



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

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President

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Thank you for the invitation to join you here at the second high-level meeting of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport. As this year comes to an end, we are looking forward to the Olympic Year 2020.

In a few months' time, more than half of the world's population will follow the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

The Olympic Games are the only event that brings the entire world together in peaceful competition. At the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the world will see athletes from all 206 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team united.

These 11,000 best athletes of the world are competitors in sport, but at the same time, they are living peacefully together under one roof in the Olympic Village.

At the Olympic Games, there is no discrimination, everyone respects the same rules, we are all equal.

In this way, the Olympic athletes are sending an important message to the world: yes, it is possible to compete with each other, even for the highest prize, but to live together peacefully.

As UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said so eloquently: "If there is a true symbol of peace in our world, it is the Olympic spirit."

This is the Olympic message to all humankind.

Our ability to send this message rests on our credibility and integrity. In the words of Ban Ki-moon, the former UN Secretary-General and now Chair of the IOC Ethics Commission: "Sport is a unique vehicle for peace, but it can only be efficient if it has credibility."

For this reason, strengthening the credibility and integrity of sport is the key pillar of our Olympic Agenda 2020 reform programme, the other pillars being sustainability and youth.

With this Olympic Agenda 2020, the IOC has turned the page with regards to governance reform and the fight against corruption. We walk the talk.

The IOC has already implemented all good governance measures called for under Olympic Agenda 2020 to safeguard the integrity of sport organisations and competitions. All of our accounts are audited according to the International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) which is a much higher standard than we are legally required to have. We publish an annual report where we give full transparency with regards to all the activities of the IOC and all our revenues and expenses. We have a well-respected Ethics Commission, chaired by the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, which is monitoring all our activities.

We have also implemented wide-ranging reforms with regards to the organisation of the Olympic Games. For example, we are giving full transparency to the contract with the Olympic hosts. This contract now includes a specific section to ensure preventive anti-corruption measures in all activities related to the Olympic Games.

Olympic Agenda 2020 has also revolutionised the candidature process for selecting hosts of Olympic Games. Concretely, we have established two Future Host Commissions, for the summer and winter editions of the Games respectively, to oversee the interest in hosting future Olympic Games. In doing so, we have established a permanent, ongoing dialogue with prospective hosts.

This is a clear break with the past, when bidding for the Olympic Games was like applying for a franchise. The major reason for this reform was to counter the risk for corruption that the former bidding process held.

With the Olympic Agenda 2020 reforms, we have changed. We have put in place a robust system of governance. We have stronger rules in place to prevent misconduct as well as to swiftly sanction such behaviour. On the other hand, we know that these new rules do not make us immune. No organisation in this world is immune in this respect. At the same time, with these reforms we sanction any wrongdoing from before the adoption of Olympic Agenda 2020 much more effectively.

Whenever such cases from before these reforms arise, we take action. In this respect, the case of the former IAAF President Lamine Diack illustrates our determination very well. As soon as he was charged for suspicion of corruption, we immediately suspended him, even though he was only a non-voting Honorary Member of the IOC.

But we do not leave it at that. We want to have full clarity on all the circumstances of a case. This is why the IOC in cases like this always undertakes to join the criminal procedure as an

Interested Party. In this way, we want to contribute to justice and then hopefully close this chapter from the past and move on with our new approach.

The Olympic Agenda 2020 reforms are important not only for the IOC but for the entire Olympic Movement. As the leader of the Olympic Movement, the IOC is calling on all other stakeholders to follow our lead when it comes to setting a new standard with regards to good governance and fighting corruption. We are a values-based organisation. We stand for the values of excellence, respect and fair-play. In this sense, we have the double-duty to uphold good governance and integrity in everything we do.

Corruption is a criminal activity which affects all areas of society, including business, politics and sport. In sport, we have our own clearly defined areas of responsibility. What we can do and what we are doing is to uphold good governance within our area of responsibility.

While this is essential, it is not enough to tackle corruption. We know we cannot win this fight on our own. We need the support of governments when it comes to anti-corruption legislation and law enforcement.

This is why IPACS is so important. It brings together all actors that have a stake in fighting corruption in sport. This includes governments, law enforcement authorities, and intergovernmental organisations like UNODC, the Council of Europe or OECD, as well as sport organisations. We all together have an integral role in IPACS and I would like to thank all of you for your great support and cooperation. This is so important because only by cooperating, we can collectively leverage the expertise and authority of each of the partners, while respecting and supporting each other's areas of responsibility.

When it comes to fighting corruption and criminal activity in sport, we in sport only have the disciplinary mechanisms at our disposal which relate to the governance of sport. With IPACS, we now have a platform where we can benefit from your law enforcement capacity. And likewise, through IPACS, we can support you, the government and law enforcement authorities, with regards to investigating criminal activity in the very specific environment of sport. In this way we can mutually benefit from each other's expertise and we can complement our respective areas of responsibilities. Only if we stand united, we can win the fight against corruption in sport. With IPACS we are taking this united stand to safeguard the integrity of sport.

In this way IPACS, launched only two years ago, is already making a difference. IPACS allows us all to work together in an effective and pragmatic way while avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy. To do so requires mutual trust and respect from all partners and stakeholders. It is precisely this mutual trust and respect that is the strength of IPACS.

With IPACS, we have built a strong foundation and effective framework to tackle corruption in sport. But since through partnerships you can always make the results bigger than the mere sum of parts, I would like to see even more governments joining IPACS. They should be encouraged by the great progress we have already achieved together and by the trustful partnership we have built.

I am confident, that with all our active contribution here today, we can even strengthen our united stand for the integrity of sport.

In this spirit, I wish us all lively discussions and a fruitful conference.