



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Thomas Bach
President

Opening remarks for the International Forum for Sports Integrity

15 February 2017

-Check against delivery-

It is a great honour and pleasure to welcome you to the second International Forum for Sports Integrity. Our first meeting in 2015 came shortly after the adoption of Olympic Agenda 2020 and it was itself actually an implementation of the Olympic Agenda 2020 recommendations. With the recommendations of Olympic Agenda 2020, the IOC has underlined its commitment to strengthen the integrity of sport and protect clean athletes from any kind of manipulation of competition. Credibility of competitions and sports organisation is one of the three pillars of Olympic Agenda 2020. We are convinced that you cannot separate one from the other. If the credibility of the sport competition suffers, then sooner or later the credibility of the sports organisation will suffer. The same is true the other way around. If the sports organisation does not enjoy credibility, then sooner or later sports competitions will suffer. Therefore, we have always to consider the two together.

We know that to achieve this overall goal, we cannot act alone. Achieving this overall goal must be a team effort with governments, NGOs, society at large and many different stakeholders. This is why it is encouraging to see so many of you here today, representing all stakeholders who hold the key to make progress on this important topic: representatives from sports organisations, governments, law enforcement agencies, intergovernmental organisations, betting regulators and sports betting operators.

As the main platform for all stakeholders to exchange ideas and coordinate our actions, this Forum follows on from initiative of the UK Prime Minister Anti-Corruption Summit which took place in London in May 2016.

Therefore, today's Forum also highlights how closely good governance is linked to the credibility of sport. As the role of sport in society continues to grow – and your presence here today is a clear demonstration of this – so do the expectations of the public with regards to the credibility of sports organisations. The standards of good governance are ever evolving for every one of us.



When Olympic Agenda 2020 was adopted, my message to the IOC Members was: to change or to be changed, that is the question. I am still convinced that this is true, because in a world that is asking new questions, we have to provide new answers. As the leader of the Olympic Movement, the IOC aims to give these new answers and show a sceptical world that we are living up to our values and responsibilities.

Credibility and integrity are not only of fundamental importance to sports organisations. In a world that takes less for granted, their relevance is also all too clear for all areas of public life. As major studies like the Edelman Trust Barometer have shown, the public trust in governments, political and social institutions, NGOs and media is at an all-time low.

This is one more reason why we say that in this interconnected world, these issues and this mistrust affect us all. This is why, when we look back at the many initiatives that we have taken since our last meeting in 2015, we see just how important such an open exchange and close cooperation is. Each of us here today has a very specific domain of responsibility. From this it becomes even clearer that only through cooperation and partnership we can be truly effective.

In this context, our cooperation with international organisations plays a central role. This includes the IOC's support for the Council of Europe's Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions. This Convention is a unique instrument in international law and a cornerstone of the joint policy between sports organisations, government, police and sports betting actors.

The IOC is also proud to be collaborating with the UNODC in research on criminal legislation on competition manipulation. Today, we publish the final report of this research covering 52 countries.

With INTERPOL, we have set up a Global Capacity Building Programme and conduct workshops around the world to support governments, national law enforcement and the sports movement to respond to integrity threats.

With regard to sports organisations, the IOC has taken the lead by approving the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions. This was first implemented during the Olympic Games Rio 2016 and international and national federations as well as National Olympic Committees are now implementing the Code.



The IOC has also developed an Integrity e-Learning programme designed specifically for Olympic athletes and officials. This e-Learning programme will become compulsory for all members of national delegations, including athletes, NOCs and IF officials participating in the Olympic Games.

Cooperation between all stakeholders is also essential to ensure information exchange, in particular between sports betting entities and sports organisations. In this context, the IOC launched the Integrity Betting Intelligence System (IBIS) already in 2013. IBIS now includes all Olympic summer and winter sports as well as a large number of betting operators and regulators and national platforms, as defined in the Council of Europe Convention.

All these examples illustrate that in the fight against the manipulation of competitions, the sports movement relies heavily on cooperation with all of you. Governments, for example, have their own responsibility to enforce national criminal laws.

