**The 2024 Paris Olympics closing ceremony celebrated the power of diversity and solidarity**

**<Insert Pic 1>**

The closing ceremony of the 2024 Summer Olympics took place at Stade de France on 11 August 2024. As per traditional Olympic protocol, the ceremony featured cultural presentations from both the current (France) and following (United States) host countries, as well as closing remarks by International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach and the COJOP 2024 President Tony Estanguet; the official handover of the Olympic flag from Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo to Los Angeles mayor Karen Bass, whose city would host the 2028 Summer Olympics; and the extinguishing of the Olympic flame. The ceremony featured a mix of filmed and live segments, which included the second half of the Los Angeles 2028 presentation, recorded in Long Beach, California.

**<Insert Pic 2>**

The program kicked off on a solemn note, with French singer Zaho de Sagazan, and a choir dressed in all black, gathered round the cauldron singing "Sous le ciel de Paris.” The tempo picked up with a lively orchestral set inside the stadium, where the traditional entrance of the flags and the parade of athletes from 205 delegations marched along a silver-colored stage of disjointed, shard-shaped platforms.

**<Insert Pic 3>**

For the U.S., Katie Ledecky and rower Nick Mead were among the circle of flag bearers, while bronze-medalist pole vaulter Emmanouil Karalis and artistic swimmer Evangelia Platanioti were seen waving the Greece flag. Team USA and Team China were seen standing next to each other, both singing along to “We Are The Champions” moments after the countries had tied in the gold medal count.

**A Hollywood handoff from Paris to Los Angeles**

**<Insert Pic 4>**

The arrival of Tom Cruise signaled a not-so-traditional handoff of the Olympic flag to the next host city: Los Angeles. The actor known for doing his own stunt work in the Mission Impossible films rappelled from the edge of the open-air stadium down to the stage to accept the flag from Simone Biles. In a pre-taped video, he traversed Paris via motorcycle and then, as a skydiver, descended on the Hollywood sign (with the double-Os now dressed as the bottommost Olympic rings).

**Performances**

**<Insert Pic 5>**

The closing ceremony featured performances from Billie Eilish, Snoop Dogg, Red Hot Chili Peppers and H.E.R. H.E.R. sang the U.S. national anthem live from the Stade de France, while Billie Eilish and the Red Hot Chili Peppers performed in Los Angeles.