International Olympic Committee
The President

Message on the occasion of the start of the Olympic Truce

Hiroshima, 16 July 2021

Today, the United Nations Truce Resolution for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 comes into effect.

This resolution was adopted by consensus by all UN Members States. It calls for a cessation of hostilities and urges the UN Member States to ensure the peaceful organisation of the Olympic Games.

This call for an Olympic Truce is in fact a 3,000-year old tradition, already put in place for the ancient Olympic Games, thereby highlighting their contribution to peace.

Peace was also central to the thinking of the founder of the International Olympic Committee, Pierre de Coubertin. When he revived the Olympic Games over 125 years ago, he saw them as a way to promote peace among nations and people.

This peace mission continues to be at the heart of the Olympic Games.

Today, I am here to remember all the people who are commemorated at this very place. Today I am here to pay respect to Hiroshima, as a city of peace, and to all the people of Hiroshima. Today I am here to reaffirm to all of them our peace mission in the Olympic Movement.

In seven days from now, the Olympic athletes from 205 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team will send a resounding message from Tokyo and Japan to the world: we need more solidarity. More solidarity within societies and more solidarity among societies. Without solidarity, there is no peace.

In this way, the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 will be a beacon of hope for a better and more peaceful future.
I would like to thank the authorities of the Prefecture and City of Hiroshima and all the people of Hiroshima for giving me the opportunity for this visit and to experience their great engagement for peace, and for this great emotional inspiration to do everything through sport and through the Olympic Games for a more peaceful world.

Every human being – this is a dream, I know, but sometimes you have to dream – should come here one day to Hiroshima, because everybody who has been here, and who made this experience and got this inspiration, will leave Hiroshima as an ambassador for peace.

I am very humbled by this visit and very touched by this visit. I commit myself and the entire Olympic Movement to be an ambassador for peace.