

Statement on Russia's war on Ukraine and international sport

We, as Ministers and equivalent senior representatives for sport of our like-minded countries, have noted the recommended conditions of participation for individual neutral athletes and support personnel with a Russian or Belarusian passport in international sports competitions, and the accompanying press statement, published by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 28 March 2023. We maintain that the Russian state, which has broken the Olympic Truce twice, must not be allowed to use sport to legitimise its barbaric and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, nor should the Belarusian state be able to use sport to legitimise its complicity in Russia's war of aggression.

On the IOC recommendations, we are clear that while some aspects of the strong concerns we raised in our collective statement of 21 February 2023 have been addressed by the IOC, there are substantial issues remaining, not least around military connections of athletes, state funding, the definition of what constitutes teams, and on enforcement mechanisms.

We underline again that our position is not one of discrimination against individuals on the basis of their passport, and we respect the rights of all athletes to be treated without any discrimination in accordance with the Olympic Charter. We are focused on fair sporting competition as well as on ensuring that Russian and Belarusian athletes are in no way appearing as representatives of their states, as the IOC is also seeking to ensure through its recommendations.

While fully respecting the autonomy of sporting organisations, we will closely watch the implementation of the recommendations by the IOC and international sports federations over the coming weeks. If these issues are not addressed we would expect the IOC to reconsider its approach.

SIGNED BY:

Albania	Evis Kushi, Minister of Education and Sport
Australia	The Hon Anika Wells MP, Minister for Sport
Austria	Vice-Chancellor Werner Kogler, Minister of Arts and Culture, Civil Service and Sport
Belgium	Ben Weyts, Vice Minister-President for Education, Sport, the Flemish Periphery, and Animal Welfare of the Flemish Government. This signature commits the Flemish Community, the French-speaking Community and the German-speaking Community of Belgium.
Bulgaria	Vessela Letcheva, Minister of Youth and Sports
Canada	The Honourable Pascale St-Onge, Minister of Sport
Croatia	Dr Nikolina Brnjac, Minister of Tourism and Sport
Cyprus	Prodromos Prodromou, Minister of Education, Sport and Youth
Czech Republic	Jaroslav Miller, Deputy Minister for Education, Youth and Sports Ondřej Šebek, President of the National Sports Agency
Denmark	Jakob Engel-Schmidt, Minister of Culture
Estonia	Heidy Purga, Minister of Culture
Finland	Petri Honkonen, Minister of Science and Culture
France	Amélie Oudéa-Castéra, Minister of Sports and the

	Olympic and Paralympic Games
Germany	Mahmut Özdemir MP, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community
Greece	Lefteris Avgenakis, Deputy Minister of Culture and Sport, Responsible for Sport
Iceland	Ásmundur Einar Daðason, Minister of Education and Children
Ireland	Thomas Byrne, Minister of State for Sport and Physical Education
Italy	Andrea Abodi, Minister for Sport and Youth
Japan	H.E. NAGAOKA Keiko, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
Republic of Korea	H.E. PARK Bo Gyoon, Minister of Culture, Sports & Tourism
Latvia	Anda Čakša, Minister of Education and Science
Liechtenstein	Dominique Hasler, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport
Lithuania	Dr Jurgita Šiugždiniene, Minister of Education, Science and Sport
Luxembourg	Georges Engel, Minister of Sport
Netherlands	Conny Helder, Minister for Long-term Care and Sport

New Zealand	Hon Grant Robertson, Minister for Sport and Recreation
Norway	Anette Trettebergstuen, Minister of Culture and Equality
Poland	Kamil Bortniczuk, Minister of Sport and Tourism
Portugal	João Paulo Correia, Secretary of State for Youth and Sport
Slovakia	Ján Horecký, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
Slovenia	Matjaž Han, Minister of the Economy, Tourism and Sport
Spain	Miquel Octavi Iceta i Llorens, Minister of Culture and Sport
Sweden	Jakob Forssmed, Minister for Social Affairs and Public Health
Ukraine	Vadym Guttsait, Minister for Youth and Sports of Ukraine
United Kingdom	The Rt Hon Lucy Frazer KC MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
United States of America	Lee Satterfield, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs