

# IJF PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**JUDO**  
ORDINARY CONGRESS  
**BUDAPEST**  
11 June 2025

**MARIUS L. VIZER**



# IJF PRESIDENT'S REPORT



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11 June 2025

**UNITY**  
**SOLIDARITY**  
**STABILITY**

Judo in Constant Growth  
on the World Sports Scene



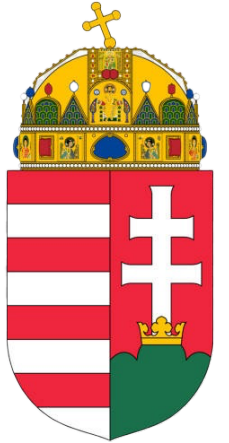


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## IJF & JUDO CONTRIBUTING TO HUNGARY'S PROMINENT SPORTS DIPLOMACY SUCCESSES



Financial support of **1 million USD/year** continues.

**Hungaricum Stipendium Sports Programme for Judo:**  
University Scholarships for **3 judoka** (1 woman, 2 men) from **3 countries** (El Salvador, Kenya, Seychelles).

Budapest hosting once again the **2025 IJF Congress**  
and **World Judo Championships Seniors**



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## FANTASTIC JUDO AT THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

- **High standard** event delivery by the IJF team
- **Huge success** and appreciation
- **Unique family** atmosphere and full stadium
- **New heroes** and a return of investment for the IJF NF
- **Refugee Team**
- **High demand event** for high dignitaries and celebrities equally
- **Broadcast and media** data report places the IJF in first third of Olympic sports (top 10)





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## SUCCESSFUL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024 IN ABU DHABI

- Impressive media coverage and results
- Participation:
  - Total countries: **107**
  - Total judoka: **658 judoka** - women: **309**, men: **349**
- Medals: **24 countries**
- Pilot edition of **Self-Defense Judo for Women**



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## VIDEO





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## SECURED FUTURE FOR THE WORLD JUDO TOUR

- World Judo Tour: Current hosts eager to **continue in new Olympic cycle**
- World Judo Championships Seniors ensured for next 2 years:
  - **2026 Azerbaijan**
  - **2027 Kazakhstan**
  - **2028 Bahrain TBC**



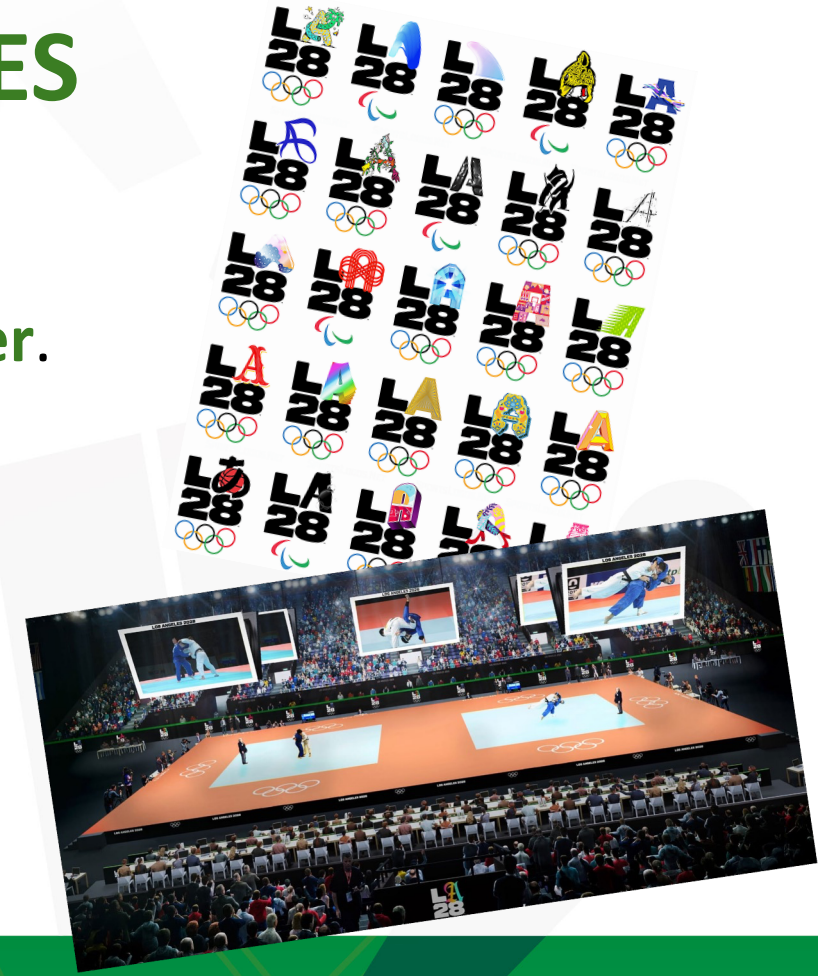
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## LA 2028 OLYMPIC GAMES

