

# PacificMUN

Dare to Speak



IOC-Topic B  
Background Guide



# Host Nation Scandals and Corruption - IOC

Topic B



PacificMUN



## Welcome Letter

Dear delegates,

My name is Kiran Basra and I am honoured to serve as the Director of the International Olympic Committee for PacificMUN 2019. I am currently finishing my 12th year as a Crofton House student, and have been involved in MUN for the past several years. Besides Model United Nations, I am a volleyball and soccer player, and a competitive debater. Your Chairs, David Ni and Catherine Cho are both intelligent and hardworking seniors who have been involved in MUN for the past five years and are thrilled at the opportunity of meeting so many passionate delegates! The IOC has always held a special place in my heart, as it combines my two greatest interests of debate and athletics into one unique committee. As your Director, I hope to create a supportive, challenging, and enlightening conference full of fierce debate and inspiring ideas.

As a committee, the International Olympic Committee aims to create solutions to the corruption of sport in hopes of returning the games to its purest self where everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed. As a delegate, it is your responsibility to protect the interest of both athletes and athletics, while handling the perspectives of legislation, country stances, and Olympic values.

Please don't hesitate to contact Catherine, David, or I if you have any questions about the committee. On behalf of your dais, we are thrilled at the opportunity to meet all of you as we explore the Olympics and the intricacies of the international athletic stage with a passionate group of people!

Sincerely,



Kiran Basra  
Director of IOC  
PacificMUN 2019

## Committee Overview

The Olympics are the most prestigious and celebrated sporting event in the world. They represent the pinnacle of success, the dream of every athlete, and the glory of every nation. Hosting the Olympics reflects the same level of pride: a privilege to display the Olympics through a nation's eyes. However, the cost for hosting has risen tremendously over the past 50 years. With the hefty price tag, lack of sustainable stadiums, and overwhelming public disapproval, many countries are dropping out of the bidding process without a second thought.

Founded in 1894, The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is a private Non-Governmental Organization that is located in Lausanne, Switzerland. The IOC is responsible for all Olympic affairs including choosing host countries, organizing both Summer and Winter Olympic games, protecting the interests of athletics, and promoting international cooperation through sportsmanlike behaviour.

There are currently 105 active members within the International Olympic Committee, 32 honorary members and two honour members with each member having just a single vote. The IOC acts as a catalyst for cooperation between the different faculties and mediums of the Olympic teams such as broadcast partners, United Nations agencies, individual athletes, countries, and organising committees. Sports are celebrated as one the few events with the power to unite people throughout the world regardless of racial, political, and gender identity. Hence, one of the main responsibilities of the International Olympic committee is to use the Olympic Games to bridge the differences between nations to celebrate sports. This responsibility can be seen with the IOC's recent support for athletes of North Korea given the opportunity to attend the World Championships in Sweden after the IOC lifted all financial burdens. This continued support ultimately led to both North Korea and South Korea walking under a united flag at the 2018 Winter Olympics, proving the tremendous capability that the Olympics hold in connecting a divided nation together.

The International Olympic Committee also strives to solve problems that come as a result of the event or epidemics that endanger athletes or the Olympics themselves. Such problems include: environmental dangers of creating stadiums related to the Olympics, the process of choosing a host country despite its stained history with human rights abuses, and how performance enhancing drugs have impacted athletes and competitive sports games.





The IOC deals with controversial topics surrounding the Olympics and sports with the power to set precedence for events in the incoming future as well. Stances on these problems and possible solutions are all topics that is readily discussed in the International Olympic Committee Session which takes place every year in a different country. Above all, the IOC is responsible for liaising between all of the different parties in the athletic world, and for using the power of sport to unite people and promote Olympic values.

## Topic Overview

As seen in recent Olympic Years, the games have been a source of great economic disparity. The sheer magnitude of the games relies on immense streams of infrastructure which can be incredibly costly if not already existent. The economic state of host nations post-Olympics is of utmost importance to the IOC as it is a measure of the capability to choose host nations.<sup>1</sup> The state of the economy is also important if the result of the games has the ability to inflict any grief upon a nation, as that goes against the principles of the Olympic movement. One area of particular interest is the growing concern from nations in regards to hosting the games, and the inevitable shrink in demand to do such. If nations continue to refuse to bid to host the games in the future, then that can potentially attribute to the demise of the games.<sup>2</sup> For example, twelve cities bid for the 2004 Olympic Games, five bid for 2020 and a mere two contested for the 2022 Winter Games – this decline will only continue.

