



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

The President

Mr Rick Scott  
United States Senator  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
United States of America

Lausanne, 18 November 2019

Dear Senator,

Thank you for your letter of 17 October 2019 which the IOC studied with great care.

Please allow me to outline the mission of the Olympic Games and the International Olympic Committee – this mission being to unite the entire world in peaceful competition. To achieve this, we must remain strictly politically neutral. This political neutrality is enshrined in the Olympic Charter. It is in this context that the Olympic Movement always tries to build bridges between peoples. In this respect, our mission is very different from national governments.

We understand that these different missions have also been addressed by US Vice President Mike Pence, who in a recent speech on foreign policy in Washington, although characterising China as a “strategic and economic rival”, noted that “the United States seeks engagement with China”. He went on to say, “we will continue to forge bonds between our two peoples through education, travel, and cultural exchange”.

I had the privilege to outline our mission at the G20 Summit in Osaka in June, where I said, “we can accomplish our mission only if we stay out of any political dispute. This means we have to be politically neutral. But this is not enough. We depend on your, the world leaders’, support for our mission and our neutrality.”

Following my speech, the Chair, H.E. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, expressed appreciation for this position.

On the other hand, the host country of an Olympic Games is obliged to fully respect the Olympic Charter and the Host City Contract in all activities related to the organisation of the Olympic Games. Such principles demand, in particular, that all participants take part in the Games without discrimination of any kind. The Host City Contract also protects the freedom of the press and guarantees access for those media accredited by the IOC. This leads to the fact that on the occasion of the Olympic Games more than 20,000 members of the world's media are accredited.

For all these reasons I would respectfully ask you to support this unifying mission of the Olympic Games and our political neutrality.

In concluding, let me wish the US athletes all the best in their preparation, qualification and participation in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shinzo A. Abe', written in a cursive style.