

AFTERNOON SESSION

SPEECH 1

MILANO CORTINA 2026 – VISION: GOALS & BENEFITS

GIOVANNI MALAGÒ & LUCA PANCALLI

Cher président Bach,
Leurs Majestés et Excellences
Chers Collègues et Amis,
Mesdames et Messieurs, Bonjour.

Au nom de mon pays, j'ai l'honneur de vous présenter la candidature de Milano Cortina pour accueillir les Jeux Olympiques et Paralympiques d'hiver en 2026.

Je souhaite avant tout remercier le Président Bach et mes collègues membres du CIO d'avoir contribué à l'approbation de l'Agenda 2020 et des Nouvelles Normes, sans lesquels je ne serais pas ici, sur ce podium, pour vous présenter ce projet innovateur, viable et respectueux de l'environnement.

J'aimerais aussi saluer nos amis de Stockholm-Are, qui ont mené avec nous ce parcours de candidature à l'enseigne du fair play et de l'amitié. Et maintenant, laissez-moi vous présenter notre fantastique équipe. Je vais le faire en espagnol :

Giuseppe Conte, Primer Ministro de Italia

Giancarlo Giorgetti, subsecretario de Estado

Luca Pancalli, Presidente del Comité Paralímpico Italiano, ocho plateas de oro

Giuseppe Sala, Alcalde de Miláno

Giampietro Ghedina, Alcalde de Cortina

Attilio Fontana, Gobernador de la Región de Lombardía

Luca Zaia, Gobernador de la Región Veneto

Carlo Mornati, Secretario General del Comité Olímpico Italiano, medalla de plata en los Juegos Olímpicos de Sídney 2000 en Aviron

Diana Bianchedi, coordinadora del Proyecto, dos veces campeona olímpica de esgrima, en Barcelona 1992 y en Sídney 2000

Y después nuestros embajadores

Arianna Fontana, campeona olímpica, 8 veces medallista en los Juegos

Sofia Goggia, campeona olímpica del esquí alpino en PyeongChang 2018

Michela Moioli, campeona olímpica de snowboard en PyeongChang 2018

Elisa Confortola, de 15 años, la campeona italiana más joven de short track, oro en los EYOF de Sarajevo 2019

Para acabar, pero no por esto lo menos importante, nuestros colegas italianos miembros del COI

Franco Carraro

Ivo Ferriani

Los miembros honorarios

Mario Pescante

Manuela Di Centa, dos veces campeona olímpica en Lillehammer 1994, siete veces medallista olímpica

Ahora antes de empezar en inglés, quisiera tener a mi lado a Luca Pancalli, presidente del Comité Paralímpico Italiano.

We are the two sides of the same medal, the medal of sport.

We have worked together, and cooperated on the Olympics and Paralympics, for a great goal.

Malagò

Thanks for joining me, Luca.

Pancalli

Thank you Giovanni. Hello everyone.

Malagò

The Milan Cortina 2026 bid was inspired by the IOC Agenda 2020 and by "New Norm", two reforms that clearly reposition the Olympic and Paralympic Games as more sustainable, more flexible and economic, from both an operational and financial point of view, whilst also unlocking more long-term value for host cities. And to do this we have submitted to the IOC all required guarantees: financial, security, antidoping services, visas, venues, every kind of facility, starting with the Olympic and Paralympic Villages.

Pancalli

When it comes to thinking about the Vision for a bidding process, it is not a matter of creating different definitions. In this case, the Vision embraces both the Paralympic and the Olympic movements as a more global and comprehensive concept. Olympic and Paralympic athletes must be at the heart of everything we do, equally. They are the focus of all our aims to build a better world and our best inspiration and role models to achieve this goal for these Games.

Malagò

Today we make this commitment: Milano Cortina 2026 will be the Games for all. One same vision: **change culture through sport with 5 key goals:**

- 1: Deliver the Games for all, providing a positive experience for the entire population, including spectators, residents, athletes media and stakeholders
- 2: Sustainable development and cooperation in the macro-alpine region
- 3: Promotion of the Olympic spirit and values
- 4: Development of the practice of sport, in particular ice and snow disciplines
- 5: Strengthening of the Olympic brand and the benefits of Olympic Agenda 2020 and the New Norm.

