

135TH IOC SESSION

LAUSANNE: 10 JANUARY 2020

SPEECH BY WITOLD BANKA, WADA PRESIDENT

President Bach, members of the International Olympic Committee, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

I am thrilled to be here with you today for the first time in my new capacity as WADA President. Taking on this role is a huge honor for me; in particular, when considering the quality of those that have come before me. In this regard, I wish to acknowledge your IOC colleague, Sir Craig Reedie, for his many years of service to anti-doping and sport; and, for his generous guidance over the past months.

I am highly aware that the Agency's performance is very important to the future of athletes and to the future of sport. I can assure you that I plan to work very hard -- alongside WADA's new Vice President, Yang Yang and WADA Management; the Executive Committee, the Foundation Board and



all key stakeholders -- to ensure that we continue to lead a global anti-doping program that supports the values of clean sport at all times.

Given that I am just getting started and that this is an extraordinary session, my report on WADA's activities will be relatively short – touching upon a few key topics that I believe would be of interest to you.

World Conference on Doping in Sport

First of all, from 5-7 November 2019, WADA, and I in particular, was honored to welcome over 1,500 representatives from the sport movement, public authorities and anti-doping organizations -- along with athletes, other anti-doping experts and members of the media -- to Katowice, in my home region of Silesia, Poland for the fifth World Conference on Doping in Sport. Some of you were part of this historic event, which happened to coincide with WADA's 20th anniversary. It involved stakeholders taking stock of the evolution of anti-doping and engaging in high-level discussions about the global anti-doping program.

Of course, the main outcome of the Conference was approval of the 2021 World Anti-Doping Code and International Standards that will come into force on 1 January 2021.

The ExCo also endorsed the Athletes' Anti-Doping Rights Act, which is based on the Code and Standards; and, is intended to ensure that athlete rights within anti-doping are clearly set out, accessible, and universally applicable.

Importantly, following these approvals, a '[Katowice Declaration](#)' called upon all stakeholders in the fight against doping in sport:

- To reinforce their efforts to strengthen their cooperation in every possible way;
- To present a unified front to strive to eradicate doping in sport;
- To increase resources dedicated to protecting clean sport; and
- To bring all perpetrators to account, without limitation.

2021 Code and International Standards

As it relates to the Code and Standards that were approved during the World Conference following a two-year consultation period, WADA is grateful to all stakeholders for their high-quality feedback and to the drafting teams that delivered on the significant effort.

Since the World Conference, on 26 November 2019, WADA published the approved versions; along with, a [Development and Implementation Guide for Stakeholders](#), which summarizes matters of importance; in particular:

- the significant changes between the current 2015 Code and the 2021 Code;
- the significant changes between the current Standards and the recently approved Standards; and
- a summary of the key topics being addressed in the new Standards.

Also, on 13 December, the Agency published the [2021 Model Rules for Code Signatories](#), which will help National Anti-Doping Organizations, International Federations, Major Event Organizations and National Olympic Committees in drafting their new anti-doping rules in line with the 2021

Code. WADA encourages Signatories to draft and adopt a completely new set of anti-doping rules to ensure that they comply with the 2021

Code. The 2021 Model Rules will guide Signatories through this process.

Publication of the Model Rules launched WADA's 2021 Code Signatory Support Program, which WADA is developing and will implement in coordination with Signatories and other partners through 2020. The Program aims to assist Signatories in their implementation of the Code and the Standards, which of course are the mandatory components of the World Anti-Doping Program.

IOC FUNDING

Concerning funding, one very pleasant surprise that was announced on the first day of the World Conference was President Bach's declaration to make an additional IOC contribution to anti-doping of up to 10 million US dollars. This would include:

- 5 million US dollars to finance long-term storage of the samples collected by anti-doping organizations during the pre-Olympic Games testing periods for later re-analysis;



- 2.5 million US dollars towards WADA's science budget to build on the success of the ongoing research program, provided Governments of the world match that amount; and
- another 2.5 million US dollars to a joint program, with Governments, to further strengthen the successful work of WADA's Intelligence and Investigations Department.

