

# Florida International Model United Nations 37

## Kickin' It With Corruption: International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) Congress, 2021



## Background Guide

# Letter from the Secretary-General and Director General

Hello delegates, advisors, parents, and teachers,

On behalf of us, your Secretary-General Isabella Balbi Masso and Director-General Alexandria Cerini, and all of our Secretariat, we would like to welcome you all to the 37th iteration of the Florida International Model United Nations Conference! This upcoming FIMUN will continue to be held at Florida International University's beautiful Modesto A. Maidique Campus from March 14th to 16th, 2025.

This year we have selected the theme of "Diplomacy in a Divided World," where delegates will be prompted to show diplomacy during challenging and engaging scenarios in a wide variety of General Assembly, Specialized, and Crisis Committees. Both of us originate from opposite sides of the ocean and have seen the division of the world, especially in our modern day. We are strong believers that every person, even young students, have the ability to show diplomacy and change the world. Being able to act with diplomacy in cases of adversity, disadvantage, and injustice is a skill that every person should learn and harness to make the world a better place, not just for themselves but for everyone.

We are working hard to provide every delegate with a committee that they will love, and an unforgettable experience where they will make new friends, learn new skills, and discover the amazing world of Model UN! This year we will be hosting 15 committees each one focusing on a different current, historical, or fantasy issue, with an amazing staff who are prepared to make this FIMUN the best one yet!

We are incredibly honored and excited to welcome you all to our amazing campus and conference this March, and cannot wait to see each and every one of you succeed!

See you soon,

Isabella Balbi Masso and Alexandria Cerini  
[ibalb007@fiu.edu](mailto:ibalb007@fiu.edu) and [aceri008@fiu.edu](mailto:aceri008@fiu.edu)  
Secretary-General and Director-General  
Florida International Model United Nations 37

# Letter from the Under-Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

My name is Carlos Ricaurte, and I have the privilege of being your Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Specialized Committees on this iteration of FIU Model UN's High School Conference, FIMUN 37. I am a Senior currently double majoring in Political Science and International Relations, with a certificate in Latin American Studies. Last year I had the opportunity of being your Committee Director for FIMUN 36's UNSC Committee focused on the 1961 Congo Crisis, through which I learned the deep value and importance that FIMUN represents for you all and our team here at FIU.

I was born and raised in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, and I came here to the United States as an International Student in Spring 2022. Ever since I joined the FIU Model UN Team the year after that, in Spring 2023, I haven't regretted it one bit, knowing the immense value it has brought to me as a speaker, researcher, and person. A value that, with the amazing and creative work brought on to you by this year's Secretariat, CDs, Staffers, and many others, I know will see itself greatly reflected onto you all. Within our SPEC Committees, we once again ascertain FIMUN's commitment to having fun and learning about critical, real-world issues through constructive and entertaining debate. Everything from discussing matters of technology and development within our Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and UN Office of Legal Affairs (UNOLA) to a stroll into the world of competitive Football with FIFA, this year's committees have it all. We take a deep dive into the historical struggles of Latin Americans through the Sao Paulo Forum, the similar struggles of native fauna within the Everglades via our Council of Critters, and how we report on all these things happening, through our intrepid UN Correspondents Association, or Press Corps.

As we move ever closer toward FIMUN 37, I am excited to see your creativity, leadership, and debate released onto these committees. We as the FIMUN Secretariat remain committed to this, ensuring you get to enjoy yourselves within a framework of mutual respect, diplomacy, and cultural awareness. In the end, you are representing real people with real, systemic struggles after all. Remember that through any challenges you might face, Secretariat and your CDs are here to help. Should you have any questions, doubts, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your Committee Directors, Chairs, or me, your USG.

¡Buena suerte!

Carlos Ricaurte  
crica017@fiu.edu  
Under-Secretary-General for Specialized Committees  
Florida International Model United Nations 37

# Letter from the Director

Dear Delegates,

My name is Sebastian Lorenzo, and I am extremely happy to serve as your Director of the FIFA Council at FIMUN 37. My Model United Nations journey started all the way back in middle school, and more than seven years later, my passion for the program has only grown. As a junior Accounting student at Florida International University, I am thrilled to once again have the opportunity to provide a fun environment for both competing and making friends. Although I did not grow up in a household that consistently watched football, I greatly appreciated the politics and policies of FIFA as someone who dreams of attending law school.

Managing a global institution is difficult when each region under your purview maintains their own laws, finances, and beliefs. When faced with the controversy over the 2022 World Cup, this difficulty becomes even clearer. As you address this controversy set in the year 2021, you will find that other competing forces independent of this controversy will also need to be addressed. Delegates are expected to propose internal organization changes, discuss changes to FIFA tournaments including the World Cup, and act swiftly within certain timeframes, whether through directives or your own personal notes.

