



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 First Session of Conference of Parties
to the International Convention against Doping in Sport**

UNESCO, 5 February 2007

Distinguished Guests,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a great pleasure for me to open the first session of the Conference of Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport. This is a moment of deep emotion and profound satisfaction for UNESCO, and for all those who have worked tirelessly in support of the Convention.

The Convention represents the first time that governments around the world have decided to apply the force of international law against doping in sport. It provides the much-needed framework for implementing the World Anti-Doping Code and for formalizing global anti-doping rules, policies and guidelines. It is a major step forward in the fight to make sport doping-free.

Let me begin by thanking those who have made this achievement possible. First and foremost: the Governments who so swiftly ratified the Convention.

30 States Parties were needed for the Convention to enter force. This number was reached on 11 December in record time. Indeed, in terms of the speed of its development and entry into force, this is the most successful international convention in the long history of UNESCO.

Ratifications have continued apace. There are 41 States Parties, from all regions of the world, participating in this Conference. For another 6 Member States, the Convention will enter into force very soon.

This demonstrates the deep commitment of Governments to anti-doping in sport. I am in this regard delighted that so many Ministers have been able to participate personally in this Conference. May I welcome you to UNESCO, and thank you for your support.

I would also like to express my personal thanks to the Vice-President of the World Anti-Doping Agency, Mr Jean-Francois Lamour, as well as to former Vice-President Mr Brian Mikkelsen and Director-General Mr David Howman. We have been greatly assisted by WADA, with whom UNESCO entered into a Memorandum of Understanding which I had the privilege to sign myself in Montreal in June 2006.

WADA will participate in this Conference as an advisory organization, addressing States Parties on the World Anti-Doping Code and identifying opportunities for greater harmonization. Our enduring partnership will ensure the seamless implementation of the Convention.

I would also like to pay tribute to Mr Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General, who has been a strong advocate of the convention and of sports as a means of development and peace.

I would like now to recognize the critical engagement of the sporting movement. Mr Jacques Rogge has been a strong advocate for the Convention, mobilizing the considerable influence of the International Olympic Committee. Sir Phillip Craven, who is here today to celebrate this historical moment, worked assiduously. Our cooperation with the International Paralympic Committee is now stronger than ever. We will work to ensure that the International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities has a commensurate level of support from UNESCO.

I am likewise grateful to Mr Vyacheslav Fetisov, Head of the Russian Federal Agency for Physical Culture and Sport, whose insight as an athlete and UNESCO Champion for Sport will be invaluable. Finally, I welcome Ambassador Mr Musa Bin Jaafar Bin Hassan, President of UNESCO's General Conference. His support and

presence demonstrates the commitment of all within UNESCO to making the International Convention against Doping in Sport a success.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Conference is entrusted with the important task of drawing up a set of operational directives for the implementation of the Convention. I am convinced that you will carry out this mission in the most effective and appropriate manner. Let me highlight some of the important issues that you will address.

The Conference will be asked to approve the 2007 Prohibited List International Standard, developed by WADA in accordance with the provisions of the Code. I need not remind you that a single list of performance enhancing substances and methods approved by the competent national authorities of States Parties and the whole of the sports movement is fundamental to the fight against doping in sport. It is vital that the Prohibited List, as well as the process for therapeutic use exemptions, is universally accepted so that athletes and athlete support personnel are fully informed and uniform standards applied. We will have failed in our mission if there is any departure from the Prohibited List established by WADA.

The Conference will make policy decisions concerning the monitoring of the Convention. It is crucial to establish an effective and efficient monitoring mechanism, so that the reports of States Parties may be considered at the second ordinary session of the Conference of Parties.

In your deliberations, I ask you to consider those States Parties that are in the initial phases of establishing their anti-doping programmes alongside those with considerable experience in these matters. The system of reporting needs to meet the interests of all States Parties. I also suggest that you consider the experiences of WADA in monitoring compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code. There may be the opportunity to further explore synergies between the Convention and the Code.

It is also important to ensure the harmonization of the Convention with other relevant normative instruments, including, and in particular, the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe. In this regard, we are privileged to have with

us Ms Gabriella Battaini Dragoni, Director-General at the Council of Europe for Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport.

The Conference of Parties is requested to adopt a plan for the use of the resources of the Voluntary Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport. A special account has been set up in accordance with the financial regulation of UNESCO to assist States Parties in the development and implementation of anti-doping programmes consistent with the Convention. However, you need to consider how these funds should be dispersed, bearing in mind international anti-doping arrangements. Moreover States Parties are encouraged to follow the lead of Canada, and make financial contributions so that we can build anti-doping capacity globally. The fight against doping in sport will be at its strongest if we have a network of capable governments throughout the world.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentleman,

The entry into force of the Convention marks a major advance in efforts to create an honest and equitable environment for all athletes. And yet, we cannot afford to be complacent.

We must continue to strongly encourage those Member States who have not ratified the Convention to take the necessary measures to do so. All governments have a duty to complete this task, and to ensure that future generations are able to enjoy and excel in doping-free sport.

The entry into force of the Convention certainly does not signify the end of UNESCO's work in this area. Instead, it marks the moment when our attention will shift away from normative work towards the challenges of implementation.

UNESCO will build on the momentum behind the Convention to raise public awareness and to invest in prevention through education programmes. UNESCO is deeply committed to protecting young athletes and promoting sport ethics. It is my belief that this Convention not only fills a normative void that needed to be dealt with urgently. It also calls for the redoubling of efforts to strengthen ethics, personal responsibility and integrity. Doping in sport does much to destroy fair competition and the fundamental values underpinning physical education and sport. This poses

a threat not just to sport itself, but to society as a whole. It demands a concerted response.

It calls in particular for better education. For us to truly succeed in our mission we need to focus on the next generation of athletes. It is important to educate young people about the harm doping does to sport. They also need to be well informed of the moral, legal and health consequences of doping.

UNESCO believes that if the values of fair play and integrity are effectively instilled at a young age they will have a lasting impact in the fight against doping in sport. Schools provide an ideal learning environment in this regard, as do local clubs and societies.

I am delighted to inform you that we can count in our efforts on the special support of Mrs Justine Henin-Hardenne, who I recently designated UNESCO Champion of Sport, with the particular mission to educate young people on the ethics of sport, and spread the anti-doping message. Like all UNESCO's Champions, Mrs Henin-Hardenne's career embodies those great sporting values of courage, grace and excellence that the Convention seeks to preserve.

Distinguished guests,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentleman,

The entry into force of the International Convention against Doping in Sport marks a new phase in anti-doping; a phase where all of the governments of the world work within their considerable spheres of influence to remove doping from sport. The Convention provides the framework for this to take place. However, it needs the forceful application by governments to ensure that these are not simply words without actions. I implore you to give all that you can to this task. If we continue to work at the sustained pace we have adopted, we can ensure that future generations are able to enjoy and excel in doping-free sport.

Thank you.