



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Thomas Bach
President

**Speech at the IOC Session
Rio de Janeiro, 2 August 2016**

Everyone knows what decisions we have taken to address the difficult situation following the publication of the McLaren report regarding the allegations and revelations about doping in Russia.

The Report to the Session is in your files. The annex to the Report includes:

- Full text of the Executive Board decision on the participation of Russian athletes in the Olympic Games Rio 2016
- Full text of the Olympic Summit declaration in June

The decision of the IOC Executive Board was unanimous and it followed the principles of the Olympic Summit, which were also unanimously agreed with all stakeholders.

We took provisional measures to sanction those responsible for this system. The IOC will not grant any accreditation to the Olympic Games for any officials from the Russian Ministry of Sport, from the Minister down.

We created a Disciplinary Commission under the Chairmanship of Mr Guy Canivet, a former member of the French Constitutional Court, to accompany the further investigation by Professor McLaren, to shed full light on the allegations and to offer the Russian side the possibility to present their case. Following the results of this Disciplinary Commission, more sanctions and actions may follow.

Furthermore, we launched a full inquiry into all Russian athletes of the Olympic Winter Games Sochi 2014 under the chairmanship of Denis Oswald and we will not hesitate to sanction all athletes and officials implicated.

The McLaren report addressed the question of a system of doping. The IOC had to address the more difficult question of consequences for individual athletes. The basic and difficult



question we had to answer is: can you hold any athlete responsible for the wrongdoing of the government of his or her country.

A basic principle of natural law is that any human being is entitled to individual justice and has to be presumed innocent. This applies also to athletes. However, in this case the allegations weighed so heavily and were so detailed that these principles could not be upheld in their entirety. Therefore, the IOC Executive Board had to reverse the presumption of innocence for every Russian athlete and to make him or her bear the collective responsibility for the alleged failures of the government.

Nevertheless, natural justice does not allow us to deprive a human being of the right to prove their innocence. This is why the IOC Executive Board granted this right to the Russian athletes and imposed very strict eligibility criteria on them. The IOC is the last instance to decide whether these criteria have been met and it will follow the advice of an independent CAS expert on this matter. This procedure is underway and the IOC decision will be taken by a panel of Executive Board Members with Ugur Erdener as chair.

With this respect for individual justice, we also send a positive message to clean athletes in Russia: you can be successful outside such a system. If you are clean, you are respected and rewarded. You can follow and you must follow your Olympic dream as a clean athlete.

Following the Executive Board decision, I was asked by a journalist how I would have felt about such a decision as an athlete. I told him that I would have felt absolutely fine, because already during my time as an athlete and in my role as athletes' representative I was always fighting for the rights of athletes not to be sanctioned for any system that they are not responsible for and in which they are not implicated. I also told him that at the end of the day, when you have to take such a difficult decision, you must be able to look into the eyes of all athletes. I can tell you that during my visits to the Olympic Village here in Rio, I was looking into the eyes of many athletes.

Throughout the course of the discussions, I have sometimes wondered how it could happen that it was the IOC who had to take the decision on this matter, considering our responsibilities in the fight against doping.



The IOC is a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code and is living up to its responsibilities enshrined in the Code. WADA is recognised by the Olympic Movement and governments as the independent leader in the fight against doping. Governments and the Olympic Movement share the engagement in and funding of WADA equally. The IOC is leading the coordination of the Olympic Movement participation within WADA. With regard to the Olympic Games, the IOC has the specific responsibility together with the IFs and NOCs to set the framework for the anti-doping testing system during the Olympic Games. Also in this regard, the IOC has lived up to its responsibility.

We undertook the most comprehensive re-analysis programme ever of doping samples from the Olympic Games Beijing 2008 and London 2012. It specifically targeted athletes that could potentially start in Rio de Janeiro. In total, over 1,200 doping samples were selected to be reanalysed. The latest results bring the total number of athletes who tested positive for prohibited substances to nearly a hundred. More tests are underway as we speak.

The IOC is also performing an extensive pre-Olympic Games testing programme to keep cheaters out. This effort is on top of the actions already being carried out by the IFs and National Anti-Doping Organisations. The detailed testing history of over 2,200 athletes was assessed in cooperation with WADA and this led to nearly 700 extra target tests in 96 different countries.

