

RUSSIA TASKFORCE REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING OF 10 MARCH 2022

In the current circumstances it is with some ambivalence I provide the following update to Council on behalf of the Russia Taskforce:

1. Since the Taskforce's last update to Council on 1 December 2021, RusAF has continued to work to meet the milestones and KPIs set out in the Reinstatement Plan approved by Council in March 2021.
2. However, the February 24 Russian invasion of Ukraine has cast a shadow over the whole of Russia including sport. The Taskforce is appalled by the invasion and notes the decision of the Council on 1 March 2022 to keep the Authorised Neutral Athlete (ANA) process in place but withdraw – for non-doping related reasons – permission for ANAs from Russia to compete in World Athletics Series events held for the foreseeable future.
3. In light of the above, the Taskforce has carefully considered its options and whether it is, in the current circumstances, appropriate and reasonable to continue its oversight and monitoring of RusAF regarding the reinstatement process, and whether it will in future be able to effectively continue that work.
4. Subject to a number of important considerations, the view of the Taskforce is that it should continue with that work. In summary, the Taskforce does not want to lose the progress and advances that have been achieved to date, risk having to re-start the reinstatement process afresh, lose the international experts and their invaluable knowledge and expertise, and risk 'process fatigue' leading to poor decisions about reinstatement of RusAF at some point in the future.
5. The mandate of the Taskforce is to take all such steps as it deems necessary to determine whether the Reinstatement Conditions have been met and can reasonably be expected to be met moving forward. The role is one of monitoring, oversight, guidance, reporting to Council and, where necessary, making recommendations to Council on what course of action to take regarding the ANAs and the reinstatement of RusAF, which are separate to any Council decisions regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
6. Over the past six years, the Taskforce has been monitoring RusAF's progress in seeking to meet the Reinstatement Conditions, cultivate and ingrain a culture of zero tolerance for doping in Russian athletics, and become a trusted ally of World Athletics in the fight for clean sport. Those are long-term objectives, and the progress made up to this point has been difficult and characterised by several significant set-backs and failures of leadership within RusAF. Had World Athletics, the Taskforce and the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) not been vigilant in monitoring developments in Russian athletics, significant cases of doping and cover-up would not have been detected and dealt with promptly.
7. The Taskforce is concerned that without its oversight and direction, and without the work of the international experts, there is a significant risk that some or all of that progress may be lost creating a set of circumstances where reversion to past practices is a very real risk. Such a loss and backsliding would undermine the cultural change that RusAF has been cultivating, and ultimately be detrimental to the interests of clean Russian athletes, the athletes in other countries with whom they compete, and, therefore the integrity of future international competitions. In addition, without the continued work of the Taskforce, when the Council is

presented in the future with a recommendation to resolve to reinstate RusAF it will not have the assurances it needs to make a fully informed decision.

8. The invasion has led to a number of circumstances, including restricted travel, which will make it difficult for the Taskforce to operate in the same way as it previously has. However, the Taskforce is currently prepared to continue with its tasks of overseeing, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the agreed plan to reform RusAF and the sport of athletics in Russia. It will work closely with the international experts to ensure they are able to effectively continue their tasks. The Taskforce is mindful of the impact caused by the Russian invasion and that the situation is evolving. The Taskforce will, on an on-going basis, check and monitor if any shift in focus or approach, or any change of pace is required, or if there are any other implications on the Taskforce's mandate and work.
9. Moving on to the substantive update on the recent work of the Taskforce:
 - 9.1. Currently, RusAF is working to meet the milestones and KPIs set out in the Reinstatement Plan that Council approved in March 2021. The Taskforce continues to be in regular communication with RusAF Acting President Irina Privalova and her colleagues to assess that work, and we also receive weekly reports from the international experts. Each month RusAF has provided a formal written report on the progress made against the Reinstatement Plan, and the international experts have provided their feedback on those reports. The Taskforce has also convened periodic calls with the international experts to discuss those reports and to address any issues as they arise.
 - 9.2. RusAF has made significant progress in many areas described in the roadmap but certain challenges remain. RusAF has provided full access to the international experts and engages on a day-to-day basis with them. The RusAF leadership strongly support delivery of the requirements of the strategic plan and operational roadmap and, while the progress is encouraging, it is not enough to suggest that RusAF is now fit for reinstatement. In particular, it is important that RusAF practises its new approach and processes on an ongoing basis, engages with more regional federations to drive cultural change in those regions, continues to strengthen its governance infrastructure, and ensures that the Disciplinary Commission becomes fully operational. None of this is about international competition; it is about governance, education, and culture. Nonetheless, as we are now a year on from approval of the Reinstatement Plan and KPIs it would be appropriate (as the Taskforce envisaged a year ago) to conduct a review of the Reinstatement Plan and KPIs. In the meantime, the reinstatement process continues and each month RusAF will continue to provide a formal written report on the progress made against the Reinstatement Plan.
 - 9.3. Concerning RUSADA, the Taskforce's concerns remain. The Taskforce understands there have been changes in the leadership at RUSADA which is a positive sign but, at this stage and in the current circumstances, is no more than that. As RUSADA's own reinstatement process continues so does the AIU's investigations work. As mentioned in the last Taskforce Report the AIU has had difficulties in obtaining important data. Separately, the extra testing on RusAF's athletes by the AIU at RusAF's

