



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World Olympians Association General Assembly to take place 22 October 2020

Lausanne, Switzerland; 19 October 2020

World Olympians Association (WOA) has announced it will hold its next General Assembly on **22 October 2020**. The event will bring together National Olympians Associations (NOAs) from around the world, in a virtual setting, to discuss the future strategic direction of the organisation and its mission to support Olympians worldwide. Elections will also take place for the WOA Executive Committee for the next four years.

In keeping with the international guidelines around Covid-19 and WOA's strong desire to ensure the safety of members, the General Assembly will take place entirely online. Voting will be completed electronically via an online voting system.

This year's event will be opened with a special video message from WOA Patron and five-time Olympian **HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco OLY**, who will welcome NOAs to the online Assembly. **WOA President Joël Bouzou OLY**, will then update members on the growth and development of the organisation since the previous General Assembly in 2015.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President and WOA Honorary President **Thomas Bach OLY** and IOC Sports Director **Kit McConnell** will also be addressing attendees, underlining the strength of the partnership between the two organisations and highlighting future collaborations at both a national and international level including at next year's Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

During the previous WOA General Assembly in Moscow in 2015, the Executive Committee was expanded and a new WOA Constitution was passed. Since that time WOA has made significant strides, expanding its network of NOAs and enhancing its ability to serve and empower Olympians through initiatives like the post-nominal letters OLY now used by over 13,500 Olympians worldwide, the NOA development and projects Grants Programmes, the Olympians Health Survey and the award-winning OLY House (formerly known as the Olympians Reunion Centre) at Games-time.

The aim of the 2020 WOA General Assembly is to provide a platform for members to share knowledge and highlight the benefits of WOA's strengthened role as an institution, while ensuring NOAs are equipped with the information and tools needed to operate and work to their full capacity in their own countries. The Assembly will also hear about the development of a new strategic plan that will map out WOA's priorities for the next four years.

WOA President, Joël Bouzou OLY said:

"We are pleased to be able to host the 2020 WOA General Assembly online this year, fulfilling our constitutional obligations, while ensuring the safety of our members is paramount. WOA remains committed to its vision of a harmonious world inspired by Olympians. The General Assembly offers us the necessary platform to consolidate and strengthen our organisational goals in order to deliver on this vision.

"By coming together at this time, we will be able to highlight the incredible strides WOA has made over the past five years. We will also hear from our member National Olympians Associations about what tools they need in order to continue the fantastic work they do inspiring and supporting Olympians in their communities and working in partnership with National Olympic Committees."

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

About World Olympians Association

WOA is an IOC recognised organisation supporting the 100,000 Olympians worldwide. Its remit is to work for the benefit of all Olympians at all stages of their lives, empowering them to serve society and help make the world a better place through sport. With 149 member National Olympians Associations spread across all five continents, WOA provides support to Olympian-run events and projects based on the Olympic ideals laid down by the founder of the modern Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin. www.olympians.org

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