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STORY HEADLINE: IOC CONSIDERS REQUEST FOR UNIFIED KOREAN TEAMS AT TOKYO 2020 AND WELCOMES THEIR JOINT BID TO HOST OLYMPIC GAMES 2032

DATE: 15 February 2019
LOCATION: Lausanne, Switzerland.
LANGUAGE: English & Korean

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

STORY SCRIPT: A year after North and South Korea made history by marching together in the opening ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is considering a request for unified Korean teams to enter qualification for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

The announcement came at a working meeting between the Republic of Korea (KOR) and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (PRK), chaired by IOC President Thomas Bach, where it was also confirmed the two nations intend to put forward a joint candidature to host the Olympic Games 2032.

Today’s meeting in Lausanne was held to discuss further sports co-operation between the two countries, building on the foundations laid by the combined march at the opening ceremony of Pyeongchang 2018 and the unified Korean team that took part in the women’s ice hockey tournament at the Olympic Winter Games a year ago.

During the tripartite meeting, the IOC and the two Korean delegations, composed of representatives of their respective National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and governments, discussed the format and pathway for the participation of a number of unified Korean teams, made up of athletes from both NOCs at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

The parties agreed on the principles guiding such unified Korean teams per sport and discipline. It was decided that participation at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 would be based on successful qualification in those sports and disciplines where both NOCs wish to compete as a unified Korean team.

The IOC agreed to continue to study, in particular with the respective International Federations (IFs), the request of the NOCs of KOR and PRK for unified Korean teams to take part in qualification for the following events:

1. Women’s Basketball
2. Women’s Hockey
These discussions will be based on the agreement that any unified Korean team will follow the qualification system established for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

There are still ongoing talks between the NOCs of KOR and PRK and their governments on possible additional unified Korean teams in other sports. The IOC informed them that it will consider further requests if these are made in due time ahead of the Olympic qualification competitions.

The IOC insisted that the athletes in the unified Korean teams will be subject to the same anti-doping testing programme as all other athletes in advance of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. In light of the recent decision of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to declare the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Anti-Doping Committee non-compliant with the WADA Code, and in the interest of the continuous fight against doping, the IOC will explore the possibility with WADA and other parties of providing additional support to the NOC of PRK to strengthen the fight against doping. The IOC has been advised by the two Korean NOCs and WADA that there is already an agreement in place with the China Anti-Doping Agency to resolve this situation as soon as possible.

All the parties agreed to continue to build on the preliminary results of this working meeting, and to address all outstanding issues in close consultation.

Any result will need the approval of the IOC Executive Board, which has its next meeting from 26 to 28 March 2019 in Lausanne.

The IOC expressed its sincere wish that the ongoing political talks produce the necessary progress on the Korean Peninsula for a successful candidature and organisation. Further discussions will continue in accordance with the candidature procedure open to all NOCs for hosting the Olympic Games 2032.

President Bach said the IOC welcomed the initiative and is ready to assist the two Koreas in the process.

He said: “The discussions at the working meeting today are one further step showing how sport can once more make a contribution to peace on the Korean Peninsula and the world. We have a good foundation to build on and make further progress ahead of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. Sport will continue to build bridges and demonstrate the unifying power of the Olympic Games. Therefore, we warmly welcome the historic initiative of the two Koreas to put forward a joint Korean candidature for the Olympic Games 2032.”

Do Jong-hwan, Minister of Culture, Sport and Tourism of KOR said: “We had the Pyeongchang Games as the Olympic Games of peace. The best legacy of the Pyeongchang Olympic Games is the peace. This peace is changing the destiny of the Korean Peninsula. While we really appreciate the fact that the destiny of the Korean Nation is being changed through the sports, we have a vision and intention to host the 2032 Olympic Games with South and North Koreas together. Consequently, we sincerely hope that the starting line of the peaceful Korean Peninsula in the Pyeongchang Olympic Games will lead to the finishing line of the
2032 Olympic Games and, ultimately, the reunification of Korea. We, from our heart, ask the IOC to build a bridge to the final path while we are making every effort to realise this peace.”

Kim Il-guk, NOC President and Minister of Physical Culture and Sport of PRK, said: “The leaders of the two Koreas agreed that they intended to host the Olympic Games in 2032. I am very moved and excited by the prospect of bidding together with South Korea. We agree with the concepts put forward by South Korea, and ask for the support of President Bach and the IOC to jointly host the Olympic Games in Seoul and Pyongyang.”

The following delegations took part in the working meeting:

- A delegation from the IOC led by President Thomas Bach who chaired the meeting.
- A delegation from the NOC of the Republic of Korea led by NOC President Lee Kee-heung and the Minister of Culture, Sport and Tourism, Do Jong-hwan,
- A delegation from the NOC of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea led by NOC President and Minister of Physical Culture and Sport, Kim Il-guk.

