

Remarks by Mr. David Howman

WADA Director General

IFPMA-WADA Joint Declaration on Cooperation in the Fight against Doping in Sport

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. My name is David Howman. I am the Director General of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

I am very pleased to be here today to sign the Joint Declaration that will formalize our cooperation with the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations in the context of the fight against doping in sport.

I would like to convey the best wishes of WADA's President, John Fahey, who cannot be with us today due to long-planned commitments in Australia, his country of residence. The signing of this agreement is a very important milestone for the anti-doping community, which Mr. Fahey has wholeheartedly supported. He therefore asked me to sign this Declaration on his behalf and to express his deep gratitude toward the IFPMA and its President, Mr. Naito.

Cooperation with the pharmaceutical industry is a win-win for WADA and the pharmaceutical industry. It helps the anti-doping community further tighten the net on doping cheats. At the same time, it helps the pharmaceutical industry ensure that their work is directed at treating and healing patients suffering from illness and disease, not at providing healthy athletes with an unfair advantage over their competitors. Doping is a public health issue, and WADA and the IFPMA share the objective of promoting and protecting public health.

Much of the doping that occurs in sport is the misuse by cheating athletes of medicines that were or are being developed by the pharmaceutical industry for proper medical use. There are thousands of new drugs that are at various stages of pre-clinical and clinical development. These new drugs will hit the market in the years to come and some might be used for doping purposes. It is therefore very important for the anti-doping community and the pharmaceutical industry to be in a position to address this issue together, in a coordinated and effective way.

As the international independent organization responsible for promoting, coordinating and monitoring the global fight against doping in sport, one of WADA's roles is to ensure that innovative and effective strategies are implemented to fight against doping in sport.

Scientific research is one of several key strategies in the global fight against doping in sport. WADA dedicates significant resource and energy to science advances, including by funding and coordinating anti-doping research in order to develop and fine-tune detection means for substances and methods that are banned on sport.

Our cooperation with the research-based pharmaceutical industry will allow the anti-doping community to further anticipate doping trends and develop detection means for substances with doping potential at early stages of their development. This will help maximize chances of catching drug cheats in sport.

There is a second important element to this cooperation. Under the World Anti-Doping Code – the document harmonizing anti-doping rules in all sports and all countries – doping control samples can be stored for eight years by anti-doping organizations and can undergo further analysis as science advances. This means that even if detection means cannot be developed in time before a substance may be misused by athletes for doping purposes, stored samples can be analyzed at a later date and cheats can be uncovered when a detection method is ready. WADA believes that such retrospective testing serves as a strong deterrent.

The Joint Declaration of Cooperation that we will sign today provides a robust framework for active cooperation between WADA and IFPMA member companies. It formalizes and broadens an early warning system that has already been used in successful bilateral collaborative exercises between WADA and individual pharmaceutical companies.

We look forward to implementing this cooperation and to working hand in hand with the IFPMA in protecting the right of clean athletes worldwide to compete in a doping-free environment.