- **Collaboration** with the IJF started.
- **Judo manager** appointment in progress.
- Judo competition venue: **Los Angeles Convention Center**.
- Judo keeping all current events: **individual and mixed teams**.
- Quota: **372 athletes confirmed**, plus the **Universality Places**.
- New: Number and structure of universality places to be revisited and confirmed
- New challenges ahead and difficult tasks for organizers





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## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

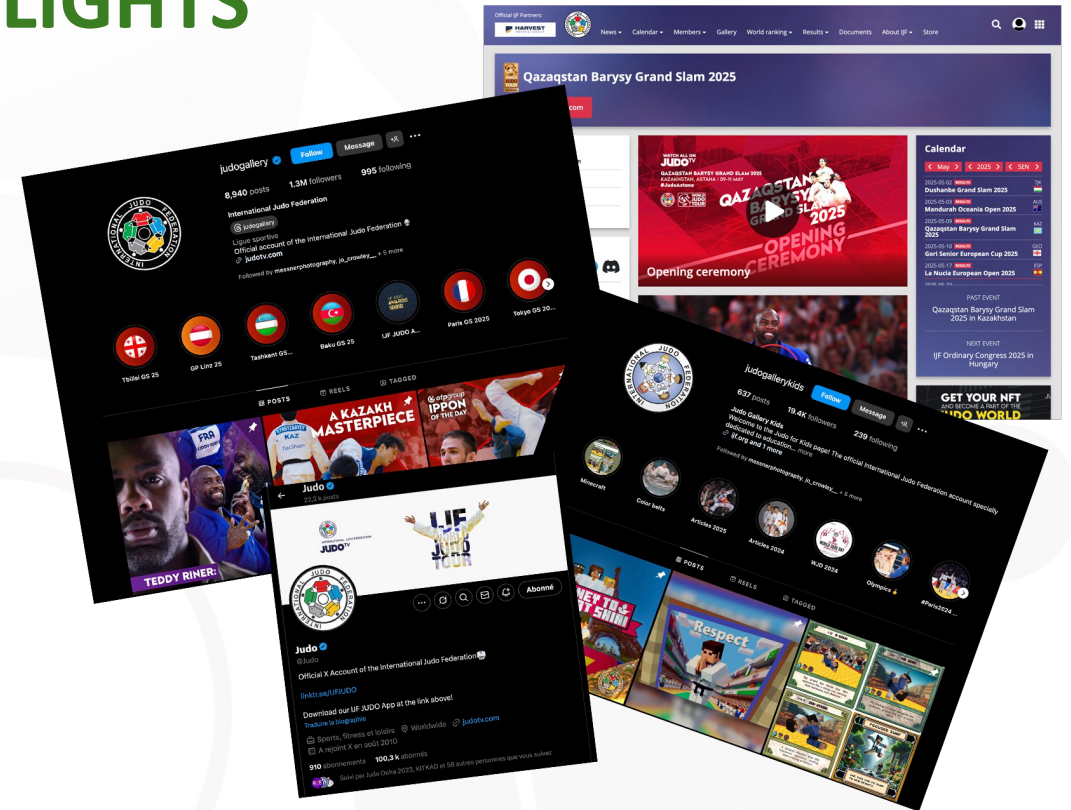
**3X** INCREASE IN INTEREST ON IJF.ORG

**47%** RISE IN PUBLISHED CONTENT

**10%** INCREASE IN LINEAR TV

**80M €** GENERATED MEDIA VALUE

**21%** GROWTH IN SOCIAL MEDIA



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## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

