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STORY HEADLINE: 4,000 of the World’s elite teenage athletes prepare for 3rd Summer Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, as IOC also hosts first ‘Olympism in Action Forum’ in the Argentine Capital.

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STORY SCRIPT: The 3rd Summer Youth Olympic Games gets underway in Buenos Aires on October 6th bringing together the World’s best young athletes between the ages of 15 and 18, and for the first time a Games will have gender equality, with equal numbers of male and females competing in the 32 sport programme.

Almost 4,000 athletes from 206 countries will be competing for 1250 medals, and Buenos Aires 2018 offers a glimpse into the future of the Games and the new programme will introduce several innovations that will be replicated at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

The new sports and new disciplines reflect the passions of a new generation of athletes, including breaking, futsal, beach handball, sport climbing, BMX freestyle and 3x3 basketball.

Mixed gender events have been featured since the inaugural YOG in Singapore in 2010, highlighting YOG as the centre of innovation, testing new concepts and creating a lasting legacy for future Games. Mixed 4x100m medley relay, the modern pentathlon, golf and tennis are just some of the many mixed gender events that will take place this year.

IOC President Thomas Bach is excited to see the innovations in place in the programme. He said: “The Youth Olympic Games can serve as a kind of laboratory, and we are using it as such as we do for instance with the World Games where we can see how a sport or discipline can contribute to a multisport event. Whether this sport fits into a multisports event and in which way. So we will monitor very closely the performance of these new disciplines and sports in Buenos Aires and then when it comes to put the programme for Paris 2024 together there then the results of these Youth Olympic Games will play an important role.”

In line with their vision to bring sport to the people, the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (BAYOCOG) has developed a free to access four-parks concept where locals and visitors to the city will be able to experience sport, music, culture and arts, sport initiation, showcasing and educational programmes free. One of the four parks will be the ‘Urban Park’ which will showcase the new sports at YOG Buenos Aires.
and others including skateboarding. This park will be replicated at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, where skateboarding joins the medal programme for the first time.

Retired professional skateboarder, Tony Hawk, believes it will be a great way to showcase the sport. He said: “As skateboarding is new to the Olympics and is coming in Tokyo 2020, it will be great to see which countries are being represented and to see athletes from all over the world and to see an equal ratio of boys to girls and in a lot of ways, equal skill levels. That's what the Olympics are all about, bringing the world together through sport.”

**Olympism in Action Forum**

The IOC’s first ‘Olympism in Action ‘Forum also takes place in the Argentine capital before the YOG begins, on 5-6 October. The Olympism in Action Forum is a direct result of the Olympic Agenda 2020 reforms. The two-day event will create a platform for diverse voices to share thinking and ideas on the overarching trends that affect the future of sport. The Olympism in Action Forum is an invitation from the IOC to welcome more people into the conversation.

It will address the most important topics related to sport and society through a constructive dialogue with a diverse group of speakers and guests. The Forum will not only involve Olympic Movement stakeholders, such as athletes, private and public sector leaders and the media, but it will also welcome broader spheres of society with the power to bring about change, including NGOs, academics and artists. Forum sessions and activities will include debates, collaborative workshops, sports demonstrations, inspirational talks, cultural celebrations, networking opportunities and much more.

President Bach said: “The Olympism in Action forum is one of the results of the Olympic Agenda 2020 where we said we want to open our windows and doors. We want to have fresh air coming in we want to listen to society so there you will see presenters, speakers, partners in discussion from all walks of life, be it in business, be it in politics, be it friends of the Olympic Games, people who are opposing Olympic Games. You will see young athletes making their point, you will see a presentation from E-Sports. So it will be a wide range of topics where we are there to listen and we want to get to know better how the world see us rather than us telling the world how they should see us and then after this forum we will then discuss these contributions and see what we can learn from it and how we can hopefully implement a number of these ideas.”

Chad Le Clos, who won Olympic Gold in the 200m butterfly at London 2012, believes the YOG taught him all about the Olympic ideals. He said: "Olympism for me means solidarity. I think for me the big change came when I went to the Youth Olympic Games in 2010, when i got to experience that for the first time, different cultures, different countries, different people coming together and uniting under one roof, for one common cause. The Olympics means so much to me, my nation and my family because of the friendships you make and because of the meaning behind it. The fact that you get to represent your country at the highest stage of sports in the world."

The 3rd Summer Youth Olympic Games takes place in Buenos Aires from October 6-18. The Olympism in Action Forum takes place on October 5-6.

