5 September 2019 – Warsaw, Poland -- Today, Poland’s Minister of Sport and Tourism and incoming WADA President, Witold Banka, hosted a full-day ‘Round-table on athletes’ involvement in the fight against doping in sport’. With support from the Ministry of Sport and Tourism; the Polish Anti-Doping Agency (POLADA); and Academy for Good Governance, the event included athletes that currently hold positions within the athlete commissions of WADA, the IOC, the IPC and ANOC; as well as Global Athlete and EU Athletes.

In terms of the events outcomes, participants:

- welcomed the initiative by Minister Banka to gather representatives of various athlete groups to discuss anti-doping issues of common interest.

- acknowledged Minister Banka’s desire to be as inclusive as possible in his stakeholder engagement and supported his firm belief that the diversity of opinions in the global athlete community is a benefit to the quality of the debate and decision-making of WADA.

- agreed on the importance of meaningful and increased athlete representation within WADA and of finding a robust representative model for the future composition of WADA’s Athlete Committee.

- supported the concept of creating an anti-doping ombudsperson to increase the resources accessible to athletes around the world; however, the implementation of this concept requires further discussions.

- welcomed Minister Banka’s proposal to continue these discussions with athlete groups in the future, including during the upcoming World Conference on Doping in Sport in Katowice, Poland, and during the Athlete Session to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland on 19 March 2020 immediately following the next WADA Annual Symposium.