This committee will be fast paced, but remember that your primary responsibility is to have fun above all else. If you have any questions prior to the conference, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [slore034@fiu.edu](mailto:slore034@fiu.edu).

Best Regards,

Sebastian Lorenzo  
[slore034@fiu.edu](mailto:slore034@fiu.edu)

Kickin' It With Corruption: International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) Congress, 2021  
Director  
Florida International Model United Nations 37

# Letter from the Director

Dear Delegates,

My name is Tracy Mussotte, and I am happy to work alongside Sebastian Lorenzo, as Co-Director of the FIFA Council at FIMUN 37. My involvement with the FIMUN team began last year during FIMUN 36 when I had the opportunity to join the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA), also known as, Press Corps. Having enjoyed the experience so much I decided to get more involved with the organization and committees.

So, this year I have joined the Secretariat as the Assistant Director of Delegate Affairs to assist all those who may need it. And despite not being able to direct or chair due to my duties as assistant director, I wanted to bring to FIMUN one of the few things that unite the world together: sports. What better sport to do that with other than the greatest sport in the world, football.

Growing up in South Florida and coming from a Caribbean household, football has been prevalent in my upbringing. And after the recent scandals from the latest FIFA World Cup, it was a disappointment to see corruption in such a beautiful game. So, in this specialized committee I want to see what policies you all come up with to either save the game or further corrupt it.

I cannot wait to see what comes out of this committee. Do not be afraid to bring all your football knowledge, do your absolute best, and enjoy yourself. If you have any further inquiries on the committee or any concerns, do not be afraid to reach out to me at [tmuss006@fiu.edu](mailto:tmuss006@fiu.edu).

Sincerely,

Tracy Mussotte  
[tmuss006@fiu.edu](mailto:tmuss006@fiu.edu)

Kickin' It With Corruption: International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) Congress, 2021  
Chair  
Florida International Model United Nations 37

# Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Cayetana Velasco, and I am delighted to serve as your Chair of the FIFA Council at FIMUN 37, working alongside Sebastian Lorenzo and Tracy Mussotte.

Although I am relatively new to the FIU Model UN Club, my journey with MUN began in 9th grade in my school in Peru, where I was part of the secretariat for four years, chaired twice at our school conferences, and had the opportunity to participate in international conferences.

However, my first real experience in MUN was back in 2020 during an online conference. This club quickly became a passion that has stuck with me over the past four years. As a political science major, it was a natural fit, and through Model UN I was truly able to discover my interest in humanitarian causes.

That's why I'm drawn to this year's topic, which dives into critical issues like human rights abuses in Qatar, institutional transparency, and the barriers that get in the way of effective decision-making. As someone from Peru who experienced the excitement of the World Cup firsthand, I find this topic especially interesting!

Delegates will have tough choices, deciding whether to prioritize full transparency or give in to self-interest and potentially corrupt actions to reach their objectives. I'm really looking forward to seeing the creative solutions they come up with and how they navigate through the committee!

Please feel free to email me at [cvela117@fiu.edu](mailto:cvela117@fiu.edu) if you have any doubts or general misconceptions regarding the background guide, the topic or the committee as a whole, as I will be glad to answer them. I wish you the best of luck, and most importantly, remember to have fun!

Best regards,

Cayetana Velasco  
[cvela117@fiu.edu](mailto:cvela117@fiu.edu)

Kickin' It With Corruption: International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) Congress, 2021  
Chair  
Florida International Model United Nations 37

# Sensitivity Statement

FIMUN 37 has a zero tolerance policy on racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, and transphobia. If delegates are found to be engaging in any such actions or rhetoric are open to disqualification from awards.

We ask all delegates to be conscious of the histories and context of their countries or characters for their committees. Many of our committees focus on the stories and topics relating to historically oppressed and marginalized communities and regions. While these committees are simulations, the histories behind them are real, and disrespect towards the histories and existences of people represented in our committees will not be tolerated.

On our website, we have an anonymous report form if delegates encounter such actions. While we hope to avoid the need for such, this form will be checked regularly by our Secretariat to ensure that all delegates at FIMUN 37 can enjoy their weekend comfortably.

# Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that our university is located on the ancestral homelands of sovereign Native nations, including the Tequesta, the Calusa, and today, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. We pay our respects to the traditional custodians, the Elders past and present, by fully recognizing Indigenous sovereignty as well as the historical and contemporary relationship between Indigenous peoples and their traditional homelands. It is within our responsibility as an academic institution to uphold knowledge about the history of our institution with the original stewards of this land that we live, learn, and work on. We encourage our delegates to read and learn about ways to support our local Indigenous communities in their efforts to preserve Seminole and Miccosukee land and water rights, cultural practices, and the conservation of the environment.

