IOC Women and Sport Awards
The IOC Women and Sport Awards were introduced in 2000 to recognise the outstanding achievements and contributions of those who promote gender equality in sport. Every year, the IOC invites each National Olympic Committee, International Federation and Continental Association to nominate a person or association active in promoting gender equality and the presence of women in their sport or country. An IOC jury composed of members of the IOC Women in Sport Commission reviews the nominations and chooses six winners – the World Trophy winner and five Continental Trophy winners.

CONTENTS

4 President Bach Foreword
6 Lydia Nsekera Foreword
8 Gender Equality
12 IOC Women and Sport Awards
14 World Trophy Winner
16 Continental Trophy Winners
22 Interview: Ana Maria Stratu
24 Interview: Richard Peterkin
26 Facts and Figures
A key mission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is to promote women in sport at all levels based on the principle of gender equality. This priority, anchored in the Olympic Charter, is at the heart of what the Olympic Movement is all about, because in sport, everyone is equal.

As the leader of the Olympic Movement, the IOC has an important responsibility to send the right signals and set an example to others in the sporting world when it comes to gender equality and advancing women. Our focus, therefore, is not only to promote gender equality on and off the field of play, but also to empower women and girls through sport.

Olympic Agenda 2020 illustrates our commitment to the advancement of women in and through sport. Our stated goal is for the IOC and International Federations (IFs) to achieve 50 per cent female participation at the Olympic Games – and we are getting closer to that milestone. Thanks to the most comprehensive reform of the Olympic programme in our recent history, the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 will have practically achieved gender-balance, with the highest-ever representation of female athletes in Olympic history.

Already at the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Buenos Aires 2018, we will have the first sport programme with complete gender equality, a 50-50 balance, with the same number of girls and boys competing in the same number of sports and events. These are important steps but there is still much work to be done. We know that we cannot achieve equality overnight, but that we need to continuously work towards it, step by step. We also know that we cannot make progress alone.

Fortunately, there are many people who are committed to making a difference through sport and we honour some of these inspirational role models with this year’s IOC Women and Sport Awards. Each of the winners has inspired change, breaking down barriers not only on the field of play, but also in the workplace, in the home, in schools and in other aspects of society. The IOC is proud to honour the winners and looks forward to working with each of them to make the world a better place through sport.
GOOD PROGRESS MADE BUT PLENTY MORE TO DO

LYDIA NSEKERA, CHAIR OF THE IOC WOMEN IN SPORT COMMISSION

Once again, I am delighted that the IOC is honouring so many inspirational role models with this year’s IOC Women and Sport Awards. Each winner has shown what can be achieved by those who are committed to empowering women and girls through sport – giving them the opportunity to break free of barriers and negative stereotypes and demonstrate what they are truly capable of.

President Bach is among those who has personally committed himself to tackling gender inequality, and the results that have been achieved within the IOC in recent years are indisputable. Not only are more women being given the opportunity to compete at the Olympic Games – with new events set to bring record female participation at Tokyo 2020 – but we are also seeing more and more chances for women to adopt leadership roles within the IOC.

Just 16 years ago, women only accounted for 13 per cent of IOC Members. That figure has now risen to 26 per cent, while female representation on IOC commissions is up to 38 per cent – a historic high that equates to a 70 per cent increase since 2013. Indeed, women now hold 29 more positions across the 26 IOC commissions than they did in 2016, and female members are present on each of them.

This is an important example for the IOC to set, but our greatest challenge is now to encourage every member organisation of the Olympic Movement to take similar steps. The average number of women leaders across the Olympic Movement currently only stands at around 20 per cent, which is too low. That is why we are also adopting a number of measures that will help them to reach the 2020 target.

We have strengthened our training programmes – offering women’s leadership forums for IFs and NOCs – and undertaken the IOC Gender Equality Review Project.

