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STORY HEADLINE: The International Olympic Committee Condemns Racism in the strongest terms.

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SHOTLIST:

00:00 External wide shot of Olympic House, headquarters of the International Olympic Committee.
00:07 Close up of the Olympic rings outside Olympic House entrance.
00:13 Pan up the staircase inside Olympic House.
00:19 IOC President walks into the IOC Executive board meeting.
00:26 Wide shot pan of the Executive board meeting
00:35 SOUNDBITES: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).
“Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, there in whatever time zones you are dear friends and colleagues."

00:48 Wide shot of Executive Board members online remotely.
00:58 PRESS CONFERENCE
Video duration 50 minutes
(Full transcript of the press conference)

IOC Spokesperson Mark Adams:

We've just finished the virtual Executive Board meeting. I'm joined by the President of the IOC Thomas Bach, and by the Executive Director for the Olympic Games, Christophe Dubi. We discussed a number of issues, of course, Tokyo and the preparations for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. And we also discussed, of course, racism and inclusion. And the EB agreed a resolution and the President will make some opening remarks, but we'll begin by reading that resolution to you now. So without further ado, President, over to you.

IOC President Thomas Bach:

Thank you very much. The International Olympic Committee condemns racism in the strongest terms. The IOC stands for non-discrimination as one of the founding pillars of the Olympic Movement, which is reflected in the Olympic Charter, Fundamental Principle 6: "The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Olympic Charter shall be secured without discrimination of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, language,
religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."
The Olympic Games are a very powerful global demonstration against racism and for inclusivity. They are a celebration of the unity of humankind in all our diversity. Athletes from all 206 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team all enjoy the same rights, respecting each other and with the same rules applying to everyone without any kind of discrimination. All these athletes live peacefully together in the Olympic Village, sharing their meals, their thoughts and their emotions.

This is in the DNA of the Olympic Games and the IOC as an organisation. Our founder Pierre de Coubertin said: "We shall not have peace until the prejudices that now separate the different races are outlived. To attain this end, what better means is there than to bring the youth of all countries periodically together for amicable trials of muscular strength and agility?"

The IOC Executive Board supports the initiative of the IOC Athletes' Commission to explore different ways of how Olympic athletes can express their support for the principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter, including at the time of the Olympic Games, and respecting the Olympic spirit.

By participating in the Olympic Games, the athletes are proof of this principle of non-discrimination for any reason. Their respect for all their fellow athletes gives us a glimpse of how humankind as a whole could live together peacefully and respectfully.

IOC Spokesperson Mark Adams:
Thank you, President, for that. And now, we will move on to a summary. President will give you a summary of some of the decisions and what was discussed along with that resolution today at the Executive Board. So, President, I hand back to you to give us a quick rundown of the main points.

IOC President Thomas Bach:
Thank you again. One of the focuses of today's meeting was, of course, the preparation for the postponed the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. And here I can report about another excellent meeting with the Organising Committee showing, again, the Japanese determination and efficiency with a view to organise a successful Olympic Games in July next year. There is full alignment between the Organising Committee and the IOC, in particular, through our joint task force. We have already seen great progress, even in the short time since the last Executive Board meeting. And this, in particular, with regard to simplify and reduce the complexity of the Games and, in this way, reduce the cost of the Games.

From this work also the organisation for Paris 2024 is benefitting and will benefit because we will see then the full application for the first time of Olympic Agenda 2020 and the new face of the New Norm, which we have accelerated because of the Corona crisis. In this context of '24, we have confirmed also the principles for new sports and events for Paris 2024. First of all, it's to reduce the overall athletes quota to 10,500. Secondly, achieving gender equal participation across the Olympic Games at the event and discipline level where possible. Prioritizing new events that accommodate athletes within the sports already existing quota allocation. And, very important, new events only if there are existing venues.

