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STORY HEADLINE: Thomas Bach re-elected as International Olympic Committee President for a second term

LOCATION: Olympic House, Lausanne, Switzerland
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STORY SCRIPT:

Thomas Bach has been re-elected as the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for a further four years.

At the 137th IOC Session held virtually today, the 67-year-old German received 93 Yes and 1 No vote from the 94 valid votes.

After the election, President Bach said: “Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart for this overwhelming vote of confidence and trust. For me, this is even more overwhelming considering the many reforms and the many difficult decisions we had to take which affected all of us.

“You know that this is touching me deeply. It also makes me humble. When you elected me for the first time as your President in 2013 in Buenos Aires, I said that I wanted to lead the IOC according to my campaign motto ‘Unity in diversity’ and be a President for all of you and for all our stakeholders. This commitment is also true for my second and last term. My door, my ears and my heart remain open for each and everyone of you. I hope that I can count on your continued dedication, support and friendship.”

President Bach, who won Gold with the German Foil Fencing Team at the Olympic Games Montreal 1976, was first elected at the IOC Session 2013 in Buenos Aires for an initial eight-year term. This term will finish at the closing day of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 on 8th of August this year as decided by the IOC Executive Board. His second term as IOC President will start immediately after and will conclude in 2025.

During his first period in office as IOC President he initiated the Olympic Agenda 2020 reforms for the future of the IOC and the Olympic Movement that were adopted at the IOC Session in Monaco in 2014. Just before his election today, the IOC Session approved the Closing Report of Olympic Agenda 2020 unanimously. Olympic Agenda 2020 has profoundly changed the Olympic Games, the IOC and Olympic Movement.
The IOC Executive Board has already proposed the successor to Olympic Agenda 2020 - Olympic Agenda+5 – to be discussed by the IOC Session on Friday this week. It consists of 15 recommendations inspired by five key trends, designed to pave the way to build on these solid foundations and carry the Olympic Agenda forward into the future.

In his acceptance speech addressing the IOC Members, President Bach said: “In the meantime you know me well enough that I would like to achieve ambitious goals with you also in the post-coronavirus world. We learned during this coronavirus crisis the hard way that we can live up to our Olympic slogan ‘faster, higher, stronger’, in sport and in life, only if we are working together. Therefore, I would like today to inspire a discussion whether we should not complement this slogan by adding after a hyphen the word ‘together’: ‘Faster, higher, stronger – together’. This could be a strong commitment to our core value of solidarity and an appropriate adaptation to the challenges of this new world.”

During his Presidency Thomas Bach received the prestigious Seoul Peace Prize in October last year – a prize which President Bach said belonged to the entire IOC and the whole of the Olympic Movement. Without the support of so many around the globe, the achievements for peace through sport could never have been accomplished, he stressed. In 2019, President Bach was awarded the Cem - Papandreou Peace Award in Athens. This award is given to individuals and groups who have made “an outstanding contribution to peace”.

The IOC is a not-for-profit independent international organisation that is committed to building a better world through sport. Created on 23 June 1894, just under two years before the first Olympic Games of the modern era in April 1896, the IOC is the supreme authority of the Olympic Movement.

As the leader of the Olympic Movement, the IOC acts as a catalyst for collaboration between all parties of the Olympic family, from the National Olympic Committees (NOCs), the International Federations (IFs), the athletes and the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games (OCOGs) to the Worldwide Olympic Partners, broadcast partners and United Nations (UN) agencies, and shepherds success through a wide range of programmes and projects. On this basis, it ensures the regular celebration of the Olympic Games, supports all affiliated member organisations of the Olympic Movement and strongly encourages, by appropriate means, the promotion of the Olympic values.

SHOTLIST:
00:01 IOC President Thomas Bach with arms open wide thanking IOC Session upon re-election.
00:08 Wide shot of video wall full of the small screens showing IOC membership.
00:19 IOC President Thomas Bach walks to the lectern ready to speak.

00:26 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (French and English Language)
“Chers amis et collègues, Dear friends and colleagues, thank you very much from the bottom of my heart for this overwhelming vote of confidence and trust. We learned during this coronavirus crisis, the hard way, that we can live up to our Olympic slogan ‘faster, higher, stronger’, in sport and in life, only if we are working together in solidarity. My door, my ears and my heart remain open for each and every one of you. I hope that I can count on your continued dedication, support and friendship also during these four more years.”

