE GOLD AT 2025 AFRICAN AMATEUR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP IN BURUNDI



Constance Mbatha and Thomas Zulu of Zambia were crowned champions of the 2025 African Amateur Chess Championship, which was successfully hosted in Bujumbura, Burundi.

In the Open Section, Zulu who entered the championship as the second seed delivered a commanding performance to clinch the gold medal with an impressive 8½ points out of 9. His campaign comprised eight victories and a single draw, the latter coming against top seed Madol Garang, who settled for the silver medal.

Kenya's Sasha Mongeli produced a standout showing to secure the bronze medal, while fellow competitor Sana Omprakash narrowly missed the podium, finishing fourth overall an encouraging sign of growing female participation and competitiveness in the Open Section.



The Women's Section belonged entirely to Zambia as Constance Mbatha completed a flawless campaign, scoring a perfect 9 out of 9 to secure the gold medal and ensure a clean gold sweep for her country. Uganda's Merceline Mirembe claimed the silver medal, while host nation representative Bennis Kwizera delighted the home crowd by securing bronze.

Beyond the chessboard, the championship marked a historic milestone for African chess administration, with Mona El-Laboudy becoming the first female Chief Arbiter at an African Chess Confederation (ACC) event. Her appointment underscored the ACC's firm commitment to gender equity and its resolve to provide equal opportunities for all arbiters based on merit and professionalism.

The President of the African Chess Confederation expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Burundi for its unwavering support, describing the country as "an all-weather friend of African chess" and commending its continued openness to hosting continental championships.



KENYA EMERGES AS TOP MEDAL-WINNING NATION AT AYCC 2025

Kenya emerged as the leading nation at the 16th African Youth Chess Championship (AYCC) 2025, topping the medal standings among the 16 participating countries. Team Kenya finished in first position overall with an impressive haul of 10 medals, comprising four gold, two silver, and four bronze medals.

This achievement marked a historic milestone for Kenyan chess, as it was the first time since the championship's inception in 1976 that Kenya claimed overall continental honours at the African Youth Chess Championship.

Kenya secured gold medals in the Under-16 Open, Under-14 Girls, Under-10 Open, and Under-10 Girls categories. The team also earned silver medals in the Under-14 Open and Under-12 Girls, while bronze medals were collected in the Under-8 Open, Under-8 Girls, Under-12 Open, and Under-14 Girls categories.

The outstanding performance underscored the team's tactical strength, composure under pressure, and remarkable consistency against some of Africa's most promising young chess talents. Kenya's success further reflected the positive impact of sustained investment in youth development programmes and structured support for chess at grassroots and elite junior levels.

Team Kenya's dominant showing at AYCC 2025 not only highlighted the nation's growing stature in African chess but also reinforced the broader continental progress in youth chess development. The championship provided a fitting platform for young players to demonstrate excellence, ambition, and the future potential of African chess.



TEAM MOTHER CONTINENT: AFRICA'S HEARTBEAT ON THE WORLD STAGE

The African Chess Confederation proudly reflects on the participation of Team Mother Continent at the 2025 FIDE World Rapid Championship, held in London, United Kingdom. The event brought together 52 teams from across the globe, representing the highest level of international competitive chess.

Seeded 31st, Team Mother Continent concluded the championship in 29th position, recording four wins, four draws, and four losses. This result marked a commendable performance against elite opposition and demonstrated Africa's continued progress and competitiveness on the global chess stage.

Team Mother Continent was formed to represent the collective strength, unity, and diversity of African chess. Comprising players and officials from multiple regions of the continent, the team symbolised a shared continental vision one that prioritises excellence, collaboration, and international exposure.

Individual performances further highlighted the team's competitive depth. FM Banele Mhango delivered an outstanding campaign, finishing with 9½ points out of 12, while FM David George followed closely with a strong and consistent performance of 8½ points out of 12. Their contributions were instrumental in the team's overall standing and reinforced Africa's growing technical strength at world level.

Beyond competitive results, Team Mother Continent's presence in London represented a strategic investment in Africa's long-term chess development. Participation at this level provides invaluable experience, enhances visibility for African players, and strengthens the continent's representation within the global chess community. The African Chess Confederation extends its sincere appreciation to World Logistics for their generous sponsorship and logistical support of Team Mother Continent. Their partnership played a critical role in enabling the team's participation at the championship and reflects a shared commitment to empowering African talent on the international stage.

As focus transitions to future international engagements, including blitz competitions and subsequent world events, the performance of Team Mother Continent at the 2025 FIDE World Rapid Championship stands as a positive benchmark and a foundation upon which further progress will be built.



