

MEGA EVENTS IN “DIFFICULT” PLACES

Niels Nygaard

President, NOC Denmark
Vice President, EOC



THE CHALLENGES



International Olympic Committee:

Beijing 2008 / Vancouver 2010 / London 2012 / Sochi 2014 /
Rio 2016 / PyeongChang 2018

European Olympic Committee:

European Games: Baku 2015 / Minsk 2019 / Krakow 2023

Youth Olympic Festival: Sarajevo 2019

Others:

Athletics 2019 / World Beach Games 2019 / FIFA World Cup 2022

All in Qatar

PROS / CONS



Pros:

- Force country to open up
- Dialog with regimes
- Possibilities for Human Rights Organisations to put the spotlight on situation within a countries

Cons:

- Risk it legitimise a country, which lack in Human rights, and its regime
- It put athletes in a difficult situation

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE



Our philosophy is build on three main pillars:

1. To influence decisions, you need to have a seat at the table where decisions are made.
2. You can't fight every battle. To influence change you'll sometimes have to pick your battles. We aim to fight the battles where we make the most difference. Taking symbolic victories get you nowhere!
3. Withdrawing is not an option! If we don't occupy a seat somebody else will. We stay and fight rather than flee and hide.