

## **RUSSIA TASKFORCE REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING OF 14 JULY 2022**

I am pleased to provide the following update to Council on behalf of the Russia Taskforce:

1. As you know, in November 2021, the 53rd World Athletics Congress resolved that the suspension of RusAF's membership of World Athletics should continue until Council decides that all of the conditions set by Council from time to time for the reinstatement of RusAF's membership have been met.
2. Since its last update to Council on 10 March 2022, the Taskforce and the international experts have continued their respective work, and RusAF has made progress to meet the milestones and KPIs set out in the Reinstatement Plan approved by Council in March 2021. The ongoing situation in the Ukraine continues to cast a shadow over the process. Despite the appalling invasion and adverse circumstances, the work of the Taskforce has been maintained. The Taskforce has been in regular communication with RusAF Acting President Irina Privalova and her colleagues to assess that work. The Taskforce has also received weekly reports from the international experts. RusAF has provided formal written reports 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.
3. This past month, the independent experts undertook a detailed assessment of RusAF's progress against the Strategic Plan, the Operational Roadmap, and the KPIs. That assessment considered (1) RusAF's position when the independent experts commenced work, (2) RusAF's position now, and (3) RusAF's likely position in three to four months' time.
4. Based on these reports, assessment, and feedback, the view of the Taskforce remains one of guarded optimism. RusAF has substantively implemented almost all of the requirements of the Strategic Plan and the Operational Roadmap and has made steady progress to demonstrate its effectiveness as a national federation based on the identified pillars of change. One requirement that has not yet been met is the requirement that the Athletes' Commission member of the Presidium be provided with voting rights. However, the Taskforce understands that the member participates fully in Presidium matters and the necessary change to the RusAF charter will be made at the earliest possible time.
5. A key aspect of RusAF's reform has been the effective and proper functioning of the Presidium, which has – for the most part – functioned correctly and appropriately with support from the RusAF leadership. Processes and procedures are in place to govern both the effective and proper functioning of Presidium matters, and members' conduct generally. An effective Presidium is vital to mitigating against any risk of backsliding.
6. Another key aspect of RusAF's reform has been cultural change in Russian athletics. Since cultural change is a generational task – especially in a country as large and diverse as Russia – the Taskforce acknowledges that it is not (and will not be) possible to identify a specific event or moment in time at which cultural change is or was 'completed'. However, the building blocks of cultural change have been embraced and implemented and are becoming embedded by RusAF (and within RusAF itself) and, to varying degrees, by the regions. For example, within RusAF, the independent disciplinary committee operates effectively, the

board of trustees provides checks and balances and oversight, and there are indicators that demonstrate community coaching demographics are shifting away from those educated in the 'old system'. Beyond the organisation itself, RusAF has established regional councils to facilitate representation and participation, provided ethics and anti-doping training to the regions, and established a regional federation ratings system based on criteria related to cultural change, thereby creating healthy competition between the regions in implementing sustainable RusAF-led change.

7. If/when RusAF is reinstated to World Athletics membership, continued cultural change will be a very important matter for post-reinstatement monitoring and compliance. At this stage, the building blocks for cultural change have been put in place, and indicators of cultural change are emerging, but deeply rooted, sustained, and widespread cultural change will likely take many years (and regions and stakeholders will inevitably proceed at different paces and with different degrees of support for and resistance to change).
8. Assuming that all the progress made to date continues, and assuming there are no further attempts to, or events that, destabilise RusAF and/or the reinstatement process, the Taskforce considers that RusAF will be ready to receive an independent audit of its processes and progress in approximately mid to late October 2022. If that audit is considered successful (and there are no other issues arising or outstanding), the Taskforce may consider a potential timeline for reinstatement.
9. This athletics season (April to August) RusAF has organised a series of domestic competitions for its elite level athletes, which will culminate in a set of finals. Prize money is offered and the competitions are televised. Ordinarily, such activity would not be a noteworthy item for the Taskforce's report; however, such initiative would not have been possible without the structure and focus the Reinstatement Plan has provided and the progress made by RusAF against it.
10. Regarding RUSADA, the Taskforce understands that recent changes at senior leadership level within RUSADA has meant testing and investigations are beginning to return to the previous levels, which is a positive step.
11. In the Taskforce's March update, it was reported that the AIU continued to have difficulties in obtaining certain important anti-doping test data from the Moscow Laboratory. This referred to a reinstatement condition set by Council in June 2019. The AIU has now reported to the Taskforce that its enquiries to obtain the data (or identify what happened to it) have been unsuccessful. Therefore, the investigation has been closed, for now. Accordingly, the relevant reinstatement condition remains unmet. The Taskforce will assess the significance and implications of this when it considers any potential timeline for reinstatement and any conditions related to or arising from the current non-availability of the Moscow Laboratory data.
12. In recent months, RusAF has reimbursed World Athletics on a timely basis for all of the reinstatement costs incurred in 2021. In April 2022, RusAF was invoiced USD\$ 283,971.75 for the reinstatement costs incurred by World Athletics in the quarter ending 31 March 2022, and RusAF paid that invoice in full. Last week, RusAF was invoiced USD\$ 294,370.83 for the reinstatement costs incurred by World Athletics in the quarter ending 30 June 2022, and payment of that invoice is expected shortly.

13. Following Council's decision in March 2022, the Doping Review Board has been liaising with RusAF regarding any Authorised Neutral Athlete ('ANA') applications that were in progress at that moment in time, and has met to consider any applications that RusAF and the relevant athletes wished to continue. In view of the severe and worsening consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on the people of Ukraine and the global economy, the Taskforce considers it appropriate to suggest to the Council to separately consider pausing until further notice the ANA process for Russian athletes. If the Council were to take such a decision, no Russian athlete who would normally require ANA status in order to compete outside Russia would be eligible to do so until such time as Council reconsiders its decision.
14. As explained in my last update to Council, 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. They 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. While I suggested in my update in March 2022 that the Taskforce would present the Post-Reinstatement Conditions to Council for its approval at this meeting, given the level of detail they contain the Taskforce wishes to present them to Council in a briefing before consideration (if necessary, amendment) and approval. It is logical that this briefing occurs after the independent audit of RusAF's processes and progress I referred to earlier in my report. However, I must stress that presenting the Post-Reinstatement Conditions to Council will **not** be a proposal to reinstate RusAF at that time. Any consideration of reinstatement is subject to further discussion.
15. 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. If necessary, the Taskforce meet with RusAF to discuss progress against the Reinstatement Plan and KPIs.
  2. The Taskforce makes arrangements for an independent audit of RusAF's processes and progress against the Reinstatement Plan and KPIs to be conducted mid to late October 2022.
  3. The Taskforce:
    - (i) report on its work at the next Council meeting in November 2022;
    - (ii) present at a briefing to Council:
      - a. the outcome of the independent audit of RusAF's processes and progress against the Reinstatement Plan and KPIs; and,
      - b. depending on the outcome of the independent audit, the Post-Reinstatement Conditions for consideration; and,

(iii) if appropriate submit the Post-Reinstatement Conditions, for approval at its next meeting in November 2022, on the basis that such consideration and/or any approval by Council will not be a proposal to reinstate RusAF at that time.

Rune Andersen, Taskforce Chair  
14 July 2022