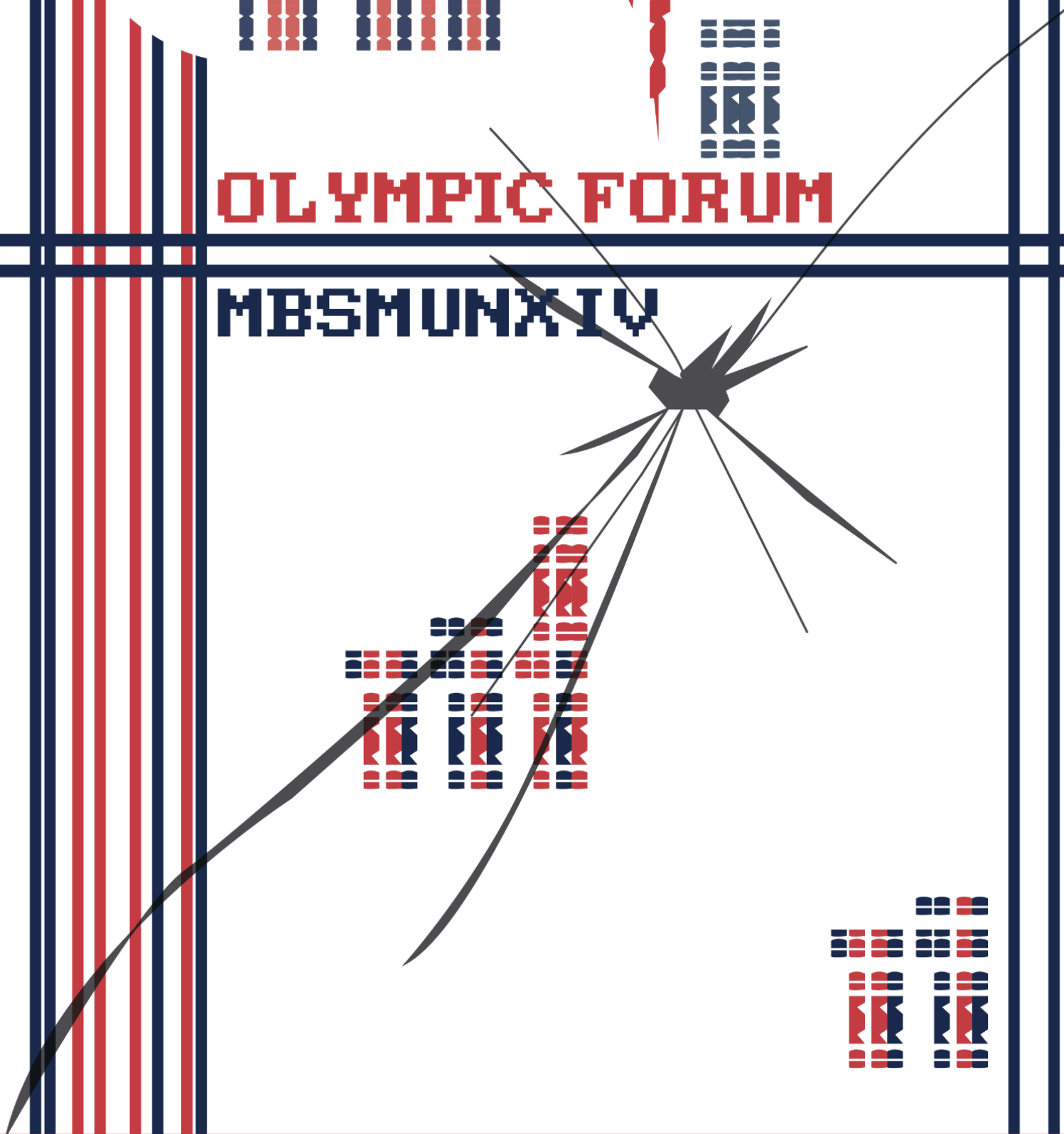
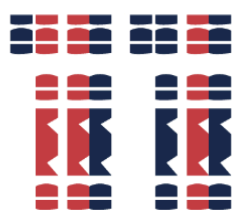
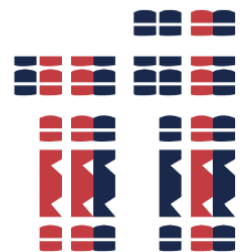
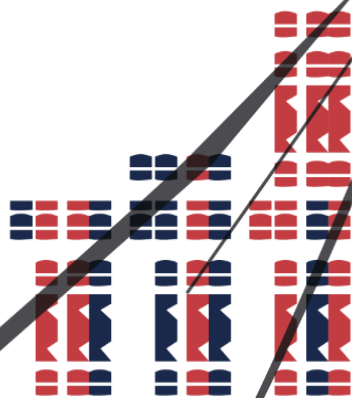
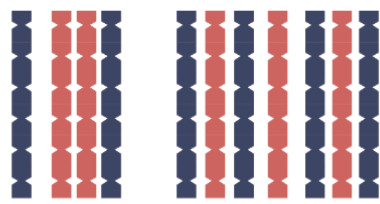


