



Outcomes Statement

of the

Olympic Solidarity Forum

30 April – 1 May 2022 in Nadi, Fiji

Background and Approach

The XLII Annual General Assembly of the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC) was preceded by a series Pre-Workshops including the Olympic Solidarity Forum (the Forum). It was held from 30 April to 1 May 2022 in Nadi Fiji. The two-day forum was designed and delivered in a collaborative approach between the Olympic Solidarity Programme and ONOC senior and technical staff.

Given the International Olympic Committee's investment in the Oceania Continent through the Olympic Solidarity Programme suite of grants and opportunities and the findings of previous surveys of National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in the region, the Forum was designed as information sharing, experience sharing, and discussion sessions using the talanoa format, which utilises a 'conversation' or dialogue approach common to all indigenous Pacific communities as a discussion and consensus building tool. It focuses on 'listening' where 'silence' is prioritised used as a vehicle for arriving at consensus (permitting conversation and 'listening with the heart and spirit').

The engagement format is premised on the metaphor of 'meeting on a mat' (which positions everyone at the same level) with participants knowing their personal (in this case, organisational) identity, recognising each other's spatial limits, recognising the success and complexities of historical engagement, and meeting in a non-confrontational approach to advance dialogue to reach consensus, including the addressing complex issues. The Forum was designed with the end goal of 'doing better – together' at its core, noting the collective end goal of benefits to athletes in Oceania as paramount. *All programmes were discussed in the context of delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and in the spirit of trying to find flexible approaches. Several requests need to be clarified with the responsible.*

In this instance, both Olympic Solidarity, ONOC, and individual member NOCs 'met on the mat' to discuss the wins and challenges of Olympic Solidarity supported initiatives in Oceania, associated challenges, the realities of individual organisational and joint responsibilities, and moved to identify concrete commitments to various goals with demarcated areas of responsibilities, and specific agreed commitments now advancing as recommendations.

These will be advanced to the ONOC Annual General Assembly to be held on 4 May 2022 for endorsement and adoption, paving the way for joint improvement in the utilisation, management, and reporting of the World Programme's component Olympic Solidarity facilitated by ONOC for the period of the new 2021 to 2024 quadrennium and onward.

Olympic Solidarity Forum design

1. The Forum was designed and held with four thematic areas to guide dialogue and facilitate consensus toward shared end goals, these being: (a) Olympic Values, (b) Athletes, Entourage and Sports Development; (c) Management and Capacity Building, (d) NOC Relations and RELAY, and substituting the originally intended session on Marketing with (e) ONOC NOC Services – Communications and Digital Technology.
2. The Forum was delivered in a blended or hybrid format incorporating in-person and online participation, ensuring the inclusion and participation of all ONOC Members and where applicable, relevant stakeholders as observers.

The importance of OS in Oceania and associated challenges

3. The NOCs of Oceania acknowledged the critical importance of the OS grants and opportunities as a primary, and in some cases, the sole source of funding, and that while there were variances in accessing grants, successful management, and reporting, they were open to improving conditional on support mechanisms that addressed specific national and regional challenges.
4. The National Olympic Committees (NOCs) of Oceania leadership and representatives acknowledged the complexity of the sport environment in Oceania underscored by differences in geography, national economies, social conditions, population sizes, infrastructure, technology, and capacity.
5. The NOCs of Oceania acknowledged the reality of the above-mentioned complexities affecting their ability to gain knowledge of Olympic Solidarity grants, access OS opportunities, successfully complete applications, achieve the minimum requirements to gain eligibility for grants, and successfully manage and report on projects and programmes.

The need for capacity to access, manage and report on OS at NOC level

6. The NOCs of Oceania underscored the importance of recognition of the need for capacity to enable access to and successful application and management of OS grants and opportunities.
7. The NOCs of Oceania shared that while OS grants and opportunities were available online on the OS website, the ONOC website, and shared through workshops over time, there were variances in capacity (human resources), access to reliable and affordable internet connectivity, and in some cases, on governance, management, operations, and programme related challenges that they need assistance in.
8. The NOCs of Oceania shared that it was important to recognise differences in partnerships and finance given differences in national economies and that it was often difficult to maintain programmes if salaries were not included as a separate item in grants, sometimes relegating projects for delivery by unpaid or underpaid volunteers.

Sport as a contributor to national economies and to national and regional targets on the UN Sustainable Development Goals

9. The NOCs of Oceania acknowledged that the place and dynamics of sport were in a changing landscape, and it was important to position sport as both a business for livelihoods and entrepreneurship, and as a vehicle for attaining the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in meeting education, health, wellbeing, environment, climate action, poverty reduction, and other related global goals at national and regional levels.

New way of working with OS – a blend of individual NOC, and the collective or communal ‘work’ and ‘partnership’ approach unique to Pacific communities

10. The NOCs of Oceania recognised that given differences in NOC capacities and the need for quick action on various OS grants and opportunities, they committed to several specific actions manageable at NOC level and sought specific support through ONOC accessing grants and opportunities at regional or continental level until capacity constraints were addressed progressively over the quadrennium.
11. The NOCs of Oceania also shared on the need for training needs on OS access, applications, RELAY, and specific technical and administrative products and services be accessed and conducted as a collective through ONOC liaising with OS.
12. The NOCs of Oceania agreed that they would benefit from an ONOC-led system of learning and exchange on OS through buddying, peer reviewing and learning, through knowledge creation and exchange via case studies, templates, and other communication and knowledge products.