In the context of Paris 2024, we also agreed to maintain the previously set deadline of December 2020 to confirm the event programme and athletes quotas for the Olympic Games, Paris 2024. This includes, of course, the events and the four additional sports proposed by the Organising Committee: breaking, sport climbing, skateboarding, and surfing. To maintain this deadline is in the interest of, first of all, all the athletes concerned, so to give them certainty as soon as possible. But this interest has also been shared by all the stakeholders, the Organising Committee, the respective International Federations, and the National Olympic Committees.
Furthermore, we had unfortunately to deal with the very serious and very concerning report about the International Weightlifting Federation. The IOC is in contact with the new leadership of the Weightlifting Federation. And we have asked of them and they will give us a clarification on this report. In particular, once they had the opportunity in their Oversight Committee, also to evaluate the second part of the so far not public report of Professor McLaren, which will be key then for the further developments. What we can say already now is that we will fully support the new leadership of the Weightlifting Federation and the acting President in her efforts to reform the governance of the Federation and also in her efforts to make the anti-doping system fully independent from the Federation. The major steps have already been done by delegating to ITA, on the one hand, and to the CAS anti-doping division, on the other hand. All this, of course, under the regulatory authority of WADA.

Speaking of WADA, we also understand from our contact with WADA that they will follow up on the regard with regulatory matters on anti-doping. And we have already requested WADA to inform the IOC whether in the cases being mentioned in the McLaren report there are any Olympic-related individual medals. What we have made clear already today and from the outset, and again, the acting IWF President knows already about this, that the IOC will not grant an accreditation, an Olympic accreditation to any IWF official implicated following the results of the IWF inquiry. And such officials would also not be accepted by the IOC around the table in the preparation meetings for Tokyo 2020. So, we have now confidence in the work of the acting president of IWF and this Oversight Committee. And we'll follow up on their results then accordingly. The Executive Board also took the decision to propose five new members for election to the IOC Session. Here we were following the recommendations of the IOC Members Election Commission. These five new proposals are three women and two men, that would bring the female membership up to 39 members. I think it's another demonstration of our commitment to promote gender equality in line with Olympic Agenda 2020. Not only when it comes to the participation of female athletes, but also the female participation in the leadership of the Olympic Movement.

These candidates for individual memberships are - these are four candidates - Mrs. Maria de la Caridad Colón Ruenes from Cuba. She's actually an Olympic champion from Cuba in javelin. She's a board member of the Cuban National Olympic Committee, and she has a rich experience in educational issues, which was very important there as a criterion for the Members Election Commission and for the IOC Executive Board.

We have then furthermore, Mrs. Kolinda Grabar- Kitarović from Croatia. She is the former President of the Republic of Croatia. And in this capacity has promoted and supported sport in an excellent way, both on the national level, but also on the international level in a number of conversations and meetings that I also personally had with her in this time. And therefore, it came as no surprise that also the National Olympic Committee of Croatia and President Zlatko Mateša there are strongly supporting her.

Then we have Princess Rema Bandar Al-Saud from Saudi Arabia. She is actually the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United States is, at the same time, a member of the IOC Women in Sport Commission. And has greatly contributed to the advancements of women's sports in Saudi Arabia and in the region, and also on the international level, through her work in the Women in Sport Commission of the IOC. And she's also supported by her National Olympic Committee.

The same is true for Mr. Battushig Battbold from Mongolia, who is the currently Acting President of the NOC of Mongolia. He has a rich experience in the volunteer work for sport in the National Olympic Committee, but also in professional sports, and brings added value to the IOC in these two different respects.

Then we have one candidature, which is linked to a function within an International Federation. And this is Mr. Sebastian Coe as President of World Athletics.
Then additionally, the EB agreed to submit to the Session, the change of membership status to individual member for Mr. William Blick from Uganda, who is actually serving as a member in his capacity as President of the National Olympic Committee of Uganda.

And the EB finally also agreed to submit to the Session the extension of the term of office of IOC Member and our Vice President, Mr. Zaiqing Yu from China from the end of 2021 to the end of 2025, due to the important role he is playing in China's sport and society at large.

These so far, are the summary of the key decisions of this Board meeting. And now I'm open to all the questions you may have. And thank you already for your interest in our work and our meeting.

**IOC Spokesperson Mark Adams:**

Thank you very much, President. Just to say, there were also a number of medal re-allocations which were decided - a long list - and you will find the details of those later on olympic.org, rather than us having to recount all the names here and now.