In Rio itself, up to 4,500 urine and 1,000 blood anti-doping tests will be conducted. Doping samples from Rio 2016 will be stored for ten years. Starting with Rio, sanctioning of doping cases at the Olympic Games will be handled independently by the CAS and no longer by the IOC.

The message we are sending with all these actions is clear: we want to keep the cheaters away from the Olympic Games. There is no place to hide for cheats and dopers can never feel safe anywhere.

Highlighting our responsibilities also puts into focus the areas where the IOC does not have authority and for what it cannot be made responsible. Given our remit, it is not the IOC that is responsible for the accreditation and supervision of anti-doping laboratories. It is not the IOC which can be held responsible for alleged corruption between the leadership of an IF and a



national member federation to cover up doping. The IOC has no authority to declare any organisation non-compliant with the WADA Code. The IOC has no authority over the testing programme of athletes outside the Olympic Games. The IOC has no authority to follow up on information about the failings of the testing system.

The fact that the shared responsibilities of the stakeholders of the WADA system are not clear to everybody is one of the deficiencies of the current anti-doping system which have been laid bare. The recent developments have shown that we need a full review of the WADA anti-doping system. This has been expressed clearly by the most recent Olympic Summit in June as well as by the IOC Executive Board. The IOC is calling for a more robust and efficient anti-doping system. This requires clear responsibilities, more transparency, more independence and better worldwide harmonisation. The IOC will make proposals in all these respects at an Olympic Summit in October this year and in 2017 at the WADA Extraordinary World Conference on Doping for which the IOC has called. For its part, the IOC will continue its push to make doping testing and sanctioning independent from sports organisations.

As you know, I always appreciate a good debate. This is also true for this situation. You can be sure that the IOC Executive Board and the Olympic Summit took all the different arguments into consideration and discussed them thoroughly. What concerned me in this particular debate, was that some called for a blanket ban of the Russian Olympic team well before the findings of the McLaren report were known. Others did the same before the accused side had the opportunity to respond.

This blanket ban of the Russian Olympic Committee has been called by some the “nuclear option” and the innocent athletes would have to be considered as “collateral damage”.

Leaving aside that such a comparison is completely out of any proportion when it comes to the rules of sport, let us just for a moment consider the consequences of a “nuclear option”. The result is death and devastation. This is not what the Olympic Movement stands for. The cynical “collateral damage” approach is not what the Olympic Movement stands for. The Olympic Movement stands for life and the construction of a better future. This vision of a better future for and through sport is what needs to guide us. This vision includes a more robust and efficient worldwide anti-doping system.



We can only move to this better future through a discussion held in mutual respect.

What is therefore not acceptable is the insinuation by some proponents of this “nuclear option” that anyone who does not share their opinion is not fighting against doping.

Our decisions are supported unanimously by all stakeholders in the Olympic Summit, by ANOC and all five continental NOC associations, by the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations, by continental athletes’ commissions, by members of different athletes’ commissions as well as individual athletes around the world.

On behalf of all of these supporters, I reject this insinuation in the strongest terms. We may disagree on how we get there, but we are all working towards the same goal of the protection of the clean athletes.

Regardless of these discrepancies, we all agree that we must never allow such a situation to happen again. To fully review the WADA anti-doping system we need the contribution of everybody. Here we expect Russia to live up to its commitment of a complete and comprehensive restructuring of its anti-doping system.

Engagement, not isolation, is the key, to build a functioning and more robust world-anti doping system. If we all contribute in this spirit then this painful situation can become a moment of catharsis in the fight against doping. To make this happen, I invite each and every one of you to contribute in a constructive way.

The McLaren report is not finalised yet and there still is much that we need to do:

- Address the implications for the Olympic Winter Games Sochi 2104
- Address any findings from the Disciplinary Commission under the Chairmanship of Mr Guy Canivet
- Address the long-term implications for the world anti-doping system.



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

6

There are still many far-reaching decisions that we will need to take in the near future.

In order to give the Executive Board and the President the authority and possibility to implement the appropriate measures in this regard, we, the Executive Board, are asking for your support today for the decisions that we have taken.

Therefore, we put the following question to you, the IOC Session for discussion and a vote.
Does the IOC Session support the IOC Executive Board Decision on 24 July 2016 and its implementation?