

Morinari WATANABE

## IOC Presidential Election Manifesto



### My beliefs

*Not losing to the rain  
Not losing to the wind  
Not losing to the snow nor to the heat in summer  
With a strong body  
Without having a desire  
Never losing temper  
Always smiling gently*

*In everything  
Count myself last and put others before myself  
Watching and listening, and understanding and never forgetting  
If there are children who want to learn,  
I go there to teach culture and sports.  
If there is fighting, I tell them to stop their fighting.  
I don't want to be praised. I don't want to be cared for.*

*Date of Birth*

21 February 1959

*Membership specificity*

IF President

*All interests as disclosed in the IOC Members' Interests Register*

Disclosure of interest Entities/companies (Location)

- International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) (Switzerland)
- Japan Urban Sports Federation (Japan)
- Japan Rhythmic Gymnastics Federation (Japan)

*Maximum duration of my term*

8 years until 2033

# Open and Together

Following the strong governance policy led by President Thomas Bach, and respecting the philosophy of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, I would like to enhance the Olympic Movement. We share the value of Olympism by engaging with people in sport around the world, working closely with athletes, NOCs and IFs, and Worldwide Partners.

— Proposal for discussion —

## CONSIDERING THE FUTURE OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

First of all, Paris 2024 was a great Games in the history of the Olympic Games. I would like to express my utmost respect and gratitude to President Thomas Bach for his leadership and to the city of Paris and France.

On the other hand, the Olympic Games have grown so large, and it is now economically and environmentally difficult to host them in most cities. The Olympic Games can be seen as a way of demonstrating the political power of large nations. This has led to a negative perception of the Olympic Games.

The current model of the Olympic Games began in the 18th century. In the 18th century, there was no television and the main means of transport were ships. Now, in the 21st, technology has developed and we enjoy using various travel and communication technologies, including the internet. In this context, we will study the development of the new model of the Olympic Games.

### Innovation

### The Games on the five continents

- Stage the Olympic Games in **five cities** from the **five continents**, in the **same period of time**.
- IOC and IFs can choose a city that will provide an environment with less burden on athletes.
- Significance of the Olympic Games: Bringing the **five continents together**
- The Games will be broadcast and **streamed 24 hours a day**, which will unite the world.
- **10 sports per host city**, 50 sports in total.
- With fewer (1/3) numbers of IFs involved per each of host city, more focused discussions over a longer period of time will allow the use of more existing and temporary facilities to be considered.
- Discussions will also be undertaken for the Winter Olympic Games to reduce the number of sports per host city with a view to organizing the Games in several host cities and countries/regions.



**5 CITIES FROM THE 5 CONTINENTS**  
**10 SPORTS PER HOST CITY, 50 SPORTS IN TOTAL**

### The benefits of The Games on the five continents

- **Sharing the excitement** around the world
- **Significantly reducing the economic costs** of the host city
- Enabling many more cities and even small cities to consider hosting the Games
- **Literally Worldwide promotion** by Worldwide Partners
- Active promotion by OCOG sponsors within continental territories
- Strengthening the unity of the five continents
- Interaction between athletes, bringing them together by connecting the Olympic Villages in five continents with the technologies of our Worldwide digital technology Partners
- Philosophy of Olympians under one roof will be materialized by organizing the Olympian Forum

**Enhancing the value of the five interlaced rings of the Olympic flag in the Olympic Charter**

## Olympian Forum (all under one roof)

The Olympian Forum is organized in order to bring athletes together under one roof at the end of the Games year. One of the purposes of the Olympic Games is to bring Olympians from all over the world together under one roof to share Olympic values. In reality, however, this does not happen because the athletes are focused on their competitions, and they stay in the Olympic Village or in hotels on a rotating basis. It is necessary for Olympians to have the opportunity to come together away from their competitions and learn about Olympic values together.

*As I was a gymnast, I am confident that I understand what athletes feel. I respect athletes and want to support them in their post-career life.*

*It is important to me that athletes compete in the Olympic Games, but more than that, I want them to have a productive life by competing in the Olympic Games.*

- Share of Olympic values
- Invite Olympians, Worldwide Partners, OCOGs and Sponsors from each host city
- Participation of and collaboration with Paralympians to be considered
- Athletes recruitment seminars organized by Partners and Sponsors (What kind of people do they need? What are the strengths of athletes from a business perspective?)
- Stands set up by Partners and Sponsors where athletes can find sponsorship opportunities
- Various awards, prizes and recognition for participants
- Link to the Athlete365



Image/Olympism in Action Forum

## NEW MARKETING

As the Olympic Games expand to five continents, broadcast and streamed 24 hours a day, the reach of Worldwide Partners will increase and the broadcast and streaming time of Rightsholders will extend.

I would like to discuss with the current Worldwide Partners and Rightsholders how they can further capitalize on the growing value. The IOC and the Partners/Rightsholders will build a 'win-win' marketing system to increase revenues.

## GOVERNANCE AN OPEN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

### Introduction of bicameral system

- The House consists of the NOC Presidents and Olympic IF Presidents.
- The Senate consists of the current 120 IOC members as IOC members.
- The proposals of the IOC Executive Board are discussed in the House and then decided by the Senate.