So we are using a new system. So I think we'll all have to bear with each other. Hopefully you've all read the instructions on how this works. You need to press, if you want to ask a question, the hand icon on the top right. And then send a request and we will give you permission. And then you need to press to continue and unmute yourself. But hopefully you've all read the instructions and we'll see how it goes, but we have to give each other a little bit of latitude. So, let's start first and see if the system is working properly with Liam Morgan from Inside the Games. Liam, if you would like to ask a question, please go ahead.

**Inside the Games/Liam Morgan:**

Two questions, if I may, Mr. President. Firstly, on the declaration that you read at the start, does this mean the IOC Athletes’ Commission are going to revisit on athletes protesting at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games? And secondly, on Tokyo 2020, you said up to 200 ways of simplifying the Games, obviously because of the postponement. Are you able to give us any details on exactly what that might entail? Thank you.

**IOC President Thomas Bach:**

Well, thank you, Liam. With regard to the first question, we have fully supported the initiative of the IOC Athletes’ Commission to have a dialogue with their counterparts, athletes from around the world, to explore different ways on how Olympic athletes can express their support for the principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter in a dignified way.

We also agree at the same time with the Athletes’ Commission that we must always respect the Olympic spirit. And this means that we must make a difference between such support for the principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter and potentially divisive demonstrations. And now we are looking forward to the input we will get from the IOC Athletes’ Commission on these topics within this framework.

With regard to the second question, if I may, I would refer to Christophe Dubi, the Olympic Games Executive Director, who is sitting next to me and who will give you an outline on each of the 200 proposals now in the next one hour and a half or so.

**Olympic Games Executive Director Christophe Dubi:**

Good night, everyone. Liam, before we get to the simplification, the first thing that does not change is the very fundamental, which is the Games are about sport and about the athletes. And this is a line we do not cross. Excellence on the field of play and the conditions for the athletes to shine.

When it comes to the simplification, we have a spirit that is shared among all of us. And when I say all of us, it's Tokyo 2020, but also the stakeholders of the Olympic Movement.
And it is to be: one, forensic, and two, that we do not leave any stone unturned. I will not go through the 200, Mr. President, but just give you an outline of the buckets of our thoughts.

So, we look at service levels, okay? Which service levels are absolutely necessary versus those we can simplify? Liam, you change a parking lot to a drop off and it makes a huge difference in the space, in the security that you have to have around your parking lot, the technology that is needed to support it, the energy that you need to support it, any service level we look into.

Quantities. Second bucket. Do we need all the space? Do we need all the goods and services? From previous Games we’ve seen that sometimes we over plan and under consume. We have to look into each and every one of the quantities.

The same with activities. We have a lot of activities across the Games theatre. Which one add a real value to the Olympic experience? The one that will raise emotions for people to come back and say: "This was outstanding. The best moment of my life." Each of these activities we will review in light of what I just said.

Operations is the next bucket. We have a set of test events that could not be delivered because of the COVID crisis. Do we need all these test events or testing of the field of play and some critical part will suffice? So, each and every test event that we had to deliver we have to review in light of the objective, which is to be ready, but not necessarily to organise a big event.

Finally, we have also to look at the venues and see where, outside of the field of play, we can simplify things like flows of people in the venue. Entrance into the venue as well, can we simplify? Can we have less resources?

So, you see, these are the big buckets, and, all in all, yes, it is close to 200 and the work is ongoing. It will take time, President and all, but the result will be positive.

IOC Spokesperson Mark Adams:

Thank you very much, Liam. Next question is from Richard Parr from CNN. Richard, if you’re there please ask away.

CNN/Richard Parr:

Yes, thank you very much for this moment. A two parted question. I understand from the President that there will be this discussion with the Athletes’ Commission regarding peaceful protests. Would the President like athletes to be allowed to kneel on the podium if they choose to, once the discussions have been made? And what did he think of FIFA and the NFL’s decision to allow it?

IOC President Thomas Bach:

I will not pre-empt in any way these consultations the Athletes’ Commission now will have with the many athletes’ representatives around the world. I think it would not be fair if now I make a statement and, by that, give directions or even instructions in this respect. The framework has been set and now let the Athletes’ Commission and let the athletes discuss among themselves, and then come up with the relevant proposals.