- Launch of the **Golden Score** show at World Judo Tour events and Paris Olympic Games
- Renewed partnerships with **AIPS Media, SportsIN, and Euronews.**
- The first judo for women **self-defence course** was organised during the Abu Dhabi World Judo Championships 2024.





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## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

### IT & Digital development

- Launch of **JUDO TV** and its mobile application, with ongoing feature enhancements.
- New Prediction League with Community Feature
- **40% growth** in the number of IJF accounts.
- Judomanager integrated in **12 countries, with 15 more** in the pipeline.
- Launch of **Clubmanager**, streamlining judo club operations globally.
- IJF Minecraft world – new map added: “**Journey to the Great Shiai**” - all maps now reaching over 6 million unique users worldwide.



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## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

### Marketing

- **New visual identity** for the IJF brand.
- **Renewed accreditation system** for World Judo Tour events.
- **Enhanced branding** across World Judo Tour events.





## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

### Marketing Partnerships

- **Harvest Group** joins as a new official IJF partner.
- **CBH Bank** joins as a new official IJF partner.
- **Double D - Adidas** - joins as a new gold partner of the IJF.
- Renewed agreements with IJF official partners for the **next Olympic cycle**.
- Expanded collaboration with **OTP Group** and **MET Group**.



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## INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- **UNHCR** – cooperation agreement signed
- **UNAOC** – Alliance of Civilizations
- **Olympic Solidarity** – IJF leading the way for DNSS programs (development of national sport structure) and with the IJF Academy programmes
- **USIP & CISM**
- **Ministries of Sports and Education** (Judo in Schools - Tripartite Agreements)
- **IBSA and Deaf Sports**
- **International School Sports Federation**
- **United Nations' Sports for Climate Change Action Group**
- **"Brighton plus Helsinki 2014 Declaration"**
- **UN Women Sport for Generation Equality Framework**
- **Crans Montana Forum**
- **International Testing Agency (ITA)**





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## DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

Focus on fostering social cohesion and contribution to betterment of societies.



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## IJF DONATIONS

•Equipment	USD 2,130,000
•Financial support	USD 914,304
•Participation in events	USD 1,033,621
•IJF experts	USD 540,000
•Judo in Schools	USD 319,238
•Building dojos	USD 87,000
•IJF Training Centre Dunavarsanyi (HUN)	USD 900,000

**TOTAL**

**USD 5,923,164**







## JUDO IN SCHOOLS

- **69** countries
- **728** schools involved
- **655+** teachers/entertrainers
- **90,000** children acquainted with judo and its principles through the programme.



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## IJF ACADEMY

- **176** national federations and **6,232** students.
- **Obligatory for World Judo Tour**: unified and constant knowledge base for all coaches.
- Continued **Olympic Solidarity** support.
- New courses: **Self-Defence Judo for Women**.





## JUDO FOR PEACE



- Long-term programmes in partnership with NF
- Nepal (Forever Everest)
- Judo for Peace South Africa
- “No Borders”
- World Peace Day
- International Day of Sports for Development and Peace



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## JUDO FOR REFUGEES

- **Participation of the Refugee Team** in the Olympic Games and support throughout qualification.
- **IJF support** for participation in competitions, training camps and equipment for team members.
- **Olympic Solidarity support** for team members to continue in new Olympic cycle.







