



EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

PREPARED TEXT FOR THE IOC PRESIDENT

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 113TH IOC SESSION

Governor,
Mr Mayor,
Madam President of the United States Olympic Committee,
Mr President of the Salt Lake Organising Committee for the Olympic Winter Games,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me, first of all, to extend the greetings of the Olympic Movement to the citizens of the United States of America and thank them for the warm welcome given to us.

Permit me also to thank Governor Leavitt and Mayor Anderson for honouring us with their presence at this Opening Ceremony of the 113th Session of the International Olympic Committee.

Since Salt Lake City was elected to host the 2002 Winter Games, the Federal Government, the State of Utah, the city of Salt Lake and the Organising Committee have spared no effort in the preparations for these Games. Now we are just days away from their opening, and there is no doubt that these efforts will be rewarded by two unforgettable weeks.

For all these reasons, on behalf of the Olympic Movement I thank the American people and express our sincere gratitude to them.

Among us we have delegations from the Organising Committees of the Games in Athens, in 2004; Turin, in 2006; and Beijing, in 2008: we greet them and wish them every success with their undertaking.



Under the remarkable presidency of Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC experienced continuous growth for 21 years. Today, a new era is dawning, with major challenges that face us all.

After this constant growth, the IOC's task will be to consolidate the tremendous legacy left to us by our predecessors.

We shall have to perpetuate the success of the Games; maintain the financial independence of the Olympic Movement; and strengthen the presence of sport within society.

However, the IOC must also innovate and adapt to the constantly changing wishes and needs of young people.

The Olympic Games are still successful, but progress needs to be made in one area of the utmost importance – and one that is our responsibility: encouraging young people to take up sport and educating these same youngsters through sport.

Development assistance helps to reduce the growing divide between rich and poor countries, and more than ever remains a priority and a moral duty.

In addition to consolidating its heritage and development, the IOC must address, more than ever, the greatest danger that threatens sport: doping.

Consolidation, development and defence of the values of Olympism are our priorities, and the challenges that the IOC and the Olympic Movement must meet.

Let me start with the tragic events of 11 September, which changed the face of the world and reminded us, if we still needed it, that sport is closely linked to the political and economic framework within which it develops. The Olympic Movement was struck by the horror of this terrible event, and expressed its condolences and solidarity to the American people. Where the Olympic Games were concerned, the IOC firmly and unanimously declared that these would be held as planned, and that their universality and the message they convey were the best response to intolerance and violence. During those important days, I was able to rely on the unfailing support of the whole Olympic family, whom I thank sincerely. I also wish to pay a special tribute to SLOC, the USOC and the public authorities of the United States for their determination and the efficiency that they displayed during those difficult and painful times.



Sport in general, and the Games in particular, are also affected by the economic consequences of 11 September. The difficulties concerning air travel, the extra cost of security measures, and the increasingly unpredictability of sources of funding for sports organisations are all new obstacles which will be a test for the Olympic Movement.

But the events of 11 September have not prevented the IOC from undertaking certain reforms. Quite the reverse, as we are convinced of the need to prepare for the future and adapt to globalisation and a constantly changing reality.

It is in this framework that I have endeavoured to meet the largest possible number of you and the other members of the Olympic family: the International Federations, the National Olympic Committees, athletes and the Organising Committees, as well as our partners from the economic world, politics and television. All have reiterated their support for and confidence in the IOC – while also stressing the need to act upon the reforms adopted. Furthermore, these consultations have helped to give me an understanding of the situation within the Olympic Movement and, at the same time, to launch a number of projects based on what I have seen and heard.

My visits to the four Organising Committees for the Olympic Games gave me an overview of the preparations for these Games:

Where Salt Lake City is concerned, these preparations are of a remarkable standard. The IOC has devoted particular attention to the security aspect since the tragic attack in Munich, in 1972, whose 30th anniversary we commemorate with emotion.

The reports presented by the Chairman of our Coordination Commission, Mr Marc Holder, and by the SLOC President, Mr Mitt Romney, at the last Executive Board meeting were reassuring in all respects, and lead us to expect excellent Games.