OLYMPIC FORUM

MBSMUNXIV





## Presidents:

- Lola Guasca
- Isabela Chaparro

## Assignments:

- Opening speech (60-90 seconds)
- Position paper

## Contact us through:

- Lola Guasca: Cel: +57 310 6891715  
Gmail: [1919galv@montessorischool.edu.co](mailto:1919galv@montessorischool.edu.co)
- Isabela Chaparro; Cel: +57 3157091309  
Gmail: [1999cai@montessorischool.edu.co](mailto:1999cai@montessorischool.edu.co)

## Topics of the committee:

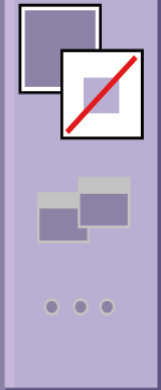
- How geopolitical factors can affect an athlete's performance in the Olympic Games
- Excessive Costs and Debt for Host Cities Organizing the Games costs billions. Many cities are left with enormous debts, empty stadiums, and useless infrastructure.

## Letter from the chair:

Honorable delegates,

Welcome to the 14th edition of MBS MUN at the Montessori British School. We are pleased to welcome you to this forum, particularly to the Olympic Forum committee. We sincerely hope that this experience will be enriching and productive, allowing you to develop your public speaking and debate skills, which will be valuable in your future academic and professional endeavors.

During this committee, you will engage in discussions on several issues currently affecting the Olympic Games, including their economic and geopolitical dimensions and the ways in which these factors influence the development of this international event. The topics to be discussed in this committee are, first, how geopolitical factors can affect an athlete's performance in the Olympic Games; and second, the excessive costs and debt faced by host cities. Organizing the Games requires billions of dollars,



and many host cities are left with substantial debts, unused stadiums, and underutilized infrastructure. This raises important questions: Is hosting the Games economically worthwhile? Should there be permanent host cities?

As chairs, we recognize the importance of maintaining communication with our delegates. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns; we will be happy to help you.

We hope the topics are suitable for the type of debate we expect, and that you can achieve great and creative solutions. We expect you to keep in mind real-life problems and results when developing your solutions. We also expect this committee to end in a common agreement to establish an end to it that can benefit both sides.. Finally, we hope that you enjoy and learn from this debate and that you have an entertaining MUN.

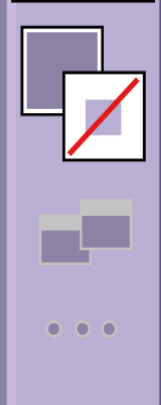
Sincerely,

Lola Guasca and Isabela Chaparro

### **About the committee:**

The Olympic forum is a type of event hosted by various Olympic bodies, primarily the IOC (International Olympic Committee) or related organizations like the IOC Athlete's commission, to gather athletes, federations, managers, governments for discussing Olympic values, sport integrity, esports between others. There are many examples of these forums like the international athlete's Forum of the International forum for sports integrity. In this case, this is a general Forum that is mostly focused on challenges and growth.

This forum, and in general all the olympic forums are a "branch" of the IOC. This committee was founded at the first Olympic Congress in Paris 1894 and it has had many important moments until October 2018, when the first ever Olympism in Action Forum took place in Buenos Aires Argentina. The forum's creation has expanded from the olympism in action forum to many others like the international Athlete's forum or the international forum for sports integrity to the most recent in 2025, the first olympic movement AI engagement forum in Lausanne. The mission of this forum is to treat problems that affect the performance of the athletes and the development of the games, in this way they can allow that the games are the best possible.



As President Capratos, once vice president of the Greek swimming federation, said " You will hear many new and important things during the Forum, while also being given the chance to express yourself and to give your opinion on the issues facing athletes. To on the issues athletes are facing. Please engage with each other, learn from the best practices of other Athletes' Commissions and after these two days, you will feel richer in knowledge and experience."(The European Olympic Committees, n.d.)

