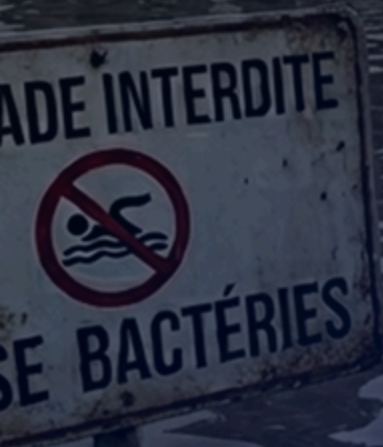


STUDY GUIDE



15-17
MAY
BAALMUN'26



IOC

BAALMUN'26

International Olympic

Committee

Study Guide

Agenda Item: Tackling the controversies surrounding the
Paris 2024 Olympics

Under Secretary General

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Academic Assistant

Ela Eraslan

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Letter from the Under Secretary General

Dear Participants,

I would like to start my letter by thanking you all for taking the time to apply to this prestigious conference and choosing this committee. I am Ece Körpe, an IBDP student at Çemberlitaş Anatolian High School and former student of Beşiktaş Atatürk Anatolian High School and I am so glad that I'm writing this letter right now as this conference holds a special place in my heart.

I am a loyal fan of the Olympics myself and it was my dream to curate a committee to discuss the quite eventful 2024 Olympics. I see it as my responsibility to advocate for people facing discrimination. The main reason why I curated this committee is to spread awareness and true information about the rights of athletes from minority backgrounds.

I can proudly say that this conference will be an unforgettable experience for you. With the work of the amazing teams in this conference, I believe that this committee will be mutually enriching. So, a thank you goes to our Secretariat and Directorate whom my dearest friends Umran Büyükbayram, the gentle giant and Asya Yıldız, my co-star and vocalist, are a part of; as well as our lovely Head of Academy Tuna Çankaya who has been like a little brother to me as I watched him grow as a MUNer and fill in my shoes as Head of Academy at BAALMUN. Another thank you goes to our Academic Assistant Ela Eraslan, who has been one of my closest friends since we were kids. To quote one of our favourite songs growing up, "I don't know what to do without you". Finally, I would like to thank my chairs Hüseyin Francesco Guida, my loving boyfriend who always holds my hand when it gets too tiring and Roni Turgut, another one of my closest friends who never fails to cheer me up and put a smile on my face. I love you all.

My hopes are in the way of you being enlightened and informed about the matter through this guide, as well as sparking an interest in the Olympics. To end off, please do not hesitate to contact me through my phone number 0541 650 79 68 or my e-mail ecekorpe2009@gmail.com if you have any further questions regarding the committee or MUN overall.

Best Regards,
Your Under Secretary General, Ece Körpe

Introduction to the Committee

The International Olympics Committee (IOC) is a prestigious non-governmental, not-for-profit sports organization headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland. Founded on June 23, 1894, by Pierre De Coubertin and Demetrios Vikelas, the IOC is responsible for the organization of the modern Summer, Winter, and Youth Olympic Games. The IOC serves as the governing body for National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and oversees the worldwide Olympic Movement, encompassing all entities and individuals involved in the Olympic Games. As of 2020, the IOC recognizes 206 NOCs. The IOC plays a crucial role in fostering collaboration among various stakeholders in the Olympic family. This includes National Olympic Committees, International Federations, athletes, Organising Committees for the Olympic Games, Worldwide Olympic Partners, broadcast partners, and United Nations (UN) agencies. The IOC supports success through numerous programs and projects aimed at enhancing the Olympic experience. The current president of the IOC is Thomas Bach, who has been instrumental in driving the committee's vision and mission forward.

