



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

The President

To:
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IOC Members
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Presidents
International Sports Federations
ASOIF, AIOWF, GAISF and ARISF

Presidents
National Olympic Committees
and Continental Associations

Lausanne, 15 January 2021

Dear friends,

As we start this Extraordinary Olympic Year, let me take this opportunity again to wish you and all your athletes a happy and successful 2021 with the upcoming Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. At the same time, I would like to inform you about a recent achievement which can serve as an important reference to the Olympic Movement in the coming months.

On 1 December 2020, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution which recognises once again “Sport as an enabler for sustainable development” as well as its potential to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

This resolution could not summarise in a better way what we all have tried to achieve over the last few years for sport, development and peace. The United Nations General Assembly resolution covers many dimensions of our common contribution to social development through sport and, in particular:

- It is “acknowledging the Olympic Charter”.

- It affirms the “invaluable contribution of the Olympic and Paralympic movements in establishing sport as a unique means for the promotion of peace and development”.
- It “supports the independence and autonomy of sport as well as the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic Movement and of the International Paralympic Committee in leading the Paralympic Movement”.
- It encourages UN “Member States to include sport and physical activity in recovery plans post COVID-19, to integrate sport and physical activity into national strategies for sustainable development, taking note of the contributions sport makes to health, to promote safe sport as a contributor to the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities”.
- It welcomes “with appreciation all upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games, in particular those to be held in Tokyo in 2021, in Beijing in 2022, in Paris in 2024, in Milano Cortina, Italy, in 2026 and in Los Angeles, United States of America, in 2028, as well as the Youth Olympic Games to be held in Dakar in 2026”.

This landmark resolution, which you will find attached to this letter, would not have been possible without the support of the co-chairs of the UN Group of Friends of Sport, the Principality of Monaco and the State of Qatar, which supported the negotiation process, and the contributions of other governments including those of future hosts of the Olympic Games. This further emphasises the unifying power of sport and the Olympic Games.

When you engage with your national authorities on these issues this year, I invite you to leverage this important text in your discussions.

Thanking you for your continued support and looking forward to the great pleasure of speaking with you soon on the occasion of our consultative conference calls.

Until then, I remain,

Yours sincerely

Thomas Bach