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STORY HEADLINE: International Olympic Committee Executive Board members meet in Tokyo ahead of the Olympic Games

LOCATION: Tokyo, Japan
DATE: 17 July 2021
LANGUAGE: English

STORY SCRIPT: The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee met in-person today ahead of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. IOC President Thomas Bach described it as an ‘emotional’ reunion after over a year apart because of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. COVID countermeasures including mask-wearing and social distance were respected throughout the meeting.

A video message from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was played during the meeting and he sent this message to the world: “Seeking peace and finding common goals is even more important this year as we strive together to find a strong, sustainable and inclusive global recovery.”

SHOTLIST:
00:02 Wide shot of IOC Executive Board meeting Tokyo, Japan

00:07 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
“So a very warm welcome to all of you. This is quite an emotional moment to see you in person around a real table again. Many of you have not seen each other since the Youth Games in Lausanne and this appears to have happened in another age, and there you can see how much this pandemic has changed the life of everybody. It is great to see you, to feel your presence, to be able to look into each other’s eyes.”

01:00 IOC and Tokyo 2020 officials take seats in meeting room
01:06 Wide video screen of United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ message being played to IOC and Tokyo 2020 officials meeting room in Tokyo
01:10 Mid shot smaller screen of UN Sec-Gen Guterres address with IOC and Tokyo 2020 officials listening

01:14 SOUNDBITE: Antonio Guterres, U.N. Secretary-General (English Language)
“In a few days, athletes from around the world will come together in Japan for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. They have had to overcome enormous obstacles to participate in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. We need to show the same strength and solidarity in our efforts to bring peace to our world. The Olympic Truce is a traditional call to silence the guns while the Games proceed. People and nations can build on this temporary
respite, to establish lasting ceasefires and find paths towards sustainable peace. Seeking peace and uniting around common goals is even more important this year as we strive to end the pandemic and build a strong, sustainable and inclusive global recovery. I call on all parties to conflict to observe the Olympic Truce during the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and to build on it in the weeks and months ahead.”

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