In addition, the IOC has launched the Advancing Women in Sport Platform, which assists leaders in their work to provide equal opportunities for men and women. The resources and tools that are available on this online platform create a vital reference for all.
JUST 16 YEARS AGO, WOMEN ONLY ACCOUNTED FOR 13 PER CENT OF IOC MEMBERS. THAT FIGURE HAS NOW RISEN TO 26 PER CENT, WHILE FEMALE REPRESENTATION ON IOC COMMISSIONS IS UP TO 38 PER CENT – A HISTORIC HIGH.

those within the Olympic Movement. Gender inequality at the Olympic Games will soon be a thing of the past, and our hope is that this can be then be reflected in society to bring about equality throughout the world.

It is a long and winding road but we continue to make progress. With more momentum – and more inspiration from those such as the winners we honour with this year’s IOC Women and Sport Awards – we will be able to achieve our objective.
“EFFECTING REAL CHANGE”: WHAT THE IOC IS DOING TO FOSTER GENDER EQUALITY IN SPORT

Ever since they first competed at the Olympic Games in 1900, female athletes have been serving as powerful role models for young girls around the world by challenging gender stereotypes and proving that women can overcome societal barriers and achieve their dreams.

And while the IOC has been committed to fostering gender equality through sport for many years through the efforts of the IOC Women in Sport Commission, the adoption of Olympic Agenda 2020 has reaffirmed its goal of achieving equality in terms of the athletes competing at the Games.

The IOC has been working closely with IFs to introduce new events and make other changes to the Olympic sports programme, thereby increasing opportunities for female athletes to participate at the Olympic Games as it works towards its goal of 50 per cent female participation.

At the Olympic Games Rio 2016, for example, the introduction of rugby and golf, as well as new events for women and a mixed event in sailing, helped increase the number of women’s events from 132 at the Olympic Games London 2012 to 136 out of 306 events. Women also outnumbered men on 50 delegations in Rio, representing a substantial increase from London 2012, where only 35 delegations included more women than men.

In 2018, even greater progress will be made at the YOG Buenos Aires 2018 where, for the first time in Olympic history, there will be complete gender equality in the event programme with equal numbers of men and women set to compete.

Perhaps the most significant action that the IOC has taken was the launch in March this year of a bold project review into gender equality across the whole Olympic movement, with a mandate to produce action-oriented recommendations for change.
The addition of further mixed events to the Olympic programme will also see record female participation of 48.8 per cent at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, bringing full parity one step closer.

But it is not only on the field of play where the IOC is looking to make changes. It has also been setting an example for other sporting bodies by increasing the number of women in its decision-making positions, with female representation on IOC commissions increasing by 70 per cent since 2013.

Now, the goal is to help NOCs and IFs follow this lead by increasing women’s representation in their own decision-making positions. In support of this effort, the IOC Executive Board issued a decision in December 2016 requesting members of the Olympic Movement to set a minimum target of 30 per cent for women’s representation in their governing bodies by 2020, and to adopt accompanying measures that will help them to reach this goal.

To help them realise this target, the IOC has initiated forums for male and female leaders from IFs, National Federations and NOCs, to bring both genders together to exchange best practices and find practical strategies to achieve this common target.

Perhaps the most significant action that the IOC has taken, however, was the launch in March this year of a bold project review into gender equality across the whole Olympic Movement, with a mandate to produce action-oriented recommendations for change.

This joint initiative of the IOC’s Women in Sport and Athletes’ Commissions aims to share best practices and present concrete initiatives to further advance gender equality in the Olympic Movement.

“The IOC is taking a leadership role in the world of sport to push gender equality globally and effect real change,” says IOC President Thomas Bach. “The outcomes from this Gender Equality Review Project will benefit the IOC, all International Federations and National Olympic Committees, as well as all the athletes of the Olympic Games. It will also be a further tangible outcome of Olympic Agenda 2020.”

