



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

**Address by Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO,  
on the occasion of the Second Session of  
Conference of Parties to the International  
Convention against Doping in Sport**

**UNESCO, 26 October 2009**

Honorable Ministers,  
Distinguished guests,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a great pleasure for me to open the Second Session of the Conference of Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport. When I had the honour of opening the First Session of the Conference in February 2007, I expressed my great satisfaction at the extraordinary success of the Convention and its adoption in such a short period of time. Indeed, this has been the most successful international convention in the history of UNESCO in terms of the speed of its development and entry into force.

Today, I am proud to report a continued high level of ratification, adoption, acceptance, or adhesion to the Convention over the last two years. The number of States Parties has more than tripled since the First Session of the Conference. It now stands at 128.

As usual, participating in our session are a number of important partner organizations. We are privileged to have with us today guests from the highest levels of the United Nations and international sport.

Please allow me to warmly welcome Mr Wilfried Lemke, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Special Adviser to the Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace. Mr Lemke has kindly accepted to promote the fight

against doping as part of his broader mandate and to consistently advocate for the ratification of the Convention.

I also warmly welcome Mr John Fahey, President of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). I believe that Mr Fahey will join me in applauding the excellent cooperation between our two institutions. We are working together to promote the Convention and the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport. Our cooperation has also been extended to education projects and to efforts to harmonize the monitoring of anti-doping policies.

Professor Arne Ljungqvist, Member of the International Olympic Committee and Chairman of its Medical Commission, represents Mr Jacques Rogge here today. The IOC has used its considerable influence in the world of sport to promote the Convention. We are very grateful for this support.

Mr Miguel Sagarra, Vice-President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), represents their President Sir Philip Craven, who has been a strong advocate of the Convention and was actively involved in its development. The IPC recognizes the Convention as a key instrument in the global fight against doping in sport.

This is a fight that needs the continuing commitment and cooperation of governments and international sport organizations across the world. The work of UNESCO and WADA is to ensure that these partnerships are effective, that they endure, and that all parties have the tools to eliminate doping in sport.

In this regard, I am delighted that the Director-General elect, Madam Irena Bokova, is with us here today. I am sure that she will be following your deliberations very closely.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

In a few minutes, you will be called upon to elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. I would like to seize this opportunity to extend my warmest thanks to Mr Viacheslav Fetisov, Chairman of the First Session of the Conference of Parties. Under Mr Fetisov's leadership, the number of States Parties and the resources in the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport have grown exponentially.

I also wish to express my deepest thanks to the Vice-Chairpersons: State Secretary for Sport, Mr Jaime Lissavetsky from Spain; Minister Carlos Sousa from Mozambique; Mr Jiang Zhixue, Director-General of the General Administration of Sport of China; Ms Renée Anne Shirley from Jamaica; and Mr Kamal Guemmar from Algeria. We were fortunate to have had an excellent team for the First Session. They have set a very high standard of competence in managing the debates and drafting clear and precise reports.

You have a rich agenda before you. I will touch briefly upon some of the themes that will require your input and decisions.

One major subject for discussion is the administration and allocation of the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport.

The Governments of Member States that have ratified the Convention now have the obligation to actively implement it within their countries. The Fund was created in order to help States Parties – in particular States Parties from developing countries – move forward in this direction. Thus, we have not only developed the framework to fight doping through the Convention; we have also provided the financial means to do so.

There are a number of important issues to be considered with regard to the Fund, and I do not wish to prejudge your decisions. I nonetheless wish to express my most profound gratitude to the 19 Member States that have made contributions. The reserves in the Fund now stand at over 2.2 million US dollars.

The Fund allows UNESCO to help those States Parties in need to establish effective anti-doping programmes. Support is available for projects focusing on anti-doping education, policy advice and capacity-building. I encourage States Parties to take advantage of all of the possibilities presented by the Fund.

The Approval Committee has already authorized funding for several high quality projects. Mozambique, Jamaica, Mali, Uruguay, Seychelles, Barbados and Albania were the first countries to benefit from the Fund. Many more projects have recently been sent to the Secretariat, and I am confident that we will be able to help launch most of them by the end of the year.

Of course, the fight against doping in sport is a long-term commitment. I call upon Member States to maintain their tradition of generosity and thereby ensure the sustainability of our work. You have the ability to empower all, and to take this global effort forward.

Another major topic for your consideration is the development of an efficient monitoring system for the Convention. Measuring the number of ratifications is one way of calculating success. By that standard, the International Convention against Doping in Sport is already, as I said, one of the most successful conventions in UNESCO's history. But we need to be more ambitious. We are aiming, with the help of our friends, for a universal convention. One-hundred percent of all UNESCO Member States is the objective.

It is important to monitor how the Convention is implemented by Governments. To that end, the Secretariat has developed an electronic monitoring system (Anti-Doping Logic) in close cooperation with other interested parties. This was an ambitious project that took some time to be established. States Parties have been consulted on the new mechanism and expressed their support, for which I am thankful. I consider the choice of an electronic tool to be time- and cost-effective for both States Parties and the Secretariat. It is one of the first such systems for the United Nations.

I call on all States Parties to fill in the electronic questionnaire to help develop a global monitoring tool. This will not only enable us to follow the Convention's implementation. It will also provide us with guidance on the way forward for States Parties, and reinforce the investment of the Fund.

Many other topics await your informed discussions, such as WADA's International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information. This Conference will be asked to approve the 2010 Prohibited List International Standard developed by WADA in accordance with the provisions of the Code. Once again, by performing this act in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, you will have the possibility to give a truly universal nature to the fight against doping in sport - ensuring that the same list of prohibited substances is recognized by all stakeholders.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

Before I conclude, I would once again like to express my profound satisfaction at the promotion of the Convention. The number of States Parties present today bears testimony to the successful effort put forward, not only by the Secretariat, but also by partners such as WADA, international sport organizations, intergovernmental sports organizations, governments and regional organizations.

I express my gratitude to all our partners that organized events, conferences and seminars to promote a better understanding of the importance of the International Convention against Doping in Sport and its goals. These efforts have ensured the regular arrival of new instruments of ratification and an ever increasing number of States Parties.

Looking forward, UNESCO's priorities in the fight against doping in sport will remain the promotion of the Convention and anti-doping education. We will also continue promoting the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport, as an instrument to foster international anti-doping cooperation and to extend the reach of anti-doping programmes to all parts of the world.

Education is central to UNESCO and it is also central to the fight against doping in sport. By identifying needs, by celebrating good practices, by mobilizing internal and external educational resources, UNESCO brings real added value to this strategic field for the prevention of doping in sport. If we really want to fulfil the Convention's stated ambition, we need to focus on the young people of today and tomorrow. We must ensure that the positive values of sport in terms of health and fair play are duly recognized and promoted. This is a noble objective in which all the stakeholders assembled here today can play a decisive role.

As Director General of UNESCO, I am proud that my Organization could provide the mechanism for international cooperation and harmonization in the fight against doping in sport. I truly believe that the cooperation shown by governments and non-governmental organizations, and the shared investment in doping prevention, provides an excellent example of good governance for the international community.

I am confident that your discussions over the next three days will be held in the same spirit. The world is looking to you to continue the momentum achieved so that we can achieve our common goal: the elimination of doping in sport.

Thank you