



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Thomas Bach
President

Global Refugee Forum
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The IOC has been supporting refugees through sport for many years. For the Olympic Games Rio 2016, we created the IOC Refugee Olympic Team and to broaden our engagement, we later launched the Olympic Refugee Foundation. In all our efforts, we are working closely with UNHCR.

From this experience, we know that for children and young people uprooted by war or persecution, sport is much more than a leisure activity. For refugees, sport is an opportunity to be included and protected – a chance to heal, develop and grow.

Today I am pleased to announce that we have formed a sports coalition of 85 organisations from sport, from other NGOs and from governments. This is the first time that such a wide-ranging coalition of partners is coming together specifically around sport, illustrating the unifying power of sport.

On behalf of the IOC and this coalition of sport for refugees I am delighted to make the following three pledges:

- To promote and ensure access for all refugees to safe and inclusive sporting facilities.
- To increase availability and access to organised sports and sport-based initiatives for refugee and hosting communities.
- To promote and facilitate participation of refugees in sporting competitions at all levels.

Let me conclude by adding a fourth pledge from the IOC: we will continue to give hope to refugees around the world and raise awareness about the magnitude of the global refugee crisis with the IOC Refugee Olympic Team for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.