

**ATHENS ACTION PLAN: ANTI-DOPING UPDATE REPORT  
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH SPORTS MINISTERS MEETING  
14 MARCH 2006, MELBOURNE**

*Prepared by the Commonwealth Secretariat and  
the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)*

**Athens Action Plan**

At the Commonwealth Sports Ministers meeting on 12 August 2004 in Athens it was agreed that WADA in partnership with Commonwealth countries with a high level of anti-doping capacity would assist in building anti-doping capacity among members of the Commonwealth by:

- making available anti-doping education materials through the WADA education programme;
- undertaking an anti-doping development pilot project in the Oceania region;
- evaluating the Oceania pilot project and promoting anti-doping development pilot projects in other regions where applicable;
- working with strategic partners to hold anti-doping development symposia to evaluate and address specific issues and challenges both globally and regionally.

It was further agreed at the meeting that the Commonwealth Secretariat would work with WADA to provide, where possible, technical assistance to Commonwealth member countries in the implementation of the World Anti-Doping Code by:

- supplying through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC), technical experts on anti-doping who would provide advisory and expert support to Commonwealth countries;
- developing in collaboration with WADA, a strategy for placing and utilising these technical experts effectively;
- assisting member countries through the Commonwealth Education Programme, to address issues of drug free sport through school curricula provisions.

**Background**

Following the Athens meeting the Commonwealth Secretariat and WADA have been working together to implement the above recommendations. As part of the initial consultation exercise, it was agreed that these commitments could best be achieved through utilising WADA's anti-doping programme development strategy which encompasses Commonwealth member countries, the details of which are set out below.

## **WADA Anti-Doping Programme Development**

The anti-doping programme development project is intended to assist countries and organisations to work together to develop regional anti-doping programmes in parts of the world where currently there are little or no programmes in place. The goal is to ensure that all athletes in all countries in all sports are subject to the same anti-doping protocols and processes and to develop capacity in each country at the same time.

WADA is aware that many developed nations have the resources and capacity to operate individual Anti-Doping Organisations and run their own programmes but many of the developing nations do not as yet have the resources, expertise or capacity. Hence the concept of a Regional Anti-Doping Organisation (RADO) where a geographically clustered group of countries unite to form a single organisation to fulfil the respective functions of an Anti-Doping Organisation. (An Anti-Doping Organisation is responsible for undertaking an anti-doping programme which includes: education of athletes, coaches and support personnel, testing of athletes and an administrative framework for a country to undertake this work).

To achieve the above, the establishment and development of RADO's is being lead and facilitated by WADA. The first critical step is to bring together Governments and sports, utilising the National Olympic Committees, to carry out a needs assessment for the region and discuss the overall concept of a Regional Anti-Doping Organisation. This is followed by the training of local doping control officers from each of the countries thereby building anti-doping knowledge to facilitate testing and education for implementation in each country. Concurrently a RADO Board is established consisting of members of governments and National Olympic Committees from each of the countries involved whereby terms of references, strategic plans and operational plans are developed with assistance from WADA.

As part of the establishment process, countries with strong anti-doping programmes are invited to work in a mentor role; for example in the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand through their National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADO's) undertook to train and mentor the local doping control officers (DCO's) from each country to help build their knowledge and expertise. Key sports which play an important role in the particular regions are also invited to participate; for example, the International Rugby Board is involved in the Oceania RADO.

### **Regional Anti-Doping Organisation (RADO) projects**

During the course of 2005 WADA has coordinated the development of RADO's and is facilitating the placement of an Anti-Doping Expert, supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat, in the regions of the Pacific, the Caribbean and East Africa (ANOCA Zone V) as agreed by Commonwealth Sports Ministers in Athens. This Expert will lead the work of the RADO and administer its day to day operations.

## Update on the establishment in 2005 of RADO's in the Pacific, Caribbean and East Africa

### **Pacific:**

The RADO in the Pacific (titled the Oceania RADO) was the pilot project that began in 2004 and has grown in strength over the course of 2005. The countries currently involved include **Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea** and **Samoa** with the goal of inviting other countries to join when the RADO is more firmly established and the Anti-Doping Expert is in place. It was agreed by the Oceania RADO Board that the RADO will be based in Fiji at the offices of the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC) and the RADO Board is working to have the Commonwealth Secretariat-appointed Anti-Doping Expert appointed in February 2006 and in place by March 2006.

The key partners in the development of the Oceania RADO are: Drug Free Sport New Zealand (DFSNZ), the Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA), the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC) and the International Rugby Board (IRB). The DFSNZ and ASDA have both provided a key mentor role in training, ongoing support and follow-up work with doping control officers.

Since its inception in 2004 and over the course of 2005 some key outcomes have been achieved which include:

1. the identification and training of 8 Doping Control Officers (2 per country) with 110 tests conducted out of competition and at regional events such as the South Pacific Mini Games;
2. education initiatives have been undertaken in Tonga at the National Schools Sports Festival and in Fiji anti-doping print materials have been made available at different events;
3. strategic and operational plans have been drafted (yet to be approved);
4. a RADO Board has been appointed with Dr. Robin Mitchell appointed as Chair. Dr. Mitchell is the Secretary General of ONOC and is also a member of CABOS.

