



## Olympic Refugee Foundation



### **Foundation Board, Olympic Refugee Foundation**

#### **Dr Thomas Bach, Chair**



Thomas Bach was elected as the ninth President of the IOC on 10 September 2013, and re-elected for an additional four-year term as President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 10 March 2021.

Born on 29 December 1953 in Würzburg, Germany, this lawyer by profession has had a successful career in sport both on and off the field of play. He became an Olympic champion when he won a gold medal in fencing at the Games of the XXI Olympiad in Montreal in 1976; and in 2006, he was the founding President of the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB).

Bach was an athletes' representative at the XI Olympic Congress in Baden-Baden (1981) and a founding member of the IOC's Athletes' Commission. He became an IOC member in 1991, was elected as a member of the IOC Executive Board in 1996, and served as an IOC Vice-President for more than 10 years. He has also chaired several IOC commissions.



#### **Mr Filippo Grandi, Vice-Chair**

Filippo Grandi was appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and started his term of office on 1 January 2016.

He was born in Milan, Italy, in 1957, and has been engaged in refugee and humanitarian work for more than 30 years. From 2010 to 2014, he served as Commissioner-General of UNRWA, the UN Agency for Palestine refugees, having previously been its Deputy Commissioner-General since 2005. He also served as Deputy Special Representative of the UN

Secretary-General in Afghanistan, and has worked with NGOs and UNHCR in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and at the Geneva headquarters.

Grandi holds a degree in modern history from the State University in Milan, a BA in Philosophy from the Gregorian University in Rome and an honorary doctorate from the University of Coventry.



### **HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani**

HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani has been President of the Qatar Olympic Committee since 2015. An experienced sports administrator, he has held positions as President of the Organising Committees of the Qatar 2015 Men's Handball World Championships and the 2012 Asian Handball Championships, as well as Vice-President of Al Sadd Sport Club (2009-2012), the most successful multi-sport club in Qatar.

In addition, Sheikh Joaan is or has been President of the Organising Committees of three major sports events in Qatar: the 2018 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships, the 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships and the 2023 FINA World Aquatics Championships.

Sheikh Joaan has been Chairman of Al Shaqab Racing since 2011, and his horses have won titles at Royal Ascot, Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, Newmarket, Goodwood and the Qatar Arabian World Cup.

He graduated from the École Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr in France in 2007.



### **Mr Yiech Pur Biel**

Yiech Pur Biel is a track and field athlete selected to compete in the 800m event as part of the first-ever Refugee Olympic Team at the Olympic Games Rio 2016.

Born in 1995, he fled from his home town of Nasir in Sudan to escape civil war. After living in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya for 10 years, he started running competitively in 2015 and was selected to join the Tegla Lorupe Foundation, which holds athletic trials in the camp.

Since his participation in the Games, he has travelled the world to raise awareness of the plight of refugees, addressing amongst others the first UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, where he met a number of world leaders.

At the time of writing, Biel continues to train, as well studying for a diploma in public relations.



### **Dr Chungwon Choue**

Chungwon Choue has been the President of World Taekwondo since 2004, and is the initiator of the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation (THF) project. In line with his sustained personal investment in international sport and peace, and among other various positions, he also holds the positions of Chairman of the THF's Board of Trustees and Honorary President of the World Taekwondo Peace Corps (TPC).

He also holds various professorships at Renmin University, Beijing Shichahai Sports School, De La Salle University, Moscow State University and Beijing Forestry University.

Born on 20 December 1947, Choue gained a bachelor's degree in economics from Kyung Hee University, and continued his education in international politics, obtaining a master's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a PhD from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.



### **Ms Anne Hidalgo**

In 2014, Anne Hidalgo became the first woman to be elected as Mayor of Paris.

She started her career as a labour inspector, and has been a member of the Socialist Party since 1994, serving as national Secretary for Culture and Media, later in charge of vocational training.

From 1997 to 2002, she worked as an adviser in three ministers' cabinets in Lionel Jospin's government. She served as Paris' First Deputy Mayor under Mayor Bertrand Delanoë for 13 years, and led the Parisian left coalition to victory in 2004 and 2010.

As Mayor, Hidalgo implements an active policy, focusing on social inclusiveness, sustainable development, climate change, air quality, solidarity, innovation and civic participation – central elements for the future of Paris. The first Vice-President of the Greater Paris Metropolis, she was elected in 2016 as Chair of the C40 Cities Leadership Group, which consists of 90 megacities committed to fighting climate change. As the Mayor of Paris, she is also the President of the Francophone Mayors International Association (AIMF) and Co-Chair of United Cities and Local Governments (CGLU), for which she chairs the gender equality commission.

Born in Spain, Hidalgo holds a master's degree in advanced studies in social law and has penned several political essays.

### **Ms Felicite Rwemarika**



**Felicite Rwemarika** was appointed as an IOC member in October 2018.

Rwemarika has devoted her life to helping women and girls in different areas, particularly sport. As well as founding the Association of Kigali Women in Sports (AKWOS), she fought for the creation of a national council for women in sport in Rwanda.

