

INVITATION TO SALT LAKE CITY 2002

The IOC officially invited the NOCs to participate in the XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, at a ceremony organized on 1 February at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, attended by, among others, Ed Eynon, vice-president responsible for human resources of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee (SLOC), Sharon Capeling-Alakija, chief coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers programme, and representatives of volunteers from the last three editions of the Olympic Winter Games in Albertville in 1992, Lillehammer in 1994 and Nagano in 1998. After symbolically signing the invita-



The IOC President signs the invitations to the NOCs alongside Françoise Zweifel.

tions addressed to the NOCs of South Africa, Australia, the United States of America, Japan, Norway and Switzerland, the IOC President declared: "The IOC invites the athletes of the world to assemble next

year in Salt Lake City to celebrate the XIX Olympic Winter Games." The IOC marked the fact that the year 2001 has been proclaimed the International Year of Volunteers by the United Nations General Assembly by paying tribute to its own volunteers. "The Olympic Movement depends on volunteers," noted the IOC President. "The members of the Olympic Family generously give up their time and means for the development of sport and our Movement. Indeed, the Olympic Games themselves could not take place without the help of thousands of volunteers. And the Salt Lake City Games will be no different. May I thank all these people in advance."

The Volunteer Olympics 2001

Taking place between the Summer and the Winter Games – Sydney 2000 and Salt Lake City 2002 – the International Year of Volunteers is an Olympics of a third kind. Just as it is true of the Olympic Movement, the United Nations International Year aims to encourage "a way of life based on the joy found in effort, on the powerful and educational value of good example and respect for fundamental universal principles".



The Year of Volunteers is like the Olympic Games, part of a permanent, ongoing effort. It is universal, covering all continents,

and while volunteers do not compete against each other, they do indeed face great challenges and perform against great odds.

On behalf of the United Nations Volunteers programme which was designated the focal point for this International Year by the UN General Assembly, I would like to invite all of you today to join in these 'Volunteer Olympics' 2001.

The world of sport and the world of volunteers are closely linked. What would the Olympic Games be without