

A blue-tinted photograph of hot air balloons and the Olympic flag. The balloons are silhouetted against a bright sky, and the Olympic flag is visible on the left side of the frame.

New Year message from the President of the IOC

This is not just another ordinary year that is drawing to a close. It is an exceptional year for the Olympic movement, and for us all. And because it is my first full year as President of the IOC, I wish to take stock of events and to reflect upon the past months. First of all, there was the Olympic Congress at which, united by and for Sport, together we paved the way for hope and change.

There was also the Swiss Confederation's recognition of the IOC's status as a non-governmental international institution. In addition, our emblem is now officially and internationally protected.

Many other projects have been accomplished, involving discussions and meetings. However I have never forgotten my promise to visit the NOCs on their home ground. Thus, in order better to understand the aspirations of each and every one. I have visited about forty countries. And I shall continue my travels, aware of the close ties linking us within the Olympic movement.

This wonderful year for the evolution of our movement has put new life into us, new ardour. We shall start 1942 our minds serene, enlightened by our decisions and our joint reflections.

Today is a special opportunity to thank you all for your support and to ask you to continue to help us wholeheartedly in the task that we shall accomplish together. A Happy New Year to you all, dear friends

Juan Antonio Samaranch