Consistent with our University's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, FIU is working towards creating an academic environment that is inclusive of Indigenous students, faculty, and staff who have often been rendered invisible due to structural discriminatory practices. At FIU, we hold ourselves accountable to serving local, regional and worldwide Indigenous communities through academic policy-oriented research, education, partnerships, community service, as well as enrollment initiatives to overcome the effects of Indigenous exclusion and erasure in our own academic institution. It is our hope that acknowledging the land helps us to better understand that harm has been done and address the legacies of violence in our communities in order to create a pathway to true healing

# Rules of Procedure

## Motions

### Motion to Open/Resume Debate

Opens the floor for debate. Delegates may now begin to provide further motions.

### Motion to Open Speakers List

Opens the Speakers List, wherein delegates can deliver speeches without a set topic.

### Motion for a Moderated Caucus

Opens a set speakers list for debate on a specified topic. Total time and speaking time must be specified within the motion.

### Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus

Opens time for unregulated working time for delegates to work within their blocs on working papers/draft resolutions/directives.

### Motion for a Round Robin

Opens a Round Robin, where every delegate in the room delivers a speech for a set time without a designated topic. Will start from the delegate that motioned and will either go clockwise or counterclockwise at delegate's discretion.

### Motion for a Gentlemen's Unmoderated/Consultation of the Whole

Similar rules as to a normal Unmoderated Caucus, however all delegates must remain in their seats.

### Motion to Introduce Working Papers/Draft Resolutions/Directives

Opens the floor to begin formal procedure on papers. Order of address if not specified will default to order in which each paper was introduced.



### Authors Panel

Generally motioned for alongside the introduction of Working Papers/Draft Resolutions. Involves a Reading Period for Delegates to read papers, an Introduction where a panel of Delegates present the paper, and a Question and Answer portion, where sponsors of the paper are asked questions by fellow delegates about the paper.

### Motions for For and Against Speeches

Opens a short speakers list where (generally speaking) 2 delegates are called to speak for and against a given working paper/draft resolution/directive.

### Motions to Enter Voting Procedure and Voting Methods

Goes alongside a motion to end debate when in General Assembly and certain Specialized Agencies. Delegates will vote on papers on the floor. If no voting method is specified, committee will default to placard vote.

Placard vote operates the same way as votes for procedural matters. Delegates raise their placards to vote For, Against, or to Abstain if they stated they were Present.

Roll Call vote will have the chair call Roll Call once more, and when delegates are called they will state whether they vote For, Against, or if they Abstain.

Votes by Acclimation involves calling for general consensus, where the paper will pass unless anyone votes Against. Then placard vote is in order.

## Points

### Point of Inquiry

General question regarding committee or the conference

### Point of Order

Question or correction regarding parliamentary procedures

### Point of Personal Privilege

Personal request unrelated to committee. (e.g temperature in the room or seating issue)

# Rules of Procedure

## Crisis Notes & Crisis Updates

This committee will incorporate both crisis updates and crisis notes. A crisis update is a periodic briefing where delegates will be informed on what is happening in the world of FIFA based on the directives and notes that have been passed. A crisis note is a letter written to an individual (real or fake) that outlines actions you would like your character to accomplish. They may affect the FIFA world as well as the content of crisis updates. Joint personal directives (JPDs) are a type of crisis note that is cosigned by several delegates, utilizing all their combined resources and powers. FIFA Specifics.

At a specific point in committee, as announced in a crisis update, delegates will have to choose potential countries to host the 2030 World Cup through a resolution\*. Delegates will be informed of which countries are “bidding” for the spot throughout the committee. This will be the only time a resolution is passed; every other instance will include directives. This critically important vote will only take place on the final sessions of the committee. Crisis note cycles will not pause during this duration.

Due to the fast-paced nature of the committee, **amendment periods will only be permitted for influential votes** such as the 2030 World Cup resolution. Directives may not make any changes to the FIFA Congress or FIFA Judicial Committees; all other FIFA executive functions are permitted.

\* The guarantee of any one specific country being chosen is not guaranteed, as the FIFA Council does not select the final host country; the FIFA Congress makes the final decision.

