

Anti-Corruption Working Group Side Event: Partnering against Corruption in Sports

Jointly organised by the Argentine presidency of the G20, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Wednesday, 10 October 2018

Chair's Summary

Overview

G20 Leaders placed the fight against corruption on the G20 agenda and established the Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) in 2010, recognising the significant negative impact of corruption on economic growth and development, public trust and the rule of law. In 2017, Leaders decided to include sport integrity as a priority agenda at their Hamburg Summit and pledged to “work to address integrity in sports and urge international sports organisations to intensify their fight against corruption by achieving the highest global integrity and anti-corruption standards”.¹ Taking this commitment forward the ACWG discussed the possibility of including in its 2019-2021 Anti-Corruption Action Plan a continued focus on combating corruption in sport, including through multi-stakeholder initiatives, in particular the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport (IPACS).

It is in this context that the G20 Argentine Presidency, the OECD and the UNODC jointly organised a side event on Partnering against Corruption in Sports in which high-level participants and expert panellists from governments, international sports organisations, civil society organisations, the business sector and international organisations presented their views on this multifaceted and complex issue, building on the relevant work and initiatives launched in previous years. The Chair's Summary sets out key highlights in the panel discussions and describes conclusions and proposed next steps in the work of the ACWG to implement the Leaders' commitment to address corruption in sport.

Highlights of Participants' Discussions

High-level participants first underscored the pivotal role of sport in modern society, and discussed not only the cultural, educational, social and economic aspects of sport, including those relevant to the organisation of major sporting events, but also underlined the inspirational function of sports as a role model for the youth. In this context, participants highlighted the importance of leading by example and ‘promoting high standards of transparency, integrity, and accountability to ensure a “level playing field” and a culture of good governance in sport. The discussion also revealed the importance of creating synergies between all stakeholders interested in keeping corruption away from sport, both at the national and international levels, with a view to fostering collective action and building sustainable, and inclusive solutions.

¹ G20 Leaders' Declaration: https://www.g20.org/profiles/g20/modules/custom/g20_beverly/img/timeline/Germany/G20-leaders-declaration.pdf

Session 1 – Detecting and sanctioning corruption in sport

The first session, which focused on detecting and sanctioning corruption in sport, looked at the practices of anti-corruption and law enforcement strategies, as well as sport organisations, to investigate and prosecute corruption in sport and identified approaches and good practices to detect, investigate, prosecute and sanction corruption in sport. Panellists underlined how recent high-profile investigations, which focused on the involvement of corruption and organized crime in sports, have helped to raise awareness and initiate the momentum to intensify the fight against these threats to sport. Panellists further stressed the importance of improving international coordination and information-sharing. In this context, the discussion provided participants with a better understanding of how law enforcement agencies and sports organisations can more effectively cooperate to investigate and sanction corruption in sport.

Moderator: Ronan O’Laoire, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, UNODC

Speakers:

- **Renaud Jaune**, Deputy Director of Counseling, Strategic Analysis and International Affairs of the French Anti-Corruption Agency (AFA), France
- **Nicholas Raudenski**, Integrity Officer, Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)
- **Sebastian Bley**, Coordinator Anti-corruption, Criminal Networks Sub Directorate, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
- **Federico Cafiero de Raho**, National Antimafia Prosecutor, Italy
- **Samuel Nitze**, Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York and **Kristin Mace**, Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York, USA

Session 2 – Identifying and mitigating corruption risks in the selection and organisation of major sporting events and its legacy

In the second session, panellists engaged in an in-depth technical discussion of management strategies to mitigate corruption risks involved in the selection and organisation of major sporting events, including the 2018 FIFA World Cup (Russia) and the 2018 Buenos Aires Youth Olympics (Argentina). With a special focus on procurement processes which are vulnerable to corruption, and those cases where conflicts of interest often arise, the panellists identified international approaches and good practices for mitigating these risks. The discussion drew also from the preliminary findings of the study of IPACS Task Force 1 on “reducing the risk of corruption in procurement relating to sporting events and infrastructure”, the results of which will be presented later this year in London.

Moderator: Brian Pontifex, Ambassador, Australian Permanent Delegation to the OECD

Speakers:

- **Álvaro Herrero**, Undersecretary of Strategic Management and Institutional Quality from Buenos Aires City Government, Argentina (via video-link)
- **Andrey Avetisyan**, Ambassador at Large for International Anti-Corruption Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation

- **Matthieu Cahen**, Senior Procurement Analyst and IPACS TF1 facilitator, OECD
- **Paula Morrone**, Legal & Compliance Director, Unilever

Session 3 – Building capacity to promote integrity and fight corruption in sport

The third session focused on building capacity to promote integrity and fight corruption in sport. A great deal of the discussion was spent on the recent efforts of the sports organisations and governments to optimise their processes of compliance with good governance principles to mitigate the risk of corruption. The experiences and good practices shared by panellists helped participants acquire a better understanding of the challenges involved but also of the measures that can be taken in order to achieve the highest global integrity and anti-corruption standards.

Moderator: Alejandro Martínez Peralta, Director for Crime Prevention and Combating Corruption, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Speakers:

- **James Carr**, Head of Administration & Projects, Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF)
- **Lynsey Tweddle**, Head of Corporate Governance at Sport England
- **Rowland Jack**, Founder, I Trust Sport Ltd
- **Jens Sejer Andersen**, International director, Play the Game

Session 4 – Enabling a coordinated global response to the challenge of corruption in sport

Finally, in the last session on enabling a coordinated global response to the challenge of corruption in sport, representatives from the OECD, the International Olympics Committee, and governments reflected on the different initiatives to coordinate efforts to tackle corruption in sport, and agreed on the need to support a pragmatic and multi-stakeholder approach to applying international anti-corruption standards to, and designing actionable solutions for, the specific needs of sport. Panellists also highlighted the necessity to undertake domestic reforms and consolidate national legislation and mechanism in the fight against corruption in order to facilitate global cooperation and the implementation of international frameworks. Discussions also explored the way which the G20 can use its convening powers to address these challenges, including by lending support to the international Partnership against Corruption in Sport (IPACS) and possibly work in this area.

Moderator: Nicola Bonucci, Director for Legal Affairs, OECD

Speakers:

- **Markus Busch**, Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, G20 ACWG representative, Germany
- **Paolo Bertaccini**, Advisor of the Head of Italian Government Office for Sport, Italy
- **Pâquerette Girard Zapelli**, International, Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, International Olympics Committee

Conclusions and Proposed Next Steps

The participants agreed to continue to support efforts aimed at achieving the highest global standards of integrity and good governance in sport.

The participants agreed on the critical importance of the G20 ACWG to remain seized on the matter of corruption in sport and to use that forum to disseminate information and good practices to enhance policy dialogue on the issue.

The participants agreed that multi-stakeholder partnerships were needed to strengthen and further coordinate efforts to mitigate the risk of corruption in sport and in this regard expressed strong support for the work of IPACS and for the Group to receive regular reports on its progress.