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## **The official statement of the Olympic Council of Asia on IOC EB's statement on solidarity with Ukraine, sanctions against Russia and Belarus, and the status of athletes from these countries.**

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Olympic Council of Asia <media@ocasia.org>

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Kuwait, January 26, 2023: The OCA joins the Olympic Movement in its support of the IOC Executive Board's statement on solidarity with Ukraine, sanctions against Russia and Belarus, and the status of athletes from these countries.

The OCA believes in the unifying power of sport and that all athletes, regardless of their nationality or the passport they hold, should be able to compete in sports competitions. The OCA has offered to give eligible Russian and Belarusian athletes the opportunity to take part in competitions in Asia, including the Asian Games.

The OCA remains on standby as the IOC continues to explore with International Federations the pathway for the return of Russian and Belarusian athletes' participation in competition under strict conditions.

**END**

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