



Adoption of the Olympic Truce Resolution for the Olympic Games Milano Cortina 2026

UN General Assembly, New York, 19 November 2025

Giovanni Malagò, President of the Organising Committee for Milano Cortina 2026

Madam President, dear delegates

I am deeply honored to stand in front of you today, alongside the IOC's new President Kirsty Coventry, to introduce, on behalf of Italy, the draft resolution "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal".

At a time of growing discord and conflict, sport and the Olympic Games can provide a beacon of hope; an alternative to rivalry and division.

Yes, the Olympic Games are founded on competition and the pursuit of excellence.

But throughout their history they have demonstrated something even more powerful – a sense of humanity which transcends even the greatest of athletic achievements.

At the Olympic Games in Innsbruck in 1964, the Italian bobsledder Eugenio Monti wrote his name into sporting history with an act of sportsmanship for which he became better known than his six Olympic medals.

Twice he was forced to settle for bronze when Italy might have won gold: first by loaning the triumphant British two man team a bolt for their broken sled and then by offering mechanical support to the Canadians who became champions in the four man event.

He went on to win two gold medals at the Grenoble Olympic Games in 1968 and many World Championship titles.

But he also became the first recipient of the Baron Pierre de Coubertin World Trophy in recognition of his remarkable display of selflessness.

Monti's actions more than 60 years ago are a shining example of sport's power to rise above rivalry and national boundaries.

Of course he was a winner.

Of course he wanted to win.

But for him the core Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect mattered more than coming first.

These values, embedded in the Olympic Charter, are one of the reasons why the Olympic Games are still able to show the world that there is an alternative to conflict.

I personally witnessed the extraordinary power of the Games in PyeongChang in 2018 when, in Casa Italia, we hosted Taekwondo athletes from the DPKR and the Republic of Korea.

This is what the Olympic Charter stands for; athletes from all over the world coming together in friendship and united by the power of sport.

The draft resolution before you today notes the role of sport in inspiring individuals and communities to uphold these core values. It also acknowledges that the Olympic and Paralympic Games of Milano-Cortina will be a unifying event to harness the power of sport.

As President of the Organising Committee for the Milano Cortina Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games 2026, I know we have a unique occasion and opportunity to promote the Olympic Truce and build an atmosphere of peace.

For the first time in two decades the Olympic and Paralympic Games will return to Italian soil in February and March next year.

The circumstances in which we were awarded the Games in June 2019 were very different to the ones in which we will stage them, after a global pandemic and because of new conflicts.

It is my sincere hope that lo spirito Italiano LO SPIRITO ITALIANO – the new and vibrant Italian spirit which is at the centre of our vision and mission – may conquer hearts and minds and inspire change.

It is also my hope that the incredible athletic achievements we will witness next year - carved in the icy beauty of the Italian Alps - will inspire the whole world.

Around 3000 athletes from 91 countries will compete in the Olympic Games in 116 events including a first – ski mountaineering.

70 years after the Italian skier Giuliana Chenal-Minuzzo became the first woman in Olympic history to recite the Olympic oath at the Cortina Winter Games, Milano Cortina will be the most gender balanced Winter Games in history.

Meanwhile next year's Paralympic Games will mark the winter edition's 50th anniversary with more than 660 athletes from 79 countries taking part in 6 sports.

For half a century the Paralympic Winter Games has broken down barriers and promoted inclusion in society.

For Italy the Games will deliver more than 300 legacy projects, improving accessibility for people with disabilities, upgrading transport infrastructure in towns and mountain areas and serving as a symbol for diversity and empowerment.

Milano Cortina 2026 will be the first time the Olympic and Paralympic Games have been awarded to more than one city and will be held across several different regions and provinces.

It is a unique opportunity for Italy to demonstrate to the world how different cultures can be united by sport.

Unlike past Games, athletes will stay in eight different villages and clusters. In each there will be a Truce-Wall where they will be able to leave their signatures as a symbol of their commitment to peace.

For me, this all underlines the core message of Milano Cortina 2026: armonia... harmony.

It is a message and principle which has deep roots in Italian culture and history.

Renaissance artists, writers and philosophers like Michaelangelo, Leonardo and Lorenzo de Medici promoted universal themes of beauty, reason and harmony.

By encouraging culture and dialogue over dogma, they laid the foundations for modern diplomacy and changed the perspective and put human beings – and their dignity and respect – first.

These principles sit at the heart of this great institution and echo the cherished Olympic commitment to universality.

Madam President,
Dear Representatives of Member States,

I wish to reiterate the message of non violence according to the Ancient Greek tradition of the Olympic Truce.

I would like to thank all the delegations that have expressed their support and cosponsored this draft resolution in close co-operation with the International Olympic Committee. And I humbly urge all Members and Delegates to support this resolution and to set aside differences and divisions and come together in harmony in Milano Cortina next year.

Thank you for your attention.