

**WORLD CONFERENCE ON DOPING IN SPORT**

**15 – 17 November 2007, Madrid, Spain**

**Intervention by Mohamed Mahid Shareef, Secretary General, Maldives Olympic  
Committee**

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Good Afternoon Everyone!

It is a great honour for me to say a few words on behalf of the government of Maldives and the Maldives Olympic Committee on this special occasion.

The government of Maldives and Maldives Olympic Committee strongly believes that doping in sport is the new challenge as we move forward in making sport as a necessity for healthy life extending the opportunities for more youth to participate in sport. Although Maldives is not competitive globally or regionally in sport, surely doping in sport will not discriminate us. Hence, it is of great concern for us as we stride forward to become a sporting nation, which made Maldives one of the first signatories of the Copenhagen declaration and acceptance of WADA Code within South Asia. Mr. Chairman, Maldives will also fully support the new WADA Code. The ratification of the UNESCO convention is now in progress and hopefully to be done by end of 2007.

In order to promote the cause of play true and to contribute to this global cause, Maldives now hosts the South Asian RADO. The organisation, which was formalised in May 2007, we believe, will help us to develop our anti-doping policies. Furthermore in collaboration with the NOC and the government, it will help us to implement regulations, promote educational activities within schools and among athletes of all categories. The close relationship between the NOC, the sport associations and the government has enabled the NOC to convince the Youth and Sports Development Centre to include a module or at least provide adequate information on doping in sport in the training programs conducted for coaches, athletes and officials.

To promote and assist out of competition testing within south Asia, this December Maldives

will conduct its first DCO training program. We hope these DCO's will help to promote the cause against doping in sport.

While we understand that penalties only cannot eliminate this immense problem, we believe education is the key. Hence, with close partnership with the Ministry of Education, the NOC will start educational programs in 2008.

The establishment of South Asian RADO has already increased much needed awareness within the athletes and sports associations. While we understand that this is not adequate, it is a stepping stone to move forward. In conclusion I take this opportunity to thank WADA and Olympic Council of Asia on behalf of the government of Maldives, the NOC and myself, for their support extended to Maldives. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate WADA for the excellent work done in fighting this global cause. Let me also thank the organisers of this conference for the excellent arrangement and our Spanish hosts for their warm hospitality.

Mr. Chairman. Together in partnership we can surely 'Beat the Cheats'. Thank you Mr. Chairman.