The international community has seen a sudden change in attitude towards the Olympic Games. These thoughts have been fueled by case studies suggesting the games do not provide the overall intrinsic and extrinsic benefits as previously thought. Also, there has been speculation that the sheer costs turned off various developing suitors that did not see the games as an adequate opportunity to further themselves on a global stage. For instance, the 2014 Winter Olympic games cost Russia fifty billion dollars along with a 289% overrun in the associated costs.<sup>3</sup> In order to revitalize the Olympic Games there must be appropriate action taken to mediate the burden of hosting an event of such proportions. Even further, hosting the Olympics was a much more competitive process in the past because cities were able to earn a large sum from hosting the games.<sup>4</sup> This was because the IOC only took 4% of the broadcast earnings. As time progressed, however, the IOC has been more determined to obtain TV rights, taking 70% of the earnings in the 2016 Rio Summer Games.

Besides a monetary decline, the Olympics also pose a large environmental defect. Building stadiums, ceremonial sites, media grounds and an Olympic Village destroys new property and exerts an enormous

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<sup>1</sup> <https://qz.com/753250/rio-2016-is-hosting-the-olympics-ever-worth-it/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/economics-hosting-olympic-games>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2016/08/04/the-massive-cost-of-hosting-the-olympic-games-infographic/#3f46f19a2e38>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.olympic.org/ioc-financing-revenue-sources-distribution>



amount of pollution. In the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Games, South Korea destroyed numerous mountains, forests and killed off thousands of animals in order to build stadiums that will likely never be used again. The Sports Right Alliance (SRA) has also advocated for the IOC to take a country's human rights abuses into consideration when evaluating their capability of hosting the Olympics. Many media platforms and international bodies criticized China's ability to host after several human rights abuses on workers and citizens were released. While the IOC is making massive strides in taking this into account, such as by incorporating human rights principles into their Host City Contract, the factor is still a part of the equation as less and less cities offer to host.

Even Thomas Bach, the president of the International Olympic Committee has declared that the corruption of the IOC is weakening the credibility and strength of the Olympic Games.<sup>5</sup> Subsequently, delegates should be informed on the methods of investigation in the selection of host nations as well as potential methods of assessing specifically liable countries during the process.<sup>6</sup> As well, delegates should look for unique solutions which have the ability to not only mediate the costs of hosting but allow for various nations of different backgrounds to do so. Hopefully, the IOC will be able to restore the past glory of hosting the games in a way that allows the economic expenditures to be mediated.

## Timeline

**776 B.C** - The first Olympic Games take place in Ancient Greece in the plains of Olympia as a means of honouring their respective gods.<sup>7</sup>

**1894** - The IOC is founded and begins plans on revitalizing the first Olympic games of the modern era and creating the basis for the Olympic Movement.

**1896** - The first Olympic Games are held in Athens playing host to 251 athletes from 13 countries playing nine sports.<sup>8</sup>

**1936** - The Olympics are held in Berlin and were the first to use the games to systematically link a particular political ideology and use them as a form of state-led global soft power.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/olympics/2015/07/30/thomas-bach-ioc-must-uphold-ethical-standards/30872383/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2016/08/04/the-massive-cost-of-hosting-the-olympic-games-infographic/#3f46f19a2e38>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.olympic.org/ancient-olympic-games/history>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cfr.org/background/economics-hosting-olympic-games>

<sup>9</sup> <http://time.com/4421865/olympics-cost-history/>



**1972** - The Munich Massacre takes place during the Summer Olympics in Munich and put future host cities on alert in regards to security concerns.

**1984** - The summer Olympics in Los Angeles are the first to rely almost entirely on existing infrastructure, and go on to become the only event in history that was *profitable*.