President Bush, who asked about preparations for the Games, promised the IOC and SLOC his full support for these. Where security is concerned, the President of the United States of America reaffirmed that everything would be done to ensure the peaceful holding of the Games, and to guarantee access to the Games for all participants.

Moreover, in this connection, at the proposal of the United States, the United Nations adopted a resolution on the Olympic Truce.

The arrival of the Olympic flame on American territory was also an opportunity to see the incredible popularity that the Games enjoy.



We can be certain that the Games, which will be opening a few days from now, will take place under the best auspices.

But in this optimistic message of thanks to you all, I could hardly ignore the past.

It was here, in Salt Lake City, that we first learned of a profound crisis which nearly destroyed the IOC. But while this crisis arose here, it did not originate in Salt Lake City alone. Inappropriate structures and human weakness on both sides were the roots of an evil that would have come to light here or somewhere else. For its part, the IOC reacted firmly and far-sightedly, punishing its members who had failed to respect the oath of the Olympic ideal, setting up an independent Ethics Commission, drastically altering the rules governing the awarding of the Olympic Games and, above all, thoroughly reforming its structure to bring in transparency, modernity and democracy.

The Salt Lake Organising Committee for the Olympic Games also undertook reforms, and the new leadership team that took over after the crisis has affirmed the same ethical values that inspire the IOC.

This crisis is now in the past. But we must not forget it, to ensure that it never happens again.

As for the Games in Athens, preparations are going very well in most areas of the general organisation. There are, however, some causes for concern regarding the completion of certain sports infrastructures by the given deadline, chiefly for the test events scheduled for 2003. The construction of new hotels and the increase in capacity of existing hotels are also vital to meet accommodation needs. The IOC informed the Prime Minister of its concerns about this. The Prime Minister formed a new cabinet and, since then, major progress has been noted.

There is no doubt that, if the current deadlines are respected, the Games in Athens will be a success. But Athens can no longer afford any delays.

Preparations for the Games in Turin are going ahead according to schedule, and show every sign of being completed on time.



The Organising Committee for the 2008 Games in Beijing has been set up, and the Coordination Commission will soon be starting its work. We are assured of the support of both the Chinese NOC and the highest authorities of the State.

In order to safeguard the future of the Olympic Movement, the IOC needs to begin work on several fronts. It will have to fine tune its reforms; address the size and cost of the Olympic Games; review the programme of the Games; secure the funding of the Olympic Movement beyond the Games in 2008; reassess the way funds are allocated to its partners; address the future for athletes at the end of their sports careers; continue striving to ensure that women can play their legitimate role in sport; expand the universality of participation in the Games; and, above all, strengthen the fight against doping.

Following up the reforms adopted at the 110th Session in Lausanne, in December 1999, is a priority. To this end, an Extraordinary Session will be held in November this year in Mexico City. The task of the Reforms Follow-up Commission will be to examine, and if necessary amend the reforms that we have already adopted.

We must not expect this study to be a revolution. Far-reaching reforms were implemented barely two years ago. Rather, the aim is to improve them and obtain even more transparency, modernity and efficiency.

Where the IOC administration is concerned, rationalisation and cost-cutting measures have already been studied. This internal audit process will be completed by an external audit, whose results will be presented to the Extraordinary Session in Mexico City.

The composition and functioning of the commissions have been reviewed. This has been accomplished with the desire to reduce the size of the commissions in order to make them more efficient, while offering all the members of the Olympic Movement the chance to play a role that matches their qualities and aspirations.

The role of the IOC members needs to be reviewed. The work and position of the members, within both our organisation and their country, must be redefined and enhanced.

Together with the educational aspect of sport, the Olympic Games are the IOC's principal activity.

The Games Sydney, while excellent, led us to realise that the size and cost of the Games are now such that they can be staged by only a limited number of cities.

At the same time, the scale of the Games is a threat to their quality. In a way, they risk becoming a victim of their own success.



To lead the study of this, a commission has been tasked with identifying ways of reducing the cost and size of the Games – and we shall have decisions to take on this at the Extraordinary Session later this year.

