

15 Days to Go: the Ivory Coast is preparing to host the 8th Francophone Games

In exactly **15 days**, some **4,000 young artists and athletes from the 84 member States and governments of La Francophonie** will come together in Abidjan to participate in the 8th Francophone Games that will take place **from 21 to 30 July 2017** in the Ivory Coast. This year's edition is focused on Solidarity, Diversity and Excellence. It is also meant to support the development of Ivory Coast and strengthen the national cohesion of the country.

The International Committee (CIJF) and the National Committee for the Francophone Games (CNJF) are currently completing the organisation of this major event. **All Francophone countries, including the Ivory Coast**, are actively working towards the success of the Games. The CIJF coordinates hundreds of experts, technical delegates and cultural jurors. The CNJF organizes the reception, handles all logistical aspects involved and brings infrastructures up to standards to welcome each and every guest in the best possible way. Participating States and governments, with their 53 delegations, are actively preparing in order to bring home as many medals as possible and live out this **huge event for young Francophones**.

This 8th edition will attract unprecedented media coverage. Over 500 million TV viewers will have access for free to some 60 hours of high-definition free TV broadcast aired on Francophone channels.

A media accreditation form is still available online at www.jeux.francophonie.org for national and international media willing to cover the Francophone Games.

The lists of artists and creators selected for all twelve cultural contests of the Francophone Games – *hip-hop, giant puppets, freestyle ball, painting, sculpture-installation, singing, tales and storytellers, creative dance, literature (short story), photography, sustainable development creation and digital creation* – have now been posted on the website of the Games. **The lists of athletes who qualified** to all nine sports competitions of the Francophone Games – *football, basketball, table tennis, road cycling, freestyle wrestling, African wrestling, judo, athletics and disabled sports* – are also available on the Games website. **A number of young contestants should gain recognition at this year's Games, as was the case for many now famous athletes such as, to name but a few, Donovan Bailey (Canada), Hicham El Guerrouj (Morocco), Valentin Lavillenie (France), Marie-José Pérec (France), or judokas David Douillet and Frédérique Jossinet (France).**

The opening ceremony will take place on 21 July 2017 from 6:30 pm to 8:10 pm (local time, i.e. GMT+0) at the Houphouët-Boigny Stadium in Abidjan. It will be made of three parts, starting with a colourful parade of the 53 participating delegations marching to the sound of music, then official speeches and finally a grandiose spectacle which will evoke the values that are very dear to the Francophonie, the Ivory Coast and the 8th edition of the Francophone Games. **This will be an amazing show!**

Below are a few key figures on the 8th edition of Francophone Games:

- *30 heads of State invited, as well as hundreds of ministers, senior officials and prominent personalities*
- *53 participating delegations*
- *4,000 young athletes and artists from the 84 States and governments of La Francophonie*
- *3 ceremonies, 12 cultural contests et 9 sports competitions*
- *700 journalists*
- *15,000 accredited persons*
- *3,000 volunteers*
- *500,000 spectators*
- *60 hours of TV programmes, including live shows and daily briefings*

- 500 millions TV viewers

AKWABA! (welcome in the Ivorian dialect): in Abidjan, the Ivory Coast will warmly welcome all admirers of the French language, arts lovers and sports aficionados and let them enjoy this great Francophone youth party. For those who may not be able to make the trip, the 8th Francophone Games will be broadcasted live on television, as well as on the website of the Games.

TV schedule; TV broadcast, results in real time and the latest news are available on <http://www.jeux.francophonie.org/> and on the social media – [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Youtube](#), [Google+](#), [Instagram](#) and [Snapchat \(cijfjeux\)](#).

Useful information to travel to Abidjan (visas, practical information, accommodation, transport...) is available on the website of the 8th edition of the Francophone Games: www.abidjan2017.ci



**JEUX DE LA
FRANCOPHONIE**
JEUNESSE, ARTS ET SPORTS