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Script & Shot log

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STORY HEADLINE: Ahead of the International Day of Peace, IOC President Thomas Bach speaks of how sport and the Olympic Games contribute to promoting peace

LOCATION: Olympic House, Lausanne, Switzerland

DATE: Sept 18, 2020

LANGUAGE: English

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

STORY SCRIPT:

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach has hailed the unifying power of sport and the Olympic Spirit ahead of the International Day of Peace, which is celebrated around the world on Monday (September 21).

“Sport contributes to peace by unifying people,” said the IOC President. “The Olympic Games today are the only event in our world which manages to really bring the entire world together. Athletes come to the Olympic Games respecting the same rules, all being equal, without any discrimination.”

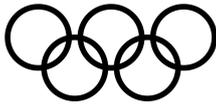
The IOC and United Nations (UN) have a long-standing partnership and “Shaping Peace Together” is the theme the UN have chosen for the Day which also marks the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

President Bach said: “The partnership between the UN and the IOC is based on the shared goal of contributing to peace. We are cooperating with the UN on many different issues, and this is possible because we share the same values and we are united in the fight for peace and solidarity. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres once said: ‘If there is a true symbol of peace in the world, it is the Olympic spirit.’”

The postponed Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 that will now take place in 2021 has been heralded as a beacon of hope for the world as the battle against Covid-19 continues and President Bach believes the Games will show what lessons have been learned from the pandemic.

“This post-coronavirus world will be very different from the one we used to live in. And I hope that we all have learned from this crisis that we need more solidarity, within societies and among societies. Only in this joint effort can we overcome this crisis and prevent a new crisis. The Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, which have been postponed to 2021, will send a message of hope, of peace and unity of humanity.

“Solidarity is not just about respecting each other, but also helping each other and being part of a community. And this is what these athletes and the National Olympic Committees are doing together with the IOC. We are supporting this principle, not only by organising the



Olympic Games, but also by distributing 90 per cent of all our revenues to the development of sport worldwide in real Olympic solidarity.”

Ahead of Monday’s International Day of Peace, President Bach also recalled his top three moments in history when sport has been a symbol of peace: “There is, first of all, the unified Korean team at the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018. When the athletes from North and South Korea joined behind the Korean unification flag and marched together into the stadium at the Opening Ceremony, it was an unforgettable and very emotional moment.

“Then, I would like to mention Nelson Mandela. He once said that sport has more power to overcome racial barriers than a government. And he was living this because, at the Rugby World Cup in 1995 in South Africa, he was wearing the Springbok shirt when presenting the trophy to the winning South African team. This was such a powerful signal to the South African population, to unify and to overcome racial barriers, that it is still in my mind today.”

The creation of the IOC Refugee Olympic Team, which competed for the first time at the Olympic Games Rio 2016 and which is also due to participate at Tokyo 2020 next year, is also a defining moment for the IOC President.

He said: “When I saw this team, marching behind the Olympic flag into the stadium and the way they were received by their fellow athletes and by the public, it still gives me goosebumps today.”

This IOC Refugee Olympic Team is a unique project that demonstrates the IOC’s commitment to stand with refugees and support them through sport, and it also shows how Olympic Solidarity, through its Refugee Athlete Support Programme, helps refugee athletes not only to train with the aim of qualifying for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, but also to continue their sporting career and build their future.

In October 2018, with originally two years to go until the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the IOC Session decided that there would be a Refugee Olympic Team for Tokyo 2020. Thanks to scholarships provided by the IOC, 50 promising refugee athletes from 11 countries are training hard in the hope of making it to the Tokyo 2020 Team, whose composition will be announced in 2021.

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

The United Nations invites all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.

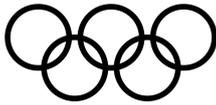
The postponed Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 will now take place from July 23 to August 8, 2021.

SHOTLIST:

00:08 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).

Question: Are there moments that stick in your memory where you clearly saw sport contribute to peace?

“There is, first of all, the unified Korean team at the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018. When the athletes from North and South Korea joined behind the Korean unification flag and marching together into the stadium at the Opening Ceremony. This was an unforgettable and very emotional moment. Then, I think, I would like to mention Nelson



Mandela. He once said that sport is more powerful to overcome racial barriers than governments. And he was living this because, at the Rugby World Cup in 1995 in South Africa, he was wearing the Springbok shirt when presenting the trophy, to the winning South African team, this was such a powerful signal to the South African population to unify and to overcome racial barriers that it's still in my mind today."