costs also continues. Service providers to the AIU in Russia are currently working, using Russian nationals as before. Challenges relating to the current situation are fluid, sample collection and their shipping routes need to be managed as well as close monitoring of stock of materials in Russia and the capability to import new equipment. The AIU is in contact with the new and well-respected Director General of RUSADA and the investigations team, having now greater confidence than under the previous regime that effective testing in support of AIU testing requirements will be possible if needed. The AIU is pleased to hear that former highly professional senior managers for the Testing Department have also returned to RUSADA providing functionality in that department should return to its previous reliable and qualitative levels.

- 9.4. The Taskforce has a significant further concern. RusAF has not kept up with the reinstatement condition to reimburse World Athletics on a timely basis for all the reinstatement process costs incurred by World Athletics. World Athletics has invoiced RusAF for the reinstatement costs incurred by World Athletics in the third and fourth quarters of 2021. Neither invoice has been paid and the payment due dates have passed. The Taskforce understands that, as a matter of urgency, RusAF is making arrangements for payment as soon as possible. If payment is not made then as a breach of the Reinstatement Conditions the Taskforce will recommend to the Council what action to take as a consequence of a serious breach of RusAF's obligations under the Reinstatement Plan. The recommended action may include a suspension of the reinstatement process.
- 9.5. The Taskforce has worked with RusAF and with the AIU to develop detailed Post-Reinstatement Conditions that would apply after the reinstatement of RusAF. Those Post-Reinstatement Conditions will, be monitored and enforced by the AIU. As a reminder, the Post-Reinstatement Conditions are designed to give Council and the member federations of World Athletics comfort that progress towards a genuine change in culture will continue in Russia after reinstatement of RusAF, and that there will be no backsliding. Draft Post-Reinstatement Conditions were sent to RusAF on 2 February 2022 for RusAF to discuss with relevant Russian stakeholders. The draft Post-Reinstatement Conditions were agreed to by the RusAF Presidium at its meeting on 21 February 2022, subject to some proposed amendments that require further consideration. While I suggested in my update in December 2021 that the Taskforce would present the Post-Reinstatement Conditions to Council for its approval at this meeting, given the current circumstances and the significant uncertainties that the Taskforce has been first required to address, I will endeavour to present the Post-Reinstatement Conditions to Council for approval and/or discussion at its next meeting in July 2022. However, I must stress that presenting the Post-Reinstatement Conditions to Council in July 2022 **is not** a proposal to reinstate RusAF at that time. Any consideration of reinstatement is subject to further discussion.
- 9.6. Following Council's decision on 1 December 2021 to maintain the ANA process in 2022, the Doping Review Board and the AIU (with input from the Taskforce) reviewed and revised the process and criteria to ensure that they remained fit for purpose. A number of revisions were made, including to require athletes identified on a 'long list' who may form part

of the quota of 20 ANAs to undergo additional testing prior to competition. However, the Taskforce acknowledges and appreciates that, given Council's decision of 1 March 2022, these requirements have been superseded and revised testing requirements for ANAs communicated to RusAF.

10. The Taskforce recommends that Council resolve as follows:

1. The Taskforce continues its oversight and monitoring of RusAF's implementation of the Reinstatement Plan and KPIs, guided to the extent possible in current circumstances by the international experts. The Taskforce shall report on its work to Council at its next meeting in July 2022 or, if required, earlier.
2. The Taskforce meet with RusAF to discuss progress against the Reinstatement Plan based on the KPIs, to assess and, if necessary, update the Reinstatement Plan and the KPIs, and possibly discuss and/or agree a specific timeline for consideration of reinstatement.
3. The Taskforce review the Post-Reinstatement Conditions including the RusAF's feedback on them and present them to the Council at its next meeting in July 2022 for approval and/or discussion, as the Taskforce deems appropriate at that time.

Rune Andersen, Taskforce Chair
10 March 2022