



Mr. Thomas Bach
International Olympic Committee
Château de Vidy
1007 Lausanne
Switzerland

April 14, 2014

Dear Mr. Bach:

On behalf of 22 U.S. based human rights and LGBT organizations, we write to submit our views for your upcoming Extraordinary Session in Monaco in December 2014.

We believe that our views relate to the following three themes of your special session:

1. Athletes at the heart of the Olympic Movement;
2. The IOC's role: unity in diversity; and
3. IOC structure and organization.

The Council for Global Equality joined in a letter to you before the Sochi Winter Games were over in February, where we urged your consideration of very similar requests. We reiterate them here and believe that the Sochi experience, and the controversies leading up to the 2014 Winter Games should compel the IOC to implement these for the sake of the athletes, the fans, and the spirit of the Olympic Games.

1. Amend Principle 6 of the Olympic Charter, to include “sexual orientation and gender identity.” The Principle currently states: “Any form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on grounds of race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement.”

2. Strengthen the Olympic Host City Bid process to include requirements that host countries do not have laws in place that discriminate on protected grounds and against groups, including LGBT people, in violation of international law, and that there are effective mechanisms in the country to impartially resolve possible complaints regarding human rights abuses linked to Olympic preparations in a timely and effective manner. The process of selecting a host country should include input and analysis from independent human rights organizations regarding the country's human rights record.

3. Future host city contracts should include specific human rights pledges and a commitment not to introduce laws or policies that violate human rights law before the Games. The contracts should include clear sanctions for failing to respect these commitments, up to and including a relocation of the Games. The contracts should also include clear human rights benchmarks on various topics including media freedom, labor rights, freedom of association, civil liberties and non-discrimination on the basis of all categories including sexual orientation and gender identity.

4. Make Host City Contracts public. Future Host City Contracts should be made public, in the interest of transparency and to better monitor the host city's ability and/or willingness to respect the human rights benchmarks described above.

We are hopeful that the upcoming Extraordinary Session in Monaco will address all of these requests in the appropriate sessions. We look forward to hearing from you or your designates what the outcomes of those deliberations are in the near future.

Thank you for the opportunity for public comment.



Mark Bromley
Chair
Council for Global Equality

Cc: Lawrence Probst, U.S. Olympic Committee