



International  
Olympic  
Committee

The President

## Video message for the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

6 April 2023

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Sport brings people together in peaceful competition. Like few other things, sport has the power to foster peace and understanding with our fellow human beings.

Since ancient times, the purpose of the Olympic Games has always been to promote peace through sport.

At the Olympic Games, the athletes set aside all the differences that divide the world. They compete fiercely against each other, while living peacefully together under one roof in the Olympic Village. This makes the Olympic Games such a powerful symbol of peace.

But peace is about much more than setting aside differences. It is about creating a better world, improving the lives of people, so that everyone on our planet can thrive.

This is where sport can make a positive impact: Sport is the low-cost, high-impact tool to support all countries – big or small, rich or poor – to build together a more peaceful, healthier, more equal and more sustainable world for everyone – 365 days a year.

This is why the IOC and the entire Olympic Movement are focused on strengthening this important enabling role of sport – and contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Because this is what our mission is all about: putting sport at the service of the peaceful development of humankind.

With wars, division, confrontation and human suffering on the rise around the world, we need the unifying power of sport as a force for good more urgently than ever.

This is the contribution to peace that sport can offer: opening a pathway to foster understanding between people and nations. Sport can open the door to peace in ways that exclusion and division do not.

On this Day of Sport for Development and Peace, please join us as we call on everyone around the world: Give peace a chance!