Commitments

Commitments under Olympic Values

13. The NOCs of Oceania committed to:
 - a) take advantage of Olympic Solidarity scholarships to send up to two candidates to the IOC Certificate: Safeguarding Officer in Sport
 - (b) work toward joining the UN Sport for Climate Action Framework, with the first concrete steps to be taken by September 2022, and
 - (c) enable more people to benefit from sport, increase the recognition of sport as a driver for social change and strengthen private and public partnerships.

Commitments under Athletes, Entourage and Sport Development

14. The NOCs of Oceania committed to:
 - (a) Following correct procedure with nominating athletes but given this means they will not be accessing grants for several months, seek assistance from OS to cover high travel expenses and potential quarantine costs.
 - (b) Sharing case studies of good or successful NOC Team Support Grants through ONOC facilitation.
 - (c) Collective application for grants or using a regional approach on the Technical Coach Courses) TCC with online programmes finishing with practical components linked to national or regional events for coaches, and where possible, technical officials.

- (d) Recognising Olympic Scholarship for Coaches is not always appropriate for coaches to go to abroad, members opted to seek OS support for facilitators coming into the Pacific to run regional programmes which allow higher numbers and is cost-effective.
- (e) Applying for the Continental Athlete Support Grant (CASG) with OS providing guidance and support (NOCs are sharing examples between each other to facilitate).
- (f) To applying for Youth Athlete Development (YAD) Programme (those that had not) as details had been explained and it was important for getting youth sport reactivated and/or supporting the youth athletes at various stages who would not be at CASG or Olympic Scholarship level. (Most NOCs did not understand this programme due to postponement of Dakar to 2026 for Summer YOG but this was addressed at the Forum).
- (g) OS to consider a regional Development of National Sport System (DNSS) approach for several NOCs on similar theme but with a long-term approach over several years.
- (h) Use templates which are very helpful and ONOC with OS can 'curate' a folder to have these on hand for the NOCs going forward., with Long term planning template has been requested for many of the programmes.
- (i) OSEP linked to a regional DNSS for various sports and potentially general coach education and or strength and conditioning.
- (j) Understanding how to link OSEP, TCC and DNSS through capacity building from OS and ONOC.
- (k) ONOC to track and manage continental and regional games results for the future and this needs to be considered via ONOC and potentially a general approach for the Continental Associations.
- (l) Sharing of best practices and what already exists as the data is available. This can help NOCs to share data with stakeholders. At national level, tracking of participants can gain support from government regarding health statistics.
- (m) Follow up with targeted sports in coordination with ONOC, regional associations, OS and IFs to have a focus on preparations towards Games.
- (n) OS and ONOC to have IFs more engaged with supporting the system to develop athletes towards qualification and focus on the Oceania region using Brisbane as a 're-focus'.
- (o) Support NOC/NFs in Oceania to develop their leaders so the pipeline for future leaders at international level is kept healthy. By being present at the IOC, IF, Commonwealth, etc level, Oceania can make sure voice at the table.

Commitments and responsibilities under NOC Relations and RELAY

15. The NOCs of Oceania committed to:

- (a) Engaging in OS and ONOC facilitated regional-based RELAY workshops
- (b) Engaging with the #MoveForPeace Campaign at regional level at the Saipan Pacific Mini Games delivered through ONOC
- (c) Other training/workshops with OS and ONOC as and when determined or needed
- (d) Engagement with requested activations from ONOC and ONOC Communications to capture AV content on Olympic Day activities and integrated into PMG2022
- (e) Use the recommendations for the Oceania Toolkit which ONOC Communications will consolidate on behalf of the NOCs.

Commitments and responsibilities under Management and Capacity building

16. The NOCs of Oceania committed to:

- (a) Improving access and use of OS grants and opportunities with requests for more information made available on World Programmes Funding available to NOCs
- (b) Improving access and use of OS grants and opportunities, **however**, with OS and ONOC recognising variances in HR capacity to address the 5 Minimum Requirements which are:
 - (i) an adequate financial management and governance structure
 - (ii) a strategic plan approved by the NOC Executive Board and ratified by the General Assembly
 - (iii) an efficient organisational chart and minimum properly trained human resources
 - (iv) IT tools that are adequate for the size of the NOC
 - (v) communication tools, such as an up-to-date website and/or active social media presence.

NOC Services – Communications and Digital

- (a) The NOCs acknowledged the importance of Communications and Digital arms of ONOC and of the importance of communications at NOC level
- (b) The NOCs committed to:
 - (a) Appointing paid capacity to meet their communications needs
 - (b) Making a case for Communications capacity either on individual or joint capacity with IT through a request to ONOC Communications to explore the feasibility of a collective case for funding this position under OS

- (c) In support of ONOC's intent to develop a series of templates to capture the Impact of the Olympic Solidarity Programme initiatives and other projects at national and continental levels, the New Zealand Olympic Committee agreed to contribute a template for customisation

- (d) Using a digital-based Athlete Tracker Database and system it is tasking ONOC Communications and Digital Technology to explore and develop taking into consideration all the variances in connectivity, technology, maintenance, and data collection and input in the ONOC countries.

For Decision

The Outcomes Statement of the Olympic Solidarity Forum (this document) will be advanced for tabling at the XLII Annual General Assembly to be held on 3 May 2022 for endorsement and adoption.