



International  
Olympic  
Committee

The President

Panam Sports General Assembly 2024

Asuncion, 2 October 2024

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Gracias por su cordial bienvenida. Es un placer estar de nuevo con ustedes, con la comunidad de Panam Sports. Tengo ante mí a tantos viejos amigos que este encuentro casi parece una reunión familiar.

En primer lugar, tenemos que celebrar los extraordinarios resultados de sus deportistas en los Juegos Olímpicos Paris Dos Mil Veinticuatro. Sus atletas y sus increíbles logros fueron un auténtico homenaje a nuestra comunidad olímpica de la mejor manera posible; una fuente de orgullo y de alegría para la gente de las Américas.

¡Qué celebración tan merecida! Con un total de doscientas veintiuna medallas, sus deportistas batieron todos los récords de los Juegos Olímpicos anteriores.

Además, sus atletas no solo ganaron medallas; con su espíritu de excelencia, dignidad y deportividad, se ganaron los corazones de millones de personas de todo el continente americano y de todo el mundo.

De esta manera, Panam Sports y sus atletas contribuyeron al enorme éxito de los Juegos Olímpicos Paris Dos Mil Veinticuatro. Desde luego, tienen motivos de sobra para sentirse eternamente orgullosos.

Panam Sports goza de gran prestigio en la comunidad olímpica, y esto es gracias al esfuerzo colectivo de todas las personas reunidas en esta Asamblea General. Por ello, me gustaría felicitar a todo el equipo de Panam Sports, dirigido por su presidente, mi querido colega y amigo Neven Ilic.

Gracias a todas y todos ustedes por el importante trabajo que llevan a cabo cada día, apoyando a los atletas y promoviendo el deporte y sus valores en toda la región.

Your General Assembly is a timely moment for you to set the course for the future of sport in the Americas. You can look to this future with great confidence, knowing that you have a solid foundation to build on. Over the course of nearly 12 years, I could see with my own eyes how diligently you have laid this strong foundation.

From contributing to unforgettable Olympic Games and organising successful Panamerican Games; to strengthening your Solidaridad Panamericana programme; to giving athletes a voice and a vote through the Panam Sports Athletes' Commission;

to innovating in the digital world, or making climate action a priority – as these and many other initiatives demonstrate in an excellent way, Panam Sports has been an outstanding partner for the IOC. You have been and continue to be a highly-valued and indispensable member of our Olympic community, fully focused on strengthening the role of sport in society.

Together, we have written sporting history. We can look back on so many achievements: the record-breaking performances of your athletes; the Olympic Games Rio 2016, the first-ever Olympic Games in South America; the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018, the first-ever Youth Olympic Games in the Americas; bringing the Olympic Games and Olympic Winter Games back to this great continent, with the elections of LA28 and Salt Lake City – Utah 2034.

We could only write these exciting new chapters of Olympic history because we stood together, united by our shared Olympic values of peace and solidarity. This spirit of unity and solidarity will continue to be essential as you build a sustainable and inclusive future of sport in the Americas – because the times, they are a changing.

This is why I am deeply convinced that my decision to clear the way for a new IOC President to take charge is in the best interest of our beloved Olympic Movement.

As you look to the future, I ask you to offer to my successor the same spirit of solidarity and friendship that I was so fortunate to enjoy over the many years.

The times may be changing, but the relevance of the role of sport in building a better and more peaceful world for all has never been more important.

We could only lead our Olympic Movement to this high degree of relevance by being united. This unity in all our diversity is the foundation for our success. Divided, this stability will fall apart. As we look to the future, we must do everything in our power to preserve this unity in all our diversity.

The Americas will always have a special place in my heart. After all it was in Buenos Aires where my own journey as IOC President began in 2013.

I will always be grateful for your support, for the many beautiful moments and memories that we shared together.

Today I do not say “adios”. Today I say, hasta luego mi queridos amigos. Compartimos recuerdos. No los olvidaremos. Y compartiremos más, mis amigos. In the words of the famous 1992 summer hit: Friends for life, not just a summer or a spring: Amigos para siempre.