IOC Spokesperson Mark Adams:

Okay, next question is from Ye Ji from Xinhua.

Xinhua News Agency/Ye Ji:

Mr. President. Yes. Yesterday after the fifth meeting of the IOC Coordination Commission on Beijing 2022, the IOC and Beijing organisers made pledges to work closer on the opportunities and challenges through a peak to peak approach. So, can you explain more...
specifically or provide some examples on how to make it happen, from Tokyo to Beijing and from peak to peak? Thank you.

IOC President Thomas Bach:
Thank you very much. There we also had an excellent report today from the Coordination Commission of Beijing 2022, where exactly this cooperation was highlighted. One of the obvious advantages is that with these Games being so close together, they will enjoy a high awareness worldwide in the world public. And from this both Games can benefit, and the entire Olympic Movement can benefit. But there are also some more operational issues. There, I would like again to refer to Christopher Dubi.

Olympic Games Executive Director Christophe Dubi:
Thank you, President. Yes, indeed. We have discussed about some of the other issues and I would mention, in particular, logistics and operations for a number of our partners and some of our entities, like OBS for example. We feel that we have a lot of benefits in this peak to peak and the proximity. Indeed, the logistics generally between Games means that you are shipping back a number of the materials to move to the next city and it travels around the globe.

In this case, it will remain within Asia and, most probably, travel straight from Tokyo to Beijing. The same for the operations of a number of our technology partners, for example, which will move directly from one Games to the next, and also keeping some people in the region. So, we very much believe that we have, as you said, President, a number of opportunities when it comes to communications and engagement, but also in logistics and operations. Now this is a lot of detailed work. The good thing is that there is an excellent relationship already between the two Organising Committees. We will definitely make sure that there is constant coordination so that we can seize all the opportunities.

IOC Spokesperson Mark Adams:
Thank you. Okay. Next question is to Karolos Grohmann from Reuters. Your question please.

Reuters/Karolos Grohmann:
Good afternoon. I wanted to ask about the membership of Seb Coe and what has changed since the previous time and the potential conflict of interest that you had mentioned at the time? Thank you.

IOC President Thomas Bach:
Thank you very much, Karolos. In effect, what has changed is that Seb Coe has committed himself there to change his status within the company. He's currently running as a Managing Director, to a passive position, and that there the necessary documentation will be provided to the IOC Ethics Commission by 1st July, so because the EB has their full confidence in our friend, Seb Coe, they have decided to put the candidature for what the subject, of course, to the delivery of such a documentation with which then the concerns of the IOC Ethics Commission would be gone.

IOC Spokesperson Mark Adams:
Thank you, President. Let's go to Atlanta, to Ed Hula from Around the Rings, Ed?

Around the Rings/Ed Hula:
Hello to everybody. The question about simplification of the Games and reducing the complexity as it applies to Paris 2024. The decision has been made to put surfing in French
Polynesia, thousands of miles away from Paris involving air transport and a disconnect between the venue and Paris. Is there going to be any consideration given to whether the surfing venue is appropriate, given this additional attention you’re putting on reducing complexity of the Games?

IOC President Thomas Bach:
Mr. Dubi?

Olympic Games Executive Director Christophe Dubi:
Thank you, Ed. When the proposal was made for surfing in Polynesia, the Executive Board, asked a further report to be completed by a group comprising experts in sustainability, environment and also sport. And what came out clearly is that Tahiti was already hosting a professional competition each and every year, actually right before the time of the Olympics. There is a setup that will need to be respected, obviously, and conditions have been created to make sure that there is no further increased impact on the environment.

So, it was deemed that for the sport of surfing, first the conditions from a sporting standpoint were ideal, but furthermore, that because of the current setup, those conditions were good as well from an operational standpoint. So, the conclusion of the study was that although it's a remote location and there is downside to it, but as you know, also there will be a full compensation in the case of Paris, that because of the other aspects, it was recommendable to follow Paris with a recommendation to go to Tahiti. So, a lot of work has been produced by this working group to make sure that the conditions were ideal on all standpoint.

