

Speech of the IOC President Jacques Rogge
Olympic Truce Wall & Giving is Winning Launch Ceremony
Olympic Village, London, 23 July 2012

Dear Friends,

We are here today to reaffirm our commitment to the quest for peace, a goal that has been at the center of the Olympic Movement since its founding more than a century ago.

In that spirit, I would like to start today's ceremony by honouring the memory of 11 Israeli Olympians who shared the ideals that have brought us together in this beautiful Olympic Village.

At this very moment, athletes from around the world, representing different cultures, traditions and languages, are living together in harmony in the Olympic village.

That is the mission of our Movement.

The 11 victims of the Munich tragedy believed in that vision. They came to Munich in the spirit of peace and solidarity.

We owe it to them to keep that spirit alive and to remember them.

As the events of 40 years ago remind us, sport is not immune from and cannot cure all the ills of the world.

But sport can help bridge differences and bring people together. We can see proof of that at these Games.

Thanks to the tireless work of LOCOG and authorities throughout the United Kingdom, the London Games have exceeded all previous efforts to use sport as a tool for peace.

The entire world recognized the legacy that LOCOG is creating when — for the first time — all 193 UN member states united to co-sponsor the Olympic Truce Resolution for the 2012 Games.

This extraordinary unanimity is just one element of a national and international legacy that will benefit sport and young people around the world.

At the national level, LOCOG and public authorities integrated lessons about the Olympic Truce into school programmes so children throughout the UK could learn about sport's ability to transcend differences.

LOCOG helped spread the message internationally by including the Olympic Truce in the London 2012 International Education Programme, which provides educational materials in English, French and Spanish.

These initiatives sent a clear message that the world of tomorrow will depend on these young peace champions.

This Truce Wall is a powerful symbol that expresses their dedication to the goal of building a better, more peaceful world.

In signing our names to this wall, we are all making a solemn pledge to join that effort on behalf of young people worldwide.

As the Truce Wall remind us, all of us in the Olympic Movement have an obligation to use sport as a force for good. There are many ways to do that.

At every edition of the Olympic Games, the International Olympic Committee partners with the UN High Commissioner on Refugees and with the Organizing Committee to provide sports clothing to thousands of people who have been displaced by violence, famine and other catastrophes.

Thanks to the generosity of the NOCs, of athletes in this village, the International Federations and partners of the Olympic Family, the 2012 edition of the Giving is Winning campaign is expected to break all previous records by collecting more than 100 000 items of clothing.

It is therefore an honour for me to sign my name on the Olympic Truce Wall alongside those whose values of peace the IOC shares. It is also an honour for me to call upon all of you to support the Giving is Winning campaign further and donate your surplus of sport clothes now.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generosity and your support to our ideals.