01:33 IOC President Thomas Bach walking and taking a seat.
01:37 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
Question: What role did Olympic Agenda 2020 play in your first term as IOC President?
“It was the centrepiece of my first mandate, because we realised already in my campaign for the presidency in 2013 that we needed innovation, we needed reform and we needed a drive forward. This is what we undertook from the very beginning and from 2014. To see so many of the goals achieved today and this judgement being shared, not only by the IOC Members, but the athletics community, the international community, the United Nations and many many others. This is really a great day of satisfaction and joy.”

02:34 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
Question: What are the tasks for the four years to come?
“We can already see that the world is continuing to evolve and we have to keep changing. That is very clear and this is why we have already devised the vision for 2025 and this will be about making the Olympic family, the Olympic community, fit for the post-coronavirus world and to address the different strengths we can already see. There will be more digitalisation, there will be a threat to solidarity, we are living in an age of mistrust then we have to continue to address the questions of credibility in the entire Olympic Movement. So there are many, many issues which we can turn into opportunities because what we have to offer to this post-coronavirus world are our values and these values in this post-coronavirus world will be very, very much important for all of us to recover from this crisis.”

03:53 Thomas Bach competing for the Federal Republic of Germany in the men’s fencing Foil team at the Olympic Games Montreal 1976.
04:03 Thomas Bach receiving his gold medal on the podium at the Olympic Games Montreal 1976.
04:07 IOC President Jacques Rogge announces Thomas Bach as the 9th President of the IOC at the 125th Session in Buenos Aires on 10 September 2013.

04:12 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
“I want to lead the IOC according to my motto ‘unity in diversity’”

04:20 IOC President Thomas Bach holding up the Olympic Agenda 2020 document at the 127th IOC Session, Monaco, 2014.
04:23 IOC President Thomas Bach presenting the Olympic Agenda 2020 document to the cameras with delegates.
04:26 Wide shot of IOC President Thomas Bach addressing the General Assembly of the United Nations in October 2015.

04:29 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
“I’m happy to announce to this UN General Assembly that the International Olympic Committee will invite the highest qualified refugee athletes to participate in the Olympic Games Rio de Janeiro 2016.”

04:45 The Rio 2016 Refugee Olympic Team entering the Olympic Stadium at the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games Rio 2016.
04:53 IOC President Thomas Bach and Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations applauding the Team on entry.
04:56 Firework display at the opening of the Olympic Games Rio 2016.
05:00 Swimming action involving Refugee Olympic Team member Yusra Mardini from the Olympic Games Rio 2016.
05:09 IOC President Thomas Bach announces the cities of Paris and Los Angeles for the Olympic Games 2024 and 2028 respectively.
05:14 Athletes from the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea enter the Olympic Stadium as a unified team under one flag at the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018.
05:23 IOC President Thomas Bach waves to the athletes from the stands.
05:27 Wide shot of the Olympic Stadium PyeongChang 2018.
05:30 The unified Korean Olympic Ice Hockey team takes to the ice at PyeongChang 2018
05:34 IOC President Thomas Bach sits between representatives of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to watch the Ice Hockey match.
05:38 PyeongChang 2018 men's downhill skiing action.
05:44 PyeongChang 2018 women's curling action.
05:49 Aerial wide shot of Olympic House, Lausanne, Switzerland.
05:52 IOC President Thomas Bach and Albert II Prince of Monaco accept the presentation of the LEED Platinum Award from Mahesh Ramanujam, President & CEO of the Green Building Council (USGBC).

05:55 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
"We want the Olympic House to incorporate the elements of sustainability, credibility and youth. The same three pillars of Olympic Agenda 2020. The building reflects these three elements that are so central to our mission."

06:19 SOUNDBITE: Mahesh Ramanujam, President & CEO of the Green Building Council (USGBC)
"This is the most sustainable building in the world, but also the building that creates a baseline for what the future is going to hold for sports facilities and beyond, and for generations to come."

06:30 IOC President Thomas Bach awarded the Seoul Peace Prize.
06:35 Former Secretary-General of the United Nations His Excellency Ban Ki-moon collects the award on behalf of IOC President Thomas Bach.

06:40 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
"It is with much gratefulness that I humbly accept this distinction and I would like to thank the Seoul Peace Prize Cultural Foundation and the Selection Committee for this great honour."

06:55 IOC Wide shot of President Thomas Bach sitting down with Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike.
07:00 Close up shot of President Thomas Bach and Yuriko Koike.
07:04 Wide shot of Tokyo Bay with Olympic light show at night.
07:09 Close-up shot of the Olympic Rings at night.

07:13 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
"It is my great pleasure to invite the National Olympic Committees of the world and their athletes to these Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022."

07:27 Unveiling of the Beijing 2022 Olympic Torch at the One Year to Go ceremony in Beijing China.

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