REFERENCE DOCUMENT OR BRIEF STATEMENT OF REASONS:

In view of the growing number of worrying reports concerning athletes, officials and sports in Belarus and the negative impact on the reputation of the Olympic Movement, the IOC EB decided on 25 November 2020 to initiate a formal procedure with a view to considering appropriate measures or sanctions vis-à-vis the National Olympic Committee of the Republic of Belarus (NOC of Belarus). This follows the decision of the IOC EB on 7 October 2020 to strengthen its investigation into the NOC’s compliance with the Olympic Charter, and further discussions during the IOC EB meetings on 23 October 2020 and 11 November 2020.

Since the start of its investigation, the IOC has received various athlete testimonies, reports and letters from the NOC of Belarus, the Athlete’s Commission of the NOC, summer and winter Belarusian National Federations, organisations such as the Belarusian Sport Solidarity Foundation (BSSF), the Free Association of Athletes of Belarus SOS_BY, International Ice Hockey Federation, international athlete groups, international law firms and content from media outlets. In addition, the IOC met with RAZAM.CH and participated in Zoom call with Belarusian athletes. The IOC has also been informed by the NOC of Belarus that they have scheduled NOC elections in February 2021, during which they will take into consideration the concerns expressed by the IOC about an apparent or perceived conflict of interest. All elements are being taken into consideration during this ongoing investigation.

In view of the allegations and elements received by the IOC and the responses provided by the NOC of Belarus, the IOC has come to the conclusion that it appears that the current leadership of the NOC of Belarus has not appropriately protected the Belarussian athletes from political discrimination within the NOC, their member federations or the sports movement. This is contrary to the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter, and therefore seriously affects the reputation of the Olympic Movement.
FINANCIAL REPERCUSSIONS:

☐ Included in budget
☐ Extra-budget credit requested

NONE

DECISIONS REQUIRED FROM THE EB:

The IOC Executive Board to adopt the following provisional measures until further notice or until such time as a new NOC Executive Board is elected in February 2021 by the NOC General Assembly:

1. Exclude the currently elected members of the Executive Board of the NOC of Belarus from all IOC events and activities, including the Olympic Games. This includes in particular Mr Alexander Lukashenko, in his capacity as NOC President and legal representative of the NOC; Mr Viktor Lukashenko, in his capacity as NOC First Vice-President and the person responsible for the NOC’s operations and activities on a daily basis; and Mr Dmitry Baskov, in his capacity as an NOC Executive Board member and in view of the specific allegations raised against him. This provision is not applicable to Mrs Tatiana Drozdovskaya, as she is an ex-officio athletes’ representative on the Executive Board.

2. Suspend all financial payments to the NOC of Belarus, with the exception of payments related to the preparations of the Belarusian athletes for, and their participation in, the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. All Olympic scholarships for Belarusian athletes will now be paid directly to the athletes, and no longer through the NOC.

3. Request the relevant International Federations to make sure that all eligible Belarusian athletes can take part in qualification events for the upcoming Olympic Games without any political discrimination.

4. Suspend any discussions with the NOC of Belarus regarding the hosting of future IOC events.

5. Request all constituents of the Olympic Movement to respect these measures in the interest of protecting Belarusian athletes’ rights and the reputation of the Olympic Movement.

The IOC Executive Board will continue to monitor the situation and reserve the right to consider any further action or to remove any of these provisional measures depending on the evolution of the situation.
IOC EXECUTIVE BOARD

DECISION

Reference: 13.3 P.2

Date of decision: 07.12.2020

Signature of President or Director General:

☐ Decision APPROVED AS PROPOSED
☐ Decision REJECTED
☐ Decision POSTPONED (new date: [click and type])
☐ Decision APPROVED WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS OR CHANGES

Person in charge of follow up: James MACLEOD, Director NOC Relations

Report to be given to:

☐ Yes ☐ No Deadline January 2021
President / Directors' Meeting:
☐ Yes ☐ No Deadline