She has been a Board member of the international women's organisation "Women Win" (2007-2011); Chair of the Women's Football Commission in the Rwandan Football Federation (FERWAF) (2017-2018); Chair of the Rwanda Women and Sports Commission (2013-); Country Coordinator (2004-2008) then Chair (2009-) of the "We Act for Hope" NGO; and Chair of the Rwanda NGO forum on HIV & AIDS and Health Promotion (2015-). In recognition of these achievements, Rwemarika received the IOC Award for Women and Sport on the African continent in 2016.

Born on 9 March 1958 in Rwanda, Rwemarika holds a diploma in medical nursing from the Mulago Hospital in Uganda (1985), as well as a diploma in business administration, (2007). She has worked as a medical nurse in Uganda (1985-1995) and is the founder of two businesses – a beauty salon and a restaurant (1997-2004) in Rwanda.

### **Ms Josefina Salas**



**Josefina Salas** is a IOC Young Leader from Chile. She started practising a wide variety of sports at a young age, including Alpine skiing, which ultimately became her passion. In 2010, Salas joined the Chilean national Alpine skiing team.

Unfortunately, repeated knee surgeries forced her to retire from competitive sport in 2013. She then decided to study engineering at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile and

found new ways to continue to be involved in sport and education.

As soon as she was cleared for recreational skiing, Salas started coaching children at Ski Club La Parva, where she later held the position of General Manager. Her appointment as a Young Change-Maker for Chile at the YOG Lillehammer 2016 was a life-changing experience, which gave her the tools to make a greater impact through sport by developing her Young Ambassador+ programme, together with a group of student athletes from her university.

Born in 1994, she earned a degree in industrial transport engineering in 2018.

### **Mr Paul Tergat**



**Paul K. Tergat** is a Kenyan former professional long-distance runner. An Olympic silver medallist (Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000), he became the first Kenyan man to set the marathon world record in 2003, with a time of 2:04:55, and is regarded as one of the most accomplished long-distance runners of all time.

Towards the end of his career he concentrated exclusively on the marathon. Tergat set several world records and won many titles on the track, in cross country, and on the road.

Among many other distinctions in light of his sports achievements and humanitarian work, he was made a UN World Food Programme (WFP) Ambassador Against Hunger (2005-2014) and UN Millennium Development Goals Champion (2010-2015). As a child, Tergat himself benefitted from WFP's school feeding programme. In 2005, he launched the Paul Tergat Foundation 2005 meant to help disadvantaged Kenyan sportspeople.

Tergat became an IOC member at the 125<sup>th</sup> IOC Session in Buenos Aires in September 2013. He nowadays runs a sports marketing and PR company, Fine Touch Communications.

### **Joe Gebbia**



Joe Gebbia is the co-founder of Airbnb and Chairman of Airbnb.org, the non-profit arm of the company that provides shelter to individuals in times of crisis – which Gebbia personally participates in as a host. Gebbia's individual donation formally helped kick off the organization's efforts with refugees and asylum seekers. Instrumental in securing the partnership between Airbnb and the Olympic Refugee Foundation, Gebbia additionally serves on the Advisory Council for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Tent Partnership Advisory Council, and the Malala Fund Leadership Council.

A global ambassador in entrepreneurship and design, Gebbia has been a featured speaker at TED and Wired NextFest, as well as received

numerous distinctions including Inc. 30 Under 30, Fortune 40 Under 40, Fast Company's Most Creative People, and Chronicle of Philanthropy's 2021 America's 50 Biggest Donors. Gebbia was among the youngest signatories of the Giving Pledge, a commitment by some of the world's wealthiest to dedicate the majority of their wealth to charitable initiatives.

Gebbia graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with degrees in Graphic and Industrial Design. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the institution.

### **Pere Miró**



Pere Miró is a Special Advisor to the President of the International Olympic Committee. Mr Miró joined the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1992 as Deputy Director of the Sports Department (1992-1996). He subsequently became the IOC's Technical Director (1995-1996), prior to being appointed Director of Olympic Solidarity and National Olympic Committee (NOC) Relations in 1997, a position held for over two decades. From 2015 to 2022, Mr Miró also acted as Deputy Director General (Relations with the Olympic Movement) for the International Olympic Committee.

Prior to joining the IOC, Mr Miró started his career as a professor at the National Institute of Physical Education of Catalonia in 1977, before becoming its Director, first for the Barcelona section in 1981 and then for the entire Catalonia region in 1987. In parallel, he took on the role of Sports Department Director at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia from 1981 and 1984. He also served as a Councillor and Member of the Municipality of Barcelona and as a Councillor and Member of the Deputación of Barcelona between 1987 and 1988.

Mr Miró, who has a degree in Sports Science from the Complutense University of Madrid, competed in water polo until 1977.

Born in Manresa, Spain, in 1955, Mr Miró - who is both a Swiss and Spanish National - is married and has a son. He currently resides in Switzerland.