



## Speech by Mr M. Stofile

Transcription of the Closing Ceremony of the World Conference on Doping in Sport

17 November 2007  
Madrid, Spain

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Ministers present, the Chairperson and the Executive Committee of WADA, Mr Dick Pound, Members of the WADA Foundation Board, Esteemed Leaders from different sports federations and international organisations, Mr Ogi, from the United Nations and indeed the UNESCO partner of WADA in this conference. It has been a very strenuous week for those responsible for the preparations of the papers and discussions and logistics and, of course, to give leadership; but we have scoured every rock, thanks to you, Mr Chairman. It is normal when a new initiative is started, especially at the level of the international communities, for people to have different feelings about what is coming. Some see positive outcomes, others are suspicious and sceptical and, in between, there are those who think that they will try to make something out of it. What is important in those circumstances is to get a leadership that is predictable, a person who is consistent. One knows, when this happens, this is the response that you can expect. Thank you for being predictable, a resolute leader, a very fixated leader on the objectives that must be attained, a very astute leader, but also a very polite leader. Mr Pound has very strong feelings about anti-doping, and he also has very strong feelings about the WADA Foundation Board members' responsibilities, but those are never expressed in arrogance or aggression; always very calm and understanding, but always very resolute. Thank you very much.

Since its inception, WADA was intended to be a world anti-doping initiative; it was never anticipated that it was going to be a nice picnic in the garden. Yes, indeed, we have met many challenges, and been confronted with many an obstacle, but your quest for justice and your resolute conviction about where WADA should go has made it possible for this ship to scour every rock. You have always reminded us that the "W" in WADA means that it is a world organisation and, as such, we must assume our individual aspirations to this global objective, and that is exactly where you took us; you have been a very good navigator, as well as a very good captain.

The conglomeration of sports movements and governments can never be very easy; it is not easy at the local level, and it is never easy at the national and international level. In WADA, we saw evolve an understanding of what equal partnership is all about. There are no senior partners and there are no junior partners in WADA; we are equal in good faith, and that is what sustains our integrity. From the governments' perspective, we thank you very much for inculcating that understanding amongst ourselves. The minister from Spain has just pointed out that the road to a drug-free dispensation has not yet been achieved; you yourself, quoting Winston Churchill, indicated that this is only the end of the beginning. So we must now consolidate all those things that, together with you, we were able to build into WADA. We must lead by example; we must be clear in our utterances, we must be clear in our attitudes, we must be committed to what we have resolved to do. Thank you very much.