

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For me, it is a great honour to be here to proudly present the candidature of Milano and Cortina for the 2026 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Ours is an innovative project that takes full advantage from the Agenda 2020. In particular, I must be sincere: without the Agenda 2020, we would never have been able to present a bid to host the Games. For this, I must thank President Bach and IOC members who had the wonderful intuition of changing the approach to candidature also through “The New Norm” issued at PyeongChang.

Milano-Cortina is a bid that originates from the territories, from the cities of Milano and Cortina, represented here by the Mayor of Milano, Giuseppe Sala. It stems from two of the richest and most operational regions of Italy, if not Europe, Lombardy and Veneto, represented here by the Governor of Veneto, Luca Zaia. It will be precisely the regions to guarantee the financial support in order to deliver the Games.

This candidature has the full support of the athletes and coaches, represented here by multiple Short Track medal-winner, Arianna Fontana, Italian flagbearer at the PyeongChang 2018, who comes from Lombardy.

This candidature includes other two Olympic Medallists: Diana Bianchedi, twice Olympic Champion, one of the leaders of the bid, Carlo Mornati, Secretary General of Italian Olympic Committee, and the Italian IOC Members, here represented by Mario Pescante and Ivo Ferriani.

Obviously, the National Olympic Committee is fully committed with its efforts and energy to supporting Milano-Cortina, as is the Italian Government which will guarantee support for the candidacy for the services that depend on it.

We believe that the winning key of our project is the word TOGETHER.

Together, because we unite public and private, tradition and innovation, the efficiency of a great metropolis with the charm of the mountains. It is a great display of teamwork with a single goal: to bring the Olympic and Paralympic Games back to Italy.

Ours is a fascinating challenge. It is the Italian organisational system taking to the pitch. It is the excellent components of our country which are ready to invest and fall in, alongside us to ensure that this dream can indeed come true.

Why tradition and innovation? Because we have combined the financial capital of Italy, MILANO, with the first city that hosted the Games in Italy in 1956, CORTINA. And which will soon host the winter sport world by organising the Alpine Skiing World Championship in 2021.

Among other things, these are two cities that I know very well, because they have played an important part in my life in the past and now more than ever.

Now, before handing the floor over to the Mayor of Milano, I would like to ask everyone to watch this video which has a surprise ending. We chose this Assembly to unveil to the world, the logo of Milano-Cortina 2026.

Thank you for your attention.

Merci beaucoup de votre attention

Muchas gracias por su atencion.