History of the IOC

The IOC was created by Pierre de Coubertin, on 23 June 1894 with Demetrios Vikelas as its first president. As of February 2022, its membership consists of 105 active members and 45 honorary members. The IOC is the supreme authority of the worldwide modern Olympic Movement. The IOC organizes the modern Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games (YOG), held in summer and winter every four years. The first Summer Olympics was held in Athens, Greece, in 1896; the first Winter Olympics was in Chamonix, France, in 1924. The first Summer YOG was in Singapore in 2010, and the first Winter YOG was in Innsbruck in 2012. Until 1992, both Summer and Winter Olympics were held in the same year. After that year, however, the IOC shifted the Winter Olympics to the even years between Summer Games to help space the planning of the two events from one another, and to improve the financial balance of the IOC, which receives a proportionally greater income in the Olympic years. Since 1995, the IOC has worked to address environmental health concerns resulting from hosting the games. In 1995, IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch stated, "the International Olympic Committee is resolved to ensure that the environment becomes the third dimension of the organization of the Olympic Games, the first and second being sport and culture." Acting on this statement, in 1996 the IOC added the "environment" as a third pillar to its vision for the Olympic Games. In 2000, the "Green Olympics" effort was developed by the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Beijing Olympic Games. The Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics executed over 160 projects addressing the goals of improved air quality and water quality, sustainable energy, improved waste management, and environmental education. These projects included industrial plant relocation or closure, furnace replacement, introduction of new emission standards, and more strict traffic control. In 2009, the UN General Assembly granted the IOC Permanent Observer status. The decision enables the IOC to be directly involved in the UN Agenda and to attend UN General Assembly meetings where it can take the floor. In 1993, the General Assembly approved a Resolution to further solidify IOC–UN cooperation by reviving the Olympic Truce. The IOC received approval in November 2015 to construct a new headquarters in Vidy, Lausanne. The cost of the project was estimated to stand at \$156m. The IOC announced on 11 February 2019 that the "Olympic House" would be inaugurated on 23 June 2019 to coincide with its 125th anniversary. The Olympic Museum remains in Ouchy, Lausanne. Since 2002, the IOC has been involved in several high-profile controversies including taking gifts, its DMCA takedown request of the 2008 Tibetan protest videos, Russian doping scandals, and its support of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics despite China's human rights violations documented in the Xinjiang Papers. Detailed frameworks for environmental sustainability were prepared for the 2018 Winter Olympics, and 2020 Summer Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, and Tokyo.

History Of The Olympic Games

The Ancient Games

The Olympic Games date back to Ancient Greece. The Ancient Greek believed that Zeus, King of The Gods and God of Lightning, lived in Olympia, a worshipping ground in Greece. The city of Elis, merely a walk from Olympia, was where the first Olympic Games were held, with athletes from around Greece competing in the name of Lord Zeus.

For the geographical aspect, Olympia was a grand area with no purpose. “We know that they actually planted the stadium with wheat. It was a big empty space that wasn’t being used most of the time, so except in the run-up to the Games, when they got it all cleaned up, it was just a wheat field.” says Paul Christesen, Professor of Ancient Greek History at Dartmouth College, USA.

The first field was a track made possible with natural hills and roads. The existence of around 150 wells in this area point to the Games gathering many viewers and attention. “The Greeks were aggressively polytheistic,” says Christesen. “So while Olympia is a sanctuary to Zeus we know that he wasn’t the only deity worshipped at the site. There were over 70 different altars, you could sacrifice to pretty much anyone you wanted to.”

To study the philosophical and meaningful aspect of the Ancient Games, being an event of worship for the patron god, the Games were a representation of the Hellenic Polytheist religion and the pillars of the religion. Although there are a total of 8, the pillars that the Games represented were;

Kharia (Grace/Reciprocity): The reciprocal relationship with the Gods; giving without expectation and acting with gratitude.

Arete (Excellence/Virtue): Striving to reach one's highest potential in character and action.

Sophrosune (Moderation/Self-Control): Moderation in all things; self-control, balance, and wisdom.

Xenia (Hospitality): The sacred duty of hospitality, generosity, and courtesy toward guests and strangers.

Sophia (Wisdom): The pursuit of knowledge, understanding, and truth

This representation of religious pillars founded the main idea of the Olympics. A sports event in honour of peace, unity, goodwill and humanity.



The Modern Games

With the political climate in the late 19th century, of conflict and constant battle of dominance, sports were used as a tool for political power. This is when Baron Pierre de Coubertin pushed for the founding of a sports event representing peace and education and thus creating the Modern Olympics in 1894. At the heart of the Olympian idea was a Franco-Hellenic partnership uniting scholars, politicians and artists, recognised and less so, among whom, beside Pierre de Coubertin, were Collège de France professor Michel Bréal, writer Dimitrios Vikelas, numismatist Ioannis Svoronos, academician Spyridon Lambros and Swiss-born painter Émile Gilliéron Père. The Games were instilled with the original idea of a sports event representing unity, honour and peace among people, like in the Ancient Games.