The project’s five themes – sport; portrayal; funding; governance; and human resources – have ensured a comprehensive review of gender equality within the Olympic Movement.
The Project Working Group chaired by IOC Member and President of the International Triathlon Union Marisol Casado is comprised of IOC Members and representatives from IFs and NOCs.

“By having the IOC, the IFs and the NOCs working together on this project, we will share best practices as well as address the obstacles facing gender equality in sport to produce solutions,” explains Casado. “I am confident our recommendations will make significant advancements.”

The recommendations themselves use best practices not only from the international sports community, but also from the business sector, and include timelines for implementation as well as suggested roles and responsibilities to aid their realisation and ensure accountability.

For Lydia Nsekera, chair of the IOC Women in Sport Commission, the review will play a key role in achieving gender equality within the Olympic Movement.

“This will give a great boost to the work of the Women in Sport Commission,” she says. “These recommendations will further assist us to remove the barriers that continue to prevent women and girls in sport in general and elite sport in particular.”

In addition to NOCs, IFs and business leaders from the private sector, athletes also played a key role in shaping the recommendations, and according to Angela Ruggiero, chair of the IOC Athletes’ Commission, it is clear that gender equality is something that all athletes want to see.

“The IOC Athletes’ Commission wants gender equality to be part of the organisational culture within the entire Olympic Movement,” she says. “To achieve that, we have directed the Working Group to develop action-oriented recommendations, substantiated by data and the best practices of our Olympic partners. We believe the outcome of this project will fundamentally advance the position of women in sport and, ultimately, lead to a stronger Olympic Movement.”
HONOURING THE ROLE MODELS AND CHANGE-MAKERS

Each year, the IOC Women and Sport Awards are given to women, men or organisations who have made remarkable contributions to the development, encouragement and reinforcement of women’s participation in sport.

Introduced in 2000, the awards provide an annual opportunity to recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements and contributions of these true role models and change-makers, whose tireless efforts make a huge difference for women and girls involved in sport across the world.

Six trophies are distributed each year – one for each of the five continents and one World Trophy. To select the winners, the IOC invites each IF, NOC and Continental Association to propose one candidate to the IOC Women in Sport Commission, whose members review the nominations and decide on the award recipients. The winners’ work to promote gender equality through different projects is also supported with a grant from the IOC to help them continue and extend their work.

Each year, those honoured come from a variety of backgrounds – from athletes and coaches to politicians and administrators – but they all share a common belief that the practice of sport is a human right that cannot be denied on the basis of gender.

The IOC is therefore privileged to be able to highlight the positive impact that each winner has had on sport and society.
Mrs Birgitta Kervinen (Finland)
The passionate advocate for gender equality has enjoyed a long and influential career as a voluntary sports leader both nationally and internationally.

A true advocate of grassroots sport who is passionate about equal rights in sport and society, Mrs Birgitta Kervinen has served for more than 40 years as a voluntary sports leader.

For over 20 years, she worked as a coach, educator and trainer, starting her career as a teacher of physical education through which she taught hundreds of girls to be physically active. She also encouraged them to be determined in their sport by creating an atmosphere that motivated girls to believe in their sports careers and therefore opened the road for many to become national-level athletes.

Mrs Kervinen is perhaps best known, however, for her work within the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO) – a non-profit umbrella organisation of National Sport Confederations and NOCs for 33 European countries, where she served as Vice President from 2001 to 2007, and then as President from 2007 to 2015. She is now Honorary President of ENGSO.

During this time, she urged different sectors and levels of sport to tackle the issue of gender equality, and also influenced major sports political meetings, conferences and other events with the aim of promoting and advocating questions related to gender equality.

Thanks to her renowned leadership, she strengthened cooperation with key European Union stakeholders and has tirelessly emphasised the role of women and girls, and encouraged them to promote and raise awareness about gender equality.

Under her leadership, ENGSO created a project, “SCORE”, aimed at promoting women in coaching with a focus on increasing the number of employed and volunteer female coaches, as well as enhancing knowledge in coaching for women.

Mrs Kervinen was also instrumental in the launch of the Women’s International Leadership Development (WILD) programme, which was successfully implemented in seven European countries. The programme aimed to up-skill potential women leaders from ENGSO’s partner countries across Europe, and leaves a legacy of tools and information available for future projects to get a head start.

She has also been active internationally through her work at the International Working Group on Women and Sport (IWG), where she acted as co-chair from 2006 to 2010.

A pioneer in uplifting and mainstreaming gender equality in addition to her long and outstanding career, she is undeniably a role model for many women and girls.
AFRICA:
MS LIDÉ ANNE OUOBA ZOMA
(BURKINA FASO)
A pioneer within women's athletics in Burkina Faso, who has also worked towards removing the barriers that prevent girls from participating in sport.

Ms Lidé Anne Ouoba Zoma was one of the first women in Burkina Faso to compete in long-distance running, representing her country in numerous international championships, and has dedicated her life to Burkinabe athletics as an athlete, leader, coach and promoter.

One of her main goals has been contributing to reducing the barriers that prevent girls from participating in sport. It was for this reason that she established the Béogbiiga (Children of Tomorrow) Association, which is committed to promoting children – particularly young girls – through sport competitions and scholarships.

As one of the first women to be elected to the executive board of the Burkina Athletics Federation, Ms Ouoba used her position to increase opportunities for women in decision-making structures within the federation. In addition, she was instrumental in the creation of the Women and Sport Commission within the Burkina Athletics Federation in the 1990s, setting a clear example for other National Federations within the country to follow.

As part of her work with the commission, Ms Ouoba helped establish an administrative training programme for women and also ensured that local TV, radio and newspapers afforded greater media coverage to women's sport, helping to raise awareness for gender equality within the community.

Ms Ouoba has also played a key role in establishing athletics schools for boys and girls within Burkina Faso, and has coached many young girls within the sport, encouraging them also to engage in coaching.
Dr Patricia Sangenis, who currently chairs the Women and Sport Commission of the Argentine Olympic Committee, has worked tirelessly to promote women in sport both nationally and internationally.

As a medical doctor, she has raised awareness of female athlete health, helping to destroy myths about women’s sporting performance and thus encouraging them to take part in sport with full knowledge of their body. For 20 years, she has been giving motivational and health talks in state and private schools focused on encouraging girls to get involved in sports activities, while she has also worked at the Olympic Games, actively promoting subjects directly related to women.

As chair of the IOC Medical Commission’s Working Group on Women in Sport, Dr Sangenis also coordinated the work that led to the drafting of recommendations on minimising the risks of injuries to girls and women and increasing their participation in sport.

Through her work with the Argentine Olympic Committee Women and Sport Commission, she continues to advocate the advancement of women in sports leadership and management roles. Her work with various international medical committees, meanwhile, sees her promoting the recruitment of more female doctors to encourage gender equality and the conditions needed for female athletes in training, sports participation, and the prevention of and recovery from injuries.

Dr Sangenis has promoted data collection systems throughout Argentina, in order to accurately measure the number of women in sport (as athletes, managers and leaders), as well as ascertaining how they achieved these positions and assessing their difficulties and needs in performing their various functions.

Dr Sangenis is an active spokesperson on health issues on national and Latin American TV channels, and a columnist in the written press on topics related to physical activity and sport. Her work producing and presenting two TV programmes devoted to advocating physical activity and sport among women has helped promote the issue of gender equality, as have her many written works and speaking engagements at schools, universities and conferences around the world.
ASIA:
JAPAN LADIES TENNIS FEDERATION (JAPAN)
The award-winning JLTF has actively promoted women’s participation in tennis in a variety of ways, producing world-class Japanese players in the process.

