To: IOC Member States (Official National Coordinating Body for Liaison with the IOC in
IOC Member States)

Cc: IOC Officers
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
Officers of Major Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)

Subject: IOC 50th Anniversary, voluntary extra budgetary contributions

Dear Sir/Madam,

By means of this Letter I would like to refer you again to Resolution EC-XLI.2 on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO adopted in June 2008 by the IOC Executive Council at its Forty-first Session.

By this Resolution the Executive Council adopted, inter alia, the Outline of the Indicative IOC Plan of Action for the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of IOC which was annexed to the Resolution. The Executive Council also acknowledged the lack of funds in the IOC budget for the commemorative events and noted in the Summary Report of the Session that “the IOC 50th anniversary activities cannot be carried out without tangible support and that should not be at the expense of time or resources of other IOC programmes”. By the above-mentioned Resolution the Executive Council “invited Member States and other potential donors to consider making extra budgetary contributions …”

For your information, the following modalities of providing voluntary extra budgetary contributions to the IOC are available:

1. SPECIAL ACCOUNT

This is a multi-year and multi-donor account. In the account the contributions are pooled. No individual narrative or financial reporting is provided to the donor. However, reporting on the account as a whole is provided to the IOC Governing Bodies, including financial statements.
2. FUNDS-in-TRUST AGREEMENTS

Most of the funds-in-trust agreements are limited to a single donor and tied to a single project. Multi-donor trust funds in favour of multi-year programmes may also be envisaged. Detailed narrative and financial reporting is provided to the donor. The donor retains ownership of the funds throughout the life of the project and must be consulted on major modifications of the project design and budget. Possible savings at the end of the project are restored to the donor.

I invite Member States to use these mechanisms and contribute funds to the IOC budget dedicated specially in support of the 50th Anniversary. Your contributions will give us an opportunity to implement effectively the organization of the celebrations and take appropriate steps for the coordination of planned activities and implementation of the IOC Plan of Action for the 50th Anniversary.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Patricio Bernal
Executive Secretary IOC
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO