





personal commitment of the UN Secretary General and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees all this great success would not have been possible.

When the Olympic flame was extinguished, it brought the Olympic Games to an end, but the IOC's support for the refugee athletes goes on. We continue by their side beyond the Olympic Games to help them to integrate in their new home countries or to prepare to go back to their countries of origin to contribute to building a better society there.

Like all of us gathered here today, we know that the world needs long-term solutions to address the global refugee crisis. The IOC and the Olympic Movement are built on the belief that sport can contribute to peace and the harmonious development of humankind. Our mission is to put sport at the service of humanity. Sport is a natural partner when it comes to realising the goals for social and economic progress of the international community. The historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development specifically recognises sport as an "important enabler" to promote peace and understanding. The IOC wholeheartedly supports the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals and is honoured to join hands with the UN and its Member States to work together for a better world. Sport can also be an 'important enabler' to deliver the goals of inclusion for refugees and migrants.

Today, I reiterate our commitment to the international community that we will support the important efforts of the UN and all governments to find sustainable solutions to the refugee crisis. In light of the New York Declaration we want to strengthen this cooperation with a very concrete proposal.

We come with a commitment from the IOC to work to build 'safe places' for children to play sport throughout the world. In cities where there is a displaced migrant population, in our refugee camps or wherever in the world it is needed – sport can become the glue which will bind communities together. It can break down cultural and gender barriers in a safe environment promoting social cohesion peace and equality. In short, these 'safe places through sport' will be easily adaptable to local areas of need in any given country. They can not only provide a platform for all the benefits that sport can bring but also create better opportunities for other civil society actors to do their job, whether it be to provide education or



We will continue to strengthen our cooperation with UNHCR. Through our IOC Honorary