

## **Speech Thomas Bach, sluitingsceremonie Olympische Spelen Parijs 2024**

Stade de France, Parijs, 11 augustus 2024

*Dear President of the French Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron,*

*Dear President of the Paris 2024 Organising Committee, my fellow Olympian and dear friend, Tony Estanguet,*

*Dear Mayor of Paris, Mrs. Anne Hidalgo,*

*Dear Olympic friends,*

*Dear fellow Olympians,*

*Despite all the tensions in our world, you came here from all the 206 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team, to make the City of Light shine brighter than ever before.*

*Your performances were amazing. You competed fiercely against each other. Every contest on the edge of perfection. Every performance sparking excitement around the world. You showed us what greatness we humans are capable of.*

*During all this time, you lived peacefully together under one roof in the Olympic Village. You embraced each other. You respected each other, even if your countries are divided by war and conflict. You created a culture of peace.*

*This inspired all of us and billions of people around the globe. Thank you for making us dream. Thank you for making us believe in a better world for everyone.*

*We know that the Olympic Games cannot create peace. But the Olympic Games can create a culture of peace that inspires the world. This is why I call on everyone who shares this Olympic spirit: let us live this culture of peace every single day.*

*These Olympic Games could only inspire the world, because our French friends have prepared the stage. And what an amazing stage it was!*

*Millions of people celebrating the athletes in the streets of Paris and all across France. Millions of spectators in iconic venues creating an overwhelming atmosphere. More than half of the world's population sharing this spectacular celebration of the unity of humankind in all our diversity.*

*The Olympic Games Paris 2024 were a celebration of the athletes and sport at its best. The first Olympic Games delivered fully under our Olympic Agenda reforms: younger, more urban, more inclusive, more sustainable. The first ever Olympic Games with full gender parity.*

*These were sensational Olympic Games from start to finish – or dare I say: SEINE-sational Games.*

*The Olympic Games Paris 2024 were Olympic Games of a new era.*

*That is why I would like to thank all our French friends. First and foremost, my warmest thanks go to the President of the Republic, Emmanuel Macron, for his tireless support. My heartfelt thanks goes to the Organising Committee, under the excellent leadership of my fellow Olympian, Tony*

*Estanguet, for making these Games wide open. All my gratitude goes to the public authorities at all levels and to the public services, for their essential contribution.*

*All our thanks and recognition go to our Olympic community – the National Olympic Committees, the International Federations, our TOP partners and the Media Rights- Holders. Together, you have contributed to Olympic Games of a new era in every respect. And for this you can be proud forever.*

*A special thank you to all the wonderful volunteers. You will be forever in our hearts.*

*Dear French friends, you have fallen in love with the Olympic Games. And we have fallen in love with all of you.*

*Thank you Paris, thank you France!*

*Long live the Olympic Games! Long live France!*

*[Flame extinguishing]*

*And now, with my heart full of emotions, I have to perform one more task: I declare the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad Paris 2024 closed.*

*In accordance with tradition, I call upon the youth of the world to assemble four years from now in Los Angeles, United States of America, to celebrate with all of us the Games of the XXXIV Olympiad.*