## Committee Dynamics:

The delegations present in the debate will be focused on discussing both geopolitical conflicts affecting athletes performance and excessive costs and debt for host cities, more specifically the laws and politics and actions enforced by different delegations regarding these subjects, leading the argument towards possible solutions and alternatives. Many different factors must be taken into consideration such as current wars and different delegation's perspectives while attempting to get to an agreement, and delegates must debate as close to reality as possible.

The proposed solutions during the debate must take into account the perspective of athletes and sport related organizations, as well as their objectives. As an issue, the deterioration in performance and the worsening of the economy of certain host countries must also be taken into consideration, as well as the economic and social factors of these issues. Finally, it will be essential not to guide the debate away from the main topic in such a way that the purpose of the debate gets lost. The delegates will have to present a position paper regarding their delegation's point of view regarding the subjects presented in both topics, and an opening speech that must have a duration of 1:30 to 2:00 minutes.

**Topic A:** How geopolitical factors can affect an athlete's performance in the Olympic Games

## Context:

Although the Olympic games are based on principles such as neutrality , equality and fair competition, sometimes the political state of

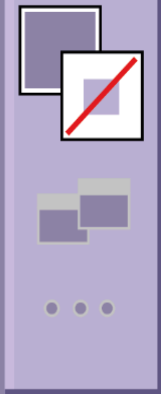


certain nations tend to affect the performance of athletes. This is caused by geopolitical factors such as, international conflicts and wars, government imposed sport policies, diplomatic tension between nations, economic sanctions and travel restriction also paired up with political interference in national sports federations. Even if most people think this only affects the performance of the athlete during the games, this can affect, before , during and after the Olympic Games. There are many obstacles these athletes need to face due to this problem, such as a lack of training facility accessibility , difficulties obtaining visas for competition oriented travel and a lack of government funding for sports programs. This not only affects the performance, but also the mental health of the athlete. Some might experience increased levels of anxiety , loss of focus, emotional stability and a decrease of motivation. In the most severe cases, nations or global organizations have forced athletes to abandon the competition or even forbid a whole nation from participating in an international contest.

A clear example of this intervention is the case of Saeid Mollaei, a judo athlete and medal holder. Saied represented the nation of Iran, one with strong political influence over sports institutions. Iran later enforced a nonofficial policy preventing athletes representing this nation from competing against Israeli athletes. During the 2019 World Judo Championships, Saeid was reportedly instructed by Iraqi sports officials to withdraw from the competition and even lose in order to avoid confronting the Israeli athlete Sagi Muki. The impact this had on Saige was not something minor, he faced extreme psychological stress during competition and reduced concentration and performance quality. But the impact on him kept growing, all of this led to him fleeing Iran and seeking asylum in Europe, losing the ability to represent his home country and having access to coaches and sports facilities. Saegi later on returned to competition representing Mongolia.

### **Previous measures:**

Some measures taken to address geopolitical interference in the sports community include International Olympic Committee's (IOC) political neutrality rules. This forbids political interference in competition, allowing sanctions against national federations that directly manipulate and athletes participation. Athletes may also compete under a neutral status (competing under a white flag and no representative anthem) when national representation is compromised, although this might give the athlete a lack of nationalism while competing, which might affect its performance. Additionally, the IOC Athlete's Commission provided platforms to athletes to report any type of political pressure or discrimination, paired up with the expansion of mental health and



safeguarding programs. But his measures have certain limitations, as enforcement can vary between national federations, athletes are often scared of the loss of support for the nation if they report abuses, this leading to government's continuous control over athlete's funding, selections, training systems and training facilities.

### **Current Situation:**

Geopolitical factors continue to have a significant impact on the performance of Olympic athletes, particularly at recent Games such as Paris 2024 and the upcoming Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics. Russian and Belarusian athletes faced strict bans due to the invasion of Ukraine, competing only as Individual Neutral Athletes (INAs), without flags, anthems, or inclusion in the medal count, which undermined their motivation and national pride. At Paris 2024, this neutrality rule force dozens of them to withdraw or compete in isolation, causing them mental stress, such as anxiety about the lack of support and negative public reactions.

Ongoing wars and sanctions creates barriers before, during, and after events. For example, athletes from conflict zones such as Sudan or Gaza face difficulties with travel visas, damaged training facilities, and funding cuts, as seen in previous cases like that of Saeid Mollaei. Russia's doping record and geopolitical isolation has led to more athlete defections and changes of nationality, with many fleeing to Europe or Asia in search for better access to coaches and competitions. At Milan-Cortina 2026, tensions are expected to escalate over Russia's participation and the rivalry between the United States and China, with boycotts and protests potentially causing further disruption.

