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**STORY HEADLINE:** IOC President Thomas Bach confirms gender equality at ‘One Year to Go’ Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020 celebration as OMEGA countdown clock and Mascot Yodli are unveiled.

**DATE:** 9 January 2019  
**LOCATION:** Lausanne, Switzerland  
**LANGUAGE:** English & French

Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom:  
http://iocnewsroom.com

**STORY SCRIPT:** Lausanne, host city of the 3rd Winter Youth Olympic Games, held a series of events to mark one year to the start of the biggest Winter Youth Olympic Games yet.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach was in Lausanne for the celebrations and confirmed that this will be the first gender equal Winter Youth Olympic Games, following on from the successful summer edition in Buenos Aires last year.

President Bach said: “Gender equity is one of the pillars of Olympic Agenda 2020 and we are very happy that within three years we have managed to have full gender equity for the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires and now for the first time for a winter event with Lausanne 2020 and we will also have gender equity in Tokyo 2020 so this is important and we are happy and proud that we’ve achieved this in such a short period of time.”

Not only will equal numbers of men and women be competing for medals; some exciting new disciplines, such as Ski mountaineering, have also been added to the programme to reflect the increased female participation. For the first time, a Winter Games edition will include mixed-nationality 3x3 ice hockey (with each team made up of three boys and three girls), a women’s doubles competition in luge, and a women’s Nordic combined event.

The YOG have always been synonymous with innovation and the pursuit of a forward-thinking agenda. Following on from the Youth Olympic Games Working
Group Recommendations, the IOC Executive Board last year confirmed a number of changes to the Winter YOG that will see more young athletes, more women and more new events feature in Lausanne.

There will be almost 1,900 athletes aged 15-18 in Lausanne, competing in eight sports. To accommodate the increase in numbers, a two-wave stay system will be pioneered in Lausanne. Each wave of athletes will have a shorter stay than usual on site, allowing the YOG to welcome significantly more participants while extending the competition’s duration by just three days, and without the need for any additional beds.

The Vortex Youth Olympic Village has a capacity of 1,440, and after the Games are over it will be used by the University of Lausanne as student accommodation. The opening ceremony will take place at the redeveloped Vaudoise Arena (formerly the Espace Malley). The 9,000 capacity arena will host the 3x3 Ice Hockey and the Ice Skating and Short Track Speed Skating.

The YOG has a tradition of collaborating with the young people of the host city to help bring the Games to life, and Lausanne is no different. 140 students from ERACOM, the local arts and communication school, worked for more than a year on the development of the mascot. Yodli, the mascot’s name, is a cross between three animals ingrained in the Swiss culture: the cow, the goat and the St-Bernard dog.

Yodli made its first public appearance at the Malley ice rink before the Swiss Ice Hockey Championship match between Lausanne Hockey Club and Hockey Club Davos from the Grisons region. Significantly, this fixture symbolised the true national dimension of the 2020 Youth Olympic Games, which will take place in both of these regions, as well as the Canton of Valais and neighbouring France.

Freestyle skier Virginie Faivre has been appointed the President of the Organising Committee, succeeding to Patrick Baumann, who died suddenly at the YOG in Buenos Aires last year. She said the idea of using facilities across Switzerland and France worked perfectly with the YOG ideals. “Switzerland is a small country, we speak the same language, France is our friends they are our neighbours and it made sense to work with them. That’s the spirit of the Youth Olympic Games we don’t want to create anything new we want to use what we have and develop it for the next generation.”

The Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020 will take place from January 9-22, 2020.
SHOTLIST:
00:02 Lausanne 2020 OMEGA Countdown Clock marking 365 days to start of Games
00:05 Cutaway photographers panning around to Lausanne 2020 Mascot Yodli in front of OMEGA Countdown Clock
00:18 Yodli on stage at Year To Go Celebration concert in Lausanne, with Swiss singer/pro snowboarder Pat Burgener
00:30 Yodli with crowds at Year To Go Celebration
00:38 Welcome to Lausanne, Olympic Capital road sign
00:41 Aerial wide shot of the city of Lausanne
00:46 Lausanne 2020 Mascot Yodli skating out onto the ice at the Malley Ice Rink.
00:57 IOC President Thomas Bach in crowd with Lausanne 2020 Organising Committee President Virginie Faivre
01:00 Lausanne 2020 Mascot Yodli drops puck ahead of Ice Hockey match
01:05 Start of the Ice Hockey match between Lausanne HC & HC Davos.
01:15 IOC President Thomas Bach in crowd with Lausanne 2020 Organising Committee President Virginie Faivre
01:20 Wide shot of Malley Ice Rink
01:23 Photographer cutaway panning round to IOC President Thomas Bach and Lausanne 2020 Organising Committee President Virginie Faivre with Lausanne 2020 Mascot Yodli
01:34 Close up Lausanne 2020 logo on Yodli’s costume
01:40 Lausanne 2020 Mascot Yodli jumping up

01:42 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)
Q. Why is gender equality so important for you at Lausanne 2020?
“Gender equity is one of the pillars of Olympic Agenda 2020 and there we are very happy that within three years we have managed to have full gender equity for the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires and now for the first time for a winter event with Lausanne 2020 and we will also have gender equity in Tokyo 2020 so this is important and we are happy and proud that we’ve achieved this in such a short period of time.”

