

Thank you very much Sochi! Thank you very much Russia!

Mr. President of the Russian Federation, good evening dear Olympic friends and fans around the world!

Thank you very much dear Olympic Athletes! You have inspired us for the last magnificent 17 days. You have excelled in your competitions.

You have shared your emotions with us and the whole world. You have celebrated victory with dignity and accepted defeat with dignity. By living together under one roof in the Olympic Village you send a powerful message from Sochi to the world: the message of a society of peace, tolerance and respect.

I appeal to everybody implicated in confrontation, oppression or violence:

Act on this Olympic message of dialogue and peace. We all have enjoyed exceptional conditions in these Olympic Winter Games.

Our Russian hosts had promised: Excellent sports venues, outstanding Olympic Villages and an impeccable organisation. Tonight we can say: Russia delivered all what it had promised.

What took decades in other parts of the world was achieved here in Sochi in just seven years.

I would like to thank the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, for his personal commitment to the extraordinary success of these Olympic Winter Games.

The Russian Government, the Organising Committee, the Russian National Olympic Committee, the IOC Members in Russia and all the people of Sochi and Russia deserve our deep gratitude.

To this success the International Olympic Winter Sports Federations, the National Olympic Committees, the sponsors and broadcasters have greatly contributed.

I am sure they all will remember these Olympic Games in Sochi and will come back to create a great sport legacy.

Thank you very much volunteers!

You, volunteers, with your warm smile made the sun shine for us every day. Your wonderful engagement will create the legacy of a strong civil society in Russia.

Through you everybody with an open mind could see the face of a new Russia: efficient and friendly, patriotic and open to the world.

All our partners and friends allowed the world's best athletes to give their best.

There is no higher compliment than to say on behalf of all participants and on behalf of all of my fellow Olympic Athletes:

These were the Athletes' Games!

We arrived with great respect for the rich and varied history of Russia.

We leave as friends of the Russian people.

Daswidanja Sochi ! Daswidanja Rassija !

And now: I declare the 22nd Olympic Winter Games closed. In accordance with tradition, I call upon the youth of the world to assemble four years from now in PyeongChang to celebrate with us the 23rd Olympic Winter Games.”