



Committee: INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Delegation: Algerian Olympic and Sport Committee

Topic: The Inclusion of Transgender, Intersex and Non-Binary Athletes in Competitive Sport
and Harnessing Sport Diplomacy for the Advancement of Democracy
and Human Rights

AGENDA 1: The Inclusion of Transgender, Intersex and Non-Binary Athletes in Competitive Sport

Algeria is a North African state whose identity is shaped by its struggle with colonial powers, an emphasis on sovereignty, and strong cultural values related to family. Sport has long been connected to national pride and international representation, from the historic FLN football team during the independence movement to recent successes in boxing, judo, and athletics.

The Algerian Olympic and Sport Committee approaches the question of eligibility in women's competitions through a framework based on fairness, respect for cultural values and most importantly scientific data. While Algeria upholds respect and dignity for all athletes, regardless of race, nationality or gender identity, the Committee highlights that inclusion policies must safeguard equitable conditions for female athletes. Algeria's approach is grounded in scientific assessment, cultural norms, and the protection of women's sports categories. Legally, Algeria recognizes gender transition only through medical procedures, and the country does not have a legal category for non-binary gender identities. The justification for this framework is tied to maintaining competitive fairness and ensuring that eligibility rules reflect performance-relevant physiological realities. Available performance research shows that while GAHT substantially reduces strength, muscle mass and hemoglobin levels in trans women, it leaves anaerobic power, skeletal frame dimensions, hand size and lung capacity largely unchanged, and on average the measures still do not fall within the typical range of female athletes even after several years; studies suggest that a measurable strength difference of approximately 5–10% may persist.¹

For Algeria, this pattern raises serious concerns about the residual physical advantages that trans women may have over cis female athletes and how this could affect the integrity of women's sports. Thus, the AOSC favours eligibility criteria based on scientific physiological factors, rather than just self-declared gender identity alone. Algeria also emphasizes athlete safety, especially in high-contact sports where retained bone density, limb leverage or grip strength differences raise documented injury risk, such as in judo and wrestling.

Algeria's perspective on eligibility regulations is also informed by the recent experience regarding the case of Algerian boxer Imane Khelif. In 2023, Khelif was subjected to a non-transparent sex-eligibility test conducted by the International Boxing Association. No scientific

¹ Harper, J., O'Donnell, E., Khorashad, B. S., McDermott, H., & Witcomb, G. L. (2021). How does hormone transition in transgender women change body composition, muscle strength and haemoglobin? Systematic review with a focus on the implications for sport participation. *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, 55(15), 865–872. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bjsports-2020-103106>

criteria, justification or testing methodology was released publicly. This absence of clear procedures and evidence led to widespread speculation and resulted in severe online harassment targeting Khelif's identity and integrity. This case illustrates the risks associated with testing protocols that lack transparent scientific parameters.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounced the "false and degrading campaign"² against Imane Khelif, and Khelif herself made many statements about the strain the online harassment has given her *"For two years, my name and image have been used without authorization to advance personal and political agendas through baseless lies and misinformation. Silence is no longer an option."*³, IOC President Thomas Bach also clarified the situation, stating: *"These are not cases of transidentity(...) We have two female boxers who were born women, who were raised as women, who have passports stating that they are women, and who have been competing for years as women"*.⁴ Algeria anticipates cooperation with states that prioritize scientific criteria and cultural sovereignty, including many Arab, African, and Asian nations. Conversely, negotiations may be more difficult with delegations that advocate identity-based eligibility or broad inclusion without physiological thresholds, such as several Western European and North American states. At the international level, Algeria supports the creation of transparent, scientifically grounded eligibility standards. These should include sport-specific physiological criteria, independent medical evaluation panels, clear testing methodologies, and strict privacy protections for athletes.

² Lardjane, T. (2024, September 11). *Imane Khelif : de Genève, l'Algérie condamne un « déferlement de haine »*. TSA. <https://www.tsa-algerie.com/imane-khelif-de-geneve-lalgerie-denonce-des-campagnes-haineuses/>

³ Saadi, L. A. (2025, February 12). Algerian boxer Imane Khelif speaks out against "False and offensive" accusations by IBA. *Vogue Arabia*. <https://www.voguearabia.com/article/imane-khelif-speaks-out-against-false-accusations>

⁴ HuffPost, L. (2024, August 3). Boxe : Imane Khelif défendue par Thomas Bach, face à ceux qui pensent « détenir la définition d'une femme ». *Le HuffPost*. https://www.huffingtonpost.fr/jo-paris-2024/video/boxe-imane-khelif-defendue-par-thomas-bach-face-a-ceux-qui-pensent-detenir-la-definition-d-une-femme_237883.html

AGENDA 2: Harnessing Sport Diplomacy for the Advancement of Democracy and Human Rights

For Algeria, a country forged through anti-colonial struggle, sports diplomacy is a continuation of its commitment to sovereignty and a peaceful international community. Sport is not merely a contest of power, speed, and skill - it is also a stage for diplomacy and dialogue in a safe and inclusive environment.

Algeria views sport as a symbol of national pride. This perspective traces back to the FLN football team (1958–1962), which symbolized Algeria's early use of sport as a tool for international recognition and solidarity during its fight for independence⁵. From this legacy, Algeria's sport policies are designed to promote youth empowerment, national identity, and regional cohesion. For Algeria and its neighbours, sport remains a unifying force.

The government regards sport as a public good: accessible to all, regardless of nationality, class, or ideology - yet also independent of all these. Since its Olympic debut in 1964, Algeria has missed only one Summer Games and has participated in every edition of the African Games since their foundation⁶.

However, tensions do arise sometimes when sport is politicized. The disqualification of Algerian judoka Fethi Nourine at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics for his refusal to face an Israeli opponent revealed the friction between personal conviction and IOC neutrality.⁷ Similarly, regional rivalries have inflamed tensions in football contexts on a number of occasions. In all cases, Algeria has reaffirmed its respect for international sport rules while advocating for athletes' dignity and political sovereignty.

Algeria is a signatory to the Olympic Charter, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the UN Convention against Apartheid in Sports, and the Kazan Action Plan under UNESCO. This reflects Algiers commitment to the international sports community, provided such efforts reflect national values and sovereignty⁸.

⁵ Africappractice. (2024, April 3). *The independence XI and Algeria's quest for recognition - Africa Practice*. Africa Practice. <https://africappractice.com/insights/the-independence-xi-and-algerias-quest-for-recognition/>

⁶ Wikipedia contributors. (2025, June 13). *Algeria at the African Games*. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria_at_the_African_Games

⁷ *TopEnd Sports | Sports science, fitness testing & event analysis*. (n.d.). Topend Sports. <https://www.topendsports.com/events/summer/countries/algeria.htm>

⁸ López, N. (2020, October 8). *Imagining a new political space: the power of youth and peaceful protest in Algeria – IDEES*. IDEES. <https://revistaidees.cat/en/imagining-a-new-political-space-the-power-of-youth-and-peaceful-protest-in-algeria/>

Algeria proposes the following proposals and objectives to the international community:

- Reaffirm the IOC's political neutrality while supporting rights-based sport access
- Fund IOC-supported youth development programs in the Global South
- Promote regional cooperation games like the African School Games
- Avoid using sport diplomacy as a tool for ideological imposition