I would like thank President Bach and the IOC, for these additional funds. As I announced in Katowice, during the World Conference, one of my priorities as the WADA President is to convince the leaders from both, the sports world and the governments to commit and contribute more to the fight against doping in sport. I think that WADA's budget is not in proportion with the expectations raised for the organization. If WADA is to safeguard clean sport, in a bold and courageous way, a sufficient budget must be secured for it. Therefore, we are always grateful to receive extra funding.

RUSADA COMPLIANCE

Regarding the Russian Anti-Doping Agency, as you would know, on 9 December 2019, WADA's ExCo unanimously endorsed

the [recommendation](#) made by WADA's independent Compliance Review Committee (CRC) that RUSADA be declared non-compliant with the Code for a period of four years.

The recommendation outlined the key facts, which mainly resulted from the reports of WADA Intelligence & Investigations and the external forensic experts. The reports concluded that the Moscow data was intentionally altered prior to and while it was being copied by WADA in January 2019. As a result, the RUSADA reinstatement conditions, which were agreed by the ExCo in [September 2018](#) were not fulfilled in that the Moscow data are neither complete nor authentic.

This was considered a 'Critical' reinstatement condition at the time under WADA's International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories because:

- it would enable the anti-doping community finally to resolve and draw a line under the allegations of a systematic conspiracy to dope Russian athletes;

- it would ensure that any Russian athletes who had tested positive could be punished; and
- just as importantly it would ensure that innocent Russian athletes could be cleared of suspicion.

As one would expect, the December decision was met by a lot of stakeholder and media commentary – much of it positive and some of it less so, which has been routine since the Russian Doping Crisis first emerged at the end of 2014.

While recognizing that reasonable people can disagree on such a polarizing topic, WADA remains convinced that it was the right recommendation; that the proposed consequences punish the guilty but not the innocent by being tough on the Russian authorities while protecting the rights of clean athletes around the world, including Russian athletes that can demonstrate that they are not involved in any way in the non-compliance. This includes (without limitation) that they are not mentioned in incriminating circumstances in the McLaren reports, there are no positive findings reported for them in the Moscow Laboratory database and no data

relating to their samples has been manipulated. It also includes that they have been subject to adequate in-competition and out-of-competition testing prior to the event in question according to WADA, in accordance with strict conditions to be defined by WADA (or CAS, if it sees fit), pursuant to the Compliance Standard.

As you would have seen, on 27 December, WADA confirmed that it had received official notice from RUSADA disputing the decision.

As RUSADA's notice was received within the stipulated 21 days, in line with the process outlined in the International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories, on 9 January, you may also have seen that WADA filed a formal notice of dispute with CAS, which will be resolved by the CAS Ordinary Arbitration Division. Third parties may intervene or apply to intervene as set out in the Code within 10 days of WADA's filing.

Further to the Code, any CAS decision in relation to the non-compliance, the proposed consequences and/or the proposed reinstatement conditions will be binding and must be recognized and enforced by all Signatories.

In the meantime, WADA is fielding numerous questions – mostly from international federations and major event organizations that are seeking clarification as to the decision’s potential impact; including, in particular, the impact on major events and the mechanism for determining which Russian athletes can be cleared as neutral.

As you see, we are not yet at the end of this saga; however, I am happy that we have been able to break the impasse with Russian authorities and move the matter along in a fashion that is proportionate and tough on those responsible, while protecting athletes that can prove they were not involved or impacted.

To close out the topic of Russia, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the fact that this would not have been achievable without the expert and considered recommendation of the CRC; as well as, the skill, hard work and determination of WADA Intelligence and Investigations Department and the forensic experts from the University of Lausanne to which we owe a debt of gratitude.

Allegations concerning International Weightlifting Federation

Still on the topic of compliance and investigations, you are of course aware and the IOC has commented on the 5 January documentary by German broadcaster ARD, which made a number of allegations concerning the International Weightlifting Federation.

As publicly stated, WADA's Intelligence and Investigations Department was already aware of the allegations and continues to pursue its enquiries regarding potential breaches of the World Anti-Doping Code. As it relates to the specific allegations regarding doping of weightlifters in Thailand, which were new and of great concern to WADA, the Agency is following up with the IWF, the Doping Control Agency of Thailand and other stakeholders to gain a clearer picture of the situation. And, we will take any action that may be warranted if breaches of the Code by individuals or Anti-Doping Organizations are established.

