**Committee: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

**Agenda Item: The usage of appearance performance enhancing drugs (APEDs) and sports; their interconnection**

**Country: Italy**

**Delegation: Yasemin Çakma**

Sports play an essential role in the life of every individual. It brings significant psychophysical and social benefits. Specifically, it allows the diffusion of important values that in particular help young people to make the most of their abilities to control their character and to respect themselves and others. Italy realized that athletes with excessive perfectionism, extrinsically motivated and who have interaction with drugs have a positive attitude toward doping. In 2002 Italy became a part of the Anti-Doping Convention and has shown extreme effort against doping and APEDs. Unfortunately, efforts made by Italy were not enough according to the data from WADA, Italy is one of the countries with the highest number of Anti-Doping Violations (2014- 2017). Highest percentage of positive doping tests are seen in men around 33-34 years old. Italy started to take serious action to give these violations an end.

Italy’s Anti-Doping Criminal Law contains plenty of aims and objectives such as analysing production and distribution (supply) of doping products, estimating financial dimensions of the doping market, assessing relative importance of different sources of products and drawing policy implications from analysis. One of the countries with the most comprehensive regulatory framework on doping is Italy. The Italian National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO Italia), which is a signatory to WADA's Anti-Doping Code, has exclusive competence in doping disciplinary issues. All sports anti-doping activities (testing and results management) are conducted according to the WADA Code and its standards. In this state and throughout the whole Europe special emphasis is placed on the doping control process. As a consequence, in 2017 in Italy 7.1 percent more tests were conducted compared to the previous year (322,050 and 300,565 respectively). Moreover, Italy is one of the first countries to have criminalized the use of doping in addition to standard sport sanctions. Whereas, under the rules of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), athletes can only be subject to disqualification for a doping offence, Italian law provides for a real penalty of up to three years' imprisonment for the use of doping. In order to combat doping law violations, investigations are regularly conducted in Italy. For example, a massive antidoping operation was completed earlier this year, which led to the discovery of a large network involved in the smuggling of performance-enhancing substances.

The first approach that athletes, especially the younger ones must have with the anti-doping culture is through information and education campaigns. They must be characterized by uniformity at every level and must be suitable for the reference target. It is hoped that they should be of interest to school-age children in order to influence their choices by understanding the values of sport and which models to follow and emulate. There should also be seminars to create awareness of the harm APEDs cause in the human body. Most of the sathletes tend to use doping due to not being aware of the serious health conditions it causes in long term. Engaging and collaborating with everyone involved in anti-doping, in particular with the sports movement and public authorities, to increase support, unity and coherence in everyone’s efforts is a necessity. Even though education is an important part when tackling APEDs, we need to have reliable anti-doping and sports organisations because doped athletes often go free without any punishments. Non-sport related people should be recruited for anti-doping testing positions and there should be an independent doping test and enforcement system.

In conclusion, Italy supports all the needed action that will be taken with the UN. Engaging with every other country to whatever it takes to resolve this major issue.

**References**

[**https://uni-freiburg.de/universitaet/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/02/Symposium\_Freiburg\_2011\_Guariniello.pdf**](https://uni-freiburg.de/universitaet/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/02/Symposium_Freiburg_2011_Guariniello.pdf)

[**https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agenzia\_mondiale\_antidoping**](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agenzia_mondiale_antidoping)

[**https://rua.ua.es/dspace/bitstream/10045/113682/1/JHSE\_16\_Proc2\_56.pdf**](https://rua.ua.es/dspace/bitstream/10045/113682/1/JHSE_16_Proc2_56.pdf)