Pancalli

These Paralympic Games will reinforce a cultural shift for a truly inclusive society through the spreading of positiveness towards people with impairment. IOC Ethic Commission Chairman, Ban Ki-moon, three years ago said that. *“Sport has an important role in the convention of the rights of persons with disabilities”*. Here the Games will need to be a start-up which triggers that virtuous behaviour that makes/those noble actions that make the sport so important also for people with impairments.

Malagò

We have carried out a sustainable project that fully adapts to and with the development plans of the cities, of the provinces and regions. For this we have the support of 83% of Italians, and as much as 87% in Milan. These cities want the Games! But they want the Games also in Cortina, in Valtellina, in Val di Fiemme, in Anterselva, all places already known throughout the world for their skill in organising events related to winter sports.

Pancalli

Based on these premises, the Games would benefit from all that already exists; while at the same time, Italy itself would benefit from a deep-

rooted improvement of the services for citizens both with and without disabilities, placing them at an equal level. Disabled people would have access to new and indispensable resources and assets, while non-disabled people would have greater awareness of their common humanity.

Malagò

Milano-Cortina has created a truly positive contamination.

Milano-Cortina has created a culture of sharing, empathy and sense of community.

Pancalli

We have created an environment of cooperation at all levels. As the next team on stage will show you

Malagò

The Mayor of Milano, Giuseppe Sala, and the Governor of Veneto Region, Luca Zaia, together for a truly concrete project.

Thank you!

SPEECH 2

GIUSEPPE SALA & LUCA ZAIA

(SALA)

Dear President Bach and International Olympic Committee Members,

We are here today, Milano, together with Cortina to bring you the enthusiasm and the commitment of an entire country.

(ZAIA)

We should like to personally thank each of you, President Bach, IOC members, ladies and gentlemen for your trust and confidence in the Italian team.

We are ready. We are ready to offer athletes and the public a memorable edition of the Games.

Cortina and Milano, Lombardia and Veneto regions are proud to call on the energies from all across Italy.

(SALA)

We believe in the true spirit of Olympia.

It is in this spirit that we have prepared the Games to be friendly to the planet.

We organized a hugely successful Expo 2015 with 21 million visitors, and now we are ready for a new challenge.

It is a vision that the Olympics will now contribute to reinforcing. This is why 87% of Milanese say yes to the Olympic Games.

Yes, because our citizens are leading players, they are out in the field.

As Mayor of Milano I believed in this dream from the very beginning and I'm proud to say that twenty thousand volunteers are already set to give their best. No other city can offer this much consensus.

The new rules are good for us, they commit us to self-improvement and to engaging with our communities and with the future.

(ZAIA)

It is our duty to transfer the core of the Olympic Movement to an Alpine context, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

This will also be our commitment for the future and an immense privilege.

After more than 60 years, the Dolomites are ready to repeat the Olympic Winter Games experience of "Cortina 1956".

Since then, we ensured excellent working relationships with national and international sports federations.

In addition, the recent awarding of the 2021 World Championships is a confirmation of Italian competence and skills.

We're confident that the Italian Alps, already a world-leading Winter Sports hub, will improve even further thanks to the renovation of the Sliding Centre in Cortina, which will be implemented regardless of the Games.

We have been working hard, developing the less expensive bid ever.

We are ready to carry on our commitment.

Our desire is to give the world the opportunity to experience our land.

The Olympic Games will be a great opportunity to enhance cooperation between regional neighbours, improving the appeal of mountain erias.

The economic impact of the Games, has been underlined by two important research studies carried out by the prominent universities Bocconi in Milano and Cà Foscari in Venezia.

We aim to boost tourism and to integrate the regional offering of mountains and lakes with art, culture, wellness and fine cuisine.

(SALA)

People are at the centre of our Dossier and we offer them to further boost the city's desire for sports, with new facilities and with a firm and lasting pact between us and the Olympics.

We also acknowledge that there is significant latent potential for Ice Hockey and Curling.

We just approved the renewing of the Agorà, the existing hockey arena, that will host the training activities for the athletes.

The very important news is that few days ago we just signed an agreement for a new innovative arena, regardless of the Games.

Dear President Bach, dear friends of the International Olympic Committee and dear friends of sports: you know Milano and Cortina, you have read our Dossier, you have seen the enthusiasm in our eyes and work...

