

IOC President Bach receives Leadership in Post-Conflict Development Award

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24 September 2024 – IOC President [Thomas Bach](#) was presented with the Prince Albert II Leadership in Post-Conflict Development Award by the Foundation for Post-Conflict Development (FPCD), under the High Patronage of [IOC Member HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco](#). He received the award at a ceremony held during the high-level week of the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) and the Summit of the Future. It recognises excellence in diplomacy, particularly efforts that contribute to peace and post-conflict development.

“During your tenure as President of the International Olympic Committee, your leadership has been transformative. Your dedication to sustainable development, gender equality and comprehensive reform within the Olympic Movement creates the conditions necessary for peace and post-conflict development to begin,” Claudia Abate, the Founder and Executive Director of the FPCD said in her address.

She continued: “President Bach, you have worked tirelessly to promote peace and development through Olympic Solidarity, ensuring that there is no division or mention of Global South and Global North—all are equal. This brings us back to the essence of human togetherness. You ensured that the Olympic Games do more than celebrate sport—they celebrate humanity. And President Bach, you have been the unifying force the world so desperately needs – giving peace the opportunity it deserves.”



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The FPCD was founded in New York in 2005. It promotes global peace and development, helping post-conflict communities transition out of fragility. Its initiatives span maternal health, youth empowerment, environmental programmes and diplomacy.

When accepting the award, the IOC President said to Prince Albert and the Foundation: "I want to thank you and the Foundation for this wonderful honour, bestowing this prestigious prize on me, and through me on the entire IOC. This prize is for everybody who supports the unifying mission of the IOC. This mission is at the moment against the zeitgeist. The signs do not indicate unification, but division, separation and decoupling. We are very proud that the Olympic Games Paris 2024 could send a different signal and message in this complex situation. People around the world are looking for something that unifies us, they are fed up with the hate, the aggression, the wars and the killings."

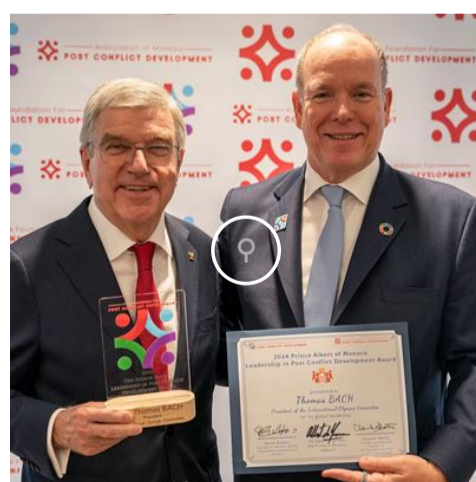
After highlighting the contribution to a culture of peace by the [Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024](#), which resonated around the globe and were followed by more than half of the world's population, IOC President closed his speech by saying: "We take this prize as an encouragement to continue to work for this unifying mission and for the creation of a culture of peace."

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ASICS introduces DISC - a new era of virtual sports

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pioneer in sports innovation, is proud to announce the development of "DISC," a virtual sport conceived and designed exclusively for virtual ("VR") and mixed reality ("MR"). This groundbreaking initiative aims to expand the boundaries of sport and to inspire a new generation of athletes worldwide.

In an era where digital and sports increasingly intersect, ASICS is embracing digital advancements to reimagine the concept of "Esports" as "Borderless Sports" that engage and support the body and mind. Born from a collaboration between ASICS Ventures, Meta, and game studio m ss ng p eces, DISC is built from the ground up to deliver a groundbreaking sports experience designed specifically for VR and MR. Rather than adapting a traditional sport into the virtual world, DISC's fresh and imaginative gameplay is uniquely challenging and physically engaging, supporting a healthy body and mind.

Innovating for the Future, Honoring the Past

Drawing on decades of expertise in sports science and digital innovation, ASICS designed the sport of DISC to challenge players' physical and strategic skills in equal measure. DISC is more than an expansion of ASICS digital services; it's a seed planted to grow towards a future where virtual sports hold a place of honor alongside their traditional counterparts, perhaps on the international sports stage in coming years.

