

**OPENING SPEECH BY THE HON. JOHN FAHEY  
WADA PRESIDENT  
Russia – Country of Sports Forum  
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President Medvedev,  
President Rogge,  
Minister Mutko,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Thank you for your invitation to participate in this Forum.

As the President of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), I am pleased to be with you today to discuss the significant issue of doping in sport.

Some of you may ask - why is it important to fight against doping in sport?

The answer is because sport is a humanistic exercise which is based on certain ethical principles, as well as on the health of those who practice it; and which centers around the joy and results of effort. The ethical principles include fair play, renunciation of violence, self-discipline, teamwork, respect for the rules of the game, respect for one's fellow competitors, respect for the impartial officials who apply the rules, and, ultimately, self-respect.

Achievement in sport, no matter the level, whether at school or in the Olympic Games, should be a matter of intense personal pride and accomplishment, not something that has been achieved by cheating.

Doping in sport is not limited to specific sports, nor to specific countries. It is an international problem without borders. No sport and no country is

immune from the risks of doping. Russia itself has had its own share of doping cases over the past few years.

The solution to doping in sport therefore requires a harmonized, international response, and WADA was set up in 1999 specifically for the purpose of coordinating and monitoring the global fight against doping in sport, with representatives of the Sport Movement and of Governments of the world sitting around the same table. There is no proper solution to this problem if athletes from a country who compete fairly compete against doped athletes from another country. Nor is it an answer if an athlete is banned in one country but allowed to compete in another.

As one of the powerhouses of international sport, and as the host of the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia has a significant role to play in the global fight against doping in sport. It has a duty of exemplarity, as the world is watching you prepare for that major event.

For several years now, WADA has assisted Russia, as we do with other countries, in the development of anti-doping capacities. We have, in particular, facilitated a partnership between the National Anti-Doping Organization of Norway – Anti-Doping Norway – and the Russian Anti-Doping Agency – RUSADA – through which Norway, which has significant experience in the fight against doping in sport, shares expertise and best practices with Russia.

We have helped RUSADA enhance its anti-doping operations. We have, of course, been in regular contact with the Moscow laboratory, one of the 34 laboratories in the world that benefits from WADA's accreditation to conduct anti-doping analyses. We have also met on regular occasions with top government and sport officials, including Minister Mutko, to hear about the advances achieved in this area in Russia and provide encouragements and guidance.

Russian authorities have worked on solving the issue of entry and freedom of movement of foreign doping control officers visiting Russia to collect samples from athletes. We have now been informed by Minister Mutko that Russia will pass new legislation later in 2010 to allow import of doping control samples to be analyzed at the Moscow lab and export of samples to be analyzed in foreign countries. These are positive developments, and I commend the Russian Government for taking such necessary steps.

But Russia needs to do more to show the world its total commitment to eradicating the scourge of doping. Russia needs to expand its domestic doping control program in order to ensure that its athletes are tested out of competition in a smart and targeted way. Testing needs to be conducted all around the country in an effective way. Education efforts need to be intensified in order to create a strong and stable anti-doping culture in which doping is prevented altogether. RUSADA needs to receive proper and stable funding to build upon its expertise and become sustainable.

In other large countries and powerhouses of international sport, the fight against doping in sport has been considerably strengthened over the past few years. To take two recent examples, the United Kingdom has established a new independent anti-doping agency with considerable powers, including those of sharing information with law enforcement to detect anti-doping rule violations not directly related to doping control samples.

In my own country – Australia – laws and regulations were promulgated in 2006 for information to be shared between law enforcement agencies and the new national anti-doping agency, ASADA. The information provided to ASADA by Customs and the Australian Federal Police allows a far greater likelihood of catching cheats than simply testing.

For example, a consignment of prohibited substances in the mail detected by Customs and addressed to a coach suggests to doping control officers that

testing of that coach's athletes may be worthwhile, and also allows evidence to be gathered pointing to a non-analytical violation. This new approach has led to a significant number of athletes being sanctioned for non-analytical violations. It has also led to a significant evolution of the fight against doping in sport toward a new model incorporating not only the athlete, but also the athlete's entourage and the upstream elements of doping.

I assure you that WADA will continue to work closely with Russia and to provide support in the coming years. Clean athletes from all over the world deserve the right to pursue their dreams in a fair and healthy environment.

I look forward to this continued cooperation and I wish you all a successful forum.