Now you know that there is a perfect place for these Olympics: Milano, Cortina, the Alps and our entire country...

(ZAIA)

...and now we leave the floor to our Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte...

SPEECH 3

GIUSEPPE CONTE

President Bach, Prime Minister Löfven, honourable Princess Victoria, distinguished members of the International Olympic Committee, Swedish and Italian delegates, Being here, today, to officially present the bid of Milan and Cortina as host cities for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games 2026 is a source of pride and satisfaction to me.

I have the honour of representing Italy, which is here and now united and determined in pursuing the dream of hosting an extraordinary sport event that already promises to be memorable.

Our project has the ambition to give birth to Olympic Games that could combine sport, history, culture and innovation, in line with the values that distinguish the Olympic Charter.

These same values have enlivened entire generations of athletes who, through their effort and talent, have honoured Italy.

The same values that the Italian National Olympic Committee promotes every day in its crucial action to support sports.

The very same values that we want to continue teaching our younger generations, involving educational institutions in a national training program that nurtures key principles such as reciprocal respect, solidarity, fairness and responsibility. Principles that I consider indispensable for a full and harmonic human development.

If today we are granted the honour to host the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in 2026, we will provide a fundamental input to this ambitious educational challenge, which draws its inspiration from the Olympic torch.

The reasons that make us confident that the Italian bid is worthy of the highest consideration and support of the delegates are manifold.

I mention just a few, the most important ones in my view.

First, the unbeatable beauty and charm of our Alps, so often evoked in literary and artistic works throughout history. Unforgettable pages of sport have been written on the snow of our mountains, so rich in history and traditions.

Second, our Country has developed a significant expertise and top-level organizational capacity. Our federations and committees have always impeccably organized many sport events of international importance in a wide variety of disciplines.

This time our bid involves not only the majestic Alpine peaks, but also cities such as Milan and Verona that – as other Italian cities – are going through an extraordinary revival, thanks also to their capacity of combining tradition and future, culture and innovation.

Let me point out one more aspect, which I wish the delegates would take into careful consideration when they are called to make their final decision.

Italy's sport tradition is deeply rooted in its cultural and social fabric and this is true for many disciplines, from football to fencing, from tennis to rowing - and of course for winter sports. Since sport competition has reached a global dimension, many athletes have honoured the Italian sport tradition in the world, making our Country a benchmark and a model, for its own unmistakable style in "doing sport".

Particularly in winter games, we can make ourselves proud of many recent and important successes. Our athletes have won prestigious competitions and medals, spurring and encouraging many among the younger generations to develop a real interest in these disciplines. A virtuous circle that the charm of Olympic Games can only further enhance and reinforce.

If I am here today, in front of you, it is thanks to our National Olympic Committee that – together with the relevant local authorities – has always believed in this project, demonstrating enthusiasm, dedication, commitment and deep conviction in its achievement.

This Olympic dream is not the dream of two cities, it is the dream of all Italy. For this reason, the Italian Government has supported the Italian National Olympic Committee in all the phases of the Italian bid and our commitment will certainly not stop here. If Italy is selected to host the Olympic Games, starting from this very same evening we will work hard and commit ourselves to make sure the event will be remembered in the sport history.

Dreaming together is the slogan supporting the bid for Milan and Cortina and I honestly cannot think to a more appropriate one.

Hosting the Olympic and Paralympic games is the dream of an entire country, our country.

Ladies and gentlemen, we submit with full confidence to your judgment. Thanking you for your attention and consideration, I convey the greetings of the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella.

SPEECH 4

SOFIA GOGGIA & MICHELA MOIOLI

How exciting this all is! Thank you, Mr President!

Hello everyone.

I am Sofia Goggia, Olympic Downhill champion at PyeongChang 2018.

I am very happy to be here, together with my friend Michela, also gold medalist.

Michela and I are certainly the last to arrive at this Olympus of champions. For me it's huge honour to represent my beloved country in this candidature.

President Bach, do you remember me? It was a little more than a year ago. I still hold in my heart the words you said to me when you handed me my medal in Korea. I was confused and emotional, but today perhaps even more so.

MOIOLI: You don't have to tell me!

I feel we're back at PyeongChang at the last jump when I was about to take it and see the finish line ahead of me. Here, we have another finish line to cross. Milano Cortina 2026, a candidature that has put athletes at the centre of the project.