A Sport for Everyone

DISC is welcoming to VR/MR beginners and scales to engage advanced gamers and athletes alike, embracing the idea that sports should be accessible to all. It's built on the belief that joining together in play strengthens not just our bodies, but our minds too. This sport represents ASICS' commitment to the "Sound Mind, Sound Body" philosophy, ensuring that no matter who you are or where you're from, you can experience the joy and benefits of moving your mind through physical activity.

Joe Pace, Vice President at ASICS Ventures and DISC project lead, said: "DISC is about uniting people through the power of sport and creating a global community where we can grow together. For thousands of years, sports have evolved to challenge both body and mind, bringing out the best in us. Our goal is to collaborate with the Quest community to continue that evolution, shaping the future of sports and redefining what it means to play and compete together."

Join Us to Shape the Future of Sports

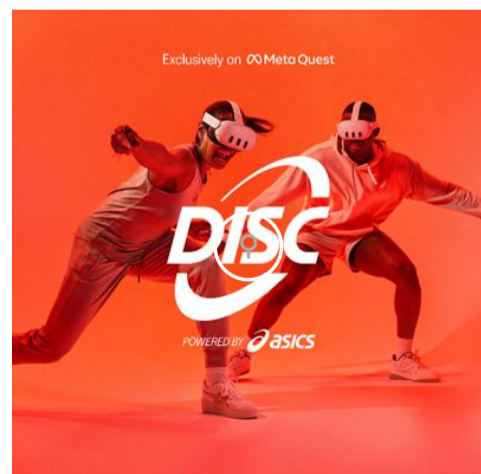
With our official launch coming soon, our Discord community will be the central hub for collaboration and updates, where athletes, enthusiasts, and innovators can come together to help shape the sport of DISC. We warmly invite you to embark on this exciting journey with us by watching the [DISC teaser trailer](#) and joining [the DISC community hub on Discord](#).

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United Nations Pact for the Future highlights role of sport for SDGs – IOC President thanks world leaders at Summit of the Future

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accelerator – to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The recent Olympic Games Paris 2024 illustrate in an excellent way how the IOC is contributing to the SDGs through sport,” said the IOC President during the plenary session.

“We are ready to continue and strengthen this contribution of sport in the framework of the Pact for the Future – because this Pact perfectly reflects our Olympic motto: Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together,” President Bach continued.

Sport is mentioned multiple times in the Pact for the Future, where, in Action 11 of the 56 Actions, the UN Member States declare: “We will protect and promote culture and sport as integral components of sustainable development.”

They continue: “We recognise that culture as well as sport offer individuals and communities a strong sense of identity and fosters social cohesion. We also recognise that sport can contribute to individuals’ and communities’ health and wellbeing. Culture as well as sport therefore are important enablers of sustainable development.”

Furthermore, the UN Member States say in the Pact: “We decide to ensure that culture as well as sport can contribute to more effective, inclusive, equitable and sustainable development, and integrate culture into economic, social and environmental development policies and strategies and ensure adequate public investment in the protection and promotion of culture.”



Sport is also mentioned in the Declaration on Future Generations, which is part of the Pact for the Future. In this document, the UN Member States commit to “invest in accessible, safe, inclusive and equitable quality education for all, including physical education and sport, and promote opportunities for lifelong learning, technical and vocational training, and digital literacy, allowing for the intergenerational acquisition and transfer of knowledge and skills to advance the prospects of future generations”.

The inclusion of sport in the Pact for the Future is another milestone in the IOC’s work with the UN, with which the IOC has the status of Permanent Observer. In 2015, in a historic moment for sport and the Olympic Movement, sport was officially recognised by the UN as an “important enabler” of sustainable development and included in the UN’s Agenda 2030.

In his speech at the Summit of the Future on Sunday, the IOC President said: “The IOC considers peace as the most fundamental of the SDGs. This is why we are very happy and proud that, despite all the geopolitical tensions, we were able to bring together the athletes from the territories of all 206 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team (in Paris).”

Before highlighting other achievements of the recent Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024, he went on: “Before the Olympic Games these athletes joined for a powerful call for peace. During the Olympic Games, they competed fiercely against each other. At the same time, they lived peacefully together under one roof in the Olympic Village. They shared their meals, their experience and their emotions. They respected each other, with no incident or discrimination whatsoever – even if their countries are at war. With all this, the athletes created a culture of peace – showing us how our world



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