**For Immediate Release**

**Call For Media to Register for Special Olympics World Winter Games**

***1000 Media From Around the Globe Expected to Cover the Games in Austria in March 2017***

**Washington DC, United States, 26 September 2016 –** WITH less than six months to go until the Special Olympics World Winter Games kick off in Austria, media registration has officially opened for the event!

More than 2,600 Special Olympics athletes from 107 nations will gather in Austria next March for the World Winter Games. This is the second time Austria has hosted the World Winter Games having also staged the event in 1993. The Games will feature nine different winter sports in venues located in the cities of Graz, Schladming and Ramsau. A spectacular Opening Ceremony at the Stadium Planai in Schladming on March 18th will signal the beginning of eight days of sporting competition.

It is expected that 1000 media professionals from around the world will attend and cover the biggest sporting and humanitarian event in 2017 – the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria. Interested parties can find out more about obtaining media registration at the following link: <https://sowwg-portal.eventdata-services.com/Media/>

All essential information on media accreditation for World Winter Games 2017 can be found via the following links:

[http://austria2017.org/de/news-medien/presse-medien/medien-registrierung (German)](http://austria2017.org/de/news-medien/presse-medien/medien-registrierung)

[http://austria2017.org/en/news-medien/presse-medien/medien-registrierung (English)](http://austria2017.org/en/news-medien/presse-medien/medien-registrierung)

Media registration will remain open until 31 January 2017.

**ENDS**

**About Special Olympics**

Special Olympics is a global movement that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sports, every day around the world. We empower people with intellectual disabilities to become accepted and valued members of their communities, which leads to a more respectful and inclusive society for all. Using sports as the catalyst and programming around health and education, Special Olympics is fighting inactivity, injustice and intolerance. Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics movement has grown to more than 5.3 million athletes and Unified partners in 169 countries. With the support of more than 1 million coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics delivers 32 Olympic-type sports and over 108,000 games and competitions throughout the year. Special Olympics is supported by many individuals, foundations and partners. To see a full list of partners click [here](http://www.specialolympics.org/Sponsors/Our_Partners.aspx).