Just think, 75% of athletes will be lodged less than 10 minutes away from the competition venues. Also, these venues are both technically adequate for our needs and placed in beautiful surroundings.

Don't you think?

GOGGIA: Absolutely! Did you know that the Cortina slope is my favourite one? It's a wonderful slope that is so full of light and natural beauty that it offers athletes a unique experience of the Games.

The Dolomites have always been my dream since I was a child.

In front of that enchanting scenery there will be one of the two Medal Plazas, and the other one in Piazza del Duomo in Milano's city centre.

Two breathtaking backdrops.

I'll be honest with you: I'm 26 years old now and if we win today I wouldn't mind being there!

What about you, Miki?

MOIOLI: I'm still only 23 years old and I'm at home in Livigno.

I hope to make it to the 2026 Games after taking part in Beijing 2022.

Livigno has wonderful facilities for snowboarding, and this whole project relies on resources that have already successfully hosted world events.

Our experts have listened to us, they've understood what we athletes need and they've studied a candidature that creates the best conditions for competing.

GOGGIA: And so...We're ready! We'll continue to train together, because cooperation is vital and indispensable, as it will be for our Games and for our families who will be at our sides.

MOIOLI: The whole country believes in us, with immense passion. Believe in us, you too!!

Now we would like to present our country, our culture, our spirit and our true nature:

GOGGIA: Milano-Cortina 2026

Dreaming Together!!!

SPEECH 5

ARIANNA FONTANA

What a video!! It really encompasses so many of the emotions, passions, and requirements, in my opinion, that it takes to host the Olympic Games.

Good Evening, I am Arianna Fontana.

I am here to talk a bit more about the athletes perspective and what it is that Italy offers that no other country can. I am a bit biased but you'll see why.

Athletes take a lifetime of passion and commitment and show us who they are at the Olympics. Host cities need energy to match all the energy the athletes are putting out. Lombardia and Veneto are busy, bustling economic areas and we all know that MOTION CREATES EMOTION. In Lombardia and Veneto that emotion becomes energy for sport. I can assure you the athletes energy will be matched in the mountains and in the cities.

The beauty that comes from all the athletic performances will be matched in the mountains, no matter which venue an athlete finds himself or herself. The Dolomites are full of precious gems that have stood the test of time as both cultural treasures as well as sporting destinations. Milan is known to many as the fashion capital of the world and although that is powerful, the beauty of the city comes from its history of innovation and the creative people who continue to innovate today. These people will be there to support all the athletes and create shared memories at every venue.

Something all winter athletes love to have, whether competing or cheering on their teammates, is a sunny day. Milano/Cortina will be the sunnyside of the Winter Olympics with an average 10 hours of sunlight everyday. At the Milano/Cortina Winter Olympic Games every athlete will have a great competition day. It is these characteristics that inspire athletes to give their best.

Trust me.

We will match your energy. Athletes, whatever you put out, I promise you'll get it back.

The best food, in the most beautiful setting, with the most passionate organizers, fans, supporters, and volunteers.

We share the same passion.

We are ready.

I now present the youngest member of our delegation and my future team mate, Elisa Confortola, may her dreams become our reality.

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SPEECH 7

MILANO CORTINA 2026 - THE DREAM

ELISA CONFORTOLA

Being here today is already a dream come true. To experience an Olympiad in my own country would be a memory to last a life time. Going to the Olympics is the dream of even the most humble athlete, and even though it might often seem out of reach, it still gives you an incredible boost of energy in every training session. It encourages you to try to exceed your limits and it gives you the strength to

persevere when you can't go on, when your legs are aching but you don't want to give up.

It is that fire that burns within you, a fire that when you're only 17 years old helps you when you have to study even though you're exhausted after training, and makes it easier to turn down going out with friends because the emotion that sport gives you is one you'll never find in a pub. That's why I'm here today...In the hope that this dream will come true...And in the hope that Milano-Cortina 2026 could be my first Olympics, in my own country. For me, this is a powerful stimulus and a great source of pride.

And it is that Italian pride that I also hope to be able to honor, the pride of a country that has always shown with its creativity and resourcefulness that it can meet any challenge.

Milano-Cortina 2026

is my and our dream...

and we are here today to ask you to make it come true!