



International  
Olympic  
Committee

The President

## **Adoption of the Olympic Truce Resolution for the Olympic Games Paris 2024**

**UN General Assembly, New York, 21 November 2023**

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C'est toujours un grand honneur de prendre la parole devant l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Permettez-moi, honorable vice-président, de vous remercier pour votre introduction impressionnante à ce débat très important. Mes remerciements et ma gratitude vont à la Mission de la République française pour avoir soumis le texte dans la tradition des précédentes résolutions sur la Trêve olympique. Je voudrais également remercier les co-présidents du Groupe des amis du sport, le Qatar et Monaco, ainsi que les nombreux États membres qui soutiennent cette résolution en tant que co-parrains.

In his opening address to this General Assembly this past September, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "Our world is becoming unhinged. Geopolitical tensions are rising. Global challenges are mounting. And we seem incapable of coming together to respond."

Two months have passed since the Secretary-General issued this dire warning. Since then, there are few signs, if any, that the world is changing course on this dangerous downward spiral. On the contrary. I cannot remember a time, when the world was facing so much confrontation, division and polarisation. Despite the urgent need for global cooperation, our world is fragmenting. The scourge of war and violence is growing. Political, social and economic divisions are gaining more and more ground over solidarity and shared values.

In this fragile world, this Olympic Truce Resolution is more relevant than ever. In these difficult times, this resolution is our opportunity to send an unequivocal signal to the world – yes, we can come together, even in times of wars and crises. Yes, we can join hands and work together for a better future.

The title of the resolution – “Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal” – is a clear demonstration of the shared values of the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee.

The Olympic Games can contribute to this noble goal. Because the Olympic Games are the only event that brings the entire world together in peaceful competition. The Olympic athletes send the powerful message that: yes, it is possible to compete fiercely against each other and at the same time live peacefully together under one roof.

This is our modest contribution to peace.

The Olympic Games can only make this contribution to peace through a fundamental commitment to political neutrality and universality.

Universality can only be achieved through solidarity. This is why the IOC supports all the athletes from all 206 National Olympic Committees and the athletes from the IOC Refugee Olympic Team. Solidarity for us means: in the Olympic Games, in the Olympic Movement, there is no “global south” or “global north”. At the Olympic Games, we are all equal.

We can only unite the entire world in peaceful competition if we are not torn apart by political, religious, cultural or other interests and differences. Therefore, we must be politically neutral and stand against any kind of discrimination.

This is why I would like to express my special thanks to you for explicitly recognising in the resolution these, our Olympic values: universality and non-discrimination; political neutrality and the autonomy of sport, as enshrined in the Olympic Charter.

One of the aspects of non-discrimination is that athletes cannot be held responsible for the actions of their governments or their National Olympic Committees. All athletes who

are qualified on the field of play and are abiding by the rules of the Olympic Charter must have an opportunity to participate in international competitions.

We are upholding this principle of non-discrimination also in the context of the violation of the Olympic Charter by the National Olympic Committee of Russia. We had to suspend them because they violated the territorial integrity of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, by including as their members sports organisations of Ukrainian regions.

Upholding all these Olympic values is the contribution that we in the Olympic Movement can make to build a better and more peaceful world through sport.

But we can only achieve this noble goal, if these values, and in particular our autonomy and political neutrality, are respected and protected by all of you, the UN Member States.

In this context, we unfortunately have to realise that some governments are claiming the right to decide which athletes can compete in which competitions. Others want to decide where international sports competitions can take place. As we have just heard, one or the other government is even planning to organise their own political sport events. Especially the latter, if realised, would mean that sport becomes a part of the political tensions and divisions in our world. This would lead to the political fragmentation of international sport. It would lead to sport competitions taking place along political lines: The Games of Political Block A. The Games of Political Block B. And so on. In such fully politically fragmented sport, there would be no more world championships, in the true sense of the word. In such politically fragmented sport, truly universal Olympic Games would not be possible anymore.

This is why I would like to express our sincere gratitude to you for supporting in this resolution exactly this independence and autonomy of sport, the leadership and political

neutrality of the IOC, and the unifying and conciliative nature of Olympic Games and sport in general.

With this, your clear commitment, we can together prevent this political fragmentation of global sport and can look forward with great confidence to make the Olympic Games Paris 2024 a symbol of global unity and peace.

Exactly this is the hope and even the expectation of billions of people from around the globe. People everywhere are exhausted and tired of all the antagonism, the hostility, the hate and bigotry that they are confronted with day in and day out, in every area of their lives.

Deep in their hearts, all these people from all UN Member States and from all walks of life are longing for something unifying. Something that brings us all together, despite the differences we have. Something that gives us hope. Something that inspires us to solve problems with and through dialogue. Something that fosters human togetherness. Something that brings out the best in us.

The Olympic Games are such a unifying force.

This is why the athletes, the entire Olympic community, billions of people around the world – all of us are looking forward to the Olympic Games Paris 2024, which will truly be Olympic Games of a new era: more inclusive and more sustainable. They will be the first Olympic Games with full gender parity. The first Olympic Games inspired, planned and delivered in line with our Olympic Agenda reforms from start to finish.

Our friends of the Paris 2024 Organising Committee, under the great leadership of my dear friend and fellow Olympian Tony Estanguet, are doing an outstanding job at bringing these first Olympic Games of a new era to life in all these dimensions.

A specific focus of our Olympic Agenda reforms is to strengthen sport as an important enabler to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In this respect, I would like to thank the many Member States as well as the many UN agencies who are partnering with us to contribute to peace, health, gender equality, sustainability, and many other SDGs. All these partnerships will culminate in the celebration of the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

“Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal” – this is our, the United Nations’ and the IOC’s joint response to the challenges of our turbulent times. Such a peaceful and better world is possible if we all are truly living the new Olympic motto: Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together.

In this Olympic spirit, I call on you to come together, adopt the resolution, but even more importantly: uphold this noble Olympic Truce.

Please : Give Peace a Chance!