



International  
Olympic  
Committee

The President

**Opening remarks at IFSI 2021**  
**Olympic House, 9 November 2021**

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For our founder, Pierre de Coubertin, the Olympic Games were much more than just a sporting event. He wanted to make the world a better place through sport. This remains the overarching mission of the IOC and the Olympic Movement to this very day.

As a values-based organisation, we are fully aware that our ability to pursue our mission rests on our credibility and integrity. In our difficult times, with public mistrust in institutions at an all-time high, credibility and integrity are essential for every organisation, business, social or government.

Ensuring credibility and integrity – this shared goal is what brings us together today for this 4th International Forum for Sports Integrity, to which I welcome you all very warmly.

In many ways, the first edition of this Forum in 2015 was the starting signal for a new approach – a pragmatic and collaborative approach for governments, intergovernmental organisations and the world of sport to agree on ways to tackle the many challenges to the credibility and integrity of sport.

This approach is built on the understanding that to effectively address the complex issue of corruption and misconduct in sport, you need to bring together all the relevant stakeholders. This is why I would like to thank our partners who have been joining us on this ongoing effort since the very beginning, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and Interpol. I would also like to thank the Minister of Sport of the United Kingdom for the support on this issue from the UK government since 2016.

It is only in partnership, it is only together with others that we can effectively tackle criminal activities like corruption, which affects unfortunately all areas of society, including business, politics and sport.

While our task is and will always be work in progress, we can see today that our collaborative approach is working.

At our Forum today, we have a record number of over 500 participants, demonstrating their strong commitment.

Thanks to IFSI, we have the collaborative framework to benefit from our respective expertise to fight against corruption and misconduct in sport. In this way we are sending a strong and clear signal that by standing together, we become bigger than the sum of our parts.

The International Partnership against Corruption in Sport, or IPACS, illustrates this growing momentum. We started off with a handful of sport organisations and governments when we launched IPACS at the second IFSI meeting in 2017. Today, all Olympic Sport Federations, a large number of National Olympic Committees and over 40 governments have joined this initiative. Our collaboration has already resulted in a number of practical tools and guidelines that we developed together, aimed at strengthening the various areas of good governance in sport as well as at disseminating the criminal law standards.

The activities of IPACS have been recognised by the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group already in 2019. In their declaration at most recent G20 Leaders' Summit in Rome, the G20 leaders reiterated their commitment in this fight, by endorsing the G20 High-Level Principles on Tackling Corruption in Sport. All this shows that our actions are being appreciated by the international community.

In this respect, I am very happy to inform you that this morning we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNODC, to send an unmistakable message of our shared commitment to fight corruption and crime in sport. This renewed agreement consolidates our longstanding relationship with UNODC. We will cooperate in a number of different areas, specifically on capacity building, training programmes, and awareness raising to tackle corruption and crime in sport as well as preventing the manipulation of sports competitions. In addition, this MoU also has a special focus on preventing youth crime, violence and drug use through sport – highlighting yet another complex issue that we can only tackle together, in partnership with one another. Our expertise in the area of education and the Olympic values are a valuable basis in this respect. Here I would like to thank the UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly, for her leadership, vision and cooperation.

We also see momentum building in our collaborative work to fight the manipulation of sports competitions, where 100 per cent of the International Federations and nearly 90 per cent of the 206 NOCs are engaged on the implementation of the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions. This is a clear demonstration of the great commitment of the entire Olympic Movement.

Also in this context, bringing together all actors that have a stake in protecting the integrity of competitions – from sport-betting operators, to law enforcement agencies and sport organisations – is proving to be essential.

We are seeing very promising signs that our actions in this area, especially with regards to awareness raising, are bearing fruit. To date, we have not received a single report about potential competition manipulations at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. If this remains to be the case, it could be the strongest proof that our collaborative approach is working.

Speaking on behalf of the Olympic Movement, I can say that we stand ready – ready to tackle this challenge head on, in the spirit of partnership and cooperation that has always defined IFSI. I am confident that we can count on the continued support of governments and of law enforcement entities, in particular with regard to the so much needed harmonisation of legislation.

This is why I would like to call upon more governments to join our efforts, because only if we stand united, we can win the fight against corruption and misconduct in sport.

As the leader of the Olympic Movement, the IOC continues to strengthen its good governance and I urge all sport organisations to follow this lead. We are proud that we have implemented all good governance measures called for under our comprehensive reform programme Olympic Agenda 2020 that concluded last year. Strengthening credibility and integrity, particularly from a compliance point of view, remains at the heart of our new strategic roadmap, Olympic Agenda 2020+5.

At the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the athletes showed us that we can only go faster, we can only aim higher, we can only become stronger, if we stand together – in solidarity.

This is why we amended our Olympic motto which now says: Faster, Higher, Stronger, Together.

In this Olympic spirit, I welcome you to this IFSI meeting and I extend my hand to you in partnership so that together, we can strengthen the credibility and integrity of sport.