IOC measures, such as neutral status and mental health programs, helps to some extent, but their implementation remains inadequate due to fear of retaliation. Athletes still report government pressure regarding funding and selection, showing limited progress since Paris. These issues not only reduce performance but also exacerbate emotional consequences, such as loss of focus and depression.

### **Quarmas:**

- How has geopolitical conflict impacted your athletes' preparation and performance?
- Does your government interfere in national sports federations?
- Are your sports programs financially stable despite political tensions?



- Do you adequately protect athletes from political pressure?
- Could your national policies unintentionally harm athlete motivation?
- What reforms should your delegation support to protect athletes internationally?
- Have visa or travel barriers limited your athletes' participation?
- Has your delegation benefited or suffered from IOC neutrality rules?

**Topic B:** Excessive Costs and Debt for Host Cities Organizing the Games costs billions. Many cities are left with enormous debts, empty stadiums, and useless infrastructure.

### Context:

On average, the costs of the Olympic Games vary depending on whether they are Summer or Winter Games, and budgets are typically exceeded significantly (on average, the Games exceed their budget by more than 150%, more than double the original projection). On average, some final estimated costs can range from USD 13 billion to USD 28 billion, depending on the specifics and methodology used, this only shows that this is becoming a huge economical problem for many countries who can't afford paying all these cost overruns. Historically, the most expensive Games have been: Sochi 2014 (Winter), considered the most expensive Olympic event in history with approximately USD 21.9 billion in directly related expenses; and Tokyo 2020/2021 (Summer), with final estimated figures between USD 13 billion and USD 28 billion, depending on whether only the total cost or only the officially operated costs are considered. But why were these games so expensive? This is due to several factors, including: construction and modernization costs for sports infrastructure, spectacular opening and closing ceremonies, security and complex logistics for millions of attendees, international broadcasting costs and associated technology, postponements or changes (such as the case of Tokyo 2020, which ended up taking place in 2021 due to pandemic-related issues, increasing costs), among other reasons.

Now, What do the overall costs of the Games encompass? These costs can be divided into four categories: Direct sports costs, Public and urban infrastructure, Security, health and special services, and finally, Ceremonies and broadcasting. Direct sports costs include things like the construction and adaptation of sports facilities, competition operating



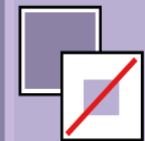
expenses and logistics, services for athletes, judges, and technical staff, among others. (Academic studies define these as "sports-related costs" and average USD 5.2 billion for the Summer Games.) Public and urban infrastructure costs, which are generally much higher, include the costs of building or improving roads, airports or public transportation; ports, train stations, hotels, and hospitals; Long-term urban development projects... These costs generally vary depending on the city. Security, health, and special services costs include mass crowd control systems, medical and sanitary services, and emergency and protection operations (for example, at the Paris 2024 Games, security spending alone was €2 billion). Finally, ceremony and broadcast costs include opening and closing ceremonies, international broadcasting technology, audiovisual production, and image rights.

### **Previous measures:**

To reduce the costs of hosting the Olympic Games, several measures have been implemented, some more effective than others. To address rising costs, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched a series of reforms called Olympic Agenda 2020 (2014) and subsequently developed a set of measures known as "the new norm" to make the Games more affordable and sustainable. This includes reducing bid costs: The IOC modified the application process by creating Future Host Commissions. This reduced the budget required to submit a bid from approximately USD 35 million to just USD 5 million for the 2026 Winter Olympic Games. Other benefits include savings in planning and organization, simplification and use of existing infrastructure, and greater flexibility for candidates. Specific adjustments have also been made in recent editions (such as Tokyo 2020): Tokyo 2020 (held in 2021) implemented simplification measures that generated savings of approximately USD 280 million through cuts in operational elements, a reduction in ancillary events, and fewer non-sporting staff. Organizers also reduced construction and operating costs by cutting budgets for venues and services. All these measures generally aim to reduce operating and infrastructure expenses, make planning more flexible, and decrease financial risks related to costs.

### *Corruption and embezzlement:*

*2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City (USA):* During the selection process for the host city of the 2002 Winter Olympics, it was discovered that several IOC members had accepted lavish gifts and rewards from



the Salt Lake City organizing committee in an attempt to influence their votes. These gifts included trips, monetary rewards, tickets, and special treatment. The scandalous letter proving that an IOC member's daughter had received tuition payments uncovered what would become the biggest corruption scandal in the history of the modern Olympic movement up to that point. This event had several consequences for the IOC, including significant reputational damage that led the organization's president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, to testify before the United States Congress. It also resulted in several formal expulsions from the IOC and resignations. The IOC was compelled to conduct internal and external investigations.

