



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

The President

To: National Olympic Committee
Presidents

Cc: IOC Members

International Olympic Winter
Federations

Association of National
Olympic Committees

Lausanne, 29 September 2017

Dear Presidents,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today to launch the candidature process for the XXV Olympic Winter Games 2026.

Building on changes guided by Olympic Agenda 2020, the IOC's strategic roadmap for the future of the Olympic Movement, as well as the Olympic Winter Games Strategic Working Group and Olympic Games Management 2020, this new process provides Interested Cities and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) with greater support directly from the IOC and more flexibility to develop Games proposals that are aligned with, and advance, local, regional and national development goals, and have less financial, operational and environmental impact.

The Candidature Process 2026 comprises two stages:

- A new, one-year non-committal **Dialogue Stage** (September 2017 to October 2018) that will provide Interested Cities and NOCs with an opportunity to engage with the IOC to assess the benefits and requirements related to hosting the Olympic Winter Games 2026. Cities will

also be able to benefit from Olympic Winter Games expertise delivered through the IOC.

- A shortened formal **Candidature Stage** (October 2018 to September 2019) with streamlined procedures enabling those cities that are invited to become Candidate Cities to work closely with the IOC to increase the value proposition of their Games delivery plan.

Throughout both stages, the procedure will be tailored to the context and needs of each City and will include ongoing open dialogue between the Cities and the IOC, enabling continuous improvement of the Games projects. These changes benefit Cities through greater expertise provided by the IOC and fewer deliverables required throughout the Candidature Process and, thus, substantially reduced Candidature budgets.

Presenting a candidature for the Olympic Games is not tendering for a franchise and there is certainly no one-size-fits-all solution. The candidature process is about making proposals and offering solutions that will deliver excellent Games without compromising the field of play for the athletes whilst also meeting the needs of the city and region to ensure the Games will leave a positive, long-term, sustainable legacy. There must be greater emphasis on the use of existing, temporary and demountable venues where no long-term legacy need exists or can be justified.

We have just witnessed the historic election of two great cities, Paris and Los Angeles, as hosts of the Games of the XXXIII and XXXIV Olympiad. They were the first to fully benefit from Olympic Agenda 2020 and both cities fully embraced the reforms. This can be seen in the record number of existing and temporary facilities that are planned to be used and is something we have not seen in this dimension in the history of the Olympic Games. Such proposals are leading to significant cost reductions in the organisation of the Olympic Games.

With this letter, the IOC kindly invites you to inform us of your interest in bidding for the Olympic Winter Games 2026. The IOC will then contact with you regarding the next steps and to determine the best way we can assist you during the Dialogue Stage.

[The enclosed Candidature Process document](#) provides detailed information regarding the new procedure and the various tailor-made services offered by the IOC. Additional documentation including the Candidature Questionnaire will be published on the IOC website on 17 October 2017. The deadline for cities to enter the Candidature Process by joining the Dialogue Stage is 31 March 2018. In October 2018, during the IOC Session in Buenos Aires, a number of cities will be invited to join the Candidature Stage, following a recommendation by the IOC Executive Board.

The IOC looks forward to working with you and your Interested City and assisting you in this respect.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Noa A. L.", is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style.