



M/12/22
Monaco, 1 March 2022

To: **MEMBER FEDERATIONS**
Copy: Council Members
Executive Board Members
Commission Chairpersons
Area Associations
Dentsu Athletics

Re: **World Athletics Council Decisions regarding the Russian Athletics Federation and the Member Federation of Belarus**

Dear all,

The World Athletics Council met today concerning the Russian Athletics Federation and the Member Federation of Belarus as a consequence of the military invasion of Ukraine and resolved the following:

1. The 2022 Authorised Neutral Athlete process is maintained.
2. In respect of the Russian Athletics Federation, the privileges granted by the Council at its meeting on 01 December 2021 to Authorised Neutral Athletes and the Athlete Support Personnel and any other official supporting them are suspended in relation to World Athletics Series Events for the foreseeable future. This means that Authorised Neutral Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and any other official will not be able to compete or participate in World Athletics Series Events.
3. In respect of the Belarus Athletic Federation, in accordance with Article 13 of World Athletics Constitution, their Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, Member Federation Officials and Officials who are Citizens of Belarus are excluded from World Athletics Series Events for the foreseeable future.
4. Both decisions will be kept under review by the Council if and as circumstances warrant.
5. The Member Federations for Russia and Belarus have been informed of this today and given four hours' notice to respond.
6. The Council has delegated to the President to review any responses received and determine if there is any merit in them and to reconvene Council if warranted.
7. The issue of whether the exclusions from competition should be extended to other International Competitions and whether Belarus Athletic Federation should be suspended from membership will be considered at the Council meeting on 9/10 March together with any additional matters relating to the issues following the invasion by Russia of Ukraine and the complicity of the Republic of Belarus.

The reason for this is the invasion of Ukraine which is contrary to the purposes of World Athletics, and to stand in solidarity with the global sporting movement.

The Belarus Athletics Federation and the Russian Athletics Federation have been provided with the opportunity to respond before these sanctions are implemented.

Further details are available in the related [Press Release](#).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Ridgeon".

Jon Ridgeon
Chief Executive Officer