

20th November, 2025

Dear President Andrew Parsons,
Dear Members of the International Paralympic Committee,
Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO THE NEWLY ELECTED IPC GOVERNING BOARD

On behalf of the entire African Paralympic Committee (AfPC), the National Paralympic Committees of Africa, and our millions of athletes, coaches, administrators, and partners across the continent, I extend my warmest and most heartfelt congratulations to all newly elected members of the IPC Governing Board.

Your election by the global IPC membership is not only a recognition of your individual excellence, but a powerful endorsement of your collective vision for the future of the Paralympic Movement.

A Special Tribute to Dr. Debra Alexander

We extend profound congratulations to Dr. Debra Alexander on her re-election as a Member-at-Large for a distinguished third term. Dr. Alexander has been one of the strongest and most consistent pillars of support for Africa, particularly in the development of Classification Systems and Capacity Building across our continent.

Her leadership in driving harmonised classification pathways, strengthening technical capacity, and supporting fair play has had an immeasurable impact on African athletes and NPCs. Her wisdom, mentorship, and steadfast encouragement have uplifted everyone she came across and contributed significantly to the progress of the AfPC.

Africa celebrates her today with deep respect and gratitude.

Honouring the Enduring Friendship of Miki Matheson

We celebrate Miki Matheson, a true friend of Africa. Miki's extraordinary generosity, supporting the 1st African Para Games with vital sports equipment donation from Japan through an NGO, was remarkable, with 46 Racing Chairs, made a historic difference to all member NPCs and available to athletes at the upcoming West Africa Para Games.

Her kindness strengthened our Movement. Her belief in Africa inspired thousands. Her election to the IPC Governing Board is not only well-deserved but a blessing to the global community.

Our Champions: Chelsey Gotell & Fernando Riaño

The AfPC proudly congratulates Chelsey Gotell and Fernando Riaño, two remarkable personalities whose friendship with Africa has been consistent, sincere, and transformative.

AFRICAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

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- Chelsey Gotell has stood firmly with Africa in moments of challenge and progress. Her empathy, wisdom, and principled leadership continue to give hope to our NPCs and the athletes we serve. She is forced to write and speak French, all because of efforts to work with Africa.
- Fernando Riaño embodies courage, innovation, and inclusive leadership. His engagement has been uplifting and promising.

Their elections bring renewed confidence and joy to the African Paralympic family.

Africa also warmly **congratulates the remaining elected Members-at-Large, Mohamed Duaij Al-Khalifa, Robyn Smith, and Bradley Snyder**, whose experience and commitment will strengthen the unity and direction of the Movement.

Your collective election represents a beautiful balance of diversity, gender equality, global representation, and athlete leadership principles at the heart of the Paralympic spirit.

The AfPC believes this Governing Board, comprising dedicated leaders from all five regions, marks a new chapter of partnership, accountability, and growth for the Paralympic world.

Africa stands ready to work hand-in-hand with the IPC Governing Board to:

- ✓ expand athlete development pathways,
- ✓ improve classification systems and standards,
- ✓ strengthen governance structures, and
- ✓ ensure that no region or athlete is left behind.

Together, we will advance the global Paralympic dream with renewed purpose.

Africa is proud of you. Africa is inspired by you. Africa stands with you.

Warmest regards,



SAMSON DEEN

President

African Paralympic Committee (AfPC)

Accra, Ghana

