



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

**The President**

To: Presidents of National Olympic  
Committees

Lausanne, 23 July 2020

*Dear Presidents,*

First of all, I hope that this letter finds you and your families in good health and good spirits.

Ever since our historic decision to postpone the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 because of the global coronavirus pandemic, the International Olympic Committee together with the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee has been working relentlessly on organising these first-ever postponed Games in history. While this task represents a big challenge, together with all our Japanese partners and friends, we are determined to make these Games a beacon of hope for all humankind to overcome this pandemic. In this way, the Olympic flame can be the light at the end of the dark tunnel that we all find ourselves in.

In order to promote this Olympic spirit of hope and optimism already now in all countries around the world, it is my great pleasure to invite you join the One Year To Go celebrations ahead of the postponed Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

On 23 July 2020, let us join together to use the power of sport to look ahead with confidence to the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 as a moment of solidarity and proof of the resilience of humankind.

As you and your athletes continue in preparing for these Olympic Games, I can only encourage you to put your best foot forward. Athletes are fantastic role models for society as they continue to inspire us all through their actions and resilience. Despite all the challenges, athletes are training and preparing to perform at their best at the postponed Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. In our unprecedented times, these Games will take on an even greater significance as a celebration of diversity, inclusion and of the athletes' sporting achievements.

The official invitations for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 that you have received before the postponement remain valid for the new dates next year. Your ongoing commitment in making athletes' Olympic dreams come true is essential at this time and in the months that lie ahead.

The Olympic Games are not only the greatest sporting event in the world. In these unprecedented times we are living in, the Olympic Games will be a symbol of hope and inspiration for the entire world. Together with our Japanese partners and friends we will make the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 an unforgettable celebration of all humankind, united in all our diversity.

In the meantime, please #StayStrong #StayActive #StayHealthy, I remain,

With kind regards

Thomas A. L.