02:19 IOC President Thomas Bach with Lausanne 2020 Mascot Yodli

02:24 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (French language)
(French language answer same as above text)

02:56 Lausanne 2020 Mascot Yodli skating
03:02 Lausanne 2020 Mascot Yodli with Virginie Faivre, Lausanne 2020 Organising Committee President

03:14 SOUNDBITE: Virginie Faivre, Lausanne 2020 Organising Committee President (French language)
Q. How does it feel to be nominated as Lausanne 2020 President?
Story script and Shot log

"It’s a lot of emotions and a great honour, and it’s above all a lot of excitement and a great motivation to take on this new challenge."

03:25 Exterior of ‘Vortex’ the Lausanne 2020 Olympic Village under construction
03:32 Interior of Lausanne 2020 Olympic Village under construction
03:34 Olympic Village shot from the roof.
03:38 Exterior shot of workmen outside the Vaudoise Hockey Arena
03:42 Interiors of the Vaudoise Arena

03:50 Wide shot of Lausanne 2020 Press conference
03:55 Photo opportunity with Lausanne 2020 Mascot Yodli

04:00 SOUNDBITE: Christophe Dubi, IOC Olympic Games Executive Director (French language)
“The sport programme is new. We have ski mountaineering as an addition. This is fantastic because we will be able to test a new sport on the occasion of the Youth Olympic Games and, why not, see it in the future. So this is one innovation, and for the Winter YOG, we have an ambitious programme to engage youth, to make the youngsters try out many sports. This is something we would like to replicate in the future at the Olympic Games."

04:35 SOUNDBITE: Danka Bartekova, Chair of the Coordination Commission for the 3rd Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020 (English language)
“I’m really excited to see how the project is shaping and being shaped from day to day, and I think it’s going to be an amazing project. It’s going to be some news for Lausanne 2020. It’s going to be the first Winter Youth Olympic Games with full gender equality, there’s going to be a few exciting new sports such as Ski Mountaineering, and I’m very happy to say that this is going to be a very sustainable Games because we are going to use the existing venues and it’s a project made by young people for young people."

05:05 SOUNDBITE: Ralph Stöckli, Director of the Olympic Games department for Swiss Olympic (English language)
“When I step out of the train and I see at the train station “Capitale Olympique” I think that is quite special. Living so close to the Capitale Olympique. And hosting the Games in this city it’s amazing. After more than 70 years since holding the last Games up in St Moritz, I think it was about time that the Games come back to Switzerland."

05:29 SOUNDBITE: Philippe Leuba Minister for Economic and Sport Affairs of the State of Vaud (French language)
“Lausanne is the Olympic Capital. The state of Vaud hosts the headquarters of 59 Sport International Federations. We are the country where the sport is
administered but we also want to be the country where sport is practiced. This is why we have wanted to offer to the population of the state of Vaud, the swiss population, the international population, exemplary Games, the Games of the future, which will be responsible, including on the environmental level."

05:59 Wide shot of Lausanne 2020 OMEGA countdown clock.
06:01 Close up shot of Lausanne 2020 OMEGA countdown clock.

-- ENDS --

VIDEO ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE POST
EXTRA SOUNDBITE: Philippe Leuba Minister for Economic and Sport Affairs of the State of Vaud (French language)
“The Youth Olympic Games bring the Olympic ideals to tomorrow’s generations, to help them understand how much sport can bring life, how sport is the school of life, on the physical level but also psychologically and for the construction of one’s character. It’s the benefits of sport for all the people, and a fantastic school of life.”

EXTRA SOUNDBITE: Christophe Dubi, IOC Olympic Games Executive Director (English language)
Q. What can we expect to see that is new and exciting at the Lausanne 2020 Games?
“Well, Exciting plenty! What’s new? First the sport programme. We have ski mountaineering for the first time displayed in the context of the Games. So that is really exciting to see the competition format and how it will play out. We have plenty of things regarding the organisation of the Games, especially the involvement of the local population which will be very important for the success of the Games, and that’s new and exciting. The sense that we will offer the opportunities for the youngsters in the region to try out and to test every sport and why not generate interest and participation, and in the end this is what the Games are designed to do. This is all what we aim for, to engage and create vocations and emotions so that those young people want to practice sport and be part of it in future.”

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