## JUDO IN REFUGEE CAMPS

- **Zambia** (Meheba, Mayukwayukwa and Mantapala)
- **Zimbabwe** (Tongogara)
- **Malawi** (Dzaleka)
- **Türkiye** (Killis)
- **Jordan** (Zaatari)
- **Kenya** (Kakuma)

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## POLICE AND MILITARY JudoSkills PROGRAMME

- Introducing **judo courses** into the training of armed forces for governments.
- The goal of the project is to **enhance overall physical fitness**, provide the armed forces with **non-harmful methods** of neutralizing situations, both domestically and during deployments, and to **modernize** current hand-to-hand combat techniques.
- **Equipment** was developed in collaboration with the IJF Official Partner, **Taishan**.





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## SUSTAINABILITY

- The **IJF continues to make progress**, annual reports published.
- **Yearly reporting** to the United Nations.
- **Carbon footprint** measured for the IJF as an organisation.
- Carbon footprint measured for 2 events/year.
- IJF carbon offsets 2023: **Cururos Wind Farm Project, Peru.**
- **Green Dojo Project**





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## WORLD JUDO DAY

In 2024

- Wellbeing
- 100+ countries
- 200+ projects
- Great visibility on social media



In 2025



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# THANK YOU!



## **Unity – Solidarity – Stability: Judo in Constant Growth on the World Sports Scene**

It is with great honor that I present to the IJF Congress this President's Report, reflecting on a period of remarkable progress for judo on the global stage. Guided by the principles of **unity, solidarity, and stability**, our sport continues to grow in reach, impact, and excellence. Through the collective efforts of our athletes, National Federations, and partners, Judo has strengthened its presence in international competitions, expanded its grassroots initiatives, and reinforced its values both on and off the tatami. This report highlights our key achievements and the strategic vision that will propel judo forward as a unifying force in the world of sports.

## **IJF and Judo Contributing to Hungary's Prominent Sports Diplomacy Successes**

Hungary continues to shine as a key player in international sports diplomacy, with Judo playing an important role in this success. The Hungarian Government remains committed to supporting the IJF's development in the sport through the ongoing financial support of \$1 million per year. Additionally, the Hungaricum Stipendium Sports Programme for Judo is providing life-changing opportunities, awarding university scholarships to judoka. Further solidifying its global reputation, Budapest is once again taking center stage, hosting the 2025 IJF Congress and the World Judo Championships Seniors, reinforcing Hungary's status as a premier destination for international sports events and judo events in particular.

## **Fantastic Judo at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games**

The Paris 2024 Olympic Games showcased fantastic Judo at the highest level, reaffirming our sport's global impact. The IJF team ensured exceptional event delivery in very difficult and disappointing conditions, but our event earned widespread success and appreciation. A unique family atmosphere filled the stadium to capacity, creating an unforgettable experience for athletes and spectators alike. These Games were all about consecrated heroes, but they also introduced new heroes to the world while demonstrating a strong return on investment for our National Federations. The presence of the Refugee Team was a powerful testament to Judo's values of inclusion and resilience. The event attracted significant interest from numerous high dignitaries and celebrities, highlighting Judo's prestige on the Olympic stage. Broadcast and media data confirm Judo's growing influence, placing the IJF among the top third tier of Olympic sports. This success cements our commitment to elevating Judo's global reach and legacy.

## **Successful World Championships 2024 in Abu Dhabi**

The 2024 World Judo Championships in Abu Dhabi were a resounding success, both in terms of sport and visibility. The level of competition was outstanding, and medals were awarded to athletes from 24 different nations, highlighting the diversity and competitive balance in our sport. We also launched a pilot edition of the Self-Defense Judo for Women initiative during these World Championships, an initiative which



continues and had recently gained tremendous success in Saudi Arabia, where we took the program in its final, complete form. This was an important step toward empowering women through Judo, using the values and techniques of our sport to promote confidence, safety, and self-reliance.

### **Successful World Championships 2024 in Abu Dhabi**

Media coverage was exceptional, significantly increasing our global audience and engagement across platforms. This championship was not only a sporting success, it was a milestone in our mission to grow and modernize judo worldwide. Let's watch a short video to remember together this event: *Video*.