Returning to the country it was born from, the first Modern Olympic Games were set to take place in Athens, Greece. Over 200 male athletes from 14 nations competed in 43 events, whilst 60,000 spectators came to watch. Some events had roots dating back to the Ancient Olympics such as running, wrestling and discus, whilst others were brand new like swimming, weightlifting and tennis. It also featured the first marathon to ever take place at an Olympic Games. The 25-mile route paid homage to the legendary Greek soldier who ran from Marathon to Athens in 490 BC to declare victory over the invading Persians. The race was the highlight of the Games and was won by Greece's very own Spyridon Louis. Whilst we have become accustomed to seeing the winner of an Olympic event receive a gold medal, they were not introduced until the 1904 games in St. Louis. In 1896, the winner was awarded a silver medal, an olive branch and a certificate, whilst the runner-up got a bronze medal and laurel branches. Third place got nothing.

After the success of the 1896 Games, they returned four years later in Paris. Women competed for the first time with English tennis player Charlotte Cooper becoming the first individual female Olympic champion.

The 1912 Olympics in Stockholm were the first to feature athletes from five continents. This inspired Baron Pierre de Coubertin to design the Olympic rings. According to de Coubertin, the five interlaced rings represent 'the five parts of the world now won over to the cause of Olympism'. The six colours present in the design reflect the colours found on the flags of all nations, with no exceptions.

In the years that followed, the modern Games grew with every iteration. The Olympic Village first appeared in the 1924 Games in Paris, the same year the Winter Olympics debuted at Chamonix in the French Alps. Featuring over 250 athletes from 16 nations, the Winter Games included events such as skating, ice hockey and ski jumping. Just like their summer counterpart, the Winter Games were a roaring success and continued to be hosted in the same year as the Summer Games until they were alternated in 1994. One week after the 1960 Summer Olympics

in Rome, the first-ever Paralympic Games were held and included events such as archery, snooker and swimming. The term 'Paralympic' originated from the 'parallel' structure of hosting these games alongside the Summer Olympics. Since 1896, only three Olympics have been cancelled, all due to the World Wars (1916, 1940 and 1944). During the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, 206 countries will be represented and combined for a total of 10,500 athletes. The Games have certainly come a long way since 1896.

IOC's Principle and Missions

The IOC aims to unite all people using the bonding effect of sports by; ensuring equality in all sports, promoting sportsmanship, ensuring Olympic events take place without room for flaws, ensuring the rights of athletes all over the world, embracing diversity, making participating in and viewing sports accessible for all.



Olympism is a philosophy of life,
which places sport at the service of humankind



As stated, the Olympic Games are a demonstration of humanity, dignity, peace, equality, honour, goodwill and freedom. The IOC aims for competition free from abuse and toxicity.

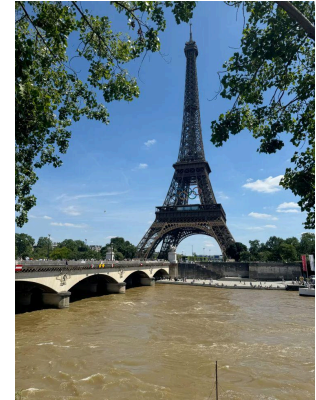
Introduction to the Agenda Item

The Paris 2024 Olympics have been very eventful for all people. Even if the Paris Olympics were more inclusive than ever, with half of the athletes being women and 4 trans athletes competing, controversies were raised by many sources; The Administration, -French Government, French Olympic Committee, Municipality of Paris-, The Olympians and the general public. Considering that there has already been debates on sports and athletes as well as problematic French politics, any slight inconvenience turned into a great scandal. After these events, the IOC's name was severely damaged. In this committee, ways to regain the IOC's international credibility, compensate for all people who were affected negatively during the Olympics, and respond to critics will be addressed.

Controversies and concerns surrounding the Paris 2024 Olympics

1. The Seine River being insanitary

The Seine River was a key venue at the Paris 2024 Olympics. The State spent around 1.4 billion USD in order to clean the River. As a way to prove to the world that the River was clean, Emmanuel Macron decided to swim in the Seine himself. After this decision by Macron, Parisians decided to collectively defecate in the Seine. They created a hashtag #JeChieDansLaSeine, meaning "I am sh**ting in the Seine" Even though not many people contributed, there were still some people who did. During the Olympics, images of filthy water of the Seine were being spread. During the Olympics, eight Olympians fell sick with E-coli from swimming in the Seine.



