



International  
Olympic  
Committee

NOC Relations Department

H.E. Gilda Natalia Alcívar García  
Minister of Education, Sports, and  
Culture  
Republic of Ecuador

Lausanne, 17 June 2026

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your message dated 13 May 2026 addressed to the IOC President.

In response to your request, we wish to confirm that we would be pleased to organise a joint online meeting this week with you and the NOC of Ecuador (COE), as per our usual protocol within the Olympic Movement, in order to review the current situation in a constructive manner and in accordance with the [Olympic Charter](#).

In the meantime, it is with great concern that we have learned of the decision dated 15 June 2026 by the Vice Minister for Sport, Mr Roberto Xavier Ibañez Romero, to take over the COE by appointing an “intervenor” (not recognised by the IOC) to “run” the COE. This resolution constitutes clear government interference and a violation of the Olympic Charter (please refer in particular to paragraph 5 of the Fundamental Principles of Olympism, and to Rules 27.5, 27.6, 27.9 and 28.4). We therefore respectfully request that you reconsider this decision, failing which the COE would be exposed to the protective measures provided for in the Olympic Charter, in particular Rule 27.9, which states: *“Apart from the measures and sanctions provided in the case of infringement of the Olympic Charter, the IOC Executive Board may take any appropriate decisions for the protection of the Olympic Movement in the country of an NOC, including suspension of or withdrawal of recognition from such NOC if the constitution, law or other regulations in force in the country concerned, or any act by any governmental or other body causes the activity of the NOC or the making or expression of its will to be hampered. [...]”*.

It goes without saying that, should the COE have to be suspended due to government interference, no Ecuadorian delegation would be able to participate and represent Ecuador in any multi-sport competitions, including the upcoming Youth Olympic Games

Dakar 2026, the Pan American Games Lima 2027, the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028, and any other multi-sport events in which the COE usually takes part.

As you are certainly aware, there is only one NOC in any given country, and no entity can exist or operate as an NOC without recognition expressly granted by the IOC. As a result, no entity other than the IOC-recognised NOC is entitled to designate, identify, or refer to itself as a "*National Olympic Committee*" nor to exercise the role, responsibilities, and tasks of an NOC, including "*the exclusive authority to represent its country at the Olympic Games and at regional, continental, or world multi-sport competitions patronised by the IOC*", as defined in the Olympic Charter (Chapter 4). Consequently, no entity or individual other than the IOC-recognised COE leadership is entitled to act as the COE, to use any Olympic properties, including the Olympic rings and any IOC and/or COE properties (such as the COE emblem, name, letterhead, etc.) nor to present themselves, act, or sign as COE "officials."

It has also come to our attention that a new sports law has recently been adopted (without any prior consultation with the Olympic Movement, despite our proposal last year to work together constructively and help ensure that the sports law would be compatible with the Olympic Charter and the basic principles and rules governing the Olympic Movement), which appears to allow undue government interference in the COE and the Olympic Movement in the country. This regrettable situation places the COE and the National Sports Federations in a very difficult position, as they would be unable to comply with the fundamental principles and rules of the Olympic Charter and with the rules of the respective international sports organisations by which they are recognised or to which they are affiliated, which would inevitably lead to recurrent issues. We therefore reiterate our offer to work closely with all concerned parties to find appropriate solutions so that the COE and the National Sports Federations would be able to comply **simultaneously** with (i) the applicable laws in the country and (ii) the Olympic Charter and the rules of their respective international sports organisations.


As you know, the position of the Olympic Movement is very clear in that harmonious and constructive relations should prevail between NOCs and government authorities, in the interest of sport and the athletes in the country. However, this objective must be achieved with mutual respect for each one's jurisdiction and responsibilities, in accordance with the Olympic Charter and the fundamental principle of responsible autonomy of the NOC and the Olympic Movement in the country. This position was summarised in a reference document (attached) which was produced within the framework of Olympic Agenda 2020 and circulated to all constituents of the Olympic

Movement. In addition, it is worth noting that the concept of the autonomy of sport has also been formally acknowledged in several United Nations General Assembly Resolutions adopted since October 2014 ([A/RES/69/6](#)) that recognise sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, and also “*supports the independence and autonomy of sport as well as the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic Movement*”.

We look forward to discussing this extremely worrying situation in our joint online meeting later this week and to hopefully finding appropriate solutions to avoid any measures or sanctions that would seriously affect the Olympic Movement in Ecuador. We therefore sincerely count on your understanding and cooperation to avoid any unnecessary complications and to ensure harmonious and constructive collaboration between the relevant government authorities and the Olympic Movement, based on mutual understanding and respect for each one's role and jurisdiction, in the interest of the Olympic Movement and the athletes in Ecuador.

Thank you in advance for your attention and urgent action, and please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



James MACLEOD  
Director of NOC Relations, Olympic Solidarity  
and Olympism365 (IOC)



Neven ILIC  
President  
Panam Sports

Cc:

- Mr Mario Moccia, President, Organización Deportiva Suramericana (ODESUR)
- Mr Jorge Delgado Panchana, President, Comité Olímpico Ecuatoriano
- Mr John Zambrano Haboud, Secretary General, Comité Olímpico Ecuatoriano