**SHOTLIST**

00:02 Aerial view of the Obelisco in the city of Buenos Aires
00:07 Pan of olympic village
00:11 Pan of the city of Buenos Aires
00:15 Pan of the Youth Olympic Park including the Athletics Track and Hockey 5s pitch.
00:19 Close up of the climbing wall
00:22 Wide shot of climbing wall
00:27 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President
Q. What do you expect from the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018?
“You will so Futsal you will be Beach Handball and many other new sports and again you will see sports in the centre of the city, so these young athletes, they will be open to partner up with the population of the Buenos Aires and there will be initiation programs to sports being offered and the Opening Ceremony will be in the centre of the city at the Obelisk therefore drawing the attention of the people of **Buenos Aires in a very special way.”

01:21 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President
Q. Do all new Olympic sports or disciplines need to be tested first at the Youth Olympic Games?
“The Youth Olympic Games can serve as a kind of laboratory, and we are using it as such as we do for instance with the World Games where we can see how a sport or discipline can contribute to a multisport event. Whether this sport fits into a multisports event and in which way. So therefore we will monitor very closely the performance of these new disciplines and sports in Buenos Aires and then when it comes to put the programme for Paris 2024 together there then the results of these Youth Olympic Games will play an important role.”

02:14 SOUNDBITE: Tony Hawk, Skateboarder
Q. What are you most looking forward to about the Youth Olympic Games?
Answer: “The thing I’m looking forward to most at YOG is to see the athletes from all over the world because skateboarding is obviously new to the Olympics coming into 2020 and so there is going to be a whole influx of skaters from countries that we’ve never realised had skate scenes. So I’m looking forward to seeing which countries are represented and to see all the athletes from all over, I mean that it what the Olympics are all about, bringing the world together through sport.”

02:45 Male Skateboarding action from demonstration sport Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games.
02:55 Female Skateboarding action from demonstration sport Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games.
03:03 Action of Lee Sinhee (KOR) beating Miho Yoshimura (JPN) in the Fencing Quarter-finals at Nanjing 2014.
03:08 Action of South African female BMX rider during the Nanjing 2018.
03:14 Action of the Russian Group All-Around Rhythmic Gymnasts Daria Anenkova, Daria Dubova, Victoria Illina, Natalie Safonova and Sofya Skomorokh on their way to the Gold medal at Nanjing 2014.
03:18 Shots of Germany versus Zambia in the inaugural Hockey 5’s Men’s competition Nanjing 2014.
03:26 A shot of Golfer Dou Ze-Cheng’s driving from the tee during Nanjing 2014.
03:32 Shots of Hungary versus Spain Women’s basketball at Nanjing 2014.
03:39 Liu Gaoyang’s (CHN) winning shot against Doo Hoi Kem (HGK) in the women’s Table Tennis final Nanjing 2014.
03:46 Action of the 100m Hurdles Men’s final Nanjing 2014.
03:58 Action of Breaking Dancer

04:11 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President
Q. Just before the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games starts the first Olympism in Action forum will take place. What is Olympism in Action?

“The Olympic in Action forum is one of the results of the Olympic Agenda 2020 where we said we want to open our windows and our doors. We want to have fresh air coming in and we want to listen to society so there you will see presenters, speakers, partners in discussion from all walks of life, be it in business, be it in politics, be it friends of the Olympic Games, be it people who are opposing Olympic Games you will see young athletes making their point, you will see a presentation from E-Sports. So it will be a right range of topics where we are there to listen and we want to get to know better how the world see us rather than us telling the world how they should see us and then after this form we will then discuss these ideas and these contributions and see what we can learn from it and how we can hopefully implement a number of these ideas.”

05:39 SOUNDbite: Tony Hawk, Skateboarder
Q. What does Olympism mean to you?
“To me Olympism means more than just the athlete it means the infrastructure and support system they get going into the Games and really how sport has affected their life, and how it can change them dramatically in a positive way and maybe not just Olympians and people who go to the Olympics but the idea that whatever you’ve found that makes you active can change your perspective and change your belief in yourself. That’s Olympism to me. And all the people who have inspired it in you or who have driven you to practice or put together your gear or helped you train that’s all wrapped up in Olympism.”

06:26 SOUNDbite: Chad Guy Bertrand le Clos, Olympic Champion, London 2012.
“Olympism for me means solidarity. I think for me the big change came when i went to the Youth Olympic Games in 2010, when i got to experience that for the first time, different cultures, different countries, different people coming together and uniting under one roof, for one common cause. The Olympics means so much to me, my country and my family because of the friendships you make and because of the meaning behind it. The fact that you get to represent your country at the highest stage of sports in the world.”

06:58 - Chad Guy Bertrand le Clos diving into a pool during training.
07:05 - Chad Guy Bertrand le Clos swimming.

End

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Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018
7-18 Oct 2018

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