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**STORY HEADLINE:** Milan-Cortina awarded the Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Games 2026 by International Olympic Committee (IOC)

**DATE:** 24 June 2019  
**LOCATION:** Swisstech Convention Centre, Lausanne, Switzerland.  
**LANGUAGE:** English

Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: [http://iocnewsroom.com](http://iocnewsroom.com)

**STORY SCRIPT:**

Milan-Cortina, Italy, will host the Olympic Winter Games and the Winter Paralympic Games 2026.

The decision was taken during the 134th Session of the IOC in Lausanne, Switzerland. The other candidate in the ballot was Stockholm-Åre, Sweden. Milan-Cortina won by 47 votes to 34.

Announcing the decision IOC President Thomas Bach said: “Congratulations to Milan-Cortina. We can look forward to outstanding and sustainable Olympic Winter Games in a traditional winter sports country. The passion and knowledge of Italian fans, together with experienced venue operators, will create the perfect atmosphere for the best athletes of the world. The Olympic Winter Games Milan-Cortina 2026 will feature iconic venues and beautiful settings, combining the attractions of a modern European metropolis with a classic Alpine environment.”

He added: “The new Candidature Process has demonstrated the success of Olympic Agenda 2020. We have lowered the cost and complexity of developing Games projects, which now serve the long-term development goals of the host communities and have sustainability and legacy at their hearts. This leads to a significantly reduced organisation budget and the use of 93% existing or temporary competition venues.

“I also want to thank Stockholm-Åre for being part of the Candidature Process for the Olympic Winter Games 2026.”

Giovanni Malago, President of the Italian Olympic Committee and IOC Member, said: “What we have done this afternoon represents perfectly the image of my country, our country, and I am really proud. The last consideration, thanks to the veterans of IOC. My father, my brother, Franco Carraro and Mario Pescanti. Thanks to Manuela Di Centa, Ivo Ferriani, thanks to all the
presidents of International Federations. All of them were here… I finish…sorry… chirurgical outcome, chirurgical objective. And as a surgeon, I asked them to go in the specific direction as one single IOC member. We studied it in all the details. This is important, really thanks, I was so happy, I am so honoured, I am really thankful to all of you, because I think that especially in Italy, especially in Italy, press, media were positive and close to us."

Italy is a sports-loving nation and winter sports are part of the tradition, culture and identity of Northern Italy. The region has world-class winter sports venues ranging from the ice arenas of Milan, to the well-established and iconic World Cup and World Championship destinations of Cortina, Bormio, Antholz and Val di Fiemme.

The plan is fully in line with the Olympic Agenda 2020 reforms, which call for making maximum use of existing and temporary venues if there is no post-Games demand for new permanent facilities.

With regard to competition venues, Milan-Cortina 2026 prioritises sustainability and legacy as 13 of a total 14 facilities (93 per cent) will be existing or temporary.

The project has the unified backing of the Italian sports movement, the private sector and national, regional and city governments – providing a solid foundation for its delivery.

It features a clear vision to use the Games as a catalyst to boost economic development across Northern Italy, including supporting the regions to achieve their specific tourism goals, and to stimulate economic activities between the metropolitan and mountain areas.

The Candidature Process 2026 has been built on increased partnership, flexibility and sharing of knowledge. Featuring a new one-year non-committal Dialogue Stage, the IOC, together with the International Olympic Winter Sports Federations and the wider Olympic Movement, worked hand-in-hand with Interested Cities and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) to help them explore options and develop Games projects.

As part of the new process, the IOC provided increased technical services to each interested City, while lowering the number of Candidate City deliverables and presentations.

The result is a significant cost reduction in the candidature budgets, projected to be over 75 per cent lower than the average budgets for the 2018 and 2022 Candidates.

In addition, the proposed Games operating budgets were on average 20 per cent lower than those of the Candidate Cities for the Olympic Winter Games 2018 and 2022.

The Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Winter Games 2022 will take place in Beijing.

SHOTLIST:

00:02 UPSOUND: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)
“Ladies and Gentlemen, the members of the International Olympic Committee have elected the host city of the Olympic Winter Games 2026. The host is... Milan-Cortina.”
00:29 Various shots of the Milan-Cortina Olympic Winter Games 2026 candidate city delegation celebrating.
00:40 Various shots of a disappointed Stockholm-Åre Olympic Winter Games 2026 candidate city delegation watching celebrations
00:46 More celebrations from Milan-Cortina
01:05 Various shots of the panel signing Host City Contract
01:24 The panel pose with Italian flags for the press.

01:35 SOUNDbite: Giovanni Malago, President of the Italian Olympic Committee and IOC Member (English language)
“What we have done this afternoon represents perfectly the image of my country, our country, and I am really proud. The last consideration. Thanks to the veterans of the IOC. My father, my brother, Franco Carraro and Mario Pescanti. Thanks to Manuela Di Centa, Ivo Ferriani, thanks to all the presidents of International Federations. All of them were here… I finish…sorry… chirurgical outcome, chirurgical objective. And as a surgeon, I asked them to go in the specific direction as one single IOC member. We studied it in all the details. This is important, really thanks, I was so happy, I am so honoured, I am really thankful to all of you, because I think that especially in Italy, especially in Italy, press, media were positive and close to us. Really thanks.”

02:50 SOUNDbite: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)
“First of all, I would like to congratulate Milan-Cortina for this victory. For the IOC this is a great day because we have the Olympic Winter Games 2026 in a traditional winter sport country with a great experience in winter sport, with passionate fans, and great athletes.”

03:24 SOUNDbite: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)
“With this project aligned with Olympic Agenda 2020, we have seen how we can also lower the complexity of the Games, how this can be addressed in a better way and how the use of existing facilities is facilitating achieving sustainability and legacy goals and also in this respect the candidature of Milan and Cortina stood out with 93% of existing or temporary facilities.”

04:21 Milan-Cortina Olympic Winter Games 2026 bid video

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