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Open Letter to the International Olympic Committee

**Honourable IOC President,
Distinguished IOC Members,**

The five Olympic rings represent the common values of unity among the nations participating in the Olympic Games, the value of the Olympism, credibility and unique Olympic spirit. Those human values are making the athletes, in the words of Pierre de Coubertin, faster, higher and stronger. As International SAMBO Federation share the same value, please allow us to express our deepest gratitude to your inestimable support to the development of sport worldwide. In the same time, to your contribution to the growth of the Olympic Movement and to your influence on the sport expansion particularly. With this letter, we would like to present you the recent achievements of the International Sambo Federation (FIAS) towards to the IOC recognition.

With the Headquarter in Lausanne, FIAS is a non-governmental organisation in charge of SAMBO development around the globe. FIAS promotes the values of respect, equality, fair play and clean sport. Despite diversity of the martial arts, over 4.5 million people from 120 countries of all continents choose SAMBO and discover its beauty and various techniques. Nowadays, SAMBO is the sport without any limits. It is accessible for all regardless of gender and age. SAMBO is a unique, modern sport with great history and values, which attracts every year more fans and followers. Our sport does not bring hostility, but rather gives people peace in mind, physical strength and health, self-confidence, the ability to protect their loved ones and themselves, motivates to do good deeds and to the tolerance for each other. SAMBO (in Russian САМБО) - means abbreviation of the Russian words for self-defence without a weapon. This practical meaning of SAMBO for developing of an athlete as self-confident individual constitutes the potential added value of SAMBO in case of the Olympic recognition.

International SAMBO Federation is an active member of international sports community and is recognised by GAISF, AIMS, FISU, TAFISA and Peace & Sport and fully complies with the World Anti-Doping Code. FIAS annually conducts numerous international events at all the levels, including the World Championships for elite athletes, junior, youth, cadets and masters. FIAS also helps to organise the Continental Championships in Europe, Asia, Africa and Pan-America. From our statistics, almost half-million athletes are practicing competitive SAMBO.

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Since 2015 FIAS actively adopts the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG "Agenda2030") and ensures its implementation at SAMBO events. The projects related to the athletes' health protection, gender equity, integrity have been successfully conducted and some of them continues. One example is FIAS support to the protection of wild animals "Amur tigers", that became mascots of the organization. Another highlight is FIAS collaboration with the Peace and Sport on several projects promoting the world peace. Last year FIAS raised this problematic at three events - in Colombia, in France and in Russia, which were mostly focused on our young generation.

FIAS is an active member of Council of Europe, the Enlargement partial agreement on sport consultative committee and contributes to the various projects related to the Anti-Doping, match fixing, gender equity and many others. We are also involved in various UNESCO projects.

FIAS is one of the International Federations, which endorses the Brighton plus Helsinki Declaration on Women in Sport as another significant legacy to the gender equity. The development of SAMBO discipline for the athletes with different abilities is important part of our daily work. FIAS started to organise the international tournaments for blind and deaf, works closely with blind, visually impaired and deaf organisations to increase the awareness of SAMBO athletes on this issue and develops the adaptive rules and regulations.

Since 2014 the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) officially recognised and included SAMBO into the programme of the Asian Games. The discipline Beach SAMBO was a part of the programme of the 4th Asian Beach Games 2014 held in Phuket (THA) and its 5th edition in Da Nang (VIE) in 2016. Moreover, SAMBO athletes will participate at the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat (TKM) in September 2017 and Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta (INA).

The Association of the African Sports Confederations recognised SAMBO in 2015 and the representatives of the African SAMBO Confederation are continually working on inclusion of the sport in the upcoming official programme of the Youth African Games and African Games.

As you might have heard, SAMBO made its debut at the 1st European Games 2015 in Baku (AZE), which was a significant step in the development of SAMBO in Europe. In May 2017, SAMBO was officially included into the 2nd edition of the European Games that will be held in Minsk (BLR) in 2019. Furthermore, in December 2017, SAMBO will feature for the first time in the programme of the Central American Games in Managua (NCA) under the aegis of the Central American Sports Organization (ORDECA).

SAMBO is popular and widely practiced by university students. Since 2012 under the FISU patronage the World University Championships were organised, moreover our sport was part of the Summer Universiade 2013 official programme in Kazan (RUS). The next event will take place in Novi Sad (SRB) in 2018.

The FIAS main event of the year, the World SAMBO Championship 2016 was successfully held in Sofia (BUL). Over five-hundred athletes from eighty countries took part in the competition. The event was broadcasted live in 15 countries. Through the FIAS digital platforms and social media, FIAS reached the audience in 190 countries with more than 150 thousand views per day.

Distinguished IOC members, our sport has made a huge step forward over the last few years and today is shortlisted for the International Olympic Committee recognition. We truly believe SAMBO deserves to become part of the recognised Olympic family and hope for your kind support of the dream of all SAMBO athletes, coaches, administrators and officials.

Sincerely yours,



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FIAS President



Roberto FERRARIS
FIAS Secretary General



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