House of Representatives

- (1) Presidents of member National Olympic Committees (NOCs)
- (2) Presidents of International Federations (IFs) from both summer and winter Olympic sports



Senate

Up to 120 IOC members, the same number as at present

### IOC members playing an active role (Together)

As IOC members are experts in different fields, a system will be created to allow IOC members to actively contribute to the world by using their respective skills and careers. For example, politicians can promote "Sport and Politics" and entertainment industry professionals can promote "Sport and Entertainment".

### Change in the term of office of the IOC President

A maximum of three terms of four years each, for a total of 12 years.

Reasons; - As society changes rapidly, 8 years would slow down the process.

- By giving many members the chance to become IOC President, the pace of change will be accelerated.

# PROTECTION AND SUPPORT FOR ATHLETES

## Enhancement of the IOC's Integrity and Compliance Hotline

As FIG President, I created the "Gymnastics Ethics Foundation (which offers athletes support and the possibility to report harassment)". In fact, in the 5 years since the Foundation was established, the number of cases of harassment of athletes has not decreased. Based on this experience, I will enhance the Hotline to facilitate its use by all stakeholders, including IFs.



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## Support for Refugee Olympic Teams and developing countries & regions

The Refugee Olympic Teams, founded by President Bach, is a great achievement in the history of the Olympic Movement and it must be continued. Sports education environments and systems are not necessarily adequate in the majority of NOCs. While the expansion of sports solidarity is underway, the spirit of sport is 'one for all, all for one'. I will develop a system in which sports developed nations actively support sports developing nations.

## Integrating sport and technology

As raised in the Olympic AI Agenda, sport can be taken to a higher level through the use of technology. For instance, Scoring and Judging sports can be transformed into fairer and more transparent sports through technology. The FIG has already developed and introduced the judging support system (automatic scoring system by AI) during the competitions.



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Remote coaching through technology can give athletes access to world-class coaching from anywhere in the world. E-sports will create new ways to enjoy sport. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology will usher in a new era of sport.



AI-Generated image

# NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BY THE IOC

I believe that the industrial revolution focused on industry that began in the 18th century has come to an end and that the 21st century will see an industrial revolution focused on healthcare. This is because many countries have aging populations and are shifting from 'material wealth' to 'health and mental wellbeing'. I believe that the focus of society will shift from commodities to health and sport. The IOC needs to challenge itself with a project to develop new businesses to contribute to society in the area of people's health and mental wellbeing.

For example, there should be projects that can contribute to athletes' second lives, such as working with NOCs in countries with aging populations and increasing social security costs to develop projects to combat the aging of society through sport. I would like to create a system that allows athletes, together with the IOC, to develop new projects that can contribute to society with new ideas.

# SPORT AND PEACE

I was moved by the words of President Bach at Paris 2024:

*“We know that the Olympic Games cannot create peace. But the Olympic Games can create a culture of peace that inspires the world.” President Bach’s words must be recorded in the history of the IOC. They are a practical expression of the fundamental philosophy of the Olympic Games.*

The value of sport is its ‘contribution to peace’. The world is becoming more and more divided and tense. Through sport, young people will respect each other, build friendship regardless of race, religion and history, and the world will share the inspiration through the broadcasting and streaming of the Olympic Games. By experiencing the Games together, by living a life together, I believe the divided worlds will be united in peace.

President Bach taught us that culture building is necessary to stop war. Building culture takes time, but we must never give up. I would like to further strengthen the day-to-day coordination with organizations that actively contribute to peace through sport, in addition to the initiatives at the Olympic Games.

In the areas of heightened tension, the IOC will actively engage in interactions through sport to reduce tensions. An example of how sport has contributed to such efforts in the past is the ping-pong diplomacy that helped to reduce tensions between the countries concerned in the early 70s.

My father was exposed to the atomic bomb in Hiroshima and I am a second-generation atomic bomb survivor. My gymnastics coach was a representative of the Team Japan for Tokyo 1940, which were cancelled due to World War II. In 1994, I organized the 1st AEON CUP, a rhythmic gymnastics event for peace through sport. Athletes from countries in conflict at the time participated and shook hands during the event (photo right). The AEON CUP, which continue to be held every year, donates a part of its profits to the UNHCR. I visited refugee camps in Rwanda in 1998 during the conflict and felt in my bones that sport gives children courage and strength (photo left). It was a natural progression for me to visit Kiev, Ukraine in 2023.



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**The theme in my life is ‘the contribution of sport to peace’. My goal is to create a world where athletes from all countries and regions can take part in the Olympic Games even in times of war.**

## FINALLY;

As President of the International Gymnastics Federation, I have visited more than 160 countries. My policy is field-oriented. I meet with athletes, coaches and officials from different countries and ask for their opinions. I believe it’s my job to listen to everyone and make their dreams come true.

Everyone’s dreams are different. They are influenced by the situation in the country where they live. Even if the dreams seem the same, they are not. I think it is important to listen carefully to everyone. In Japanese culture, people respect others as much as they respect themselves. I would like to create a world of mutual respect in sport.

This manifesto is version 1. I want to create a manifesto that reflects your views.

If you have any comments, opinions and advise, please feel free to send them to me.