STORY HEADLINE: International Olympic Committee marks 75th anniversary of the United Nations by lighting up The Olympic Museum in blue

LOCATION: The Olympic Museum, Lausanne, Switzerland

DATE: 25 October 2020

LANGUAGE: English

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

STORY SCRIPT:

The Olympic Museum in Lausanne was one of over 100 iconic buildings and monuments lit up in blue, the official UN colour, last night (24 October) to celebrate United Nations (UN) Day, which this year marks the 75th anniversary of the organisation. The front side of The Olympic Museum, as well as the fountain on “Quai d’Ouchy”, were illuminated in blue when the sun went down on Saturday at 7 p.m.

The Olympic Museum, which was inaugurated in 1993, welcomes nearly 300,000 visitors per year. Some 3,000m2 of exhibition space, 1,500 objects, 150 audio-visual devices, 50 interactive screens, and 7 hours of sound and video celebrate humanity in movement. Its scenography is an invitation to dive into the history of the Games, the dreams, the culture, the design, the challenges and the values of Olympism.

On the occasion of UN Day, the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Thomas Bach conveyed his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres.

“At the IOC we share the same values that define the UN: both our organisations are built on the values of peace and solidarity”, said Thomas Bach.

Talking about UN Day, the IOC President said: “This milestone takes place during unprecedented times when the entire world is fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The global coronavirus crisis is only the latest challenge that highlights why the UN and its mission to work towards a better and more peaceful world for all humankind, is more relevant than ever.

“This is why I want to say thank you on behalf of the entire Olympic community. Thank you for everything you are doing to make the world a better place. In our uncertain times, this UN Day sends an important message of hope to the world: we are always stronger together.”

Tokyo, the host city for next summer’s postponed Olympic Games, also marked the occasion as the SkyTree was lit up with a specially designed pattern for UN Day.
The Japanese capital will now host the Olympic Games from July 23 to August 8, 2021, a year later than planned because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

In January 2020, the United Nations launched a global consultation to mark its 75th anniversary. Through surveys and dialogues, people and organisations from across the world were asked about their hopes and fears for the future, their priorities for international cooperation and for the United Nations.

As of September 2020, more than a million people across the world had responded to the UN75 survey, including the IOC President, who also invited the Olympic Movement to join him in sharing its views as well.

The findings of this Global Dialogue have been taken into account by world leaders and resulted in the adoption of a political declaration during the high-level event of the 75th-anniversary celebrations, on 21 September 2020.

The findings will also be discussed during a panel discussion on “the future we want, the UN we need” to be held on 27 October, during which the IOC President will address UN officials and member states.

UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter and it has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.

**SHOTLIST:**

00:02 Detail shot of the Olympic Rings at The Olympic Museum and pan-out to the museum grounds and surroundings.
00:28 Shot of the Pierre de Coubertin statue at The Olympic Museum and drone pull-away.
00:47 The Olympic Flame burning at night at The Olympic Museum.
00:56 Overview of the Olympic Flame and the Pierre de Coubertin statue at The Olympic Museum and fly-out.
01:14 Olympic statue in front of The Olympic Museum, on the shore of Lake Geneva.
01:19 Shot of the stairway’s inscriptions, with The Olympic Museum in the background.
01:25 Detail shot of The Olympic Museum entrance.
01:30 Detail shot of the Olympic Flame by day.
01:35 View of the Olympic Flame and the Pierre de Coubertin statue at The Olympic Museum by day.
01:38 Shot of the Les Footballers (The Footballers) statue at The Olympic Museum.
01:43 Detail shot of the Olympic Rings at The Olympic Museum’s entrance.
01:48 Ceramics exhibition at The Olympic Museum.
01:53 Close shot of a ceramic vase exhibited at The Olympic Museum.

01:59 **SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)**

“This milestone takes place during unprecedented times when the entire world is fighting the Covid-19 pandemic. The global Coronavirus crisis is only the latest challenge that highlights why the UN and its mission to work towards a better and more peaceful world for all humankind is more relevant than ever. At the IOC we share the same values that define the UN. Both our organisations are built on values of peace and solidarity. I hope very much that we all have learnt one lesson from this Covid-19 crisis and this lesson is: We Need More Solidarity. We need more solidarity within societies and among societies.”

03:07 Shot of the Tokyo SkyTree turning its lighting to blue for UN Day

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