### **Secured Future for World Judo Tour**

As we look ahead, the future of the World Judo Tour is strong and secure. Current host nations have already expressed their enthusiasm to continue into the next Olympic cycle, showing their deep commitment to our sport and its global visibility. We are also proud to confirm that the World Judo Championships Seniors are already secured for the next two years. In 2026, Azerbaijan will host the championships, followed by Kazakhstan in 2027. Discussions are underway to confirm Bahrain as the host for 2028. This continuity reflects the trust and excitement surrounding the World Judo Tour, ensuring stability and growth as we move toward the next Olympic Games.

### **LA 2028 Olympic Games**

Our collaboration with the LA 2028 Organizing Committee is already underway, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter. The judo competition will take place at the Los Angeles Convention Center – a world-class venue fitting for the Olympic stage, located in Downtown LA.

We are pleased to confirm that all current judo events will be maintained, including individual categories and the highly popular mixed team event. The athlete quota stands at 372, with full gender parity - a continued commitment to equality in our sport. Universality Places will also be included, with their distribution under review and to be confirmed.

### **Media Highlights**

Interest in [ijf.org](https://www.ijf.org) has tripled compared to the previous two years, with a 47% increase in the number of published articles and updates. This growth reflects a heightened global engagement with judo content and increased visibility for the sport. The cumulative audience for linear TV has grown by 10%, reinforcing the strong demand for judo coverage. This increased reach translates to an estimated €80M in media value, underlining the sport's growing global appeal and commercial potential. Across all social media platforms, there has been a 21% increase in audience engagement and followers. This growth highlights the effectiveness of IJF's digital strategy in reaching new fans, strengthening the judo community, and amplifying key messages worldwide.

## Media Highlights

The **Golden Score Show** debuted at **World Judo Tour events**, providing an engaging and dynamic way to present judo highlights, key moments, and expert analysis. This initiative enhances fan experience and brings new storytelling elements to the sport.

Renewed collaborations with **AIPS Media, SportsIN, and Euronews** have expanded IJF's global coverage and media footprint. These partnerships ensure that judo continues to receive high-quality editorial exposure and remains a key sport in the international media landscape.

## Media Highlights – IT & Digital development

The introduction of **JUDO TV and its mobile application** has revolutionized how fans engage with the sport, with live streaming, real-time statistics and renewed Prediction League. There has been a **40% increase** in the number of **IJF accounts**, reflecting greater community engagement and a growing user base. **Judomanager** has been successfully integrated in **12 countries**. An additional **15 countries** are set to join, further streamlining judo administration worldwide. Building on the success of Judomanager, we have launched **Clubmanager** to expand our services to judo clubs. IJF's reach in younger communities continues to thrive, with the launch of a **new Minecraft map, "Journey to the Great Shiai"**. The IJF Minecraft initiative has now reached a staggering **6 million unique users worldwide**.

## Media Highlights – Marketing

IJF has unveiled a **fresh new visual identity**, modernizing its branding while maintaining the core values of judo. This update enhances the federation's global image and ensures consistency across all digital and physical platforms. A **renewed accreditation system** has been implemented for **World Judo Tour events**, improving security, efficiency, and event organization while streamlining access for athletes, media, and officials. World Judo Tour events have undergone a **branding refresh**, ensuring a more dynamic and visually engaging presentation for both live spectators and broadcast audiences.

## Media Highlights - Marketing Partnerships

**Harvest Group and CBH Bank** have become **new official IJF partners**, strengthening the federation's commercial portfolio and opening new avenues for strategic collaboration and sponsorship opportunities. We have also consolidated our partnership with **Double D**, elevating their status from **official supplier to Gold Partner of the IJF** starting in **2025**. This enhanced collaboration will provide **greater visibility and support**, while also expanding their presence and engagement within the **judo community, and IJF's presence worldwide**.

