

March 15th, 2012.
PRESS RELEASE

Today I presented to Dr. Jacques Rogge, International Olympic Committee President, my irrevocable resignation as Member of the IOC Executive Board as IOC Member and President of the Olympic Solidarity Commission.

Simultaneously, I have presented to the 204 National Olympic Committees around the world and Ms. Gunilla Lindberg, Secretary General of ANOC, on equal terms, my resignation as President of the Association of National Olympic Committees.

I found it very difficult to take such drastic decision. For over 40 years, first as an athlete and then as leader, I have been closely linked to the Olympic Movement. He was founder and President of ANOC since 1979, Olympic Solidarity founder since 1981 and Chairman of the IOC's Olympic Solidarity for the past 12 years.

From these positions have made great efforts to provide, and growing significantly, increased support to athletes and National Olympic Committees. The results obtained in the latest editions of Olympic Games show the effectiveness of policy in these years. ANOC is now the umbrella organization for all National Olympic Committees of the world, is an acknowledged leader and plays a key role within the Olympic Movement.

The position I have held membership in the IOC Executive Board has allowed to move to that instance, the views, suggestions and recommendations of the NOCs, especially those issues related to the organization and development of the Olympic Games as well as with the function in those games be played by the National Olympic Committees.

In its 30 year history, ANOC has achieved significant success and a significant strengthening of management capacity within the Olympic Movement. Relevant results have been achieved in the work of the Organization, especially in the struggle to defend the autonomy and independence of the NOCs, decentralization towards the Continental Associations and running multiple programs that have contributed to a strong support for the care and support of athletes.

The Olympic Charter states an age limit of 80 years to IOC members elected before 2000, as I do. The application of that rule supposed to cease as a member of the Executive Committee in the IOC Session to be held next July in London and in December 2012 as an active member of the IOC.

That special circumstance and the conclusion of my term as President ANOC in 2014, have unleashed an insane and aggressive race for my succession, led by two ANOC Vice: His Excellency Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, President of Olympic Council of Asia and Mr. Patrick Hickey, President of the European Olympic Committees.

As was promptly reflected in some media, not always with the necessary objectivity, the last two meetings of the ANOC Executive Council, held in Lausanne in December 2011 and London in February this year, were the scene chosen by these people and their allies to express personal ambition, disloyalty, the dark alliances and the lack of ethics and principles. His Excellency Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah and Mr. Patrick Hickey, supported by other members and the silence of some, the Executive Board imposed agreements that violate the Constitution of ANOC and ignore decisions of the General Assembly.

The analysis of events in recent months demonstrates the existence of agreements which, for various reasons and interests, led to alliances prior to the meetings of the Executive Board as a necessity to impose its will by majority vote, the margin and ignoring the rules and established practices in the functioning of the Organization.

This criticism is very dangerous as well for any organization that is considered democratic and transparent, much more to an organization of sport, where fair play and ethics should prevail. It is unacceptable that such partnerships or vote buying is seeking to violate the rules, to affect the unity and prestige of an

organization and hurt the autonomy of National Olympic Committees. Of course, this kind of behavior I have opposed in the strongest terms. Never accept a procedure by which violates the principles and Olympic values.

What were the proposals that are urgently managed to impose and what was their real objective? First, before my next outing as a member of the IOC Executive Board imposed the proposal of Mr. Patrick Hickey as the candidate to replace me in that responsibility, with the deliberate purpose of conditioning the decision to make, as has been the practice, the General Assembly in a free and sovereign.

There is no rule in the Olympic Charter by or under the Constitution of ANOC no procedure for it. The urgency of that kind of pressure can only be explained by personal ambition and inordinate thirst for power of the promoters. Second, were preparing the way for Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah presidency of ANOC when I cease this responsibility. To this end, won the Executive Board's proposal to submit to the General Assembly an amendment to the Constitution that enables ANOC designate between 5 Continental Vice-Presidents, a senior vice president to replace the President in his absence.

This election would be conducted solely and exclusively by the 5 Vice Presidents, with no other instance of approval. face of these attempts to violate, at all costs, I opposed the rules vigorously. In the particular case of the proposal by Mr. Patrick Hickey plus it is a violation of our policies and practices, I said, quite clearly, I do not consider the person with low moral and ethical quality necessary to take that responsibility.

His conduct and mode of action in these acts reaffirm that conviction. consider fair and normal for any person aspiring to excel and to occupy the relevant positions, which are categorically reject crafty and unfair procedures and the use of a representative appointed by the NOCs to satisfy personal interests, damaging the prestige and image of an organization like ANOC.

On the election of Senior Vice President, I initially thought it was an honest and without hidden agendas. Therefore, in my capacity as President of ANOC, presented a counterproposal in which I offered my support to the creation of the position of Senior Vice President, but under the condition that he could not represent any particular continent and should be elected by General Assembly, as in the case of the President. Equity and balance of power that has always ANOC must never be broken.

It is totally illogical and undemocratic that only the 5 Vice President elect to substitute and no person, however much power you have, you can replace just the right corresponds to the 204 National Olympic Committees, meeting in General Assembly. No continent should have privileges over others. A decision of this magnitude and importance can only be taken by the General Assembly.

