



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

Thomas Bach  
President

## One Year to Go Celebrations

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Cidade das Artes

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In exactly one year from now, the eyes of the entire world will be on Brazil. This dazzling city, Rio de Janeiro, will seem like the centre of the universe for two amazing weeks.

The time between today and then will pass very quickly.

It seems only yesterday that the IOC chose the warm, vibrant city of Rio de Janeiro to be the first South American host for the Olympic Games.

There is no better place to achieve that milestone for Brazil and for South America. Billions of people from around the world will see and marvel at the *quarela do Brasil* — the spectacular beauty of the land and sea. They will be enchanted by the warmth of the Brazilian people; the vibrant and diverse culture. This will be Brazil's moment. These will be Brazil's Olympic Games, right here in the *cidade maravilhosa*.

We were confident then, and we are confident now that these Olympic Games will amaze the world. You the Cariocas, you the Brazilians will show to the whole world your unique combination of passion and efficiency.

There is no doubt the world will see great Olympic Games — Olympic Games that will be a source of pride for all Brazilians from every walk of life and from every background.

We all want to see Olympic Games that provide ideal conditions for the world's best athletes. Putting the athletes at the centre of the Olympic Games is the key to success.

But the success of these Olympic Games will also be determined by the benefits that the Olympic Games deliver for Brazil.

The Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro will leave a legacy of new sporting venues for elite athletes and the general public. Deodoro and Barra Olympic Parks are prime examples of this.

These Olympic Games will leave a legacy of new transport links that will benefit residents and visitors for generations to come. By 2016, the majority of Rio de



Janeiro's population will have access to high capacity public transport. In just seven years the numbers of people having access to good quality transport will have risen from just 16 percent in 2009 to 63 percent by the time those buses and metros are filled with Olympic fans heading for the Opening Ceremony.

This will be the biggest Olympic urban redevelopment since the Olympic Games Barcelona 1992. The world will talk about a Rio de Janeiro before the Olympic Games and a much better Rio de Janeiro after the Olympic Games.

These Olympic Games will create jobs and create economic growth over the longer term by raising the host city's international profile among investors and tourists. 16,000 staff are expected to be needed in the new hotels and apartment hotels alone that will be completed ahead of the Olympic Games.

Olympic Games encourage young people to choose sport over drugs and delinquency. They inspire people of all ages to become more active – the accessible ticket prices of Rio 2016 and the free events around Rio de Janeiro give everyone the opportunity to be inspired. Many of the popular events like the marathon, road cycling, triathlon and others will be completely free and set against the fantastic backdrop of your beautiful city. This is how we want to make this the most inclusive Olympic Games ever.

Olympic Games encourage volunteering. Over 240,000 people applied to be a volunteer. Those volunteers will make you all very proud to be Brazilian.

Olympic Games promote unity, solidarity and national pride.

You — the people and leaders of Brazil — must ultimately determine the legacy that you want your Games to leave. Our - the IOC's - mission is to help you on your way. These will be Brazilian Games built by you, organized by you and delivered by you.

We will stand at your side with our expertise, assistance and a contribution of 1.5 billion US dollars to make these Games the successful Games we all want them to be. You can see some of that expertise on the IOC's Coordination Commission for Rio 2016, headed by Olympic Gold Medallist Nawal El Moutawakel.

I want to thank, in particular, the leaders at all levels of government for their support – President Dilma Rousseff, for your great commitment to make the Games successful, and for your commitment to share your Games with the world; Governor Pezão, who unfortunately cannot be with us tonight; and Mayor Paes. I would like to thank Carlos Nuzman, the President of Rio 2016; my IOC colleague Bernard Rajzman; and Sidney Levy, the Chief Executive Officer of Rio 2016, as well as the entire Organising Committee team for their hard work and dedication. I'm sure that you will make full



use each of the next 365 days before the Opening Ceremony. In that year there will be many crucial landmarks the like the completion of the Olympic Village, the International Broadcast centre and the sporting venues at the two magnificent Olympic Parks; the lighting of the Olympic flame in ancient Olympia and the Olympic Torch Relay that will travel round the whole of Brazil.

Already tonight, it is with great pleasure that we invite the National Olympic Committees of the world and their athletes to participate in these Olympic Games Rio 2016. The six National Olympic Committee Presidents here to symbolically receive their invitations will be able to report back to their colleagues all over the world of the unique atmosphere that awaits them in August 2016.

Rio de Janeiro is unique. Brazil is unique in its diversity. The IOC embraces this diversity. Diversity is part of the magic of the Olympic Games. We can see this demonstrated when athletes from all 206 National Olympic Committees from around the globe are able to live together in harmony in the Olympic Village, uniting behind the Olympic values no matter what their background, no matter their race, no matter what their beliefs.

And a year from now Rio de Janeiro and Brazil will be ready to make history and to deliver breath-taking Olympic Games, right here in the *cidade maravilhosa*.

Thank you Brazil. We are looking forward to seeing you one year from now.

Thank you.