Founded in 1967, the Japan Ladies Tennis Federation (JLTF) has 47 branches that cover all the prefectures of Japan and has initiated a variety of activities throughout the country to increase women’s participation in the sport. In addition to establishing national women’s tennis championships, the JLTF holds various tournaments from grassroots to the elite level, while each branch hosts a series of seminars and training sessions that aim to increase women’s participation in tennis. In addition, the federation has established a fund aiming to contribute to making society more active, including those with disabilities, and has contributed to engaging youth players while promoting international cooperation and exchanges through sport.

The different activities initiated by the JLTF have helped not only to produce world-class Japanese women’s tennis players but also to increase women’s participation in sport more generally.

Among its multiple achievements, the JLTF has engaged in different activities, including social and development efforts, while promoting women in sport at all levels, and has received many awards in recognition of its hard work.
EUROPE:
**MS ANDROULLA VASSILIOU (CYPRUS)**
The former European Commissioner for Sport has been instrumental in placing gender equality in sport within European Union policy-making

Cyprus National Olympic Committee board member Ms Androulla Vassiliou – the former European Commissioner for Sport – has worked systematically to ensure that gender equality in sport is among the top priorities of the European Commission, and that it also commands the necessary importance and appropriate attention at national level and within sport structures.

Through her work, Ms Vassiliou has made a substantial contribution to raising awareness of gender issues and promoted the participation of women not only in sport and physical activity but also in governance structures within sporting bodies.

A practising lawyer and former member of parliament in Cyprus, Ms Vassiliou has promoted women’s rights throughout her life, striving for the promotion of the status of women in professional, political, economic and social fields.

She took this fight to the European Union in 2010, when she was named as member of the European Commission responsible for sport, and subsequently led the development of the European Sport policy, placing particular emphasis on gender equality. Under her leadership, the issue was given a much higher profile across European policy-makers, including among the leaders of sports organisations.

Her first step to redress the under-representation of women in sport was to include gender in the commission’s communication on sport – an important EU policy document that is still a point of reference today. Ms Vassiliou also dedicated part of the sport budget to the development of women in sport, including the prevention of gender violence against women. She consulted with key stakeholders to create concrete proposals for tackling gender inequality, such as changing recruitment policies to increase the number of leadership opportunities for women and creating internships for young women to access management and coaching positions.

Ms Vassiliou’s work has increased the prominence of gender equality within the international arena and left a strong legacy with the European institutions.
OCEANIA: 
MRS JUDY OTTO (PALAU)
The President of the Palau Swimming Association has encouraged more of the country’s women to take up the sport, while also enhancing their commitment to health and active living.

As President of the Palau Swimming Association and a member of the Palau Women and Sports Commission, Mrs Judy Otto has played a key role in advocating women’s sports participation within the country.

One of her most significant initiatives has been the development of a water aerobics programme, which includes after-work sessions to encourage water-based physical activity for women. Many of the participants previously had rudimentary swimming skills, while others had never swum at all, and all those enrolled have been very excited and proud of their accomplishments.

Other initiatives have included the development of a learn-to-swim programme offered year-round at the Palau national swimming pool and through outreach to schools and rural communities; the establishment of a Palau Junior Swim Team; and the continuous development of swimming facilities, coaches, technical officials and administrators.

As President of the Palau Swimming Association, she has also worked to encourage women to take an active role in swimming development as instructors, technical officials and board members. Today, the board of the Palau Swimming Association is 70-80 per cent female.

Through her work with the Palau Women and Sports Commission, Mrs Otto also collaborated with the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Palau to develop community-based exercise stations and a series of initiatives to promote the health benefits of walking. In addition, she has worked to support and enhance commitment to health and active living for both women and men in local communities.

All of Mrs Otto’s efforts to develop swimming and community-wide active living have been conducted on the basis that girls and women often need a different approach to training and physical activity that responds to the special demands according to Palau society.
INTERVIEW: ANA MARIA STRATU

THE POWER OF SPORT
Since being a Young Ambassador at the Youth Olympic Games Nanjing 2014, Moldova’s Ana Maria Stratu has been inspired to use sport as a tool of empowerment for girls and women.

Having grown frustrated at being the only female athlete representing Moldova at the World Karate Championships, Ana Maria Stratu decided to help make the sport more accessible to women in her country.

Backed by an IOC grant, Stratu organised Moldova’s first-ever women’s karate festival in 2016, which proved so successful that another edition was held this year. Having secured new partners, including support from UN Women Moldova, the 2017 festival brought together 50 athletes from three countries and included sports initiatives and competitions, face painting, as well as a UN Women information booth and delegation to promote gender equality and support girls who choose to practise martial arts.

Since Stratu started the project, karate has received greater support within Moldova – with the World Karate Federation even donating a tatami mat to the National Federation. She has now set her sights on achieving greater success in the future. “My objective is to have an equal number of male and female karate athletes in our country,” she says. “Eventually, I would love to see some of these athletes representing Moldova at international events. It is a long-term project, but after one year we have already built a strong base. I would love to raise awareness among other organisations in Moldova, showing them that sport can have social benefits and helping them to develop similar projects.”

Not all girls feel comfortable with practising gymnastics or dancing, like not all boys feel like being a boxer or fighter. That is why we have to offer people the freedom to choose what they want to do and give them the opportunity to develop their skills.
**Why do you think it is important for women to participate in sport?**

Sports develop character. I firmly believe [the old saying], “If you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate a nation”. And if we want to have a better future generation, then women should be as inspired, educated and free as their male counterparts. Now that I am expecting my first child, I realise even more my responsibility as a nurturer for the next generation, and the gratitude to my parents and coach for their support in my sporting career.

**How does it make you feel that there is still inequality for women in sport?**

It is unfair and in some countries it feels disgraceful. Women should have the freedom to choose what they would like to do with their lives. I have encountered many cases where girls were banned from practising sports by their parents. Instead, they were just being educated to be exemplary housewives. From the very beginning, they are refused the right to develop their inner talents. And this does not refer only to sports. You could be a star that never gets a chance to shine, because your society does not allow you to.

**What inspired you to start a programme that encourages more women to participate in sport?**

My personal experience as a kid always being mocked for practising a “manly” sport like karate motivated me to encourage young girls to practise a less common sport. Each person is more compatible with one sport than another. Not all girls feel comfortable with practising gymnastics or dancing, like not all boys feel like being a boxer or fighter – a typical mind-set in my community.

That is why we have to offer people the freedom to choose what they want to do and give them the opportunity to develop their skills. I believe that through our projects, myself and the team within the National Karate Federation of Moldova offered Moldavian girls the opportunity to discover a new sport for themselves, where they can become better, find new friends and eventually participate in the Olympic Games.

**What successes has the project enjoyed so far?**

After just one year, there are already more girls willing to train in karate. When I was young, I was the only girl training alongside 30 boys in a class. Today, there are 15 girls and 30 boys. Of course, these are only the first steps and are just the start of the journey towards our ultimate goal of having karate as a gender equal sport.

**What do you hope to achieve in the future?**

I hope the event we are organising and the efforts of our team will grow gradually and contribute to changing the community on a larger scale. We live in a small country, but we have big dreams.
INTERVIEW: RICHARD PETERKIN

PROMOTING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
As a member of the IOC Women in Sport Commission, Richard Peterkin is one of the many men in the Olympic Movement who is playing an active role in advancing gender equality.

Richard Peterkin has witnessed first-hand the valuable contribution that women can make to the sporting movement. As the President of the Saint Lucia National Olympic Committee (SLOC) for 20 years (1992-2012), he saw women playing a key role in the development of sports in Saint Lucia, and in the growth and development of the SLOC.

“In many respects, women in our National Federations, and on the Executive Committee of SLOC, have exceeded expectations and punched above their numerical representation,” he says.