Long-term collaborations with **official IJF partners as Icona Capital, Taishan and Impulse** have been extended for the **next Olympic cycle**, securing continued support for judo's development and promotional efforts on a global scale.

Partnerships with **OTP Group and MET Group** have been expanded, reinforcing IJF's commitment to working with industry leaders to promote judo and enhance its global reach. Starting from 2025, OTP Group will be the title sponsor of the World Judo Tour events organised in Uzbekistan and Croatia, and the title sponsor of the World Judo Championships, here in Budapest, Hungary, combined with other media activities. MET Group continued the collaboration with the IJF **focusing on talent and youth development**—areas central to the energy company's philosophy. Thank you to all official partners of the International Judo Federation for their support of Judo worldwide.

### **Institutional Partnerships**

The IJF has developed a strong network of institutional partnerships that reflect the values of judo and expand our global impact. Through cooperation with UN agencies like UNHCR and UNAOC, and joint initiatives with USIP, CISM, and various Ministries, we support national sports structures and educational access. Tripartite Agreements promote Judo in Schools worldwide. Our inclusive work with IBSA, Deaf Sports, and ISF highlights our commitment to accessibility. We also engage in global efforts for climate action, gender equality, and good governance. These partnerships show that judo is more than a sport – it's a tool for peace, development, and education.

### **Development & Education**

Judo is more than a sport – it is a powerful educational tool that fosters social cohesion and contributes to the betterment of societies. Through long-standing initiatives like Judo for Children and Judo for Peace, the IJF is deeply committed to promoting the moral values at the heart of our sport: respect, discipline, friendship, and perseverance. These values are increasingly vital in today's world, marked by conflict, social fragmentation, and a loss of direction among youth. That is why Judo continues to play a key role in educational and social development projects across the globe.

### **IJF Donations**

In the past year, the International Judo Federation has continued its strong commitment to the global judo community through a wide range of donations and support initiatives. Nearly 320,000 USD was invested in the Judo in Schools program, helping to bring judo education to children across numerous countries. Additionally, over 2 million USD worth of equipment was distributed to National Federations in need, while nearly 1 million USD in direct financial support was allocated to ensure the development and sustainability of judo programs worldwide. The IJF also facilitated over 1 million USD in support for athlete and team participation in key events, ensuring broader international representation. Through the



deployment of IJF experts, valued at 500,000 USD, we have supported technical development and coaching activities in underserved regions. Moreover, investments totaling 87,000 USD were dedicated to building new dojos, strengthening local infrastructure. Finally, the IJF Training Center in Dunavarsány, Hungary, continued to serve as a hub for high-level training and international collaboration for Olympic preparation, with contributions totaling 900,000 USD. These efforts demonstrate our dedication to making judo accessible, inclusive, and sustainable at every level.

### **Judo in Schools**

One of our flagship grassroots initiatives, the *Judo in Schools* program, continues to grow in both reach and impact. To date, the program is active in 69 countries, with 728 schools participating and more than 655 teachers and **entertrainers** involved in delivering judo education in a safe and engaging environment. Through this program, over 90,000 children have been introduced to the sport of judo and its core values – respect, discipline, and mutual welfare and benefit. Later today, the Chair of the IJF Judo for Children Commission, Ruben Houkes, will present a more detailed overview of this important program and share some inspiring results from the field.

### **IJF Academy**

The IJF Academy remains a cornerstone of our global education efforts. To date, 176 national federations have engaged with the Academy, with an impressive 6,232 students enrolled. The Academy ensures that coaches around the world receive high-quality, standardized education, creating a unified and consistent knowledge base, especially at the elite level. As you well know, obtaining the IJF Academy Instructor qualification is now mandatory for all coaches participating in the World Judo Tour. We are proud to continue our strong partnership with Olympic Solidarity, which provides vital support for many of our education initiatives. In recent years, we also introduced a new course - Self-Defense Judo for Women – as part of our ongoing efforts to broaden the reach and societal impact of our sport. Additionally, an all-women practical IJF Academy Session will take place in October, in Rome – with additional support from Olympic Solidarity, for all the women coaches who are yet to complete their practical session for obtaining their IJF Academy degree.

