

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,
His/Her Royal Highness
Members of CIO
Presidents of International Federations
Presidents of National Olympic Committees,
Presidents of the Italian Sport Federations

and all friends of the great Olympic family,

we are proud to host You in this wonderful setting that joins the charming beauties of Rio de Janeiro to the excellence of the Made in Italy that, thanks to our fantastic movement embraces art, culture and tradition in the sign of innovation.

I don't think to be presumptuous in asserting that this structure, Costa Brava Club, hosts the most beautiful Italy House ever and not only for the splendid view it can offer but above all for the relevant meaning it covers.

It is an important sign of which we are particularly proud. We have invested on an idea, realizing it by passion and ability, putting in evidence the peculiarities that characterize us in the world, succeeding to reconvert this corner of Rio in an Italian flagged one.

I thank all our partners who by their investments have made all this possible. I want to mention them because they are our adventure companions; they are all here represented at the maximum levels, starting from Unipol, BNL, Ferrero, DHL, Fiat Chrysler, Vodafone and in particular Armani that, according to many, He allows us to win the golden medal of elegance before beginning. But also the food one thanks to the excellence of Made in Italy thanks to our Champion of the Chefs, Davide Oldani

At the same time I want to underline the importance of a partnership linked to social strongly wanted by CONI together with Action Aid that in the Rocinha favela, exactly here in front of us, they have contributed in realizing a soccer field as our legacy in this Olympic games.

And the pride grows more because we are honoured to can live this inauguration of Italy House in the presence of the Prime Minister, Matteo Renzi, than – once again – He has confirmed His affectionate affinity to sport, to the champions, to the technicians and the leaders who export worldwide the winning

image of our Country, by valuing a movement that it does not just mean medals and successes but it is above all synonymous of health and collective growth.

This Government, that we always feel particularly close to us, it recognizes to sport a particular meaning by investing in our activities and never making us lack its support.

I believe that the Italian Olympic Committee is a tested and recognized organizational model that collects the respect and the attention of the entire international olympic movement.

This evening, even with the right attention to the rules imposed by the International Olympic Committee, we are here also to remember the seriousness of the candidacy of Rome to the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2024 but we do this by sharing our message in front of the representatives and the friends of the other candidated Cities, Los Angeles, Paris and Budapest, with which we will get ahead a race imprinted to the fair-play and the mutual respect.

From Saturday the Games begin and we, as the Italian Olympic Committee, consider right that the media attention be concentrated on the athletes who are the only and real protagonists of the Olympics. In fact we have intentionally wanted with us some of our great champions of the past in the role of Ambassadors and are here between us, Chechi, May, Myers, Rosolino, Lucchetta and also Elisa Di Francisca who given us two medals in London 2012.

The history of CONI puts us in front of a prestigious goal. At summery Olympic Games Italy has won 199 golden medals. From Saturday it begins the race to the medal number 200, we hope to celebrate it together with our Prime Minister.

Thanks to all for the attention. Long live to the Olympics. Long live to sport. And proud to say: Long live to Italy.