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**Story Headline:** Olympic Agenda 2020 Reaches Half-Time

**Location:** Lima Convention Center, Lima, Peru

**Date:** 14th September 2017

**STORY SCRIPT**

International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach says Olympic Agenda 2020 has led to positive change:

“I think two things are pretty clear: one is how important this Olympic Agenda 2020 was and is for the future of the Olympic Movement, and it also shows very clearly that the Olympic Agenda 2020 has made us stronger, has made us more transparent, has made us more diverse, has made us more inclusive and has made us more connected.”

Elected to sport’s highest office in September 2013, Thomas Bach warned three years ago at the 127th IOC Session in Monaco that the IOC would have to take strategic actions to successfully face future challenges:

“If we do not drive these changes ourselves, others will drive us to them.”
President Bach then presented the Olympic Agenda 2020, the strategic roadmap for the future of the Olympic Movement.

The ‘Olympic Agenda 2020’ includes some 40 recommendations defined to protect the uniqueness of the Olympic Games and strengthen sport in society.

The IOC session in Lima, Peru marks the halfway point of enacting those 40 recommendations to complete Olympic Agenda 2020.

More than half of the 40 recommendations have so far been successfully enacted, of which these are a sample:

**Agenda 2020 recommendation number 1 - Shaping the Bidding Process as an Invitation**

The announcement of Paris as host city of Olympic Games 2024 and Los Angeles as host city of Olympic Games 2028 can be seen as a result of Agenda 2020 recommendation number one: inviting potential candidate cities to present an Olympic project that best matches their sports, economic, social and environmental long-term planning needs.

Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles said:

“*The Olympic Agenda 2020 felt so comfortable for us as Californians, a place where we are trying to do everything we can to combat global*
climate change, a place where we always want to, as we did in 1984, bring the very best business practices. Not just an abstraction but to fit the Olympics to our city rather than fitting a city to the Olympics.”

Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo added:

“With its Olympic Agenda 2020 the IOC has a really clear vision about how it can function at an international level to help solve these big challenges: climates challenges, social challenges, all these challenges can come together to build peace and brotherhood, forged from the humanitarian values of the Olympic spirit.”

Agenda 2020 recommendation number 10 - Move from a sport-based to an event-based programme.

The Olympics Games Tokyo 2020 will host a raft of new events, with the focus on urban and accessible youth sports.

Said Kit McConnell, IOC Sports Director:

“We’ve got innovative youth focused, urban focused events with 3 on 3 basketball, with BMX freestyle, with the mixed team relays and mixed team events coming in a number of sports. We’ve got record levels of female participation, record numbers of women’s athletes at the games and really focused on youth and urban forms of sport to really engage with the youth of Japan and the youth around the world; so a real
innovation in the programme of the Games for Tokyo 2020."

**Agenda 2020 recommendation 18 - Strengthen support to athletes.**

The athletes commission is designed to put the athletes’ experience at the heart of the Olympic Games, and further invest in supporting athletes on and off the field of play.

Tony Estanguet, Vice-Chair of the IOC Athletes’ Commission said:

“We have a mission to push for their opinions and concerns and in the other way to inform the athletes and it is a good mission to try to provide good tools to make sure the athletes worldwide will be aware of the different issues topics and how we can support them”.

Angela Ruggiero, Chair of the IOC Athletes’ Commission added:

“The IOC Athletes’ commission is really important. Through Olympic Agenda 2020 we have been saying that athletes are the heart of the Games. Athletes should be at the heart of everything. So it is really important that we have an athletes’ commission, we are the heart of the movement for the heart of the Games, to make sure that we are also part of the process”.

**Agenda 2020 recommendation 19 - Launch an Olympic Channel**
The IOC has committed to an Olympic Channel to engage younger audiences and sports lovers everywhere. According to multiple gold medal winning athlete Michael Johnson:

“I think that the Olympic Channel will bring an opportunity to inspire young people to see sports that maybe they might not ordinarily see and to find the sport that they may be passionate about”.

Teddy Riner the French Olympic Judo champion who won Gold at both the Olympic Games Rio 2016 and London 2012 added:

“We’ve got a channel that’s relevant to us, that shows sporting events, and, voila, long may it continue - it’s amazing!”

**Agenda 2020 recommendation 20 - Enter into strategic partnerships.**

The IOC, in partnership with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees is committed to helping the millions of refugees around the world gain access to their true potential.

Said Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees:

“Together we have fostered sports based projects in refugee communities in more than 45 countries. Tens of thousands of children have benefited from sports equipment, kits, playing fields, coaching and sports projects that help them integrate into their new communities.”
Agenda 2020 recommendation 21 - Strengthen IOC advocacy capacity

The IOC reaches out to intergovernmental organisations and agencies and encourage and assist NOCs in their advocacy efforts.

Interpol Secretary General Jürgen Stock added tough words about match fixing and related issues:

“Protecting sport from the infiltration of the criminal activities is a prime concern for Interpol, be it for doping, competition manipulation, corruption or other crimes. Competition manipulation has become an increasingly global concern, targeting a wide range of sports. Our cooperation with the IOC over the last 3 years has emphasized that only through coordination and cooperation between sport and law enforcement can we eliminate the problem of match fixing”.

End