**1996** - The IOC knowledge program is created as a means of spreading awareness of the costs of previous Olympics and teaching future host cities, from past ones.<sup>10</sup>

**1999** - An Organiser of the Sydney Olympic Games confesses to have offered money to IOC officials the night before host country was released.

**2000** - It is revealed that members of the International Olympic Committee accepted lavish gifts in exchange for selecting Salt Lake City to host the 2002 Olympic Games

**2004** - The Athens Olympics showcase the sheer costs and ramifications of hosting the Olympic Games which went 60% over cost, and fell prey to the volatile investment in hosting, which in this case did not pay dividends.<sup>11</sup>

**2009** - Rio is given the 2016 Summer Olympics. Many critics criticize the decision due to Rio hosting the previous World Cup, another expensive event. Doubt surfaces as to whether Rio is economically sufficient to be able to host the Olympics due to their lack of wealth.

**2014** - The IOC passes the Olympic Agenda 2020 which detailed the direction of action the committee wishes to take in the future.<sup>12</sup>

**April 2016** - More than 22,000 Brazilian Families are evicted before the Olympics.

**February 2017** - IOC includes human rights responsibilities in Host City Contract. After much criticism on Beijing and Rio Human Rights scandals with past Olympic Games, the IOC has included parameters in their Host City Contract in order to protect the citizens and games and prevent future abuses. They have also added guidelines to avoid corruption and encourage sustainability.

**March 2017** - Budapest withdraws its bid to host the 2024 after a referendum deeming the Olympics an unnecessary investment is passed.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/07/the-cost-to-cities-of-hosting-the-olympics-since-1964/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.politico.eu/article/how-the-olympics-rotted-greece/>

<sup>12</sup> [https://stillmed.olympic.org/Documents/Olympic\\_Agenda\\_2020/Olympic\\_Agenda\\_2020-20-20\\_Recommendations-ENG.pdf](https://stillmed.olympic.org/Documents/Olympic_Agenda_2020/Olympic_Agenda_2020-20-20_Recommendations-ENG.pdf)





**September 2017** - Los Angeles is awarded the 2028 Summer Olympics at the same time that Paris is awarded the 2024 Summer Olympics. A move strategically calculated by the IOC to ensure no bidders drop out and both Olympics have a strong host city.

**October 2017** - Due rising costs and fearing the risk of economic turmoil, a large majority of Austrian people vote no to wishing to host the Olympics, Austria promptly pulls out their bid to host the Olympic games.

## Historical Analysis

The Olympic Games are an ancient endeavour that began as a religious festival to celebrate Zeus in Ancient Greece. They were held solely in one location - Olympia. The Ancient Games were quite grand, but nothing to the scale of today's game. Although this religious tradition continued for nearly twelve centuries, it was ended abruptly under the rule of Emperor Theodosius I.<sup>13</sup> It took approximately 1503 years for civilization to reincarnate the power of the games, albeit under different circumstances.

In 1892, Pierre de Coubertin saw the reinvigoration of the ancient Olympic Games as a means of promoting various ethical, moral, and societal ideologies through sport that fell in accordance to the Olympic movement. After the revival of the modern Olympic Games, many countries fought over each other in order gain the international prestige and honour of hosting one of the most important international sporting events of the entire world. Hosting the international games was a way to demonstrate a country's identity and superiority to the international community. It acted as a rite of passage for many countries to show off prestige, booming economies, and political power. One of the most infamous examples of this was the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympic games where Nazi Germany showed off their seemingly powerful economic rebound even as the Great Depression was in full swing. Therefore, whether host cities used the prestige in order promote positive or negative ideals, it is understandable that by having control over an international competitive event in a country's border it leads to the hegemony of that country on an international stage.