A debate on how to fight manipulation of competition needs to address corruption. Therefore we have dedicated a session in today's programme to this topic.

The sports movement has a special responsibility in the discussion about integrity because by definition, all sports organisation stand for the values of excellence, fair-play and respect. As values-based organisations, we have the double-duty to ensure that we uphold the principles of good governance in all our activities.

For its part, the IOC has already implemented all good governance measures called for under Olympic Agenda 2020. As a result, all 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 have separated the Audit Committee from the Finance Commission.

We have appointed a Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer and we have an independent internal auditor.

The IOC follows the internationally recognised "Three Lines of Defence" model for risk management and assurance systems.

Our commitment to more transparency goes beyond the financial statements. We are publishing all financial figures, as well as our indemnity policy for the IOC President and for



all IOC Members in our annual report. We give full transparency on our operations and activities including distribution of our funds. There you can see that we are distributing 90 per cent of all our revenues to the world of sport, the athletes, the 206 NOCs, to the Organising Committees and the international federations. Although I do not use this word often, I am very proud of these figures because it does not happen often that you only need 10 per cent to run your administration, with which we also run other projects for sport. With this 10 per cent we are also supporting our own programmes on top. So we are very proud that we can re-distribute so much for the development of sport. This includes the fight against manipulation, where we have attributed 10 million dollars to a special fund to fight manipulation. We are also attributing another 10 million dollars for better research in the fund against doping.

We launched an Integrity and Compliance Hotline last year, where whistle-blowers can call and give information.

We have changed the system with regard to the IOC Ethics Commission, which is now elected by the full membership of the IOC Session and is not appointed anymore.

These are just some examples of many that I could mention. We have been calling on international federations and sports organisations to follow this route.

And actually, they do. This is why it is very encouraging to see the recent actions by the Governance Task Force of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), which has developed a self-assessment tool for its member IFs to measure the current state of governance within their organisations. It is also used as a base for future improvement. Therefore I would like to congratulate ASOIF President Francesco Ricci-Bitti on this important initiative. It sets an example and is a strong signal to all sports organisations about how to improve governance. President Ricci-Bitti will provide you with more details during the course of this Forum.

There are also a number of measures in place that strengthen the governance of NOCs around the world. For example, every major financial contribution that the NOCs receive from the IOC is subject to independent auditing. Our goal is that these contributions are always used with the principles of good governance in front of mind. Similarly, in order to facilitate a closer cooperation between NOCs with their respective national authorities, the IOC has created a template that NOCs can use to build a partnership with governments respecting



the autonomy of sport organisations on the one hand and good governance on the other hand. Both are two sides of the same coin. You can only enjoy responsible autonomy when applying and adhering to the principles of good governance.

This also demonstrates how closely accountability is linked to the autonomy of sport. Accountability requires transparency and good governance. Just like we expect politics to respect the autonomy of sport to determine the rules governing sports organisations, our stakeholders from politics and society rightly expect that the world of sport is also run according to the standards of good governance. Only in this way, we as sports organisations can maintain our credibility in the eyes of the public. With autonomy comes responsibility for the sports movement. This is why responsible autonomy and good governance are two sides of the same coin. Responsible autonomy implies rights, but also duties for the sports movement.

With IFSI, we have a unique platform where we can deepen our cooperation with our stakeholders. Here I am reminded of the words of the eminent French Judge Guy Canivet, the recently retired Vice-Chair of the IOC Ethics Commission, who said: “The Olympic Charter and its related documents constitute a highly specific kind of law, both intelligent and subtle, that must be learnt and in all cases applied in order to safeguard the Olympic Values.” This is why discussions like the ones at this Forum today are so important. It gives us the platform to learn and apply the laws that uphold the integrity of the sports movement.

It is in this spirit of partnership and cooperation that we can all look forward to an important discussion today on how to uphold the integrity and credibility of sport.

For this hopefully lively discussion, I offer you a warm welcome and wish all of you fruitful discussions.