

**Seventh Session of the UNESCO Conference of Parties to the
International Convention against Doping in Sport**

**Paris, France
30 October 2019**

Speech by incoming WADA President Witold Banka

UNESCO officials, honorable ministers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning

It gives me great pleasure to be here with you today in Paris to represent the World Anti-Doping Agency. While it won't be official until next week during the World Conference on Doping in Sport – which takes place in Katowice, Poland – and my term of office does not begin until 1 January, I stand before you as the next WADA President. I know the privilege of holding this position. I feel the responsibility it brings. And I will embrace the opportunity to continue WADA's mission that it has been pursuing since it was formed 20 years ago – on 10 November to be exact.

For two decades, WADA has been leading a collaborative worldwide movement for doping-free sport. In that time, WADA has developed, implemented and regularly reviewed the World Anti-Doping Code, which is almost universally accepted across all sports in all parts of the world. This alone is quite an accomplishment.

The Agency has also developed the global anti-doping system in many other ways, such as through: scientific and social science research; education and athlete outreach; compliance monitoring; accreditation of anti-doping laboratories; maintaining the List of Prohibited Substances and Methods; building the capacity of anti-doping organizations; and much, much more.

Strengthening the legislative framework

2019 is proving very important for the protection of clean sport worldwide. In addition to being the year of this seventh UNESCO Conference of Parties and of WADA's Fifth World Conference on Doping in Sport, 2019 is the year that UNESCO and WADA are setting out to strengthen the anti-doping rules that the Sports Movement, Governments and other stakeholders are expected to endorse and implement in the interest of athletes worldwide.

2019 is the year that State Parties, with the guidance of UNESCO, have the opportunity to cement their commitment to global anti-doping efforts, in particular by reinforcing accountability through a framework of consequences for non-compliant State Parties.

Next week, WADA's 2021 Code and International Standards will be presented for discussion by stakeholders and endorsement by WADA's Foundation Board and Executive Committee, respectively, before coming into force in January 2021. We are going to ask all stakeholders to support the strengthening of WADA's legislative framework – a framework that is the result of a two-year/three phase stakeholder consultation with, among others the National Anti-Doping Organizations, the Sports Movement, Governments, intergovernmental organizations and athletes.

WADA has been fortunate over the past two decades to have an important partner in UNESCO. The Convention remains a vitally important instrument in the protection of athletes and clean competition, and having an updated legislative framework for the sport world and anti-doping stakeholders is crucial.

But our responsibilities are not limited to defining the rules. We also have a clear responsibility to ensure that the rules are implemented by all. We have a responsibility to assist each other in developing programs and, in parallel, to continue strengthening our monitoring programs. We have the responsibility to ensure that our monitoring programs are as robust as they can be. And we also have the responsibility to ensure that if the rules are not implemented, we take action.

The focus of WADA's compliance monitoring program is on providing World Anti-Doping Code Signatories with assistance to meet their obligations. The bulk of our activities are designed to assist Signatories in being compliant. We do not jump to the sanctioning phase until a Signatory has been given opportunities to correct its non-conformities, but as you have seen over the past few years, the Agency is ready to act decisively when Signatories do not meet the requirements of the Code.

Governments are key stakeholders in the protection of clean sport. They can take action where the Sports Movement cannot. The UNESCO Convention commits Governments to action. These commitments are worthless without accountability. I fully support UNESCO's efforts to formalize this with the new actions that the organization has designed to achieve the purpose of the Convention.

As you know, we regularly discover serious breaches of the anti-doping rules. Through WADA's Intelligence and Investigations activities, we have unveiled some significant doping schemes. One in particular continues to test the credibility of the system that we have worked so hard to establish. The flipside, as with any crisis, is that it gave us the opportunity to learn and grow, such that today, the global anti-doping system is significantly stronger as a consequence.

Over the next three days, you will consider the approval of new operational guidelines and a framework of consequences for non-compliance with the Convention. The decision rests with you to approve them. For me, these are good first steps but I do not see them as the end of the road. They must continue to be strengthened. From WADA's perspective, it is very important that each Government honors its commitment to the Convention.