In recent history, the IOC has made a point of trying to diversify the range of host cities for the Olympics in the hopes of generating newfound demand in areas of particularly low coverage.<sup>14</sup> However, the large burdens of hosting an event the size of the Olympic Games provided a financial burden that could potentially harm these nations. As seen with the recent Rio Olympics, the sheer magnitude of the event especially in coordination with prior commitments meant that the ever-expanding costs of hosting the games were too much to handle for the Brazilian government. At a cost of approximately 13.1 billion

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.penn.museum/sites/olympics/olympicorigins.shtml>

<sup>14</sup> <http://gizmodo.com/is-hosting-the-world-cup-worth-it-anymore-1582720624>



dollars, the games were a nightmare from a post-Olympics perspective, and have been the cause of various domestic problems such as an increased crime rate in the city of Rio.<sup>15</sup> The case of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics highlights a greater problem in the relations between the costs of the Olympics and the capabilities of nations to host them. In the case of Athens 2004, the country had struggled to turn dividends from what was previously thought to be a good investment in the Olympics. Instead a major problem occurred, the creation of various White Elephants through the infrastructure and eventually contributed to the country's great debt problem.<sup>16</sup> Various case studies can suggest that developing nations often neglect their own responsibilities in favor of more optimistic approaches to hosting which can often serve as a catalyst for catastrophic ramifications in regards to economic expenditure.

There have been efforts to mediate the costs of the Olympics in those nations that require it most, however most efforts have been done in vain. For instance, the IOC implemented the Olympic Games Knowledge Management program (OGKM) as a means of means of allowing future organization committees to essentially learn from past experiences, and to optimize their own practice.<sup>17</sup> The program also served as a forum for organization committees from their respective nations to look at methods of optimizing costs and regulation. However, nations continue to overspend and over compensate for the games, and in some cases, if the countries are economically volatile, can result in economic grief.

## Current Situation

Hosting the Olympic Games has evolved into a lottery that fewer and fewer countries want to win. Many countries feel heavily pressured to “top out” the previous Olympics with an even grander or bigger international event. Thus, the cost of hosting the Olympics was increased so dramatically that entire nations are seemingly unable to afford the competitive costs that come with hosting an international competition. Despite the fact hosting the Olympic games comes with tremendous hidden benefits such as creating infrastructure and increased tourism, it is clear that the costs outweigh the benefits in the 21st century Olympic games. The price tag has proven itself evident with six countries dropping out to give Beijing the 2022 Winter Olympics, despite the city hosting the Olympics in 2008.

During the preparation for the Olympics, infrastructure is heavily developed and prioritized. In some cases the infrastructure created is useful, and contributes to the betterment of the area surrounding the games, but in some cases the infrastructure necessary can turn into white elephants which further contribute to a country's liabilities when hosting. Stadiums and arenas that aren't continued to be used

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-06-14/the-olympics-cost-rio-at-least-13-1-billion-and-probably-more>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2012/may/09/athens-2004-olympics-athletes-home>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.olympic.org/news/ioc-observer-programme-provides-behind-the-scenes-experience-for-future-games-organisers>





in past host cities like Athens, Rio and Montreal are not only examples of a waste of money, but also an unsustainable and environmentally detrimental approach to the purpose of the Olympics.

These red flags have even shown residents in potential host countries the disastrous outcomes, prompting several countries to back out of the bidding process. Austria was forced to drop out of the 2026 bid after an overwhelming lack of support for the hosting from a public poll. Due to the enormous fees burdening the country, and the money ultimately taken out of citizens taxpayer pockets, the alarming citizen disapproval within several potential host countries is unsurprising.

The reason why the price tag on hosting is consistently increasing is due to the rising pressure in the elaboration of plans for the games. Host cities who win the bid are typically ones who propose lavish and expensive plans, but then fall short after not realizing the implications of carrying them out. As the future unravels and games become more expensive and more lavish, no host city wants to turn back the clock and disappoint their viewers and ruin their reputation. Therefore, less and less countries are even stepping into the bidding.<sup>18</sup>

This poses the question, is hosting the Olympics only feasible for major cities? The survival of the fittest is applicable even to the most economically sustainable and experienced capital cities that dot our planet, many of whom have previously hosted the games. With constant contenders being Russian and Chinese cities, the dilemma questions whether smaller, less stable cities will have a chance to grow their city culture through the privilege of hosting the Olympic Games.

### **2022 Winter Olympics**

Originally contending for the 2022 Winter Olympics were Norway, Poland, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine, and China. However, as the bidding process continued, more countries began to drop their bids.