A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND MILESTONE: CHINA–AFRICA FRIENDSHIP CHESS MATCH



The year 2025 marked a historic milestone for African chess and international sports diplomacy with the successful launch of the inaugural China–Africa Friendship Chess Match in Changsha, China. Unveiled during the prestigious China–Africa Economic and Trade Exhibition, the initiative represented far more than a competitive encounter over the chessboard it symbolised a deepening bond between Africa and China through culture, youth engagement, and intellectual sport.

Hosted at one of the most influential economic and diplomatic platforms linking the two regions, the match highlighted chess as a powerful vehicle for dialogue, mutual respect, and shared development goals.

For the African Chess Confederation (ACC), this landmark event underscored its unwavering commitment to expanding chess development across the continent while positioning African talent on the global stage. By leveraging strategic international partnerships, the ACC continues to open new pathways for African youth, ensuring access to elite competition, cross-cultural exchange, and global exposure. The China–Africa Friendship Chess Match stood as a practical demonstration of how chess can transcend borders, languages, and politics, uniting young minds around strategy, discipline, and excellence.

As Africa looks to the future, initiatives of this nature reinforce the ACC's long-term vision: nurturing the next generation of African chess champions while using the game as a tool for education, diplomacy, and unity. The successful debut of this friendship match not only set a new benchmark for international collaboration but also laid a strong foundation for sustained China–Africa cooperation in chess and youth development for years to come.

ACC GALLERY

20
25





SOME OF THE CHIEF ARBITERS OF ACC EVENTS IN 2025

Duke served as Chief Arbiter at the 2025 African Individual Chess Championship in Egypt. Constance Mbatha made history by becoming only the second female Chief Arbiter appointed for an ACC event, officiating at the African Youth Chess Championship in Zimbabwe, while Botswana's Vincent Masole took charge as Chief Arbiter at the 2025 African Schools Individual Chess Championship.



AFRICAN CHESS CONFEDERATION COMBINED MEDALS RANKING 2025

This medal table is an ACC event combined medal ranking for the year 2025, which includes the AICC2025, AISC2025, AJCC2025, AACC2025, ASZCC2025, AOCL2025, and AYCC2025.

ACC MEDAL RANKING TABLE

Combined Medal Ranking 2025

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Kenya	11	7	8	26
2	Uganda	2	6	6	14
3	Egypt	4	3	2	9
4	South Africa	2	3	3	8
5	Zambia	3	3	1	7
6	Algeria	3	3	0	6
7	Nigeria	2	1	2	5
8	Botswana	1	1	2	4
9	Namibia	1	0	0	1
10	Zimbabwe	0	1	1	2
11	Morocco	1	0	0	1
12	São Tomé Príncipe	0	1	0	1
13	South Sudan	0	1	0	1
14	Burundi	0	0	1	1
15	Equatorial Guinea	0	0	1	1
16	DR Congo	0	0	1	1
TOTAL		30	30	28	88

Rankings are determined by total medal count. This table reflects competitive outcomes across multiple ACC events and do not on its own define overall chess strength or development levels.

The Combined Medal Rankings summarize medal performances across ACC events in 2025 and are intended for informational purposes. They do not constitute a definitive assessment of overall national chess strength, which is shaped by broader technical, developmental, and structural factors beyond medal counts.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

This Annual Report concludes the African Chess Confederation's activities for the year ended 31 December 2025 and reflects the collective efforts undertaken to support the development and coordination of chess across the continent.

During the reporting period, the Office of the Secretary General worked in cooperation with the Executive Board, zonal structures, and Member Federations to facilitate competitions, development programmes, and administrative processes in line with the Confederation's statutes and regulations. These efforts were guided by principles of good governance, inclusivity, and alignment with international standards.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the President and Executive Board for their leadership, to Member Federations for their continued cooperation, and to all African chess stakeholders including players, officials, arbiters, trainers, organisers, partners, chess parents and volunteers whose commitment remains central to the growth of chess in Africa. I also acknowledge the continued support and collaboration of FIDE.

INNOVATION

Looking ahead, the African Chess Confederation will continue to prioritise institutional strengthening, improved coordination, and sustainable development. Future plans include expanding youth and women's chess initiatives, strengthening zonal activities, enhancing technical capacity through training and education, and supporting inclusive programmes that promote the social value of chess.

Innovation will play an increasingly important role in these efforts. The Confederation will continue to explore the responsible use of digital platforms for competitions, education, administration, and communication, while supporting new formats and initiatives that broaden participation and engagement across the continent.



With continued collaboration amongst all stakeholders, the African Chess Confederation remains committed to building a more connected, innovative, resilient chess ecosystem for Africa.

TITO CORREIA MARTINS
SECRETARY GENERAL
AFRICAN CHESS CONFEDERATION

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GOVERNMENT OF
BURUNDI



ORGANIZERS AND
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AFRICA FRIENDSHIP CHESS
MATCH