



International
Olympic
Committee

The President

Olympic Cup presentation to the World Health Organization

Olympic House, 20 June 2023

Dear Dr. Tedros,

Dear friends from WHO,

In 1906, our founder Pierre de Coubertin created a unique award. Not the Olympic Order which you have just been awarded – that was established a little bit more recently. 117 years ago, Pierre de Coubertin created the Olympic Cup – the highest distinction for an organisation with a proven record of promoting the ideals of the Olympic Movement.

Today, we are awarding the Olympic Cup for 2021 to the World Health Organization. With this, we want to recognise and honour the outstanding support of the WHO in contributing to the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

At the time, there were still so many pandemic restrictions in place that we decided to wait until now to honour the WHO – in order to do so in an appropriate setting, without social distance, with many friends joining in person to celebrate this occasion in a way it deserves to be celebrated.

Success is always a team effort. During these unprecedented times, we were very fortunate that we could always count on the unwavering support, sound advice, and practical guidance of Team WHO. Standing together, we could make these Olympic Games into a celebration of hope for all humankind. And this is something that the entire Olympic Movement will always be grateful for.

In this Olympic spirit of partnership, friendship and togetherness – and with heartfelt appreciation and gratitude, I present the Olympic Cup 2021 to the World Health Organization.