



International
Olympic
Committee

The President

WADA World Conference on Doping in Sport

Busan, 2 December 2025

It's great to be here with all of you today — people who share the same passion for sport, and the same determination to protect it. For me, it's personal. I am an athlete, and I remember standing on the starting blocks, knowing that I had trained clean, knowing that everything came down to that final moment. What made it meaningful wasn't only the competition — it was the trust that everyone next to me had earned their place the same way.

That trust is what gives sport its magic. It's what brings people together across all our differences. And it's what every clean athlete deserves.

We're all here because we share the same mission: to protect the integrity of sport and the athletes who make it possible. This is not easy. The challenges are complex — new substances, new technologies, new pressures. But what we must never change is our commitment to fairness, honesty, and clean competition. This shared commitment — our shared promise to protect clean athletes — is what unites us across organisations, roles, and borders.

Each of us in this room has both rights and big responsibilities. WADA has the responsibility to set clear global anti-doping rules and ensure that they are respected. NADOs have the responsibility to implement and enforce those rules fairly and independently. Public authorities have the vital role to play — by supporting their NADOs; providing the right legal frameworks; giving them the resources to act; and living up to their commitments made under the UNESCO Anti-Doping Convention. The Olympic Movement — we, too, share rights and responsibilities to always support the Code and uphold it. And to advocate always for clean sport.

When every partner delivers, the system as a whole becomes stronger — and trust grows. But when one part fails, the credibility of the entire community suffers. This is why

cooperation — built on mutual respect and shared accountability — is the only way forward.

Our next milestone will be the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games— the first Games of my presidency. These Games will be an opportunity for all of us to show the world what our promise looks like: clean competitions that athletes can trust, and performances that fans can believe in and be inspired by.

WADA, the ITA, and all our partners are already working hand in hand to make this happen. But beyond the systems and procedures, what matters most is the shared spirit that drives us — fairness, unity, and integrity. If we can carry that spirit to Milano Cortina and beyond, we will not only protect clean athletes; we will also protect the credibility and future of sport itself.

When we work together, we achieve real progress. The collective effort that has gone into the new World Anti-Doping Code is a great example of this. Over the past year, it has brought together voices from across the anti-doping community — governments, NADOs, sports organisations, and athletes — all contributing to make the movement stronger. The new Code is the result of a long and inclusive consultation – and WADA deserves real credit for leading this process with openness and collaboration.

The athlete-centred consultation stood out in particular. Athletes from every corner of the world — through the WADA Athlete Council, federations, NOCs, and athlete commissions — have made their voices heard. Their feedback is shaping meaningful progress: clearer rules, stronger education, and greater accountability for those who influence athletes' choices — their entourage. This stronger focus on the entourage is perhaps one of the most important steps forward.

We all know that athletes are not always the only ones responsible when doping occurs. Too often, they are pressured or enabled by those around them — coaches, doctors,

agents, or officials. This is not just an issue of fairness; it is about the health, safety, and wellbeing of athletes. Sometimes, it is a matter of life and death.

We must encourage athletes who have been pressured into doping to come forward — to show courage by speaking out and helping us expose those who exploit them. This is how we protect others from suffering the same fate.

We need zero tolerance for anyone who enables doping. Take the example of a doctor found complicit in a doping case: as things stand, the only action we can take is to send that doctor home from the Games and exclude them from future editions. But when that person goes back home, they can simply continue their nefarious work without consequence. That cannot be acceptable. It sends the wrong message — to athletes, to parents, and to society. This is why we need the support of governments. Only public authorities have the power to take real, deterrent action — to ensure that anyone who betrays the health and trust of athletes faces serious consequences.

We all share the same responsibility: to build an environment where athletes can trust that they can compete safely and fairly. And that can only happen when we act together, as one team – as one global community.

But we have to be honest with ourselves: this unity has not always been there in recent years.

Too often, we've seen energy spent on division, finger-pointing, and competing agendas. It has been difficult to watch this divide within our community. There is only one fight that we should be fighting — and that is the fight against doping. But instead, at times, we have been turning on each other. The only people who benefit from this disunity are the drugs cheaters.

For the sake of the athletes, we need to move past that.

Every single person in this room cares passionately about protecting clean sport. Of course, we will disagree at times, but those differences must never get in the way of our vital objectives.

If we truly want to be one global anti-doping community that athletes can trust, we have to put our differences aside and pull in the same direction. It's too easy to point out what others are not doing well enough. The real challenge — the real opportunity — is to be honest about our own weaknesses, to lift each other up, to learn from the past, and to work together as one united team — for the athletes who depend on us to protect them, to protect their right to clean competition.

We share the same purpose: to protect athletes, to uphold our values, but more importantly to ensure that the next generation continues to believe in sport. What matters is that we keep talking, listening, and challenging each other with mutual respect — always remembering that the next generation of athletes is watching us and holding us accountable.

So if I have one main request this evening, it is: let's promise to focus our energy on what truly matters. Let's put the athletes first, let's work as one global team, and make sure that our actions match our words.

Because clean sport is not just a policy — it's a promise. A promise to every athlete who dreams of competing on a level playing field, and to every young person who believes in the values that sport represents.

Let's make sure that we honour this promise — and that we do it together.