



## **WORLD CONFERENCE ON DOPING IN SPORT**

**5 NOVEMBER 2019 – KATOWICE, POLAND**

**ADDRESS BY SIR CRAIG REEDIE, WADA PRESIDENT**

**20 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES**

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Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the fifth World Conference on Doping in Sport here in the Polish city of Katowice. Thank you to President Duda and his government for the invitation to stage this important conference in Poland for the first time and to Mayor Marcin Krupa from the City of Katowice for the warm welcome we have received. I look forward to hearing from them shortly, and also from representatives of the Sports Movement, Governments and UNESCO.

Although the host city for this World Conference was decided long before Witold Banka – former 400m runner and Polish Minister of Sport and Tourism – won the nomination to become the next President of WADA, it is fitting that this week he will be elected to take over the role in his home country. I have no doubt that he – and the incoming Vice-President Yang Yang, who is an Olympic gold medalist in short track speed skating – will continue to progress the good work of WADA as it fulfills its mission to lead a collaborative worldwide movement for doping-free sport.

Next week, 10 November 2019, the World Anti-Doping Agency will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It has been two decades of progress, improvement and, of course, plenty of complex challenges. It is remarkable to think of how far WADA and, by extension, the global anti-doping program has come.

Back in 1999, there was still no one single answer to tackling doping in sport. Every sport had different rules and countries had different laws so an athlete could, for example, be banned in one nation or sport but be able to compete in others.

The anti-doping movement as we know it today was the result of crises in sport, in particular the Festina cycling scandal in 1998. At the time, doping started to be seen as the most serious threat to the values of sport.

Accordingly, WADA was formed in 1999, at the first World Conference on Doping in Sport and started operating later that year as a unique 50-50 partnership between the Sports Movement and Governments of the world.

What followed quickly in our first few years was the delivery of the first edition of the World Anti-Doping Code, harmonizing anti-doping policies, rules and regulations within sport organizations and among public authorities around the globe. Together with the various International Standards, the rules are laid out for key areas such as:

1. The List of Prohibited Substances and Methods
2. Therapeutic Use Exemptions

3. Testing and investigations
4. Accredited laboratories
5. Protection of privacy and personal information
6. Code compliance by Code Signatories and the process of monitoring their compliance.

And, in addition, shortly we will be adding education and results management to the list of Standards.

In parallel, the UNESCO Convention Against Doping in Sport provides public authorities with a legal framework through which they can address specific areas of doping that are outside the domain of the sports movement. The Convention was written in record time in 2005 and is now ratified by 188 countries, covering around 99% of the world's population.

Since the early days, the Code and the International Standards have been revised three times. The third and latest version will hopefully be approved this week, following a two-year exhaustive consultation period with all stakeholders. It will come into force on 1 January 2021 and it shows how important it is that the rules are not static but evolve depending upon experience, available medical and scientific data, as well as sporting and societal changes.

Overall, the harmonization of this wide range of activities across all sports in all countries has been a remarkable success. There are not many aspects of modern life that have achieved the level of international and cross-sport cooperation as anti-doping. It is a tribute to the commitment of athletes, Governments, International Federations, laboratories, National and Regional Anti-Doping Organizations and National Olympic Committees, as well as the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and other major event organizers that the system works as well as it does.

Of course, that is not to suggest it is perfect. Clearly, there have been times when elements within the system have failed to live up to expectations. The worst case of system failure, certainly in my time as President, if not in the entire history of the anti-doping movement, has been with Russia.

The revelations exposed by the WADA-led investigations of Richard Pound and Richard McLaren forced a sea change in attitude around the globe. Confirmation of that unprecedented level of cheating left the sports world in no doubt of the scale of the job facing WADA and has re-awakened all stakeholders to the importance of sports integrity.

Since then, with help from partners, WADA has helped rebuild the Russian Anti-Doping Agency into the fully operational National Anti-Doping Organization it is today, ensuring that the anti-doping program could resume effectively across that massive and sports-

passionate nation. With Russian athletes and teams competing internationally in nearly all sports, leaving RUSADA as non-compliant indefinitely, served no one's interests except the cheats.

