



**SPEECH OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF
NATIONAL OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES,
Mr. MARIO VÁZQUEZ
RAÑA**

I should like to welcome most warmly all the representatives of the National Olympic Committees throughout the world to the 6th General Assembly.

I express my sincere thanks to the Austrian and Viennese authorities, and especially to our friends in the Austrian NOC, for their kind invitation, their hospitality, their kindness and all the effort they have made to ensure the success of our work which begins today in this magnificent city with this solemn ceremony,

Every ANOC assembly is a very important occasion, not only for our Association but also for the whole of the Olympic family, as it brings together all the NOC representatives, the bedrock of the international sports movement. We can still remember the historic meetings in Puerto Rico in 1979, our inaugural assembly, and those that followed in Milan, Baden Baden, Mexico and Seoul in 1986. Today, in this Olympic year, we meet in Vienna following the success of the Winter Games in Calgary, and of the Summer Games in Seoul at which 160 NOCs participated. Our most sincere thanks and congratulations go to the Organizing Committee, to the International Federations, to the IOC and, of course, to its President, Juan Antonio Samaranch and, above all, to the athletes, the protagonists of this sports festival.

Now it is time for reflection. We must draw conclusions with our next goals in mind: the Games of the XXVth Olympiad in Barcelona and the XVIth Winter Games in Albertville in 1992. This will be the main objective of our discussions beginning tomorrow. You will agree, I am convinced, that we celebrate our sixth general assembly more united than ever, more hopeful, the Olympic ideals stronger and, moreover, with a force that commands respect. It is in this spirit that I invite you to participate actively in our discussions.

I send my greetings to the members of the IOC Executive Board and particularly to the President, Juan Antonio Samaranch and, once again, I express my thanks to our Austrian hosts.

Dear colleagues and friends, let us all fight for this noble cause throughout the world, for our youngsters, for our children and our grandchildren. Let us give them our faith in the benefits of the Olympic Movement, the greatest, the finest social movement.