*2004 corruption case: Kim Un-yong (IOC vice-president):* In 2004, Kim Un-yong, then vice president of the International Olympic Committee, was arrested and subsequently convicted in South Korea for embezzlement, bribery, and abuse of power. Kim, who was also president of the World Taekwondo Federation, used his position to divert money from sports organizations into personal accounts and to exert political influence on sports and Olympic processes. Investigations showed that he had received and concealed large sums of money from sponsors and federations, violating rules of financial transparency and sports ethics. The case was particularly serious because Kim Un-yong was one of the most influential figures in the Olympic movement and was even considered a possible successor to IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch. (Britannica, n.d.; El País, 2004).

### **Previous measures towards corruption:**

With IOC's reputation underground, they had to adopt some preventive measures to reduce the cases of corruption, first, the IOC expelled all members implicated in these cases and established a zero-tolerance policy toward corruption and its practices within the organization. Furthermore, IOC members were prohibited from accepting expensive gifts, trips, and other perks to prevent bribery, whether direct or indirect. The IOC revised its host city selection process to make it more transparent and fair. A commission focused on ethics, conflicts of interest, and financial transparency was created to oversee the conduct of members and candidates. Age and term limits were also introduced for IOC members, along with the inclusion of active athletes and other independent members, with the aim of improving accountability. All these measures were primarily created following the 2002 incident, but were subsequently strengthened and refined after the 2004 case to make corruption more difficult.



## Current situation:

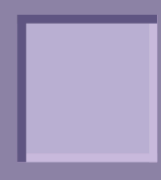
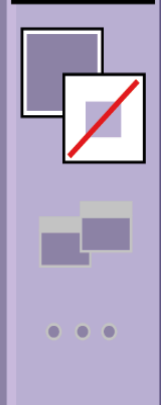
The next Olympic Games are the 2026 Winter Games in Milan. The declared base budget for organization and infrastructure is approximately €5.2 billion (around \$6 billion), according to official estimates. This includes sports facilities, roads, and transportation. As mentioned earlier in this guide, the objective of this topic is to find a strategy to prevent costs from rising exponentially beyond the initial estimated costs.

Academic studies show that the Olympic Games are the mega-event with the highest average cost overrun in the world. The Olympic Games exceed their budget by an average of 156%, generating significant public debt and long-term economic problems (Flyvbjerg & Stewart, 2012). This is a major issue because they use large amounts of public funds (taxes, budgets, etc.), and when these costs spiral out of control, budgets for health, education, and other essential services are reduced. The UN warns that corruption and excessive spending in sports directly impact social development (UNODC, 2021). Furthermore, these exorbitant costs have led several cities to withdraw their bids to host the Games. This jeopardizes the future of the Olympic event if it does not become more economically sustainable (International Olympic Committee, 2021). Another problem is the large number of "white elephants"—infrastructure that remains unused. This is problematic because maintaining these structures is very expensive, and after the Games, this infrastructure becomes useless. Due to the enormous amount of money involved, there is also a greater risk of corruption.

## Quarmas:

- In what ways has this economic problem affected your delegation?
- Is your delegation currently available for being the home city of this game?
- What has made your delegation with the infrastructure left behind?
- Has your delegation been affected by corruption in the Olympic games?
- Is your delegation expecting something specific for the upcoming games (Milan 2026)?
- What can your delegation propose in terms of costs (either reducing them or increasing them depending on your delegation)?
- What can your delegation propose so that the base budget is not exceeded for that much as in previous years?
- What can your delegation do with the white elephants left behind?

## Support Links:



- <https://www.eltiempo.com/deportes/ciclo-olimpico/escandalo-de-corrupcion-sacude-a-los-juegos-olimpicos-de-tokio-745496>
- <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/economics-hosting-olympic-games>
- [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/305307721\\_The\\_Oxford\\_Olympics\\_Study\\_2016\\_Cost\\_and\\_Cost\\_Overrun\\_at\\_the\\_Games](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/305307721_The_Oxford_Olympics_Study_2016_Cost_and_Cost_Overrun_at_the_Games)
- <https://www.patrickhruby.net/2021/07/why-olympic-costs-are-always-too-damn.html>
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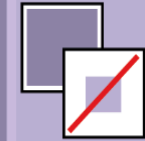


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