Civil society consultations to produce a list of the risks of negative impacts on human rights (Dakar 2026)

The Organising Committee for the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Dakar 2026 has engaged in consultations with civil society and national human rights experts, with a view to better understanding human rights issues linked to the Games.

The process started in December 2020 with an initial consultation involving the main human rights stakeholders in Senegal. The consultations continued in 2021, in particular with representatives of international human rights organisations.

In all, five consultations with 21 organisations have been held so far. The participants’ areas of expertise have included the rights of children and other vulnerable groups, local communities that might be affected by work related to the YOG, and the construction sector, as well as more technical areas such as security or transport services.

Each consultation involved between three and five organisations, and was held remotely because of the pandemic. The aim each time was not just to draw up a list of the risks, but also to identify efficient measures to prevent and reduce risks, and early warning mechanisms to allow for continuous monitoring.

Each was also an opportunity to provide information on the scope of the project and obtain the necessary answers and clarifications. The participants were then able to make recommendations both during the meeting and in writing afterwards.

Dakar 2026 is already working on designing a governance and partnership framework that will ensure ongoing engagement with civil society organisations. This work is parallel to that being done on drawing up the Dakar 2026 Human Rights Action Plan, which is due to be published in 2022.