WADA Governance

Moving on...in November, there was a significant step forward in the ongoing process of strengthening WADA's governance structure – a process that was launched three years ago.

The Foundation Board adopted the first set of legal documents that will enable implementation of a good portion of the governance reforms agreed by the Board in [November 2018](#). At the May 2020 Board meeting, a small expert group will be proposed to monitor the effective implementation of these reforms and to formulate proposals for potential further reforms to ensure that WADA governance remains fit for purpose. Later this month, the ExCo will receive an update in this regard; will appoint the Standing Committee Chairs; and, will have a look at a skills mapping assessment for the ExCo; and 'independent' member profiles recommended by our new Nominations Committee.

Conclusion / Funding

In conclusion, I would just like to say a few more words regarding my commitment to you and to all stakeholders.

As the new WADA President, I will of course focus on good governance in line with my principles of transparency, responsibility, integrity and openness.

And this starts with the athletes. I have been very clear in promising my commitment to putting athletes' interests first – to ensuring that athlete voices are properly engaged in the anti-doping debate and that they have influence in shaping the global anti-doping program. As a former athlete, I can relate to the desire of athletes to be part of the conversation; and I believe WADA can do more in delivering engaging, tailored and timely communications.

More broadly, in recent years, WADA has laid the foundation towards ensuring that the Agency is fit for the future; most notably:

- Through development and implementation of a robust compliance monitoring program that includes the International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories;
- Creation of an internationally respected Intelligence and Investigations Department, which now includes 11 members
- Creation of a stand-alone Education Department with a new International Standard coming into effect in January 2021.
- Significant, ongoing, upgrade of WADA's Anti-Doping Administration and Management System, known as ADAMS, which involved the launch of Athlete Central in October, the Agency's new App that facilitates athlete compliance with Whereabouts rules under the global anti-doping program.
- Good progress in the areas of the Athlete Biological Passport and Therapeutic Use Exemption programs as well as identifying promising new scientific methods for detecting doping, such as dry-blood-spot analysis and artificial intelligence.
- Raising the quality of WADA-accredited laboratories is another major priority as we work collaboratively with them to ensure the highest standards of lab performance are maintained.



- And much, much more...

All of this is to be appreciated.

On the one hand, these last years have tested the resolve and unity of the global anti-doping community like never before but they have also served as a catalyst to strengthen the system. And, they have demonstrated the persistent challenges of doping in sports, which calls for a dynamic approach and the financial means to get there.

Later this month, WADA will be presenting to the ExCo its five-year strategy for 2020 to 2024, which has been developed based on consultation with athletes, Sport, Governments, and others key stakeholders. If all goes well, it will be approved and then endorsed by the Board in May.

In line with my election manifesto, within the strategy, you can expect in particular to see an enhanced focus on building a stronger network of National Anti-Doping Organizations as, today, there are still a fair number of



NADOs that simply do not have sufficient resources and therefore conduct very limited activity.

To address this problem, as reflected within the five-year strategy, I have proposed the creation of an Anti-Doping Solidarity Fund, which would be financed primarily by private sponsors. It is my view that there are many socially-responsible, private, organizations that would have an interest in enhancing their image by investing in the integrity of sport. WADA must take advantage of this opportunity quickly; and therefore, it is my intention that the Fund be operational in 2020. This is an ambitious timeline; and, I look to the IOC for support given the organizations extensive network.

Despite budgetary increases over the last years and other voluntary contributions, there is still a clear consensus that our available resources are not reflecting the industry and magnitude of the challenges that we are facing. Perhaps it is the competitor in me but... I choose to see this circumstance as motivating and beatable. As I embark on my presidency, I am challenged and energized by the prospect of working with the committed and capable WADA Management and staff; with the talented



and dedicated members of our governance structure; and, with a united global anti-doping community to bring the organisation to a new level that demonstrates the impact of our work, builds bridges and unites efforts to protect the integrity of sports globally.

After 20 years in the game, WADA is firmly established and has renewed vigour to continue working hard to meet and exceed the expectations of our partners. Much has been accomplished and much is left to do to secure athletes' confidence and trust in the system, which they so richly deserve.

Thank you for your attention.