At the dawn of the third millennium, it is a stronger Olympic Movement which is entering a new era. The challenges facing us are formidable but, together, we shall be able to overcome them. This is the occasion for me to stress that maintaining the unity within the Olympic Movement will be a major and daily concern throughout my Presidency. Together, the International Federations, the National Olympic Committees and the IOC will succeed, I am certain. Of the major problems that we must deal with, I must cite first of all the fight against doping and against corruption in sport.

At the same time, we must also review the costs and size of the Games, and their programme; and must ensure the financial independence of the Olympic Movement beyond 2010, for which new television rights negotiations must be started. We must make a success of the Games in Salt Lake City, Athens, Turin and Beijing. The IOC itself must construct its reforms to become even more transparent, more democratic and more representative.

In agreement with our partners the International Federations, the National Olympic Committees and Governments, we must work for the social and professional integration of athletes at the end of their sports careers. The IOC must work towards greater universality within its administration, in the election of its members and in the awarding of the Games. It is our duty to reduce the gap between rich and disadvantaged countries in terms of sport.

The motto of Olympism is *citius, altius, fortius*: faster, higher, stronger. We shall, of course, retain this motto. But at the dawn of the 21st century, we should perhaps think of another motto, for sport that is cleaner, more human and more united.

The Olympic Movement has survived many crises in its more than 107 years of history:

- it survived the interruption of Games during two World Wars;
- it survived boycotts;
- it survived the tragedy in Munich;
- it survived doping scandals;
- it survived its own corruption.

Each time, the IOC took corrective action. We should however avoid any complacency. We must remember the lessons of the past and learn how to avoid them, we must also anticipate the dangers of the future and eradicate the threats of the present time.

The unique strength of the Olympic Movement lies in its capacity to enthuse a dream in successive young generations.

The examples of the champions motivate young people.

The dream to participate in the Games will lead them to sport. Through sport, they will benefit from an educational tool.

Sport will help their body and mind.

Sport will teach them to respect the rules.

Sport will teach them to respect their opponent.

Sport will allow them to integrate society, develop social skills.

Sport will give them an identity.

Sport will bring them joy and pride.

Sport will improve their health.

This is the duty of the International Olympic Committee: to perpetuate the dream.