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Mr Thomas Bach  
President  
International Olympic Committee  
Château de Vidy  
1007 Lausanne  
Switzerland

16 January 2020

Dear Mr Bach,

**RE: A Request for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to demand the Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (TOCOG) to disclose the results of the commodity procurement for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games (the Tokyo 2020 Games) and to conduct an external evaluation**

WWF-Japan urges the IOC to give due attention to issues concerning the sustainability and transparency of the Tokyo 2020 Games for two major reasons. First, WWF- Japan finds crucial flaws in the Sourcing Codes developed by TOCOG for commodities, in particular; timber, fishery products, paper, and palm oil<sup>1</sup>. These Sourcing Codes are far below global best practices and are not appropriate for a worldwide event such as the Olympics and Paralympics. Second, we express our serious concerns for the lack of will the TOCOG shows to make the Sourcing Code a sustainable one. A climate & energy expert of WWF-Japan is one of the members of the Sustainable Sourcing Working Group comprised of experts on the environment, human rights, labour, and other subjects. As a Working Group member, we participated in most of the discussions held and repeatedly pointed out the weaknesses of the Sourcing Codes for the above-mentioned commodities. However, unfortunately, the final versions of the Sourcing Codes only confirmed the existing status quo and did not ensure the sustainability concept, despite the opinions and comments made by several Working Group members including WWF. There was no satisfactory explanation made by TOCOG to the members for ignoring their critical feedback.

"The Olympic Games Guide on Sustainable Sourcing" clearly articulates that the Olympic Games should be the "forefront" in the field of sustainability<sup>2</sup>. The Tokyo 2020 Games' sustainability actions are varied. WWF-Japan finds the efforts to decarbonize the Tokyo 2020 Games are at a top level compared to past Olympic and Paralympic Games, such as measures for saving energy, using 100% renewable electricity and adopting robust guidelines for offsets. Especially recognizing the iron recycling as one of the CO2 saving measures for the first time in Olympic history is one of the highest achievements of the Tokyo 2020 Games.

<sup>1</sup>[https://tokyo2020.org/en/games/sustainability/data/sus-procurement-timber-code2\\_EN.pdf](https://tokyo2020.org/en/games/sustainability/data/sus-procurement-timber-code2_EN.pdf)  
[https://tokyo2020.org/en/games/sustainability/data/sus-procurement-marineproducts-code2\\_EN.pdf](https://tokyo2020.org/en/games/sustainability/data/sus-procurement-marineproducts-code2_EN.pdf)  
[https://tokyo2020.org/en/games/sustainability/data/sus-procurement-paperproducts-code2\\_EN.pdf](https://tokyo2020.org/en/games/sustainability/data/sus-procurement-paperproducts-code2_EN.pdf)  
[https://tokyo2020.org/en/games/sustainability/data/sus-procurement-palmproducts-code\\_EN.pdf](https://tokyo2020.org/en/games/sustainability/data/sus-procurement-palmproducts-code_EN.pdf)

<sup>2</sup><https://stillmed.olympic.org/media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/IOC/What-We-Do/celebrate-olympic-games/Sustainability/Olympic-Games-Guide-on-Sustainable-Sourcing-2019.pdf> (page 15)

However, WWF-Japan expresses serious concerns that the flawed Sourcing Codes and lack of accountability of TOCOG could undermine the credibility of the Olympic Games and the IOC. We therefore strongly insist that the IOC undertake the following:

- 1) To demand TOCOG to disclose the procurement results<sup>3</sup>. Specifically, the origins and ratios of certified products with a breakdown of individual certificates to be disclosed for all of the commodities procured for the Tokyo 2020 Games;
- 2) To conduct an external review on TOCOG's Sourcing Codes and its performance in sustainable sourcing and publicize the report on or before December 31, 2020.

Among the identified flaws in the Sourcing Codes, WWF-Japan lists and points out the following to be crucially important. The sustainability principles of the Sourcing Code are largely adequate, but they have included some improper methods to verify the criteria, which have jeopardized ensuring sustainability at its root.

#### *Timber and Paper*

The Sourcing Codes for Timber and Paper are ill-equipped and significantly lack accountability; hence it is unable to effectively reduce risks of forest destruction and human rights violations. These Sourcing Codes do not mandate business operators to conduct due diligence even for non-certified timber and paper, nor does it require external inspection. We believe that an adequate inspection mechanism is imperative to minimize the risks, especially for non-certified timber and paper.

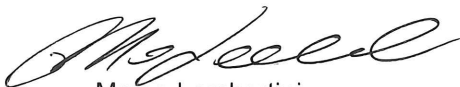
#### *Fishery Products*

The Sourcing Code for Fishery Products approves the procurement of certified fishery products, which do not necessarily ensure sustainability. Furthermore, even non-certified fishery products could be procured, as long as producers submit their plans to local authority for resource management/fishing ground improvement. Those plans might not necessarily cover the aspects of securing biodiversity. The Tokyo 2020 Games can end up supplying around 90% of domestically caught fishery products, which include overfished resources. Hence, it is impossible for the sourcing code to ensure sustainability.

#### *Palm Oil*

The name of the Code "Sourcing Code for the Promotion of the Sustainable Palm Oil" clearly shows that the Code does NOT ensure sustainability. TOCOG even considers ISPO and MSPO as certification that measure sustainability, though globally they both are only recognized to measure legality.

Yours sincerely,



Marco Lambertini  
Director General  
WWF International



Ron Tsutsui  
Chief Executive Office  
WWF-Japan

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<sup>3</sup>Specifically, the origin and volume of all products including timber used to construct all the facilities of the Tokyo 2020 Games, as well as the ratios of certified products, and a breakdown for each certificate including non-certification.