



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Thomas Bach
President

G20 Leaders' Summit
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Your Excellencies,

Please allow me first of all to thank our gracious hosts, His Majesty The King, and His Royal Highness The Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the great honour to address you, the world leaders. I would like to applaud Saudi Arabia for making sport for all Saudi people an integral part of their Vision 2030.

Sport can save lives. During this coronavirus crisis, we all have seen how important sport is for physical and mental health.

The World Health Organization has acknowledged this by signing a cooperation agreement with the IOC. Following this agreement, the UN, the WHO and the IOC launched a co-branded campaign called "Healthy Together", rolling out projects internationally. Furthermore, we are preparing to contribute to a worldwide pro-vaccination campaign.

Beyond health, sport is contributing to the recovery on the social and economic side.

We have learned one important lesson from this crisis: we need more solidarity. More solidarity within societies and more solidarity among societies.

We will soon celebrate this demonstration of solidarity at the postponed Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

These Olympic Games, with the participation of all 206 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team, will send a strong message of solidarity, resilience and unity of humankind in all our diversity.

In this context, I am very grateful to Prime Minister Suga for sharing our determination.



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Thirteen of the G20 countries have already hosted Olympic Games. Japan, China, France, Italy and the USA are the next Olympic hosts. In nine of your countries, there is already now declared interest in hosting future Olympic and Paralympic Games.

One major reason to host Olympic Games is to welcome the entire world for a peaceful competition. This universality and inclusiveness that define the Olympic Games require the IOC to be politically neutral.

But for this we depend on you, the world leaders, to consider the Olympic Games to be beyond any political dispute.

Therefore, I humbly appeal to you to support our political neutrality, allowing us to make the Olympic and Paralympic Games this great symbol of global solidarity without any discrimination.

In this Olympic spirit, I thank you for your kind consideration and great leadership in these challenging times.