The ultimate goal of this work on the Games is to take measures so that, one day, all continents will have the capacity to stage the Games, without detriment to either their quality or their success.

The Olympic Programme Commission will likewise have an important role to play, through its work of reviewing and finalising the programme of the Games in Turin and Beijing.

The IOC will have to secure funding for the Olympic Movement beyond the Games in 2008.

Let us pay tribute here to President Juan Antonio Samaranch and his Executive Board colleagues, who had the wisdom to conclude long-term contracts enabling the funding for the Olympic Movement to be assured, even during this time of economic recession.

The audiovisual landscape and the business world are undergoing radical transformation.

The changes in the economic markets, together with developments in technology and legislation, will force us to adopt a different strategy for the negotiation of television rights to the Games in 2010 and beyond.

The athletes are at the centre of the IOC's concerns. Protecting their health against the dangers of overtraining and the excessive number of competitions will be the focus of the Medical Commission's efforts, as it works in this field in close cooperation with the IFs and NOCs.

In agreement with its Olympic Movement partners and governments, the IOC will also have to address the issue of the social reintegration of athletes when they reach the end of their sports career.

The IOC, whose membership includes many former athletes, will listen carefully to its Athletes' Commission's recommendations on this subject.



Major progress has been made in promoting the participation of women in all areas of sport. But we still have much ground to make up in terms of the presence of women within sport's leadership bodies. In this respect, we can only regret the small number of female candidates proposed for IOC membership.

Initiatives aimed at encouraging candidatures by women, and a new set of rules should enable us to remedy this situation very quickly.

The IOC will continue to invest in protecting the environment, and will maintain its efforts to ally sport, culture and education. It will also assume its responsibilities in terms of humanitarian aid.

The IOC has a universal vocation. This desire for universality must also be reflected in its composition, that of its Executive Board and its administration. The flagrant way in which certain continents and subcontinents have fallen behind in this respect must be addressed as quickly as possible.

Apart from the security threats that may arise during the Games, the greatest danger to sport is doping.

Doping is not just an attack on ethics and fair play. It is also a direct attack on the health of athletes. It is, moreover, a mortal danger to the credibility of the sports world. If tomorrow's mothers fear that their children will be forced to take doping substances in order to succeed in sport, they will stop sending them to sports clubs – and the whole youth sports recruitment process will suffer.

The IOC was a pioneer in the fight against doping, and has been so for almost 40 years through the tremendous work of Prince Alexandre de Merode and his Medical Commission.

But the evolution and sophistication of doping are making this task ever more difficult. The IOC approached governments for help and created the World Anti-Doping Agency. This is the only solution in order to achieve a meaningful reduction in doping, which has reached unacceptable levels today.

The World Anti-Doping Agency, under the remarkable leadership of our colleague Mr Richard Pound, has the IOC's total support. More detailed scientific research, more tests outside and during competitions, a more voluntarist prevention



and education campaign, and harmonisation of the legislation and rules enacted by governments and the sports movement will enable us to make considerable progress.

Today, we stand at a crossroads. The development of biotechnology and genetics offers medicine incomparable prospects; and the risk of a slide towards doping is all the greater. I call upon the whole sports community to wake up to this terrible danger and do everything possible to protect the athletes. I also call upon governments to support us in our efforts to safeguard the athletes' health.

Any equivocation or weakness would be quite simply unacceptable.

In spite of the different threats hanging over sport, I am resolutely optimistic about the future of the Olympic Movement.

The Olympic Games are, and will remain, the dream of generations of athletes.

Sport is, and will continue to be, an incomparable tool of education. It strengthens body and mind alike, promotes the socialisation of the individual, instils the rules of respect for others and for regulations – and brings health, hope and happiness. It enables individuals to affirm their identity, and is the unifying element for different ethnic groups within a nation.

As long as the sports movement applies and defends the values of fair play, respect for rules and brotherhood, it will have a social function and a genuine moral dimension.

The Olympic Games belong not to the IOC, but to humanity.

The Olympic Games are the whole world's dream, and the IOC's role is to perpetuate that dream.