



Thomas Bach's speech following his election as IOC President

**125th IOC Session
Buenos Aires, Argentina
10 September 2013**

Dear President Jacques Rogge,
Dear Friends and Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Muchas gracias. Merci beaucoup. Спасибо. 谢谢. اركش. Danke schön. Thank you very much to all of you, and thank you for this very kind reception.

First of all I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart all my dear friends and colleagues who voted for me this morning. This is really an overwhelming sign of trust and confidence. But I would also like to thank my fellow candidates, who I greatly respect, and all those who did not vote for me this time. I will also work for and with you in the coming years and want to win your confidence too. I know about the great responsibility of an IOC President. This makes me humble. I want to lead the IOC according to my motto "unity in diversity." I want to be a President for all of you. This means I will do my very best to balance well all the different interests of the stakeholders of the Olympic Movement. This is why I want to listen to you and to enter into an on-going dialogue with all of you. You should know that my door, my ears, and my heart are always open for you.

Dear Jacques,

I would like to thank you personally very much. You are leaving such a great legacy and strong foundation on which we all together can continue to build the future of the IOC. Personally I would like to thank you very much for all the confidence you placed in me during the 12 years of your presidency. And I hope very much that I can count on your good advice also in the years to come.

37 years ago in Montreal I became Olympic champion with my team. Good memories. One year later I came to Buenos Aires for the World Championships 1977. Good memories. It was in a freezing cold winter, but despite the cold weather we were, like now, extremely warmly welcomed by our Argentinian hosts and friends. And this election reminds me somehow of the final in these World Championships in 1977 because after a dramatic competition we won the World Championships. With our competitors from that time, I am still good friends.

Now my dear friends and colleagues, let us, this great universal orchestra the IOC, play together in harmony for a bright future of the Olympic Movement under the leadership of the IOC.

Thank you very much. Merci beaucoup.