IOC Spokesperson Mark Adams:
Thank you, Mr. Dubi, let's go now to Italy, to Flavio Vanetti from Corriere della Sera.

Corriere della Sera/Flavio Vanetti:
Good evening, Mr. President, just a question related to the NBA season that will start in late 2020, so in December. There will be maybe a conflict with the beginning of the Games. Are you going to negotiate with the NBA in order not to have a poor American team in 2021?

IOC Spokesperson Mark Adams:
Sorry, can I just clarify, Flavio? You said what will happen in December?

Corriere della Sera/Flavio Vanetti:
Oh, the new NBA season will start in December. I mean this season 2020 - 2021. The playoffs are expected to be held during the beginning of the Games. I would like to know if there could be a conflict and what are you going to avoid this situation?

IOC President Thomas Bach:
Well, we have a contact there with FIBA and as far as I'm informed, as of today, FIBA is also there in contact on their side with NBA and that they're both, FIBA and the NBA are very interested not to have there any conflict with the dates of the Games. This is the information I have as of now.

IOC Spokesperson Mark Adams:
Thank you very much, President. Let's go to Australia, Tracey Holmes from ABC, your question.
Australian Broadcasting Corporation/Tracey Holmes:

Thank you very much for taking the question. The President mentioned that there would be no support for divisive demonstrations. And I'm just wondering, is there such a thing as a non-divisive demonstration? And secondly to that, there's a lot of talk about support that the Olympic Committee has to make sure that issues like discrimination are ended. What does the IOC actively do to end those sorts of issues?

IOC President Thomas Bach:

With regard to the first question, yes, there are these kinds of demonstrations. You see here one example. This is a demonstration in support of the Olympic principles of non-discrimination. This is our DNA, this is one of raisons d'être of the Olympic Games. So, everybody who is participating in the Olympic Movement, and in the Olympic Games in particular, is standing for these values and is demonstrating for these the values already by participating in the Olympic Games. That is something different from divisive issues, the support for the principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter.

Secondly, the IOC, in our everyday life, is living these values. You see how with Olympic Solidarity, with our programmes around the Olympic Refugee Team, with our support for refugees worldwide, with our efforts for gender equality, and there are so many actions more. We are delivering day by day on this commitment on non-discrimination.

IOC Spokesperson Mark Adams:

Thank you, President. Let's go to Nick Butler, please. Nick, your question, please.

Eye Opening Media/ARD/Nick Butler:

Hi. Hope you can hear me okay. Question on weightlifting. Can I ask for a question on weightlifting? Can I ask for a personal view on the sheer scale of the McLaren Report's findings against Tamás Aján, a longstanding former member of the IOC and someone you've known personally for a long time? How much did it shock you? And secondly, given how the IOC were informed in 2011 about the misuse of their broadcasting revenues given to the IWF, on reflection, could and should the IOC have done more to scrutinize what we now know to be a corrupt international federation? Thank you.

IOC President Thomas Bach:

Thank you very much. I said already that we're deeply concerned and shocked by this report and the scope there of the activities being reflected in this report on the different fields with regard to anti-doping and with regard to governance. This is why we have today in the Executive Board already expressed our concern, and why we have already contacted the new leadership of the IWF in order to find ways to be aligned, to clean this Federation, and how the IOC can assist in this. And in our decision, we also have made it very clear that, depending on the results of the findings of the IWF Oversight Commission, that we reserve the right for very far reaching measures, including, but not limited to, the question of weightlifting being on the programme of Olympic Games. From this, I think you can already see how serious we are taking this.

With regard to 2011, this is also reflected, I think, in the McLaren report, that there at the time, the IOC had no jurisdiction over the case there having been raised, and that this had been confirmed then by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

IOC Spokesperson Mark Adams:

Thank you, president. Let's now go to Hugo Miller from Bloomberg, Hugo?
Bloomberg/Hugo Miller:
Good afternoon. Thanks for taking my call. Just a clarification first on the number, 10,500. Is that the plan to cap for next year in Tokyo or for Paris? And then more broadly, you talked about the aim to simplify and reduce the Games. Is it not too early, therefore, to talk about actually already drawing concrete lines in the sand about reducing the number of events within sports, trying to actually cap, like you have with the number of athletes, cap or limit the number of events? Thank you.

