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Thomas Bach  
President

## Acceptance speech of the IOC President at the 137<sup>th</sup> IOC Session

10 March 2021

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Chers amis et collègues,

Dear friends and colleagues,

Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart for this overwhelming vote of confidence and trust.

For me this is even more overwhelming considering the many reforms and the many difficult decisions we had to take which affected all of us.

You know that this is touching me deeply. It also makes me humble. When you elected me for the first time as your President in 2013 in Buenos Aires I said that I want to lead the IOC according to my campaign motto “Unity in diversity” and be a President for all of you and for all our stakeholders. This commitment is also true for my second and last term. My door, my ears and my heart remain open for each and every one of you. I hope that I can count on your continued dedication, support and friendship, also during these four more years.

In the meantime, you know me well enough that I would like to look forward and that I would like to continue to achieve ambitious goals with you also in the post-coronavirus world. We learned during this coronavirus crisis the hard way that we can live up to our Olympic slogan “faster, higher, stronger”, in sport and in life, only if we are working together in solidarity. Therefore, I would like today to inspire a discussion whether we should not complement this slogan by adding, after a hyphen, the word “together”?

“faster, higher, stronger – together”

“plus vite, plus haut, plus fort – ensemble”

“schneller, höher, stärker – gemeinsam”

“citius, altius, fortius – communis”



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This could be a strong commitment to our core value of solidarity and an appropriate and humble adaption to the challenges of this new world.

Merci beaucoup, thank you very much,

muchas gracias, большое спасибо,

شكرا, ありがとうございます,

谢谢, grazie mille, herzlichen Dank.