The history of this unfortunate and dangerous situation began with the inappropriate and false statements to the media by Mr. Patrick Hickey, which launched strong and unfounded criticism ANOC of which is one of its Vice-Chairmen PASO, with which it has nothing to do, showing interest in setting out in search of a leadership that lacks within the Olympic Movement. aspirations ANOC Vice President for Europe coincided with a similar position of President of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Asia, Sheikh Ahmad HE Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, who feels like the natural successor to the President of ANOC.

To specify the conduct to follow and achieve their goals shady called, using as pretext the Asian Beach Games held in Dubai in November 2011, a meeting obviously conspiracy, with the presence of some IOC members as fronts and Representatives of some NOCs, led by Vice-ANOC in Europe and Asia. It is said, quite forcefully, that the Sheik, to ensure support for their ambitious plans and to have the necessary votes, gave 50 000 "compelling reasons" to some leaders and also speculates that the same procedure as used in meetings December in Lausanne and February in London.

It is worth pointing out that His Excellency Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah who wants to preside ANOC from a country whose National Olympic Committee has for several years by the IOC suspended due to disagreements with his government. Should be asked how moral authority is intended to direct the National Olympic Committees around the world.

From that moment, dark fruit of partnerships and questionable procedures, was forged treason and the assault on ANOC and its leadership structures. Unfortunately, using language pseudodemocrático, raising the need for change as a flag and encouraging the confrontation between the NOCs and International Federations, dragged behind a group of Olympic leaders honest in other continents.

The behavior shown in the meetings of the Executive Council ANOC of Lausanne and London was the consummation of a strategy, intentionally planned to achieve its ambitious personal goals, using, as can be seen, the violation of the Constitution of ANOC, the lack of agreements of the General Assembly and what Even more dangerous, making decisions that only apply to the National Olympic Committees. In my capacity as President of ANOC I firmly opposed and rejected such maneuvers. ANOC defended the Constitution and the role that corresponds to the General Assembly as the supreme organ of government.

Facing the call we made in the meetings of the Executive Council to respect the rules, for caution and common sense, as planned, turned a deaf ear and imposed by force of their shameful alliance. Consistent with my principles and ethics that I have had throughout my life and my clean record in the Olympic Movement have decided to take the only way, responsible, serious and dignified: RESIGN, renounce love and respect for the sport, ANOC, the NOCs and the Olympic Movement.

I will never accept, much less live with disloyalty and lack of principles. As I have said in the last two meetings of the Executive Board in this serious and dangerous conflict encourages me any interest of a personal nature. I argue, as I have always done, convictions, principles and ethics. I said where it belonged and at the right time and I stand today with more reason, that Mr. Patrick Hickey is not qualified or meet the qualities needed to represent the National Olympic Committees in the IOC Executive Board.

Similarly, I have reiterated that the Executive Council tax agreements are completely in violation of the Constitution of ANOC and that under no circumstances be accepted. Personally, I very much regret the dangerous situation created by the irresponsible and opportunistic behavior of the protagonists of these facts. However, I have the absolute conviction that the representatives of National Olympic Committees in the XVIII General Assembly to be held in Moscow this April, with its proven ability and experience selected in a transparent and democratic, the who will assume responsibility for leading the organization.

These considerations on the causes of my resignation, which today put at the disposal of the media, I have promptly informed the President of the International Olympic Committee, IOC Members, the Chairmen of International Federations, the Members of the ANOC Executive Council and in particular to the 204 National Olympic Committees around the world that their vote overwhelmingly majority, gave me the great honor and great responsibility to chair, for more than 30 years, the Association of National Olympic Committees.

The XVII ANOC General Assembly held in October 2010 in Acapulco was a clear example of the recognition and support for the work. The 204 National Olympic Committees around the world, unanimously and by acclamation at event chaired by Dr. Jacques Rogge, IOC President, I was reelected as President of ANOC for the period 2010 to 2014 and I proposed to the IOC to integrate its Executive Committee as a representative of the National Olympic Committees.

With the decision to relinquish my responsibilities in the Olympic Movement I comply with the request of the L PASO General Assembly, held on 7 and 8 of this March in Mexico City, in which representatives of the American Olympic Committee asked me to leave the international positions and concentrate on the presidency of the Pan American Sports Organization, a position for which I was re-elected for the period 2012 to 2016.

By leaving the office I occupy in the Olympic Movement do with the satisfaction of having done my duty, giving my contribution to the success of the international Olympic sport, in particular the Olympic Games. No one may state that I never used my position in the direction of the Olympic movement for personal gain.

By contrast, during these long years I have devoted time, effort and personal resources in support of sport and athletes, which I feel very proud. thank the media for his important and valuable support for the

fulfillment of responsibilities I have been assigned. I am aware that without it would have been more difficult to achieve successes in both the IOC and Olympic Solidarity and ANOC. I am part of you, so I can appreciate, like no other, the value and importance of their work to inform and educate.

Mario Vazquez Rana