

**SPEECH FOR WADA VICE-PRESIDENT, YANG YANG  
17<sup>TH</sup> ASIA/OCEANIA REGION INTER-GOVERNEMENTAL MINISTERIAL  
MEETING ON ANTI-DOPING IN SPORT  
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

**14-15 MARCH 2022**

Dr Alhosani – Madam Chair, Honorable Ministers and representatives of Governments from the Asia and Oceania regions, WADA Executive and Board Members joining from Australia, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, and Saudi Arabia, UNESCO representatives, together with representatives of National Anti-Doping Organizations, ladies, and gentlemen.

Hello dear colleagues!

Just like WADA President Witold Bańka and Director General Olivier Niggli I am delighted to address you today. This is a good opportunity for you as the Ministers responsible for sport to reflect on your role as leaders of the anti-doping movement in the Asia and Oceania regions.

My role as WADA Vice-President is to represent WADA and to be an advocate for the protection and promotion of clean sport, alongside Witold Bańka. And I am honored to do so. His experience in government and as a former athlete makes him an excellent President. As former athletes, we complement each other well. He is a former sprinter. I am a former speed skater. He still runs faster than me. I can skate faster than him. The good thing is that we are both heading in the same direction!

Over the years, the experience I have gained from my involvement with a National Federation, International Federation and National Olympic Committee has helped in my understanding of the anti-doping system. I am conscious of what works and what needs improvement. Although I retired from elite level speed skating a few years ago, I still think like an athlete. My first priority is to the athletes, and it always will be. That is why the engagement of the athletes in protecting clean sport and in WADA's activities is important to me.

As Vice-President of WADA, I also have a particular interest in the field of education. Providing better anti-doping education to athletes and athletes entourage is not the only way to protect clean sport. But it goes a long way.

Anti-doping education is based on the principle that athletes start in sport clean. And all the research shows that the vast majority want to remain that way. When we are young and dreaming of winning an Olympic or Paralympic medal, we do not think about breaking the rules to do it. Instinctively, we know we want to win the right way. It is vitally important to protect and support the dreams of athletes. We must equip them with the tools so that their mindset is that they will only succeed in an ethical way. When they look back on their achievements in the years to come, we want them to be able to enjoy that feeling. We don't want them to have to lie or make excuses for what they did or how they did it.

In the past two years, we at WADA have significantly strengthened our education activities.

The World Anti-Doping Code now includes education in the prevention of doping.

Education is an embedded part of the Code along with detection, enforcement, deterrence, and the rule of law. Education is a core component of any anti-doping program. This was reinforced on 1 January

2021 through the introduction of the first International Standard for Education. This important Standard sets out the requirements that all Signatories to the World Anti-Doping Code need to meet as it relates to education.

In addition, and in support of the new Standard, last year, WADA also improved its digital anti-doping learning platform known as ADEL. Via the new ADEL platform, we provide education and learning opportunities for the anti-doping community worldwide, in particular athletes and support personnel.

I am also happy to say that WADA's Tokyo Office is providing a series of anti-doping webinars for stakeholders in Asia and Oceania, including athletes, in cooperation with WADA Headquarters. Information about this can be found on WADA's website.

I urge you all to make the most of the ADEL platform. As well as the webinar series, it has a wide variety of useful resources, available in multiple languages.

Additionally, I wish to recognize the support by major NADOs and Governments around the world that host anti-doping seminars, symposia or provide training for capacity-building in the region.

Your commitment to provide anti-doping education in your country is also very important. So we thank you for that continued support and urge you to keep promoting that side of anti-doping as much as you can.

A central aspect of anti-doping is to do with working together. Nearly 23 years ago, WADA was set up as a collaboration between the public authorities and sport. It is unique in that sense. Throughout that time, that model has operated very well. But this collaborative relationship is only as strong as the various stakeholders allow it to be. The public authorities that you represent, are crucial to maintaining and strengthening the balance and spirit of cooperation that exists today.

As such, this kind of forum is extremely important to building a stronger global anti-doping community. WADA is here to help but also to be assisted in our commitment to clean sport. WADA cannot do it all alone. Neither can the public authorities nor the Sport Movement. It is only by working together that we will make progress. That is true, not just for

WADA, but for the Governments, Anti-Doping Organizations, National Olympic Committees, and other regional sporting bodies in Asia.

For Asia and Oceania to play their part in strengthening the global anti-doping movement, Governments, and sports federations from the regions must:

- Protect the health and well-being of their athletes;
- Jointly uphold athletes rights and responsibilities; and
- Collaboratively create a conducive environment for the development and implementation of strong and sustainable anti-doping programs.

In closing... I wish you well for the rest of your meeting.

Thank you