

DECLARATION OF THE MODERN OLYMPIC TRUCE

“After this he tells them that Heracles founded the Olympian games and truce as a proof of his real preference.”

Polybius Histories, 12, 26, 2

“Then Lycurgus the Lacedaemonian ... and Iphitos, an Elean ... and Kleosthenes, a Pisatan, ... wished to restore the populace to concord and peace. They decided to celebrate the Olympic festival according to ancient customs and to complete an athletic contest. They sent men to Delphi to inquire of the god whether he approved of their doing this. The god replied that things would be better for them doing this. He also ordered them to announce a truce to the cities that wished to participate in the contest.”

Phlegon, fragments 1,4 (F.Gr.Hist., 257 F 1,4)

On the occasion of the XXXI Olympic Games, “Rio 2016”, and the Lighting of the Olympic Flame, and bearing in mind what was passed on to us from ancient Greek letters, of which the above fragments are the most characteristic,

the undersigned mayors of Olympia, Ilida and Sparta, inspired by our revered forebears and following the example of Kleosthenes, Iphitos and Lycurgus, today symbolically renew, in the birthplace of the Olympic Games and the Olympic Ideals, and declare to all the world the sacred agreement of antiquity, the Olympic Truce.

With the guarantee and assistance of the prominent representatives of agencies and organizations of the local, national and global community and of the Olympic Movement, who co-sign the present declaration on the site where ancient mythology and tradition meet modern history,

we ask that weapons be laid down and that all hostilities be ceased around the world, throughout the period from the seventh day before the start of the XXXI Olympic Summer Games until the seventh day following the end of the XV Paralympic Summer Games, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as noted in United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/70/L.3., so that we can give Peace and the Reconciliation of peoples a chance to prevail.

May we be assisted in this endeavor by the Olympic Spirit, the citizens of the world, and the young generation in particular.