2. Displacement of homeless people

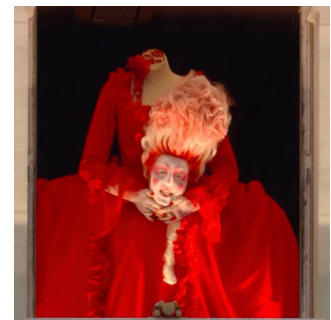
Hundreds of homeless people, including babies and children, were taken by buses surrounded by armed police and were driven out of the city as a part of the preparations for the Olympics. This group, which consisted mostly of African immigrants, were headed to the fringes of the city to live in temporary lodges until at least the end of the games. Even though some people were happy that they would have a roof above their heads, some were pessimistic about what was yet to come.

3. Opening

Ceremony

a. Marie Antoniette tribute backlash

Right after Lady Gaga's cabaret performance, French metal band Gojira performed a song with the visuals of Marie Antoinette decapitated and fireworks mimicking blood. The motivation



behind this performance was to make a tribute to -one of the greatest events in not only French but World history- The French Revolution. People saw this as less of a fun way to tribute to their history, and more of a mockery or a disgrace. They found the performance and the red fireworks representing blood to be terrifying.

b. The Last Supper Misunderstanding

At some point in the Olympics, we were met with an image of drag queens standing around a table. DJ Barbara Butch, a lesbian activist and DJ, standing in the middle of the table with a crown resembling Christian symbols. This image created the idea that this was a representation of The Last Supper. Contrary to the accusations, it is a tribute to the Dionysus Festivals in

Ancient Greece, where the Olympics had first started. After this event, the Olympics started facing backlash from rightists, Christians, conservatives and some parents with homophobic and transphobic views. This led to an international political debate regarding the place of queer arts in mainstream media, and surpassed the Olympics.



c. Bouquinistes being shut down

Bouquinistes are small wooden second-hand bookseller stalls and a tradition in Paris. They are a way of gaining money for people and they tie the aesthetics of Paris together, making them a staple of Paris. They make up the largest open bookmarket of Europe and play an indispensable role in the city's cultural and literary heritage. However, the state had decided to remove them to make room for spectators of the Opening Ceremony. After this decision, the owners of these booksellers had strict responses, they protested and they won. Bouquinistes stayed open throughout the Olympics with Macron declaring the bookstores are a: "living heritage of the capital".

4. France banning their athletes from wearing Hijab

The French government had banned women under 18 and mothers who guide children on school excursions, women in formal settings with strict dress codes and women in public spaces to wear any sorts of Islamic clothing on 11th of April 2011. Tragically, the bans did not stop there; the French Olympic Committee banned for Olympians on Team France to wear the Hijab, a kind of Islamic attire. Due to the lack of media literacy in people, a notion that the Hijab was banned for all Olympians was formed; which is false.

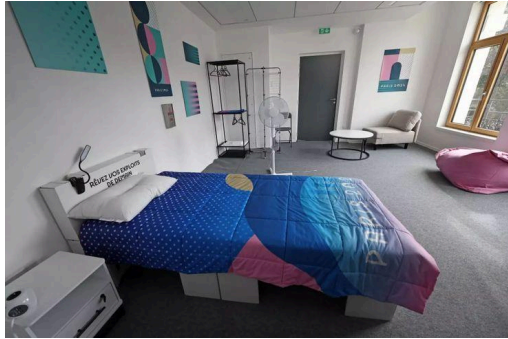
5. The inclusion of states with conflict

In 1992, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) moved to uphold Coubertin's legacy by renewing the tradition of the sacred truce associated with the ancient Olympics. The Olympic truce calls for the cessation of hostilities between warring nations during the Olympic Games and beyond. In Paris 2024, it was decided for Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete under the name of Individual Neutral Athletes. It was expected for Israel to be banned or the same be implemented on their athletes. To the contrary, Israeli Olympians were allowed to compete under the name of Israel. Russia's ban was rooted in the Russian Olympic Committee's takeover of regional Olympic bodies in Ukraine, as a result of the occupation. Responding to comparisons drawn between Russia and Israel, IOC chief Thomas Bach said: "The situation between Israel and Palestine is completely different." This created international tension. People referred to the IOC as "hypocritical" or "racist".

6. Olympic Village concerns

A video of an apartment in the USA Block of The Olympic Village taken by tennis player Coco Gauff went viral. It showcased cramped rooms, windows with no curtains and much more faults regarding the Olympic Village. This created an international debate on whether the Olympic Village is adequate. It was later on revealed that the Olympic beds were made of cardboard with

a thin mattress and painful to sleep on. These beds were later on infested with bedbugs. There was also the concern that the food was inedible. Many Olympians have stated the food being unappetizing and some Olympians felt nauseous from the food quality.



7. The debate with trans athletes and the Imane Khelif scandal

The discussion that was the breaking point of the 2024



Olympics was without a doubt “Trans Athletes”. Imane Khelif was the woman who ignited these debates this year. Medically, some trans athletes but not all, have an advantage over cisgender athletes.

Granted, trans athletes face the challenge of being a marginalized group. Trans athletes, and all trans people for that matter, face the struggle of their very identities and lives being at the constant risk. Many trans athletes carry the societal burdens of being trans, with their right to live being treated as a political debate. There is no exact proof which shows that trans athletes have advantages over cis athletes but in medical theory, there is a high chance of some trans athletes having biological advances depending on how further they have gone with their transition and their field of sport. Unless proven otherwise, it is only ethical for the IOC to act upon these medical theories. With these debates aside, the Imane Khelif scandal is much much deeper. Imane Khelif is a 25 year old boxer who represented Algeria in the 2024 Olympics. After a match with Italian boxer Angela Carini who forfeited after one punch from Khelif. She claimed that Khelif was in fact not a woman and she stated that it was a pain she had never felt before. Many spectators were outraged. Imane Khelif, who hadn't passed gender eligibility tests in 2023 is, contrary to tests, a cisgender woman. Even if this incident seems like a simple misunderstanding, it has a deeper meaning. Even though Khelif has masculine features, not all women have fully feminine features and not all men have fully masculine features and usually women and men are rarely thought to be trans. People believed that Khelif's scandal was related to society's defeminization of women of color (WOC). An idea that people of color being inhumane and women of color not being feminine in contrast to white women was an idea implemented in colonial times to the whole globe, including people of color. People also believed that the scandal was based on Carini's white privilege. As a user on social media platform X has stated “White woman tears have power”. People defend that if it had been the other way around, if the woman accused of being trans was white and the woman who is the accuser was a woman of color, it wouldn't have been as important or people would defend the

accused more. After these events, the Algerian National Olympic Committee (NOC) declared that Khelif was a cisgender woman and Khelif's father posted photos of Khelif's youth, where she is a very feminine young girl. Khelif was not the only woman accused of being trans was Lin Yu-Ting of Taiwan. Which proves people's point of women of color being accused more often right, as Lin is an Asian woman. After Khelif winning gold, Yang Liu winning silver, Janjaem Suwannapheng and Chen Nien-Chin winning bronze a video of them taking a selfie together was spread. People reacted to this video as athletes of color being more happy when there are no white supremacists.



8. Crime In Paris

For the Paris Olympics, security and law enforcement were ramped up. Even though the minister had stated that there had been a reduction in crime rates, crime was prevalent in Paris. Before the Opening Ceremony had commenced, a group of vandals attacked the railway. Even though there were no direct links to the Olympics, there is a theory that it was done in order to sabotage the Games. There were arson attacks and actions of vandalism. French officials have stated that the French police will quickly know who is responsible for these acts. Investigators have guessed that the perpetrators might be left-wing extremists. During the Olympics, at least 41 people have been convicted in France for crimes related to the Olympics since the start of the games in Paris, according to media reports. Authorities handled 181 cases related to the games between July 24 and Aug. 8, broadcaster BFMTV said, referring to the French Justice Ministry's figures. Among them, 72 people were sentenced, including 41 convicted to a jail sentence, and six people were also banned access to stadiums.

Those 181 cases involved athletes and tourists too, including an Australian hockey player, the same source added. A vast part (46%) of the cases were related to acts of voluntary violence, traffic infringement, and prohibited drone usage. Around 35,000 police and security officers had been deployed to ensure safety in Paris through the games.