The WADA Executive Committee's decision of September 2018 to reinstate RUSADA after three years of non-compliance, under strict conditions, broke a long-standing impasse between the Agency and the Russian authorities. By imposing those conditions, we now have gained access to the data and samples contained within the Moscow Laboratory that was, for so long, out of reach. It is currently being used to bring more cheats to justice with dozens of cases now proceeding through the various judicial channels. Evidence – uncovered by WADA – that a portion of the data may have been manipulated is still being investigated and sparked a fresh compliance procedure being brought by WADA in September 2019 against RUSADA. It should be noted that this latest procedure was brought under the legal framework of the new International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories, which was not in force when RUSADA was first declared non-compliant in 2015.

Clearly, we have all faced pressure to deal with the Russian situation effectively. Athletes need to know they are being protected and they expect us – WADA and the anti-doping community – to step up the fight. In short, they expect the rules to be enforced and that is exactly what WADA is doing.

As we look forward, while WADA's achievements have been considerable, this is no time to be resting on our laurels, and there will always be those who try to destabilize the anti-doping system.

Harmonization through the World Anti-Doping Code, the International Standards and the UNESCO Convention is a constant battle. Not all sports, not all countries have the same priorities when it comes to anti-doping and, of course, they do not have the same budgets either, and that can affect the level playing field we want to provide for all athletes.

Equally, compliance is an ongoing challenge. In particular, monitoring all Signatories to ensure that each -- which are tasked with enforcing the rules on the field and providing anti-doping programs -- deliver a certain standard takes up an increasing amount of WADA's time and resources.

Similarly, WADA-accredited laboratories must be held to the highest standard of excellence. When a sample arrives for analysis, athletes need to know that it will be treated professionally and consistently.

One of WADA's great success stories in recent years has been our Intelligence and Investigations Department and how it cooperates with local and cross-border police forces, including INTERPOL. But these cases can be very complex, time-consuming and expensive. Clearly, we do not have the bandwidth to launch as many full

investigations as we would like. As with the Agency in general, WADA's Intelligence and Investigations Department constantly runs on full capacity and with limited resources. So inevitably there are gaps here that we would very much like to fill. In that regard, we are dependent on some anti-doping organizations and law enforcement agencies to help, and we are always on the look-out for fresh income streams that we can invest in this crucial and proven tool.

Education is another key area of our work. And you, our stakeholders agree. A poll conducted at the WADA Annual Symposium in March, revealed that increasing research-led education was the top priority and, importantly, the most likely to make a difference for clean sport. This is why I am proud of what WADA, together with its stakeholders have managed to achieve with the International Standard for Education. This is the most significant advancement of education policy since the inception of the global anti-doping program. I believe, and hope, that it will not take another 20 years for us, here in this room, to establish national and international education policy and programs that ensures athletes and those around them have access to the education they need. We cannot continue to take clean athletes for granted – it is not acceptable that athletes inadvertently break the anti-doping rules simply because they didn't know. We must invest more in prevention, using education as our leading strategy. As WADA's new, stand-alone Education Department establishes itself, and its future role, I look forward to seeing this part of our anti-doping system develop further.

These are just a few examples that demonstrate WADA's achievements over these two decades, while demonstrating that that we still have plenty of work ahead of us and that we can learn and grow from our experiences of the past. What the Russian doping scandal taught us above all was that, when it erupted, we were not equipped to deal with such a large-scale program of cheating. The key for WADA is to continue listening, learning and implementing ever more effective strategies and processes in collaboration with our partners. That is what WADA is doing and will continue to do under the leadership of my successor, Witold Banka.

With the energy of everyone – athletes, governments, sports, laboratories, National and Regional Anti-Doping Organizations, and all those interested in the integrity of sport – I have no doubt that will happen and that WADA will continue to be at the forefront of protecting clean sport for the next 20 years and far beyond.

Thank you.