
Olympic Truce

Shen Guofang, Deputy Permanent Representative of China

[...] Despite the two tragic World Wars, people's aspiration for peace and their pursuit of the Olympic ideal have never wavered ever since Pierre de Coubertin initiated the modern Olympic Games at the end of the 19th century. The establishment of the United Nations as well as the purposes and principles of its Charter and the efforts it has since made for world peace and common

economic development have also contributed in no small way to promoting the development of the Olympic Games. Today, mankind has already stepped into the 21st century. Countries in the world should continue to stick to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, promote the Olympic spirit vigorously, seek peaceful solutions of international disputes and regional conflicts,

enhance understanding and friendship among civilizations through dialogue and exchange, and work for the continuous global social and economic development through cooperation. East or west, north or south, the common aspiration of people all over the world today is that the 21st century would be a new century marking human development and progress.

Sotos Zackheos, Cyprus Permanent Representative

[...] This is a clear message of the importance that the international community places on the Olympic ideal. The great challenge now is to take the first practical steps towards turning into reality the observance of the Olympic Truce.

The Olympic Truce is an expression of the yearning of mankind for peace, understanding, reconciliation and for the noble notion of distinction, based on honest competition. In the search for excellence every athlete is equal;

and victory is the result of ability, training, hard work and perseverance. Discrimination with regard to a country or a person on grounds of race, religion, politics, sex or otherwise, is incompatible with the Olympic spirit. It is important to strengthen adherence to the Olympic ethics, especially the need to conduct the Games in a fair way. In this context, the efforts against the use of prohibited anabolic and other drugs are to be commended.

[..] It is now ever more imperative that the spirit of freedom and tolerance, as exemplified by the very essence of the Olympic ideal, be greatly disseminated through the Planet. For in these turbulent times, following the abhorrent terrorist acts of September 11, humanity should look to the idea of the Olympic Spirit and the Olympic Truce as an alternative to war, destruction and the assault on civilization, which is the goal of terrorism.

Aaron Jacob, Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel

[...] The Olympic Games, as the world's premier sporting event, have long been one of the primary meeting points for nations divided by politics or geography. In this respect, we support the observance of the Olympic Truce, as an expres-

sion of our common yearning for peace and reconciliation, and we hope that all Member States will join together in ensuring that peace and security prevail for the duration of the Games. [...] The Olympic Games is one of the world's only

truly global events, and as such presents us with an extraordinary opportunity to focus the world's attention and utilise the goodwill that the Games inspire for building a more peaceful and more harmonious world.