### **Judo for Peace**

The Judo for Peace initiative shows our commitment to peace, inclusion, and social development through judo. In Nepal, the Forever Everest project brought judo to remote communities and raised environmental awareness, with the world's highest judo club still active today. In South Africa, long-term programmes in major cities, supported by UNHCR and Nike, empower refugee and underprivileged youth through judo and education. The No Borders programme enables nearly 200 clubs worldwide to offer free judo for

displaced children, promoting safe spaces and community integration. On international days dedicated to peace and sport, we amplify judo's message of unity and mutual respect.

### **Judo for Refugees**

The International Judo Federation (IJF) remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting refugee athletes and promoting inclusion through judo. At the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the IJF proudly supported six judoka who were part of the Refugee Olympic Team, among the 36 athletes selected across 12 sports. This marks the third consecutive Olympic participation for refugee judoka, symbolizing resilience and hope for displaced individuals worldwide. The IJF provides ongoing assistance to refugee athletes even outside the Olympic qualification period, including access to training camps, competition opportunities, and necessary equipment. This support ensures that athletes can continue their development and compete at the highest levels. Through collaboration with Olympic Solidarity, the IJF facilitates programs that allow refugee athletes to pursue their Olympic aspirations, offering pathways for continued participation in future Olympic cycles.

### **Judo in Refugee Camps**

The IJF's 'Judo for Peace' initiative has established programs in several refugee camps, providing education and promoting social cohesion. The camps in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Türkiye, Jordan and Kenya have active judo programs, engaging youth and fostering community development and at the same time contributing to the well-being and integration of refugees. Through these initiatives, the IJF demonstrates the transformative power of judo in fostering resilience, unity, and hope among refugee populations.

### **Police and Military JudoSkills Programme**

As part of our commitment to using judo as a tool for societal development and modern skill-building, the IJF has launched the Police and Military JudoSkills Programme. This initiative introduces structured judo courses into the training systems of armed forces around the world, in collaboration with national governments. The programme aims to enhance the physical fitness of service members while equipping them with effective, non-lethal methods for neutralizing conflict situations—both in domestic operations and during international deployments. Importantly, it also serves to modernize traditional hand-to-hand combat techniques. To support this effort, we worked closely with our Official Partner, Taishan, to develop specialized equipment tailored to the needs of military and police training.

### **Sustainability**

Sustainability remains an important element of the IJF's long-term strategy, and we are proud to report continued progress in this area. We continue to publish our yearly reports and we continue reporting to the United Nations as signatories of the Sport for Climate Change Framework, reflecting our accountability

and commitment to transparency. We are measuring the carbon footprint of the IJF as an organization, as well as for two of our major events each year, to better understand and reduce our environmental impact. In 2023, we offset our emissions through the Cururos Wind Farm Project in Peru, supporting clean energy development. At the end of last year, we also launched the *Green Dojo* project, which encourages judo clubs worldwide to adopt environmentally sustainable practices. Clubs can achieve certification at three different levels of complexity, by implementing measures such as energy-efficient lighting, waste reduction, water conservation, and community engagement activities. We currently have 3 clubs who obtained the certificate, from Belgium and Korea.

### **World Judo Day**

In 2025, we will continue celebrating World Judo Day on October 28 and after a successful 2024 edition with the theme of Wellbeing, which saw more than 100 countries participate, I am pleased to announce that this year's theme is very actual and very much needed worldwide: PEACE.

### **Thank you**

Finally, I would like to end my presentation by thanking all of you, for contributing to the success and growth of Judo. My gratitude goes out to the IJF Executive Committee, all IJF Commissions, National Federations and Continental Unions. I would like to mention here also the hard work and dedication of all our athletes, coaches, referees and staff – their efforts being key to our achievements and high standard reputation. I wish you all a successful Congress and World Championships 2025!