

MORNING SESSION

**WELCOME SPEECH**

**MILANO CORTINA 2026 – INTRODUCTION**

GIOVANNI MALAGÒ

**1min**

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Dear President Bach,  
Your Royal Highnesses,  
Excellencies,  
Colleagues and friends,  
Ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning.

It is an honour for me to be here to present the bid of Milano Cortina to host the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games 2026.

But if I am here today, the merit is mainly yours and those of you, beginning with President Bach, who have contributed to the approval of Agenda 2020 and the New Norm, crucial and fundamental elements that allow Italy and its Olympic Committee to bring to your attention this innovative, sustainable and environmentally friendly project, which fulfills all the guarantees required by the IOC, starting with the Olympic and Paralympic Villages.

Before going into the details, I would like to introduce our team, that I consider a fantastic group of people:

Giancarlo Giorgetti, Undersecretary of State

Luca Pancalli, President of the Italian Paralympic Committee and winner of eight gold medals, six silver and one bronze.

Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milano

Giampietro Ghedina, Mayor of Cortina

Attilio Fontana, Governor of Lombardy Region

Luca Zaia, Governor of Veneto Region

Carlo Mornati, General Secretary of the Italian Olympic Committee, Olympic Silver medal in rowing at Sydney 2000.

Diana Bianchedi, project coordinator, twice Olympic Champion in fencing at Barcelona 1992 and Sydney 2000

Antonio Rossi, three-time Olympic champion in canoeing at Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000, Undersecretary for sport for Lombardy Region  
Francesca Porcellato, the only athlete to have won gold medals in both Summer and Winter Paralympic Games. Three gold medals.

An now, our ambassadors:

Arianna Fontana, Olympic champion, italian flagbearer at PyeongChang 2018, eight times Olympic medalist

Sofia Goggia, Olympic downhill champion at PyeongChang 2018

Michela Moioli, Olympic snowboard champion at PyeongChang 2018

And last but not least, our colleagues, IOC members  
Franco Carraro and Ivo Ferriani,

And Honorary Members,  
Mario Pescante

Manuela Di Centa, twice Olympic Champion at Lillehammer 1994

Thank you for your attention and now I give the floor to Giancarlo Giorgetti, Undersecretary of State

## **Speech 1**

### **GIORGETTI**

Dear President Bach,

Dear IOC Members,

Dear friends,

On behalf of the Italian government I would like to confirm once again its full support for the Milano Cortina 2026 bid.

The level of support of the Italian people for the Milano Cortina 2026 candidature is extremely high, almost incredibly so.

The entire country believes in our candidature and in the value of holding the Games in Italy.

ALL THE POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES, POLITICIANS OF MAJORITY AND OPPOSITION, EXPLICITLY SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE. When you look at that, you realise that the Italian Government is fully endorsed to take action by the popular will.

The Italian Government has provided all relevant guarantees regarding security, customs, immigration and other government services.

Milano Cortina 2026 recognises that the effective planning and delivery of the Games will require an integrated governance structure, with representation from national, regional and local government and from both the Italian Olympic Committee and the Italian Paralympic Committee.

An Olympic Board, representing all key stakeholders, will be responsible for ultimate oversight of the Games.

The Board will oversee three entities:

- The Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, a privately funded non-profit organization in charge of organizing and delivering the Games
- A public ENTITY in charge of coordinating the delivery of permanent venues and Games-related infrastructure.

-A permanent sustainability and legacy forum, that will be in charge of legacy projects.

The Organising Committee for the Olympic Games will be the main body responsible for planning, organizing, staging and monitoring the Olympic and Paralympic Games and will act as the primary interface with the IOC and International Paralympic Committee, as well as with the International Federations, the National Olympic Committees and TOP Sponsors. And the President of the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games is a colleague of yours, the IOC member Giovanni Malagò.

And now allow me to continue in French.

L'échéancier pour les travaux et les projets de construction a été déjà planifié avec soin tout au cours de la candidature et sera surveillé avec attention par l'organisme responsable de la livraison de l'infrastructure des Jeux, tout en s'appuyant sur une structure solide pour la gestion du projet de construction.

De même, nous avons commencé à travailler à un plan de livraison général des Jeux ; nous serons en mesure de le présenter au CIO dans les plus brefs délais, et de fournir un calendrier principal des Jeux au cours des prochains mois.

L'Italie envisage des Jeux durables, conformément à l'Agenda 2020 et à la Nouvelle Norme. Si l'organisation des Jeux sera confiée à Milano Cortina 2026, ils bénéficieront d'un important soutien financier et de l'engagement des pouvoirs publics à tous les niveaux, y compris les autorités régionales de la Lombardie et de la Vénétie qui comptent toutes deux parmi les régions les plus riches de l'Europe.