IOC ARCHIVE

Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 Opening Ceremony: Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Republic of Korea (ROK) unified team enters stadium - February 2018 [Rights free video for news access]

01:34 The unified team of Korea enters the stadium under a joint flag.
01:47 Detail shot of joint flag bearers from North and South Korea.
01:53 IOC President Thomas Bach waves to athletes of the joint Korean delegation.
01:57 Various shots of the unified team of Korea entering the stadium.
02:15 Footage of the joint women's ice hockey team entering the arena.
02:21 Group shot of the joint women's ice hockey team.
02:25 Close up of handshake between Kim Il-guk, Sports Minister and President of Olympic Committee of Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Do JongHwan, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Republic of Korea, alongside IOC President Thomas Bach at the IOC Headquarters in Lausanne. **(2018)**
02:34 Nelson Mandela President of Republic of South Africa (1994-1999) handed the Olympic torch on Robben Island South Africa as part of the Olympic Games Athens 2004 torch relay. **(2004)**
02:46 Thomas Bach speaks with Nelson Mandela during the IOC Evaluation Commission. **(1996)**

03:07 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).

Question: Is the IOC Refugee Olympic Team part of the legacy of sporting peace?

"Then there is, of course, the IOC Refugee Olympic Team, which was created for the first time at the Olympic Games Rio 2016. And when I saw this team, then marching behind the Olympic flag into the stadium and, the way they were received by their fellow athletes and by the public, this still gives me goosebumps until today, when I only talk about it."

IOC ARCHIVE

Olympic Summer Games Rio 2016 Opening Ceremony: Refugee Olympic Team enter stadium at Opening Ceremony - August 2016 (Rights free video for news access)

03:43 The Refugee Olympic Team enters the Maracana Stadium, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
03:52 IOC President Thomas Bach and Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (2007-2016), applaud the Refugee Olympic Team.
03:59 Refugee Olympic Team visit statue of Christ the Redeemer, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. August 2016.
04:05 Members of the public take photos with athletes from the Refugee Olympic Team.

04:16 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).

Question: How does sport contribute to peace?

"Sport contributes to peace by unifying people, the Olympic Games today are the only event in our world, which manages to really bring the entire world together, athletes from all 206 National Olympic Committees, including the IOC Refugee Olympic Team, are



coming together for peaceful competition, but not only for the competition, they live together in the Olympic village, they share their meals, they communicate with each other. They respect each other in defeat and victory. And in this way, they're building friendship and understanding among themselves, but also among people. And this power of the Olympic Games can only be promoted, can only be created if, at the same time, we have solidarity amongst all these athletes and amongst all the participants. It's not enough just to respect each other. You have to help each other. You have to be really part of a community. And this is what these athletes and the National Olympic Committees are doing together with the IOC. We are helping and assisting to create the conditions for this, not only by organising the Olympic Games but by distributing 90% of all our revenues to the development of a sport worldwide in real Olympic solidarity."

06:06 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).

Question: How do you see the world changing because of the COVID-19 crisis?

"There will be a world before and after the Corona crisis. This post-Corona world will be very different from the one we were used to living in. And I hope, I hope very much that we all have learned one lesson from this crisis and this is, we need more solidarity. We need more solidarity within societies, and we need more solidarity among societies. Only in this joint effort, only if we are helping each other, then we can overcome this crisis and we can prevent a new crisis. And there again, sport plays an important role because it's this unifying power of sport, this solidarity, which we are having in the Olympic Movement that can set an example for a broader solidarity in societies and the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, which have been postponed to 2021 can be a demonstration of this solidarity of humankind. And in this way can send a message of hope, but also a message of peace and a message of unity of humanity."

07:48 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).

Question: What role has the partnership between the IOC and the UN played for peace?

"The partnership between the UN and the IOC is based on the shared goal to contribute to peace. And in this way UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, once said, if there is a true symbol of peace in the world, it is the Olympic spirit and this Olympic spirit makes it that the athletes of the world are coming in the Olympic Games, respecting the same rules, all being equal. There is no discrimination in these Games and to convey this message to the entire world, but to make this happen, we are cooperating with the UN on many different issues. There, UNHCR is supporting us very much in creating the IOC Refugee Olympic Team making it possible that these refugees can travel, can participate in competitions. And so on, we have created the Olympic Refugee Foundation where also UNHCR is playing a very important role building peace there in some of the refugee camps, educating refugees and migrants, and giving hope to all the refugees, not only to the refugee athletes, all over the world. So, there is a very broad cooperation. And, this is possible because we are sharing the same values, like the predecessor of Antonio Guterres, Mr Ban Ki-moon once said Olympic values are UN values. So we are united in the fight for peace and solidarity."

IOC ARCHIVE

09:56 IOC President Thomas Bach presents UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres with an Olympic torch at PyeongChang 2018.

10:08 UNHCR Athletes warming up

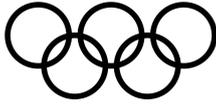
10:13 UNHCR Athletes working out in gym

10:18 Young refugees at Kenyan Kakuma Camp being given athletics training as part of the Olympic Refugee Foundation program.

10:24 Young refugees being taught martial arts.

10:26 Young refugees playing football

10:29 Refugees in classroom lessons.



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10:35 Teenage refugees playing Basketball.

10:40 Refugee athletes road running in Kenya.

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