Despite the Olympics being a privilege to host, the benefits of hosting have proven to be fewer than the harms. Many countries, such as Brazil, end up billions of dollars in debt putting more of their citizens beneath the poverty line, without access to resources and social services due to their government's inability to fund programs. This stigma surrounding the harms of hosting has been evident in bidders and has thus seen less competitive national bidders in the past few ceremonies. Additionally, many countries invest billions of dollars into infrastructure and stadiums that are left empty after the Olympics due to their country not even having a team in those sports. Countries such as China also pose potential warnings during the Beijing Olympics when they forced millions of homeless people out of their city to represent Beijing in a false matter towards the media. Should all of these things be taken into account when deciding who gets the privilege to host? And is hosting still a privilege?

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-01/rising-costs-force-olympic-rethink-over-value-for-money/9494894>



## **Human Rights Abuses**

In 2008, abuses of migrant construction workers who were pivotal to Beijing's infrastructure improvements have increased, as have evictions of Beijing residents whose homes were demolished to make way for that infrastructure. Those abuses reflect both the Chinese government's wholesale failure to honor its Olympics-related human rights promises, as well as the negligence of the IOC in ensuring that China fulfills its commitments.<sup>19</sup> During the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics, the Brazilian government forced citizens to relocate in certain areas. Government's ignorance combined with the cost being spent on the Olympics instead of the Brazilian people lead to mass protests, riots, crime and violence.<sup>20</sup> Since winning the bid in 2009, Brazil has forced 22,000 families to be removed. In order to drive families away, Brazil began to cut off access to fresh water to those houses, turned off electricity, police violence for forcible evictions.

## **United Nations Involvement**

While the United Nations has evolved to recognize sports as a catalyst for peace and global unity by giving the International Olympic Committee a seat at the table in the General Assembly agenda, they have shown limited discussion on the host city corruption and epidemic that faces the Olympics.

The very existence of corruption shrouds the legitimacy of the International Olympic Committee and creates a false sense of the Olympic Movement. With full knowledge of such, the IOC has taken steps to mediate the effects of corruption on the bidding process. The actions taken by the IOC are not all done in vain, but have shown to have minimal impacts on the concept thus far. For the most part, the actions taken have been in direct response to a specific case of corruption, but have not caused significant change to the concept as a whole.

The first well documented case of IOC action in combating corruption was in direct relation to the Salt Lake City Scandal (SLOC). The corruption scandal shook the IOC to its core and saw that action needed to be taken in order to mediate the damage that had been done. At the time, the IOC saw that a thorough investigation be conducted in order to rid the committee of any potentially corrupt members. After the findings concluded that Salt Lake bidders gave cash, travel, medical care and other lavish gifts to try to win votes.<sup>21</sup> There were six members of the IOC that had been put up for vote in regards to their expulsion, and all six were ousted from the committee. The expulsion of members due to corruption was the first of its kind in the IOC's history; therefore, marking a new era of zero tolerance and restoring the five rings. In addition to this, Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the IOC at the time, was quoted in saying, "It is my firm conviction that, unless we act quickly, decisively and unanimously... the damage

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2008/08/06/china-olympics-harm-key-human-rights>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/28/brazil-officials-evicting-families-2016-olympic-games>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/1999/mar/17/ioc-expels-members-bribes-scandal>



which may be done to the Olympic movement and to the IOC as a result of recent disclosures will be very, very serious.”<sup>22</sup> The incident and its response from the committee showed the world that the IOC was serious about combating corruption; however, the concept was very difficult to get rid of.

### ***Long term efforts***

Although corruption is seemingly alive today, the IOC has taken a variety of measures throughout the years to combat such. Firstly, the IOC Ethics Commission was established in 1999 to promote and insure the ethical principles of the Olympic Movement.<sup>23</sup> In doing so, the IOC created a regulatory body of sorts to safeguard the ethics of the committee and to oust those who pose a liability towards such. The commission indirectly regulates corruption within the IOC and helps the mediate the effects of such. In February, 2016, the IOC saw the need to add several additions to the Ethics Commission's respective powers and saw the need to further its independence; a step that would further its pursuit to put an end to corruption.

