

International Anti-Doping Leaders stand united with international athlete community in calling for meaningful Reform of WADA Governance

- **International anti-doping leaders convene for emergency Paris Summit to discuss state of WADA-led anti-doping system and increasingly urgent need to restore faith in the global regulator;**
- **In a clear display of solidarity with athletes, leaders commit to continue to stand “shoulder to shoulder” with global athlete community, urging them not to lose faith in system; “Now is not the time to throw in the towel. At this moment of need, we stand with you and will strive to transform WADA for the better”, say leaders;**
- **Group reaffirms solid commitment to the [Copenhagen Reform Proposals](#);**
- **Group calls for immediate, thorough, independent and transparent investigation commissioned by WADA into potential bullying.**

**October 29, 2018
Paris, France**

Following the unprecedented outcry from the world’s athletes over the recent actions and decisions of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the leaders of 18 National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs) came together for an emergency Summit, hosted by the French Anti-Doping Agency (AFLD) in Paris to discuss the concerning state of the global anti-doping system and the urgent need to restore public and athlete faith in the global regulator (WADA).

Confirming their ongoing and unwavering commitment to stand “shoulder to shoulder” with the global athlete community, and acknowledging the recent global athlete uproar following the process that led to the WADA Executive Committee’s controversial September 20 decision to reinstate the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA), the leaders, in a clear display of solidarity with athletes, stated: “While others may not be listening to your concerns and your solutions for how to improve WADA Governance, we wish to make it clear that *we, the anti-doping leaders, do*. We stand united with you. We *hear* and *share* your concerns, and *we stand with you every step of the way* to strive to transform WADA so that it respects *your rights* and makes decisions in the interests of clean sport.

Meeting for the third time this year, the NADO leaders reaffirmed their commitment and greater sense of urgency to the [Copenhagen Reform Proposals](#), a series of reforms focused on independence, transparency and best governance practices, brought forth in August 2016 in the wake of the findings of the McLaren Report, while calling on the international sport community to bolster anti-doping efforts and restore athletes’ faith in fair competition around the globe.

Following on the set of proposals for WADA Governance released by WADA’s Governance Working Group last week, the international leaders pledged their backing to the principles of the athlete-led Governance Reform Paper, [The Alternative](#), launched on October 9, which

has broad support across the anti-doping community. We encourage all current and future WADA Leaders to support the principles of the [The Alternative](#) and [Copenhagen](#) documents.

“Given the athletes’ concerns in WADA’s decision-making and governance process, and after all that we have regrettably witnessed in the wake of the Russian doping crisis, WADA’s limited proposals for governance reform fall far short of what the world’s athletes and other champions of clean sport have been calling for these past two years, and there should be a rethink”, the leaders said.

Reiterating their condemnation of the recent decision by WADA to reinstate RUSADA, the international leaders encouraged the community to look forward. “We urge WADA not to repeat the mistakes it made in the process to reinstate RUSADA, and to conduct its actions in a more transparent and open fashion. Looking ahead to the crucial December 31 deadline, we call on WADA to run an open, transparent and clear process for securing the anti-doping samples and, given the gravity of the issue and level of athlete and public interest, for the WADA Compliance Review Committee to convene an urgent and robust meeting to make its recommendation on the compliance of RUSADA. The world is waiting, and the world is watching,” they added.

In a significant development, the leaders also made a clear call for WADA to commission a thorough, transparent, independent investigation into the troubling public allegations of bullying.

While discussing ways to move forward, the leaders committed their support for WADA to continue to be the global regulator, albeit with an improved governance structure. “We must continue to work to overhaul WADA Governance, and restore its credibility with athletes and the public.”

Concluding the meeting, the leaders made a clear, unequivocal call for a strengthened WADA, and urged the global regulator to truly listen and incorporate views from athletes: “WADA will rise once again, but only when it embraces global athlete community concerns.”

----- END -----

The following National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs) support this release:

1. AFLD (Agence Française de lutte contre le dopage)
2. Anti Doping Danmark
3. Anti-Doping Norway
4. Anti-Doping Singapore
5. ASADA (Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority)
6. CCES (Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport)
7. Doping Autoriteit
8. Drug Free Sport New Zealand
9. FINCIS (Finnish Center for Integrity in Sports)
10. NADA Austria
11. NADA Germany
12. POLADA (Poland Anti-Doping Agency)
13. Sport Ireland
14. Swedish Sport Confederation
15. Swiss Anti-Doping
16. UKAD (UK Anti-Doping)
17. USADA (US Anti-Doping Agency)