### **Caribbean:**

The Caribbean RADO has been in the establishment phase in 2005, with 3 key meetings having taken place with the full participation and attendance by both governments and the Sports movement in the region. The countries that attended the meetings and indicated that they wish to be part of the RADO are: **Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, Guyana, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos, Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda** (other countries who might wish to join will also be invited). It was agreed at the meetings that the RADO would be based in Barbados with more recent confirmation that it will be housed at the Barbados Olympic Association Olympic Centre. The RADO Board is working to have the Commonwealth Secretariat-appointed Anti-Doping Expert in place by March 2006.

The mentor country who has confirmed that they will assist in the development of the Caribbean RADO is the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the International Netball Federation also keen to play a supporting role.

From these meetings the following are some of the key outcomes which have been achieved in 2005:

1. the agreement and endorsement by governments and sports in the region that a RADO is needed and is an ideal and fiscally responsible way forward;
2. the identification and approval by countries that they wish to be part of the RADO;
3. the identification and establishment of a training schedule for DCO's for 2006 (training to commence in February 2006);
4. the RADO Board terms of reference drafted (to be approved February 2006);
5. the appointment of a Project Team Chair, Dr Adrian Lorde. Dr Lorde is also the Chairman of the National Anti-Doping Commission of Barbados and a leading advocate for anti-doping in the region.

### **East Africa:**

The establishment of a RADO by ANOCA Zone V countries was strongly welcomed by countries involved and its development began in mid 2005 with 2 meetings taking place, both of which laid the ground work to enable the RADO to become fully operational in 2006. The countries that attended the meetings and confirmed they wish to be part of the RADO are: Ethiopia, Egypt, **Kenya**, Sudan, **Uganda** and **United Republic of Tanzania** (Commonwealth member countries only denoted in bold print) with an invitation to join to be extended to other Zone V countries as soon as possible. It was agreed at these meetings that the RADO would be based in Kenya, in government offices, with the full support of the Kenyan government. The RADO Board is working to have the Commonwealth Secretariat-appointed Anti-Doping Expert in place by the end of February 2006.

The mentor country actively assisting in the development of the African Zone V RADO is the South African Institute for Drug Free Sport (SAIDS). SAIDS has completed the first training session for the DCO's, who have in turn conducted out of competition testing in their respective countries. The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) is also playing a supportive role in the RADO.

From these meetings some of the key outcomes which have been achieved in 2005 include:

1. the agreement and endorsement by those governments and National Olympic Committees in attendance that a RADO is needed and is necessary to work together;
2. the identification of countries to be included in the initial establishment of the RADO;
3. the drafting of a strategic plan 2006 – 2009 and a RADO Terms of Reference (both yet to be approved);
4. the identification and training of 12 DCO's from member countries who have carried out 14 out of competition tests;
5. the appointment of a RADO Board and a Chair, Mr Tom O'omuombo, who is also the Secretary General of the Kenya National Olympic Committee.

### **Future RADO projects**

In 2006 WADA will continue to facilitate the building of anti-doping capacity through the establishment of RADO's and these are planned in the following regions: Central America, Zone VI Africa, Gulf States, South America, Central Asia, South East Asia and West Africa. The regions of South East Asia and Zone VI Africa in particular will likely involve a number of Commonwealth member countries.

## **RADO projects overview**

The establishment of RADO's and building anti-doping capacity world-wide in countries with limited or no anti-doping programmes is a major undertaking and a priority for WADA. The project draws on major resources of the organisation as well as from developed countries that are mentor countries. Mentor countries are invaluable to the project with Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa through their National Anti-Doping Organisations providing significant support.

WADA is working hard to reach out globally in 2006 to work in partnership with governments, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the sports movement for the benefit of countries in need of assistance as well as bringing together the necessary partners to build anti-doping capacity with our full support.

The key challenge facing the RADO's is their long term funding and sustainability. It is the primary objective in all regions to put in place strategic plans to ensure long term self-sustainability both through the commitment of each country as well as through the leveraging of support through multi-national organizations.

## **Commonwealth Education Programme**

It was agreed in the Athens Action Plan that the Commonwealth Education Programme would be used to assist member countries in addressing issues of drug free sport through school curricula provisions. As outlined above, each RADO, through the Anti-Doping Expert, will develop and implement an anti-doping educational strategy for the region. The Commonwealth Education Programme will be integrated into these educational strategies at the planning and implementation phase in order to help promote drug free sport in schools throughout the region.

## **Report conclusion**

Thus far, all regions that have been approached have supported the overall concept of developing a Regional Anti-Doping Organisation. The Regional Anti-Doping Organisations will facilitate the collection of samples throughout the region as well as develop coordinated educational strategies to promote doping-free sport in the region. All of this work will be administered by the Commonwealth Secretariat-appointed Anti-Doping Expert.

The continual support of these projects and the follow through of action plans developed by each region will be crucial for their success in helping to build capacity and develop anti-doping structures throughout those Commonwealth member countries.

WADA and the Commonwealth Secretariat have worked closely with these Commonwealth member countries in taking forward this project and both parties remain firmly committed to achieving the recommendations agreed by Commonwealth Sports Ministers in the Athens Action Plan.