

To:  
Special Olympics International  
Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia

Oslo, 28.02.2022

## World Winter Games Kazan 2022

The Executive Board of the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports, which is the Executive Board of Special Olympics Norway, monitors the situation that unfolds in Ukraine closely.

Following an extraordinary meeting at the Executive Board on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February, this statement has been released:

### ***The Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports calls for full exclusion of Russian and Belarussian sports.***

- *The Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports follow the developments on the tragic and dangerous situation in Ukraine.*
- *The Russian attack on Ukraine is a blatant breach on international law and is unacceptable.*
- *At the moment, a wide ranging set of coordinated international sanctions are being developed within a broad range of sectors, hereunder at EU level.*
- *The Russian attack on the Ukrainian people and breach of international law, demands international condemnation and sanctions. On this background, it is our clear opinion that Russian and Belarussian athletes shall not participate in international sport events outside of Russia or Belarus. Russian and Belarussian sport leaders shall be suspended from their international positions. Through our 55 national sport federations, we call upon the international sport federations to follow up on this matter. We also call upon other major international sports organisations, hereunder the IOC and IPC, to adopt this position.*
- *The Norwegian NOC/NPC will give our support to further sanctions towards Russia and Russian and Belarussian sports.”*

In a situation where Russia has aggressively breached international law and invaded an independent state, Special Olympics Norway will not under any circumstance send our athletes to any international sport event in Russia or Belarus. This means that we will not take part in the World Winter Games in 2023 if they are held in either of these two countries.

However, we will do all the necessary registration procedures for the Norwegian athletes for these Games. We do this in the hope that the World Winter Games 2022 can be relocated to another host country.

We understand that this is a very challenging situation for the whole Special Olympics community and for your organisation. Norway remains strongly committed to develop sports for our target group, and we stand at your disposal if you should need any further clarifications or assistance.

Best regards

Berit Kjøll  
President

Nils Einar Aas  
Secretary General