Le budget global est inférieur à celui des Jeux précédents, en ligne avec la flexibilité et les réductions de coûts que l'Agenda 2020 a

permis, grâce à l'utilisation accrue des sites existants et la disponibilité d'effectifs avec beaucoup d'expérience.

L'Italie a accueilli plus de cent quarante Coupes du monde et Championnats du monde dans plusieurs sites proposés et a donc accumulé une grande expérience dans ce domaine. L'expérience acquise grâce à l'Exposition Universelle à Milan sera également d'une importance cruciale.

**NOUS AVONS RESPECTÉ L'ÉCHÉANCIER À CHAQUE ÉTAPE  
DU PROCESSUS DE CANDIDATURE ET NOUS AVONS  
FOURNIES TOUTES LES GARANTIES REQUISES PAR LE CIO.**

Merci de votre attention.

Je vais maintenant passer la parole à Francesca Porcellato.

**MORNING SESSION**

**SPEECH 2**

**MILANO CORTINA 2026 - THE VALUES**

**FRANCESCA PORCELLATO**

**2.30 min**

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Thank you Mr Giorgetti and good morning everybody.  
Before looking at the technical part, it's important for us to focus on  
the values.

These Games are a dream come true for all Italians,  
and we all know why.

As Olympians, we believe in blending *culture* with education, setting a good example and respecting universal fundamental ethical principles.

Also, we know the power of sport in the *harmònious* evolution of humankind.

As athletes and Olympians we have helped shape this candidature, to ensure the respect of our values. During the Games, an Athletes and Coaches commission will provide expertise and advice.

We have to think to the future, now. And the future is sustainability, starting right away. In our games, 93% of the competition venues are already existing or temporary.

The aim is to minimize the environmental footprint of the *event*. No venue is located in environmentally protected areas and all have an incredible high technical level: 13 out of 15 have hosted world cups and championships over past decades.

We also have two world class alpine skiing venues: Stelvio and Tofane, where all the world's top skiers love *competing*.

The games are for all: we want to achieve full stadiums, thanks to a Price strategy that keeps prices in line with previous Games and to the location of the venues, which will attract spectators from nearby winter sports countries.

There are multiple visiting opportunities for spectators in all the venue clusters, with cultural programmes of art, music, theatre, food, fashion and design. This is Italy!

And, above all, the improvement in accessibility for future generations, as part of Milano- Cortina 2026 legacy vision.

The goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport *practiced* without **discrimination of any kind** and in the Olympic spirit.

We can change the life of our people. And we are ready.

### **SPEECH 3**

DIANA BIANCHEDI & ANTONIO ROSSI

**5min**

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DB: Good morning everybody.

Many months ago, when this dream began, Antonio and I felt very proud that two athletes like us had been invited to be part of the bid committee.

We took part in the games since Barcelona, competing in different sports, different countries, having different experiences. This is enormously helpful for us in imagining our new games.

We mustn't forget who we are, and so our biggest challenge is to design the games as athlete-centred, accessible to all and truly sustainable, as you've seen in our Masterplan.

The main transport plan is built on train connections with low or no emissions at all.

The teams need to stay close to training and competition venues: between 5 and 20 minutes away maximum.

Isn't that so, Antonio?

AR: Yes it is! This masterplan has been designed for all stakeholders: athletes, spectators, media, volunteers, citizens and tourists.

An efficient network of interconnected transport services (rail, bus, park&ride facilities) will ensure connections within and between clusters and will provide easy access to venues, city activity sites and tourist attractions.

Moreover public city transport will be free for spectators on the day of the event and always for the workforce.

All the venues will also be accessible for Paralympic athletes and people with disabilities.

the legacy of the game will extend the experience of Milano, winner city of Accessibility 2016, to all the cities and the mountain clusters.

And 10 thematic itineraries have been specifically designed for people with disabilities with a dedicated smartphone app.



DB: Many times today we've spoken about the engagement of the Italian population.

For sure, as regards accommodation, we've seen concrete examples.

We will provide 100% of the hotel guarantees for the Olympic family: all the hotels already exist, with the high standard and warm Italian hospitality that you would expect.

We have enough hotel rooms. No media villages are required.

On the contrary the Olympic villages we've described are part of the games sustainability plan and are fully guaranteed.

The Olympic Village in Milan is part of a new development planned for students, irrespective of the Games.

The temporary Olympic villages in Livigno and Cortina, funded by their respective regions, will be then used for civil protection purposes after the Games, and part of the Livigno village will remain as a permanent training site.

Our country needs them.

AR: We are conscious that a Games Masterplan based on multiple clusters can appear to be a challenge for media and broadcasters. Milano Cortina 2026 will provide an effective, innovative and stimulating working environment,

A transport service will take the media from their lodging to the IBC/MPC. Shuttles equipped with high-speed Wi-Fi will connect to all venues every 15 or 30 minutes.

The two media centres are top class: Fiera Milano has the best space and facilities for the combined IBC/MPC. This is fully modular, and with great experience in fast and efficient fit-out.

In addition, a 10,000 square metres Mountain Media Centre in Cortina, plus dedicated areas in the other venues, will offer comfortable working premises in the other hosting cities as well.

But now I give the floor to another champion, and friend,  
with a great experience at the olympics, first athlete and then chef de mission  
of the italian NOC in  
ten editions Games, both winter and summer.

Carlo Mornati.

#### **SPEECH 4**

**CARLO MORNATI**

**4min**

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Thank you Antonio.

Our priority is to provide an inspirational Games experience for all the people involved in the Milano/Cortina 2026 Olympics: for athletes, spectators, media, volunteers, team officials, sponsors, the Olympic Family as well as for all the italian citizens.

We want all of them to live an unforgettable experience.

Our desire is to contribute to a golden decade of Olympic and Paralympic sport, placing Milano and Cortina alongside other leading international cities, to help strengthen the Olympic and Paralympic movement.

Regarding the athletes, our concept is designed to make them live a unique experience, and at the same time to maximize comfort and efficiency in transportation and board & lodging. This means well-equipped accommodation, with excellent catering and

efficient transport services, both in the

Olympic Villages and in the selected Athletes Hotels, and proximity to the competition venues. 75% of athletes will be lodged within less than 10 minutes' travel distance from the venues and the remaining 25% not more than 20 minutes away.

In addition to comfort and efficiency, we shall provide a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the athletes in terms of emotions.

Iconic venues, both in terms of prestige and of technical requirements, Constantly packed with volunteers and fans, thanks to our ticketing strategy.

And for the first time, an innovative concept: two simultaneous opening ceremonies, in Milano and in Cortina, with all the athletes center stage as protagonists;

and a stunning closing ceremony in the best conserved Roman amphitheater in Italy, the Arena di Verona.

These great shows will further boost the passion for sport and will add exceptional value to the Olympic and Paralympic movements.

The athletes will also be celebrated in 2 Medal plazas in

eye-catching areas and in 10 Live sites where they can share the celebrations with their families, their fans and the local communities.

A full Games Experience for the athletes needs to involve families and friends.

Our goal is to make them live the olympic experience and at the same time embrace our Italian culture: for this reason we will reserve for families and friends special ticket packages for historical and cultural sites and free public transport for all spectators in Milano.

All spectators will enjoy a wonderful Games experience in terms of mobility and accommodation: we have studied very carefully spectator transportation demand estimations on peak days to ensure a comfortable Games experience on roads and on railways.

Existing accommodation, in hotels and in alternative lodging, is large enough to meet perfectly all the needs of spectators in terms of numbers and rates.

For all the spectators that wish to take the opportunity to visit the breath-taking sites of our country, there will be the chance to customize their trip through the Games venues and they will be greeted with the warmest Italian welcome both in Milano and in the Italian Alps.

Our game will be the games for all, and we are ready.

Now I give the floor to president Giovanni Malago'.

## **SPEECH 5**

GIOVANNI MALAGÒ

**2.30 min**

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Thank you Carlo,

Dear colleagues and friends,

I imagine that so far you have been hearing important details about the Milano Cortina 2026 project.

I'm back to conclude this morning's presentation session and summarize the ambitious targets of Milano Cortina 2026. In our vision, these Olympic and Paralympic Games aim to promote sports, health and physical activity throughout Italy, in particular for the new generations.

They represent an opportunity to reaffirm our mountains as major destination for winter sports and tourism, and enhance these regions as a place to live and work, with improved physical and digital infrastructure.

It is an occasion to promote new development models for the sports industry, and to encourage urban and mountain-centered development policies, focusing on sustainability.

From a strategical point of view, Milano Cortina 2026 views the Games as a catalyst for achieving many long-term city and regional strategic goals, as well as boosting the creation of social development programs and the spreading of values, such as gender equality and sustainability.

Our vision will be fully translated into a comprehensive legacy program, with well-defined indicators, to be put in place from the very start. This will be the guiding light of our journey to the Games.

For this purpose, a Sustainability & Legacy Forum will be set up, under the auspices of the Olympic Board, to supervise and monitor the implementation of the sustainability strategy.

This Forum will be set up shortly after the Host City election. It will have the ability to secure resources for the long-term future of legacy programs and will work closely with the OCOG.

The Games will represent a milestone in the further advancement of Italy. And a sustainable and long-lasting lasting legacy is the core of the Milano Cortina 2026.

President Bach, IOC members, Ladies and Gentlemen, this is our Vision and with this vision, let's dream together!

Thanks to all of you