So, I strongly encourage this assembly and UNESCO to strengthen the implementation of the Convention, and to do so now. I strongly encourage the Governments, as valued partners to WADA, to take additional steps to fulfill their responsibilities – because the benefit sport brings to each of our societies is, without a doubt, worth protecting.

Education

With that, I would like to draw your attention to anti-doping education, which, more and more, is being flagged as a priority in the protection of clean sport. I am pleased to say that this year, WADA demonstrated this priority by carving education out as a stand-alone department in its internal structure and appointing a dedicated Education Director to the management team. Clean sport education is based on the principle that athletes start in sport clean and that most want to remain clean. It is underpinned by social science research that helps us understand the complexities of doping behavior and informs our decision making. It is a core component of any anti-doping program. And it will be strengthened via the 2021 Code, in particular through the introduction of a new International Standard for Education, which will be approved next week at the World Conference and come into effect on 1 January 2021.

I believe that this is an area where valuable progress can be made, and significant investment is needed. Importantly, education is one of the areas where Governments and sports must work together to deliver.

As Governments, you are proud of the success of your athletes and teams on the international stage... but not if it comes at the expense of their health and wellbeing. Research shows that promoting values such as fair play, integrity, responsibility and ethical decision-making among young people stays with them throughout their lives.

The children of today will be the athletes, coaches, parents, teachers, doctors, anti-doping practitioners and Government ministers of tomorrow. We must expose them now to the values that will positively shape sport in the decades ahead. This is the foundation, not only for ethical sporting behavior but also for character development and good citizenship.

We have a duty to help our young people learn this through values-based education programs – such as the Sport Values in Every Classroom partnership launched yesterday, which was developed by WADA, UNESCO, the Agitos foundation, the International Fair Play Committee, the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education and the Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage. This is an excellent cross-curricular education resource dedicated to helping teachers play their part in teaching sport values to eight to 12-year-old students – creating principled athletes by building solid citizens. Governments are vital to the introduction and ongoing support of effective education programs in schools and sports clubs. On many levels, this is well worth our attention and investment. I urge you to share this resource with your National Anti-Doping Organizations, National Olympic Committees, National Paralympic Committees and Government colleagues in Ministries of Education and urge them to implement this resource. I equally urge you all to commit to reviewing the funding that your National or Regional Anti-Doping Organizations allocate to education. With the new International Standard for Education, we must use the opportunity this brings to invest more in prevention and education.

For me, it's all about **preserving, promoting and protecting**. Together we can work to **preserve** the spirit of sport; to **promote** the values of clean sport that we are all so passionate about and ultimately, to **protect** the athletes and citizens we serve.

Anti-Doping Organizations and law enforcement

As it relates to protection, WADA is often asked if we support the introduction of legislation to combat doping in sport. For sure, the cooperation between Governments and sports bodies can be improved further and WADA favors governments using their legislative powers to protect clean athletes in the fight against doping.

We particularly welcome legislative measures to facilitate the sharing of information between Anti-Doping Organizations and law enforcement agencies in areas of mutual interest; and also, when it comes to the protection of whistleblowers. We have seen the benefits of this policy recently with a number of successful investigations involving WADA's Intelligence and Investigations team, such as the International Biathlon Union investigation, Operation Aderlass and Operation Viribus. WADA has a strong working relationship with a number of national and international law enforcement agencies, including INTERPOL.

As a result, development of a draft model legislative framework by UNESCO is a project that WADA sees favorably. If State Parties request the Bureau to further explore development of a model legislative framework, we believe that sharing of information and protection of whistleblowers should be given priority as they would undoubtedly assist anti-doping investigations in sport worldwide.

In my view, all State Parties should consider strengthening their own legislative frameworks in these areas for the good of clean sport.

Conclusion

As I prepare for my term as President of WADA, I feel very strongly that we must move towards inclusion, versus separation; cooperation, versus division. We must listen to others as we lead this collaborative movement.

As a former 400m runner at the international level, I will continue WADA's efforts towards further including the voices of athletes. We recognize that they have a unique insight and an important role to play in shaping the future of clean sport. We must strengthen their involvement in the decision-making process



so that athletes, Governments, the Sports Movement and others within the anti-doping community can move the right way together into the next two decades and beyond.

Thank you.