IOC President Thomas Bach:
Thank you very much. With regard to the first question, this number is for Paris. The change to the previous additions of the Games is that, for Tokyo, the applicable formula is that we have 10,500 athletes plus the athletes from the sports having been proposed by the Organising Committee from Paris on. These athletes from the new sports will be included in the 10,500 figure. So we will have in Paris, less athletes then we had for instance, in Rio or we had in Tokyo.

With regard to the second question, you know our focus is and are the athletes. And I think it would be the wrong end to start from if we would take a decision first to reduce the number of athletes and deprive athletes of participating in the Olympic Games. There we have, as Christophe Dubi said before, we have, first of all, no stone to be left unturned and to see how, with a reduction in service levels, the many nice to have things in Olympic Games, we can simplify the Games and we can reduce the cost of the Games. And this is, at this moment in time, the full concentration of the task force.

IOC Spokesperson Mark Adams:
Thank you, President. Let's go now to AP, to Graham Dunbar. Graham, do you want to ask your question?

Associated Press/Graham Dunbar:
Excellent. Regarding Rule 50, the Athletes’ Commission, it's fair to say, doesn't have a great track record of listening to the athletes with the strongest opinions, nor coming to conclusions that differ very much from the Executive Board. For the athletes that are a bit sceptical, what should give them confidence in this process the Athletes’ Commission could have a change of view in the same way that the NFL has?

IOC President Thomas Bach:
Well, first of all, the Athletes’ Commission of the IOC is in regular contact with the athletes’ representatives from all around the world. There are regular telephone conferences, they have many bilateral meetings. It may be very well the case that, in the athletes’ community, there is not only one opinion and that there are differing opinions, but as we just could see also in the discussion about the postponement of the Olympic Games, the opinion of the IOC Athletes’ Commission was shared, I think, almost unanimously, by all of the more than 200 athletes’ representatives who were on the phone call.

You may also recall that, in the drafting of the Athletes’ Rights and Responsibilities Declaration, there were several thousands of athletes participating. You can also see very intensive discussions going on on Athlete365. So, I really think the Athletes’ Commission is taking the pulse of the opinions of the athletes and it's reflecting, very well, the opinion of the majority of the athletes. Again, diverging opinions are a normal democratic procedure.

IOC Spokesperson Mark Adams:
Thank you, President. I think we are coming to our last question. We've been going for 50 minutes now. We have Robert Frosi from Radio-Canada, and we've had 240 people on the
call, so thank you all very much. It worked very well. So, Robert, if you want to ask your question, please go ahead.

Radio-Canada/Robert Frosi:
Bonjour Monsieur le Président, pour nos auditeurs francophones, j’aimerais comprendre un petit peu pourquoi d’un côté vous condamnez aujourd’hui le racisme au nom des valeurs qu’on connait bien au niveau Olympique et puis d’un autre côté vous refusez aux athlètes de poser des gestes comme dans beaucoup d’autres sports cela se fait aujourd’hui?

[Translation: Hello Mr President, for our francophone listeners, I would like to understand a little bit why on one hand you condemn racism today in the name of the Olympic values we know so well, but on the other hand you deny athletes the right to demonstrate, which many other sports are allowing now.]

IOC President Thomas Bach:
We are very clear, again, in our position against any kind of discrimination and against racism. And we appreciate what we have already made very clear: the athletes supporting these principles in a dignified way, making use of their right to free speech and doing this in a very impressive way. Going on right now, the IOC, for its part, has also issued on our platforms some of these messages to show our alignment and our appreciation of this clear commitment of the athletes against racism in any form, in any kind and in any country.

IOC Spokesperson Mark Adams:
Thank you very much, President Bach, and thank you very much Christophe Dubi and all 240 of you online. That concludes the press conference. You can see it again on YouTube, and I look forward to hearing from you, hopefully seeing you in person at our next press conference. Thank you very much and have a good rest of the day. Thank you.

IOC President Thomas Bach:
Thank you.

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