



**SPEECH BY OLIVIER NIGGLI, WADA DG  
WADA VIRTUAL FORUM WITH SPORTS MINISTERS IN THE  
CARIBBEAN REGION**

**12 OCTOBER 2022**

Greetings and thank you to Minister Grange for your opening remarks.

Thanks also to all the Governments that are represented here today. It is an impressive demonstration of commitment.

We know that protecting clean sport is complex and difficult, but it is a responsibility that we all share. Looking ahead, we have so many exciting opportunities and challenges that we will face. How do we further harmonize the system in an imperfect world? How are we going to ensure that everyone within anti-doping is held accountable for their performance, just as the athletes are? How are we going to push forward with innovation, with education, and with research to further protect clean sport?

We all have a role to play in responding to these questions and others. Those of us in positions of authority must lead by example, taking bold steps to tackle the issues with agility and innovation. We can expand the



reach and impact of anti-doping programs by enhancing capacity-building and knowledge-sharing across the world. We can engage and collaborate with each other to increase support, unity and understanding. We can raise awareness and shape a clear message that clean sport is the only sport we will accept and celebrate. And all the time we must engage and empower athletes so their anti-doping journey is easier, so they are part of the decision-making process, and so they can build healthy and sustainable careers in sport. This is how they will inspire the next generation of athletes to do the same.

It is very important to stress that you are not alone. WADA offers assistance at every turn. We are here to help Governments in building capacity and promoting clean sport. For example, WADA supports 12 Regional Anti-Doping Organizations, or RADOs, worldwide, including the Caribbean RADO and the PanAm RADO in this region.

The RADO program is all about strengthening the anti-doping program in countries that have limited resources and expertise. It is about promoting sustainability and accountability, while improving Code compliance and



program development, and implementing athlete engagement initiatives to build relations with that most important group of stakeholders.

RADO Testing Grants provide funds to each RADO. This enables member countries to conduct out-of-competition testing in their countries. Since 2013, we have provided US\$314,000 to the Caribbean RADO under this grant. In addition, RADO Staffing Grants provide support to RADOs to ensure they can employ full-time staff in their respective offices. For the Caribbean RADO we are providing a staffing grant that helps the RADO to employ two full-time staff, including the Executive Director who is in attendance today.

Increasingly, education is a vital pillar of clean sport. Education is the single most important element when we speak about the prevention of doping in sport. WADA's education and learning platform, known as ADEL, is a dependable, effective and – you will be glad to hear – free anti-doping educational solution. It is making a real difference as we continually update and add to the array of resources that are available there. We have noticed that take-up on this could be improved in this region, so we urge you, please make the most of this excellent education tool.



Speaking of education, WADA is committed to developing training programs and qualifications standards for those who work within anti-doping to improve professionalism and enhance the capabilities of the anti-doping workforce. The Global Learning and Development Framework was created to support this commitment, through specific, standardized training for a range of anti-doping roles to be developed and made available for Anti-Doping Organizations and other stakeholders worldwide within the anti-doping ecosystem.

The training is available to anyone working within the clean sport community to support and enhance practitioner capability, for the benefit of everyone. For more information, check out the WADA website or contact our Education Department. Again, this is a free resource that is available to your NADOs.

These programs are making a difference and can help to further develop anti-doping programs in this region. But we think more can be done, especially with respect to certain issues. For example, from what we can tell:

- There are not enough tests being conducted in this region. For example, in 2021 the Caribbean conducted only 15 out-of-competition tests under the Testing Grant, and so far in 2022 only 10 have been conducted. This is a concern for us. We need the individual countries to do more and commit to working more closely with the RADO.
- Not enough funding is going into anti-doping. In most countries in the Caribbean, the NOCs are acting as the NADOs and the governments are not investing much into anti-doping. We understand there are limited funds and many competing priorities. However, the advantages of clean sport are clear and, unfortunately, as President Bańka pointed out earlier, the drawbacks of doping are very damaging to the image of a country, the morale of sports fans and the health of athletes.

So, in conclusion, I invite you please encourage those who work within anti-doping in your countries to make the most of the tools offered by WADA.

Remind them of our constant availability to listen to their needs and act on their behalf to strengthen the program in your countries. That is how we



can best support your athletes – to give them the level playing field they deserve.

Thank you.