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The Response to the Second McLaren Report Must be Strong, Decisive and Unwavering

Professor Richard McLaren has today released extensive evidence of an institutionalised doping conspiracy and cover up by Russian authorities. It involved summer and winter sports athletes who participated with Russian officials within the Ministry of Sport and its infrastructure, including the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA), the state security agency and the WADA-accredited Moscow Laboratory. The evidence shows this systematic and centralised cover up and manipulation of the doping control process evolved and was refined over the course of the London 2012 Summer Games, the Universiade Games 2013, the Moscow IAAF World Championships 2013, and the Winter Games in Sochi in 2014. And perhaps started even earlier.

“This was an unprecedented national *doping* programme,” said Joseph de Pencier, CEO of the Institute of National Anti-Doping Organisations (iNADO). “Even in the darkest days of state-sponsored doping in former East Bloc in the 1970s and 1980s, the organised drugging of athletes was not also propped up by the deliberate corruption of anti-doping measures on such a shocking scale.

“The response must include punishment of the Russian individuals and organisations who committed and condoned these scandalous acts. This is absolutely essential as a deterrent to future perversion of clean sport. The response must include new authority to WADA to detect and sanction such transgressions. The response must include the unconditional commitment of Russian authorities to root out its country’s doping culture, including taking responsibility for what McLaren has documented. The response must include reforms to sport and anti-doping governance, including that of WADA, to ensure institutionalised conflicts of interest can never prevent swift, decisive, unreserved and effective actions to protect clean athletes.”

iNADO calls on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in particular to do the right thing by clean athletes: to finally act decisively, to finally lead by example, to leave no doubts as to its commitment to clean sport. Said de Pencier: “Russian athletes should not be welcome in the Olympic Movement until their sport system and their government are demonstrably free of the will to subvert the fundamental values and spirit of sport. If future investigations produce evidence of similar malfeasance in other countries, the IOC response must be equally categorical.”

Hundreds of follow-up anti-doping rule violation (ADRV) proceedings are likely now necessary to prosecute individuals based on the evidence Prof. McLaren has amassed and evaluated. The IOC, the International Paralympic Committee and International Sport Federations must be swift and relentless in pursuing these cases. Likewise, NADOs must stand ready to deal quickly, efficiently and by proper process with those athletes or athlete support personnel under their jurisdiction identified by Prof. McLaren as having committed possible ADRVs.

The fact of the McLaren investigation and its deeply disturbing results show how WADA can protect clean athletes if it is given the means and the mandate to do so. WADA must have the capacity as anti-doping's global regulator to investigate and ensure the prosecution of ADRVs and of the sabotage of anti-doping rules regardless of sport and country. A robust investigative capacity is an essential regulatory tool, and a key deterrent to organised doping.

Finally, it is vital to have strong, independent NADOs with the resources and the singular mandate that demonstrate doping in sports is unacceptable in their countries. The rebuilding of RUSADA is a critical outcome in response to Prof. McLaren's two reports. iNADO and its Members continue to support WADA's efforts to ensure Russia has a credible, effective and transparent national anti-doping programme, and to provide interim anti-doping services in Russia and to Russian athletes in the meantime.

iNADO is the international member association of NADOs. NADOs have the sole and unequivocal mandate to protect clean athletes, without conflicting responsibilities such as promoting sport. iNADO's 62 Members represent all Olympic Regions and conduct the majority of anti-doping work world-wide each year.

iNADO is the Institute of National Anti-Doping Organisations. It promotes best practices by NADOs and RADOs, and is their collective international voice.