



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR SPORTS INTEGRITY

13 April 2015, 2-5 p.m.

Lausanne Palace Hotel, Switzerland

IOC President Opening Remarks

Thank you to everyone gathered here for your participation at the first International Forum for Sports Integrity.

I would like to offer a very warm welcome first of all to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjorn Jagland. I would also like to thank him very much for taking the initiative with the Council of Europe to launch a convention to help us fight match-fixing, irregular betting and any kind of manipulation and related corruption.

With you I would also like to welcome the representatives of governments that are with us, and governmental organisations, the betting companies and regulators, and the representatives of the Olympic Movement who are present here to show their commitment in this fight for sports integrity.

The fact that we are meeting here today to not only talk about plans for the future but what we have already accomplished is thanks to my predecessor as IOC President, the Honorary IOC President, Jacques Rogge. I would like to thank him and acknowledge his efforts in this respect because he took initiatives already in 2006 when not so many people were yet aware of the challenges we may face one day with regard to match-fixing and irregular betting.

With some of you, we were meeting in 2006 in this very room, starting to discuss what sport and national authorities can do together to ensure the integrity of sport. And ensuring the integrity of sport means protecting the clean athletes. This is what it is about. It is very important to sanction the people to help hold them responsible for infringements on the integrity of sports. The ultimate goal of all this is to protect the clean athletes and to give them, as far as we can, fair competition. This is why the athletes are here at the heart of everything we are doing. The clean athletes are the ones who deserve all our attention and protection.

When it comes to the fight against manipulation and related corruption, sport needs the help and cooperation of governments and governmental authorities and other stakeholders much more than in any other area. When it comes to the other big threat to sport, doping, we can do a lot. We have urine tests, blood tests, we have strict liability, we have whereabouts information, we have an international arbitration system. When it comes to match-fixing we have nothing like this. You cannot detect match-fixing and corruption by taking a blood test. You cannot apply liability. We need the help and assistance of governments and police authorities who have much more power and much more information and more possibilities than sport can have. This is why your

presence here is so important. This is why the IOC, in the framework of our Olympic Agenda 2020 reforms, is focused very much on integrity and credibility. With regard to the credibility of sports organisations, we have taken a number of measures in the framework of Olympic Agenda 2020 and I can tell you that four months after the approval of Olympic Agenda 2020 all the measures concerning good governance and transparency with regard to the IOC have not only been approved but they have been implemented. We are already working on the basis of this new system of good governance.

As far as the credibility of sports competition is concerned, we have also made some significant efforts. We have allocated a fund of an additional USD 20 million for the protection of the clean athletes. Half of the money is going into better research in the fight against doping. We have asked the governments who are sharing this responsibility with us in WADA to match the USD 10 million. To date we have commitments of USD 5.9 million from different governments. We hope that these commitments will turn into payments by the deadline of the end of March next year.

I can also tell you that the IOC will make this USD 10 million available regardless of the attitude of the governments. The IOC will pay its full contribution for this fund because we need to have a look into anti-doping testing systems, without getting into too much detail, but you know the deeper challenges we have -- the questions being asked by many courts and human rights lawyers how far we can go with this system. How can we ensure proportionality with sanctions not only with regard to the sports movement but when governments want to impose on top of that criminal sanctions on athletes? The question of proportionality of the sanctioning system becomes even more delicate and risky and in order to address these and other issues we have to make efforts that could make testing less onerous and more respectful of the individual human rights of the athletes.

The other USD 10 million is going towards what we are here today to discuss – the fight against irregular betting and related corruption. We have already started allocating some of this money on a prevention programme we are organising together with INTERPOL with whom we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, and we are very happy that we can start with this prevention programme very soon.

We have also within the IOC established an Integrity Betting Intelligence System (IBIS) that reports to Pâquerette Girard Zappelli, our Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer at the International Olympic Committee. This is a system that involves all the International Federations, the betting regulators and others.

I am also very happy with today's meeting as a starting point for the establishment of the IOC Integrity and Compliance Hotline where athletes and everyone concerned can turn to the IOC. They can serve as whistle-blowers and serve as witnesses with their suspicions about any kind of infringement. This hotline is linked to the IBIS system and guarantees the secrecy of information – we will even accept anonymous indications.

These are the actions and reforms we undertook and we hope very much that we are in line with the convention and efforts in integrity. On the basis of these actions on the sports side, we can enhance and enforce our cooperation to protect the clean athletes from manipulation and corruption.