In a post SLOC world, the IOC saw itself strengthen its stance against corruption quite significantly. Another action the committee conducted was the implementation of a new bidding process; One that relies on an independent committee - made up of eight IOC members, athletes, and a representative of the Winter Sports Federation and the National Olympic Committee - will decide on the host city.<sup>24</sup> The effects of Corruption were further mediated due to the increased awareness the IOC showed in regards to the topic. Another instance of direct involvement by the International Olympic Committee was the implementation of Olympic Agenda 2020. To summarize, the Agenda was implemented as a means of restoring the glory of the Olympic Movement and make the committee as a efficient as possible. The implementation of such an agenda marked the most significant recent action against corruption on behalf of the IOC; however, the actions of the IOC, thus far, have not eradicated the entire concept of corruption from the committee. Delegates must consider past IOC involvement when thinking of solutions, and build upon the foundation set forth by previous precedents.

## **Seeking Resolution**

### ***Short Term Solutions***

The entire problem of corruption in host cities relies on reform to come from the IOC in order to strengthen existing or potentially new mechanisms for regulation. The roots of the problem attack the status quo, and target potentially corrupt IOC members. The collusion between both, nation and member, must be stopped in order to prevent any bias in the voting process. Delegates may consider stricter punishments for those nations that attempt to collude with members as a means of swaying

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<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.olympic.org/ethics-commission>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/1999/jan/25/olympic-bribes-scandal-investigation>





votes. Although inducing greater punishments for those nations that attempt to corrupt the system seems reasonable, it must be done in conjunction with other solutions. Simply put, increasing punishment, although practical, will not provide adequate incentive for nations to stop colluding and may be a detriment to the already limited field of host worthy candidates. Instead, the IOC should look favourably upon increasing its stance against potential host city, and member interaction. The furthering of such a stance would not only decrease the potential for conclusion, but highlight avenues of corruption.

In coordination with the aforementioned potential avenues of solution, delegates must consider a more holistic approach when looking at this topic. The IOC must consider recycling past precedent and putting it to use in the current day. Delegates can look to the actions of the committee when addressing the SLOC scandal and the multi-faceted approach taken at the time, in order to combat the issue of corruption. For instance, measures can be taken for further investigation and conducting a cleansing of sorts for members of the IOC in order to rid the committee of potentially corrupt members. One major method of accomplishing such would be the implementation of shorter sentences for IOC members. Although rather radical, these measures are rather practical and can help mediate the level of liability the IOC faces in regards to corruption. The mechanisms for conducting such already exist and can be used in order to hinder the effects of corruption on the bidding process. The extension of the levels of the IOC can be used in order to further monitor the IOC members. Delegates should look to find the level of the IOC that need to be expanded and those that would have the most beneficial effect in combating corruption. The paradigm for change already exist in the short term but needs to be brought about to increase transparency in the bidding process. The ambiguity and unclear situation of the status quo enables concepts like corruption to thrive. Delegates must consider multifaceted solutions for solving one of the most fundamental causes of corruption – a non-transparent system.

### ***Long Term Solutions***

There are a number of radical solutions that seem to be gaining steam in the international community to completely eliminate the existence of corruption in the bidding process. Firstly, the entire principle of setting up a single host city to be host for *all* the Olympic Games seems to be a radical solution towards corruption. However, the singular Olympic venue would mean that greater demographics would not be allowed to share the games and would hinder the IOC's ability to share the Olympic Movement. Also, the entire basis for the creation of the multi venue games meant that the Olympics could serve as a positive impact for the selected host cities, and the creation of a single Olympic venue goes against those very principles. Delegates must consider the entire precedent set forth by the IOC, and compare those with the issue of combating corruption when discussing solutions.

Contrary to this solution, by allowing multiple cities to take on the privilege of hosting the Olympics the cost can be lessened and the city with the best resources for the task at hand can be equally accessed.



If the International Olympic Committee does decide on awarding the games to host nations rather than host cities, the cost would be equally more spread out throughout the country allowing for adequate infrastructure to be built in multiple locations best suited to hold facilities. Moreover, delegates may also consider having multiple host locations where several countries will be held accountable in hosting the international games. One of the first examples of an international event that did this was in 2002 FIFA world cup co-hosted by both Korea and Japan. More recently, FIFA has decided to host the World Cup of 2026 in Canada, the United States and Mexico.<sup>25</sup> However with this proposal comes with many logistical problems such as the question of opening ceremonies, different locations for different events, or the potential for athletes to travel wider ranges in order to attend events.