SHOTLIST:

00:01 Wide shot of building IOC Headquarters Lausanne, Switzerland.
00:05 Close up Olympic rings outside IOC Headquarters.
00:09 Mr Do Jong-hwan, Minister of Culture, Sport and Tourism of KOR stepping out of his car on arrival.
00:13 Mr Kim Il-guk, President of the PRK NOC and Minister of Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports stepping out of his car on arrival.
00:18 Mr. Do Jong-hwan and Mr Kim Il-guk standing together.
00:20 IOC President Thomas Bach greets Mr. Do Jong-hwan and Mr Kim Il-guk.
00:27 Mr. Do Jong-hwan and Mr Kim Il-guk having their photograph taken either side of IOC President Thomas Bach.
00:31 Wide shot of both delegations at the end of the photograph taking. IOC President shakes hands with Mr. Do Jong-hwan and Mr Kim Il-guk.
00:43 Wide shot of IOC meeting room ahead of the talks between the two Korean delegations.
00:50 Close up of Mr Kim Il-guk, President of the PRK NOC and Minister of Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports.
00:58 Close up of Mr. Do Jong-hwan, Minister of Culture, Sport and Tourism of KOR.

01:02 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)

Q. Is a unified qualification procedure for North and South Korea at Tokyo 2020 a real possibility?

“They presented their proposal for organising joint teams on the occasion of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. This concerns four sports at this time. It’s Women’s Basketball, Women’s Hockey, the joint Judo Mixed Team event and some events in Rowing. The IOC has taken this proposal very positively and we will now enter into the discussion concerning this proposal within the Olympic movement that means in particular with the
International Federations and we will also continue the discussions in more detail with the two delegations, so that hopefully until the next IOC Executive board meeting at the end of March we can already make further progress. There is already an agreement that with regard to all these unified teams that they would follow the same qualification procedure as all the other teams that means that they would participate already in the qualification procedure as a unified Korean team.

The IOC also emphasised that with regard to anti-doping all these unified Korean teams would have to follow the same anti-doping procedures established by WADA and the International Federations as all the other athletes. In this context we also addressed the situation of the non-compliant anti-doping organisation in PRK. There we were informed that PRK has already entered into an agreement with the national anti-doping organisation in China and that they together will address this issue and Minister Kim has expressed the full commitment of the Governments of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to remedy this situation as soon as possible.”

04:17 Wide shot of Lausanne meeting room.

04:20 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)
Q. What did you think of the joint Korean presentation to candidature for the Olympic Games 2032?
“Finally we have also heard and seen an impressive presentation about the historic initiatives of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to present a joint candidature for the organisation of the Olympic Games 2032. The IOC has very warmly welcomed this historic initiative because it reflect the mission of the Olympic Games. It demonstrate the unifying power of sports and it is about our mission, the mission of the IOC to always build bridges. Therefore we appreciate this initiative very much and we have offered, even though the candidature procedure has not opened yet, we have offered the two Koreas our advice in order to make all the necessary steps to finally have a technically sound candidature.”

05:56 SOUNDBITE: Mr. Do Jong-hwan, Minister of Culture, Sport and Tourism of KOR (Korean language)
Q. Can Olympic Sport play a major role in future Korean reconciliation?
TRANSLATION
“We had the Pyeongchang Games as the Olympic Games of peace. The best legacy of the Pyeongchang Olympic Games is the peace. This peace is changing the destiny of the Korean Peninsula. While we really appreciate the fact that the destiny of the Korean Nation is being changed through the sports, we have a vision and intention to host the 2032 Olympic Games with South and North Koreas together. Consequently, we sincerely hope that the starting line of the peaceful Korean Peninsula in the Pyeongchang Olympic Games will lead to the finishing line of the 2032 Olympic Games and, ultimately, the reunification of Koreas. We, from our heart, ask the IOC to build a bridge to the final path while we are making every effort to realise this peace.”

Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 Opening Ceremony: Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (PRK) and Republic of Korea (KOR) unified teams enter stadium together - February 2018
[Rights free video for news access]
06:46 Korean Olympic athletes march into stadium together under a joint flag
06:57 Close up of United Korean athletes walking together.
07:02 Republic of Korea President Moon Jae-in and wife waving to the United Korean Team.
07:05 Democratic People's Republic of Korea (PRK) representatives Kim Yo-jong and Kim Yong-nam waving to the United Korean Team.
07:08 Unified Korean Ice Hockey Team comes onto the Ice before a Pyeongchang 2018 match.
07:14 Group shot of the joint Korean Women’s ice hockey team.

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