



WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS

IN COOPERATION WITH THE WA

December 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Dear athletes, officials and volunteers,
Dear representatives of the Regions and the national Members,
Dear friends of Master Athletics.**

2020 will probably stay in our memories forever. The corona pandemic demanded a lot from us and presented us with great challenges in our private and sports lives. Toronto had to cancel the 2020 WMA Championships. Members could not hold their championships, and athletes could only train under difficult circumstances if at all. However, some have been hit far worse; they have faced covid-19 or have even lost loved ones. Covid-19 reminded us what is really important: health, friendship, and understanding for one another.

I am firmly convinced that we, as the WMA Council have taken our responsibility for Masters Athletics seriously. After the initial shock and uncertainty, we did not withdraw in fear. Like so many, we learned how to hold productive online meetings. We initially fought to give our championships an option for 2021. At the end of this year, we had to realised that this was too optimistic.

It was a matter of seeing the facts and making responsible and courageous decisions. That is why we have now decided with our partners in Tampere, Edmonton and Gothenburg that we look to the year 2022 with confidence and come back with power. With the future LOCs (local organising committees), we agreed to the new calendar. Considering that travelling in 2021 will still be difficult -for some even impossible- and the vaccine will take time to protect the people, the WMA Council decided to postpone Tampere -who stepped in for Toronto- to 2022, followed by Edmonton in 2023 and Gothenburg in 2024.

With this perspective and hope that 2021 becomes a year in which a vaccine creates the conditions for a normal life, we will celebrate the holidays. The end of the year will be a little quieter this year than usual and thus perhaps regenerate new creativity in addition to relaxation. I wish that together we can become stronger with each-other's support.

The WMA Council definitely has a lot of new ideas and look forward to working together in the new year ahead. We are having good discussions with Word Athletics and are optimistic that together we can create a competition for the whole athletics family.

On behalf of the WMA Council I wish you and your families a peaceful holiday and that we will see each other again in good health, hopefully soon personally.

**Margit Jungmann
WMA President**