Additionally, the goal of the committee would be to essentially reform the bidding process in order to create fairness and equality for all parties involved in the bidding process.<sup>26</sup> Although a complete overhaul of the process would be ideal, delegates should discuss the specific areas in which the process should be reformed and methods of completing such. Also, recommendations and further additions to existing paradigms would be seen as favourable in combating the ongoing issue of corruption. The entire goal of this topic is to try to completely solve the issue that has plagued the committee for far too long, and it is recommended that delegates attempt to find new and innovative solutions to a persistent problem.

## **Bloc Positions**

In the IOC, the general consensus amongst most nations is that the corruption involved in the bidding process must be eradicated in order to restore the glory of the Olympic Movement. However, the economic level of the nations as well as their said reliance on the Olympics plays a factor in determining the importance of corruption and their stance against such. Although not completely solidified, the level of economy plays into the individual countries stance in regards to the topics at hand.

### ***Developing Nations Willing to Host***

These nations do not necessarily possess the means to contribute to the corruption that continues to plague the IOC. In fact, the Olympics provides their nations with various benefits such as those presented by the Olympic Movement as well as the fiscal and developmental prospects of such. They simply do not stand a chance in the bidding process if the status quo is not changed, and lack the resources to collude with IOC members. They would like to see significant change brought about to the bidding process and greater punishment in regards to those guilty of collusion.

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/13/fifa-votes-to-play-2026-world-cup-in-north-america-over-moroccan-bid.html>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/1999/02/20/sports/olympics-reform-process-could-change-entire-ioc-structure.html>



### ***Economically Unstable Countries***

Although the nations see the games in a positive light, these countries simply lack the resources to bid or host for such a grand event. While the games could be a great investment for the country, unless they take part in a joint bid of some kind the prospect of hosting seems like a faint idea. The status quo in regards to hosting does not necessarily affect them and is of little concern to these nations. Regardless of such, they would still reap the benefits of the Olympic Movement and hope fairness in the bidding process.

### ***Developed Nations Skeptical of Hosting***

Although fully capable of playing host to the Olympic Games, these nations do not find the endeavour to be useful and oftentimes avoid the process in general. The act of hosting the games entails various benefits, but these nations choose to reap such from other means. The voting process itself can have an effect on the cultural integrity of the Olympics and the countries are against any corruption associated with such, especially as athletes from that nation compete in the games. They are completely for the reformation of the bidding process but are not as enthusiastic about the concept as other nations.

### ***Developed Nations Willing to Host***

These nations possess the means to contribute to the corruption that continues to plague the IOC. The public stance of these nations is to go against the very fundamentals of corruption within the IOC and to be in favour of all measures to counteract the effects of such. The countries see the Olympics as a means of furthering their economic or infrastructural institutions but would also not like to incorporate themselves in any corruption of sorts. The benefits of the Olympics are seen by these countries and the status quo benefits these groups of nations as it stands, but could be tweaked in order to ensure the Olympic Movement doesn't lose merit.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Has your country ever hosted the Olympics? What have been the ramifications of its hosting? Were they positive or negative?
2. What steps should a country have to go through in order to be eligible to host the Olympics?
3. Should other factors be taken into account when deciding host countries? Should their political beliefs/past atrocities matter if they are the best city to host?
4. To what extent should the Olympics be used as political ground?
5. How can we make our stadiums most sustainable? More environmentally beneficial?





6. Is hosting the Olympics only a possibility for large, wealthy cities? How do we prevent this, or is this preferable?
7. Should the IOC take into account bribing, match fixing, and doping in determining host countries?
8. Should the IOC take into account Human Rights atrocities committed by a country who wants to host?
9. Does hosting give you special privileges in winning medals? Does it make it easier to cheat?
10. How will the IOC convince countries to host or re-invent the hosting process to make it more desirable?

## Further Reading

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