His work with the IOC, the Pan American Sports Organization (PASO) and the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has also strengthened his views on the issue of increasing women’s representation in all areas of the sports world.

“My personal commitment to gender equality was further buttressed by the many strong female role models who I have met and worked with as a Member of the IOC, the PASO and the CGF,” he explains. “This has justified my belief in the importance of gender equality as one of the essential missions of the Olympic Movement and the Commonwealth.”

Having joined the IOC Women in Sport Commission in 2016, here Peterkin explains what the IOC is doing to promote equal opportunities for girls and women to participate in, and benefit from, sport.

What are the greatest challenges for achieving gender equality in sport?
Sport is no different from other industries in respect of the achievement of gender equality. The biggest challenge is the unconscious gender biases that are present in every aspect of society, from high-level functions in government, political parties, business and sports. It stems from a culture that affects the vision and expectations from men and women in society. This culture is overt and legislated in many countries with religious and traditional norms of leadership, and unconscious and practised in supposedly liberal societies where gender equality has been legislated.
How do you view the IOC’s role as a leader in achieving the goal of equal participation by women in sport?

The goal of equal opportunities for girls and women to participate in, and benefit from, sport and physical activity, has been an essential mission of the IOC for some time. This has been done through advocacy, education, affirmative action and leading by example.

Examples of this leadership role include the IOC-sponsored global forums on Women in Sport and the decision in 1991 that any new sport seeking to be included on the Olympic programme had to include women’s events.

The adoption of the Olympic Agenda 2020 recommendations in 2015 included, as recommendation 11, the requirement to work with the International Federations to achieve 50 per cent female participation in the Olympic Games and to stimulate women’s participation and involvement in sport by creating more participation opportunities at the Olympic Games, as well as mixed gender teams.

How do you see the IOC Gender Equality Review Project advancing its goals in this area?

The IOC Gender Equality Review Project is a joint initiative of the IOC’s Women in Sport and Athletes’ Commissions, and aims to raise continued awareness of the importance of gender equality within the Olympic Movement, share best practices and present initiatives to further advance gender equality both on and off the field of play.

The IOC will be able to advance its goal of fostering gender equality and strengthening women’s participation in and through sport by reviewing and benchmarking progress in this area throughout the world of sport, and allowing women greater say in the drive to achieve gender equality.

The keys to the success of this project will be the ability of the Women in Sport and Athletes’ Commissions to identify specific, realistic and achievable recommendations that can be implemented, benchmarked and measured, and the willingness and ability of the IOC Executive Board to adopt and implement these recommendations when presented later this year.

The project will provide the IOC with a clear strategy to promote gender equality as a good governance principle, implement responsible accountability and harmonise its goals with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of ending gender inequality by 2030. It can also promote appropriate monitoring and best practices, while calling for a shift away from binary choices.

To elevate the conversation and make this shift happen, men and women will need to join forces.
FACTS AND FIGURES

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT GENDER EQUALITY WITHIN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

- **Chamonix 1924**
- **Oslo 1952**
- **Sarajevo 1984**
- **Sochi 2014**

- **Paris 1900**
- **London 1948**
- **Los Angeles 1984**
- **Rio 2016**

Tokyo 2020 will have the highest proportion of female athletes in Olympic history

Gender equality will be achieved for the first time at the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018 (1,999 women, 1,999 men)

By September 2017 IOC Members numbered 30 women

Seven IOC commissions are currently chaired by women

In 2017, female representation on IOC commissions has risen to 38 per cent

PyeongChang 2018 will stage 44 women’s events, the most in Olympic Winter Games history

Including 18 mixed events, twice as many as at Rio 2016

1981

In 1981, Flor Isava-Fonseca and Pirjo Haeggman became the first female IOC Members

IOC WOMEN AND SPORT AWARDS 2017

* INFORMATION SOURCED FROM IOC REPORTS AND OLYMPIC.ORG