

**Dear Board Members, National Federation delegates,,**

On behalf of the ACES, we are delighted to share with you all our thoughts and vision for the Equestrian sport in Africa during the past years and all the developments we have during this year with our African region.

The General Assembly is a great opportunity to evaluate where we stand globally as a sport, while allowing us to look ahead and create our roadmap for the future together. With 5 disciplines (Show Jumping, Dressage, Endurance, Eventing and Vaulting) and 20 National Member Federations, we are a diverse community and it is crucial we have a solid platform to discuss and decide on matters at the heart of our sport.

The Annual reports for our technicals Committees will be a key part of our discussions in our General Assembly meeting this year. And we will discuss these reports all together during the meeting to see the progress we have achieved during this year including the African international Competitions which have been held in 2023 and the FEI Solidarity program and all the nations benefited from this magnificent program and in particular, to investigate ways of developing a practical framework that will strengthen the practice of horse sports worldwide and discuss all the difficulties faces our countries and trying to find a solution for them as much as we can.

Also, we are trying our best as the ACES Board to encourage all the African Countries to communicate with us and inform us with their concerns and what they wish to have to improve our beloved sports at their own country and we will try our best to help you through our communication with the FEI, ANOCA and other relevant bodies.

Moreover, we hope that next year 2024, will be a productive year with a lots of important events we have such as the Olympics (Paris 2024) and preparation programs for 2026 YOG as well as all the confirmed events that will be held in our countries for all categories (Seniors, youth, Juniors and Children).

Also, Group VII has initiated the FEI Group VII Dressage Challenge the season 2023/2024 with the support of the FEI Solidarity which we can see it will be a great opportunity for us to enhance the dressage level in our group VII countries as we did with the ACES Dressage Challenge which Egypt had held last August under the ACES umbrella and it was a very successful event on both sides.

The annexes for the General Assembly as well as agenda, presentations and other relevant documentation for the vacant positions and elections were sent to you through Mrs. Gayle Hanssen – ACES secretary general and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her efforts during the past years for following up with all the technical committees work and activities, the monthly Board Meeting as well as following up with the FEI for all the topics related to ACES as the Solidarity program and other issues arising.

At the end, we would like to inform you that Egypt will be organizing a CSI show for Children, Juniors and Young riders during March or April 2024 (the dates will be determined later), and we will be pleased to invite all the ACES countries who would like to take part in this event next year. It will be open for all the African riders who would like to come and participate in it.

We are looking forward to yet another productive ACES General Assembly for us all to discuss all aspects and activities that will help us to achieve our goals and improve our beloved Equestrian sport in Africa.

With all the respect and appreciation.

Sincerely,

**Hesham HATAB**

**ACES president**

**Egyptian Equestrian Federation President**

**Egyptian Olympic committee president**