

International Olympic Committee
Address of the Mayor of Milan, Mr. Giuseppe Sala

28 November 2018

Tokyo

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel honoured to present the proposal of Milano and Cortina d'Ampezzo as candidates for the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games of 2026.

As Mayor of the City of Milano, I feel privileged to have the opportunity to illustrate the dream as well as the very concrete project behind our candidacy.

As a citizen of the world, I feel excited to have the opportunity to experience the Games in the city and in the mountains where I grew up and enjoyed winter sports.

First of all, let me express who we are and why we believe we do possess the fundamental qualities of a successful host.

The joint bid of Milano and Cortina presents the pluses of a global city living an extraordinary golden age and those of the beautiful surrounding Alps.

In 2026, the Winter Olympics and Paralympics will be the first games to have been born and created under the new norms. Our joint candidacy has the merit to help us limit both the overall budget and the soil consumption - exactly in the spirit of the new norms.

This constitutes an invaluable chance to restate the Olympic message in a contemporary fashion, with a very positive impact for local communities.

Moreover, our project has the inner economic strength of a macro-region among the most successful and prosperous in Europe. One of the four so-called 'engines' of the continent.

The recent experience of Expo Milano 2015 taught us how to bring to completion a big event of such a magnitude – 21 million visitors during a 6-month organizational effort – thanks to the meaningful collaboration between public and private institutions.

Now, let me express why we have so readily embarked in the journey of this candidacy.

We recognize and commend the strength of the Olympic and Paralympic Games concept. Its ever-lasting appeal, as well as its resounding message of honourable competition and peace.

Milano is growing; the broader territory of the Alpine region is growing. But we are all conscious of the importance of a sustainable growth.

We see the chance to host the Winter Games as a stimulus to reinforce our development trajectory, in the spirit of the Olympic chart.

Another– fundamental – element is the engagement of the people.

I am proud to say that the citizens of Milano and Cortina have responded with remarkable enthusiasm to the vision and challenge of becoming Olympic host city.

The Olympics and Paralympics are seen as a significant driver for more and better sport activities, for economic development and for increased wellbeing in the whole interested territory.

For example, according to a poll commissioned by the IOC, 83% of the citizens of Milano are in favour of hosting the Games. And I want to repeat this remarkable proportion: 83%.

In summary, the pillars of our offer are:

- The Alps, the most beautiful mountains of the world – particularly for winter sports, lighted by the daylight in February until the evening.

- Milano: a globally recognized brand; symbol of style, elegance and world class services, whose airports welcome 50 million passengers a year and that has won Access City Award in 2016 for the most accessible-friendly city in Europe.
- The know-how of venues that have repeatedly hosted world class competitions, together with an unconditional attention to the environment, with the idea of maximising the use of existing or temporary facilities - up to 92% of needed facilities are existing or will be of a temporary nature - and the goal of zero impact on land consumption and green spaces and CO₂ neutrality.

Last but not least I would like to present our promise.

We believe that sport is a formidable tool to educate, integrate, entertain and unite.

This is very coherent with the choices we are making in terms of urban development, sustainable mobility, social integration.

The youngsters that will participate in the preparation and implementation of the 2026 Games will have the opportunity to grow conscious that sport, sustainability and social inclusion are values on which a better society can be built.

We attach great value to such an opportunity.

Thank you for your attention.