9. Breakdancing Controversy

As an addition; the Paris Olympics had a new field of competition, breakdancing. This decision had multiple drawbacks. The first and superficial one being that breakdancing is a form of art, which cannot completely be judged with only athletic aspects. Another piece of controversy was the fact that the judges did not originate from African-American backgrounds in which this art form was founded. Even though all judges were experts in their field, it was still seen as disrespectful for the founders of the area to not be credited. This team of judges also led to

maybe one of the biggest controversies that shook the credibility of the IOC and French Olympic Committee, the Australian Delegation. The representative of Australia, Raygun performed in a manner in which the general audience, expert dancers and African-American people were astounded because of how low-quality her performance was. Many people believed that the judges were completely mistaken for letting her compete in the finals. The dancer faced tons of backlash. The main argument of people disagreeing with the inclusion of breaking was that a culture that has been appropriated from African-American people for years being included and the founders of this culture not getting the recognition and respect deserved being unethical. But a question is raised, does that mean all ethnic sports should be removed? Is everyone who performs badly at a field a mockery of that field?

10. Minor Events

Some events which weren't huge scandals as the others have also occurred. In a basketball game, the national anthem of Sudan was played instead of South Sudan. During the opening ceremony, North Korea was announced as South Korea and Türkiye was shown instead of Tunisia.

Key National Olympic Committees

1. French Olympic Committee

France was the host nation which means every organizational failure reflected on the French NOC and Paris 2024 organizers. France faced criticism over:

- *Security*
- *The Seine River pollution:*

The Seine River was heavily criticized due to unsafe bacteria levels. Triathlon and swimming events faced cancellations, postponements and athlete illness fears. This became symbolic of: Poor planning, environmental irresponsibility and athlete safety negligence.

- *Religious controversies:*

France prohibited French athletes from wearing hijabs under its secularism rules. This triggered international criticism because many believed it violated religious freedom, disproportionately targeted Muslim women and contradicted Olympic inclusivity values.

- *Homelessness displacement*
- *Athlete accommodations*

2. Russian Olympic Committee

Russia became the center of the Olympic political crisis because of

- *The invasion of Ukraine*

The IOC suspended the ROC after Russia incorporated sports organizations from occupied Ukrainian territories into the ROC structure, which violated the Olympic Charter.

- *previous state-sponsored doping scandals*
- *neutrality disputes*
- *accusations that the IOC was politicizing sports*

Russian athletes could not compete under the Russian flag, the Russian anthem or the name "Russia"

3. National Olympic Committee of Ukraine

Ukraine strongly opposed any Russian participation. For Ukraine, allowing Russian athletes was seen as legitimizing aggression, ignoring wartime suffering, violating the Olympic Truce. Ukraine repeatedly pressured the IOC for a complete ban and also accused IOC of inconsistency and weakness.

4. United States Olympic Committee

The US is one of the IOC's most powerful stakeholders because of; broadcasting money, sponsorships, athletic dominance, political influence. The US strongly supported Ukraine and restrictions on Russia. Important issues of the US Olympic Committee are

- *Gender Eligibility Controversies*

The Paris Olympics reignited debates about; biological sex, transgender participation, testosterone regulations, fairness in women's sports. The controversy surrounding women's boxing became massive online and politically explosive.

- *Human Rights and Inclusion*

The United States often positions itself as supportive of athlete expression, inclusion and diversity. However, critics accuse Western countries of selective morality.

5. Chinese Olympic Committee

China represents a major geopolitical counterweight to Western powers inside international organizations. China tends to support; state sovereignty, non-politicization of sports and cautious neutrality. Relevant Controversies of the Chinese Olympic Committee are

- *Doping Scrutiny*

Chinese swimmers became controversial after reports about previous positive tests resurfaced before Paris 2024.

This caused; accusations of unequal anti-doping enforcement, distrust toward WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) and tensions with Western anti-doping authorities.

- *Russia Question*

China avoided directly attacking Russia and often supports depoliticized sports frameworks. China may argue; sports should unite people & geopolitical conflicts should stay outside the olympics.

Questions To Be Answered

1. How can the IOC respond to these controversies?
2. How do these controversies affect future Olympic events?
3. How will the IOC ensure that these events don't occur again in future Olympic events?
4. What should be the IOC's approach on states with conflict?
5. How should the IOC approach the debate of trans athletes?
6. Should the French Administration be held accountable for any events?
7. What should be the consequences to NOCs which are contributing factors to these events?
8. How should the IOC handle the exclusion of Russia and inclusion of Israel?