## Historical Context



Stadium infrastructure is one of the most important parts of choosing a host for the FIFA World Cup, needing to accommodate tens of thousands of people while also attracting international attention for its design. Pictured: Nizhny Novgorod Stadium in Russia. Source: WorldSoccer

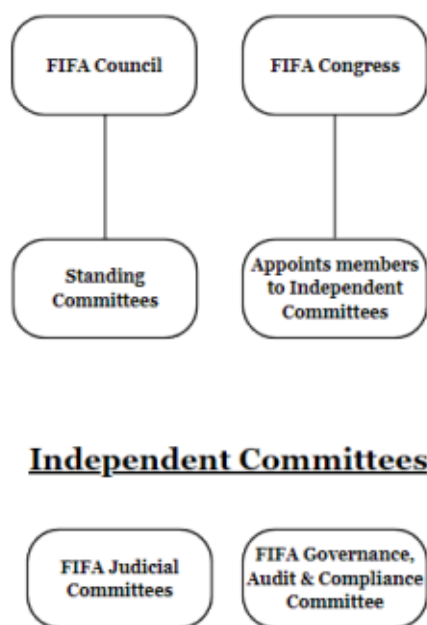
Founded in 1904, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) had one goal: unite the world’s biggest sport<sup>1</sup>. The FIFA World Cup perfectly encapsulates this vision, where 32 football teams compete in an elimination bracket representing various countries<sup>2</sup>. Every four years, a different country bids to host this prestigious event, where infrastructure, monetary. In most recent times, this selection process involves a vote for up to three potential candidates by the FIFA Council (the strategic oversight body responsible for setting executive

1. <https://inside.fifa.com/about-fifa>

2. <https://www.fifa.com/en>

goals for FIFA), of which a host is decided upon by the FIFA Congress (the legislative wing representing members of FIFA confederations)<sup>3</sup>. Previously, however, the FIFA Council had the sole decision of choosing a host.

Under the FIFA organization are six football confederations split by region: AFC for Asia, OFC for Oceania, CAF for Africa, UEFA for Europe, CONCACAF for Central & North America, and CONMEBOL for South America. Each confederation has control over tournaments in their own region, and decides how country teams will obtain playoff berths, qualify for the World Cup, etc. These rules also apply for the Club World Cup and any FIFA-affiliated tournaments contained within their region. On a broader level, the FIFA organization leverages its committees to advise the council (the standing committees, such as the Development Committee, Medical Committee, etc.), punishing violations of FIFA Governance Regulations (the judicial committees, such as the Ethics committee), or help enforce rules and keep track of financials (the Government, Audit & Compliance Committee and the Review Committee)<sup>4</sup>. Finally, at the very top of the organization are the FIFA Congress and FIFA Council, with the Congress responsible for amending and adding new FIFA regulations, and the Council acting as the primary decision-maker in absence of the FIFA Congress' meetings. Because of the importance of the FIFA Congress in setting regulations, power has shifted towards allowing the FIFA Congress to make the final decision on World Cup candidates.



Having an oversight council that is not representative of the entire FIFA organization has led to scandals in the past. The second FIFA World Cup in 1934, for instance, drew criticism by allowing Italy, then under control by dictator Benito Mussolini, to host the event<sup>5</sup>. This event was further marred by confusing guidelines for qualifying rounds of the event, which required even the host country to play a qualifiers round. Decades of changing regulations and addressing controversies did not stop further issues, with the 1978 World Cup drawing accusations of match fixing and supporting another military regime - in this case, Argentina<sup>6</sup>. This does not mean that FIFA actively supports injustice; for instance, in the 1966 World Cup, they banned South Africa from competitive play, citing the ongoing apartheid in the region<sup>7</sup>.

If a committee is not part of the FIFA Council's standing committees, they are independent of the Council. These independent committees ensure adherence to the regulations stipulated by the FIFA Congress.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theworldcupguide.com/how-does-fifa-choose-the-world-cup-host/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://inside.fifa.com/about-fifa/organisation/committees>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/sports/2022/10/15/profile-world-cup-1934>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/sports/2022/11/9/profile-fifa-world-cup-1978>

<sup>7</sup> <https://thesefootballtimes.co/2017/02/06/how-joao-havelange-used-africa-to-change-the-face-of-world-football/>

Entering the 2000s, the general public became more cognizant of corruption within FIFA. Economic downturn beginning in 2001 would prompt many FIFA executives to engage in illicit practices to fund both administrative functions and personal endeavors<sup>8</sup>. In 2015, several FIFA and outside business officials within CONCACAF were indicted in the United States for “racketeering, wire fraud, and money laundering conspiracies” related to mishandling FIFA executive functions and tournaments<sup>9</sup>. Chuck Blazer, a former FIFA official, had informed the FBI of these conspiracies, leading to a multinational investigation into the bidding process of the 2018 Russia World Cup and 2022 Qatar World Cup<sup>10</sup>. Being a self-regulatory governing body, the presence of whistleblower statements have been one of the only checks to corruption within FIFA. Most notably, the bid for the 2022 World Cup host in favor of Qatar has been littered with testimonies of bribes occurring all the way back in 2011, some of which have been mysteriously retracted<sup>11</sup>. Even as controversies around host selection died down, FIFA continued to be under fire after human rights abuses were found in the construction of stadiums for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar<sup>12</sup>.

The decision for the 2022 World Cup host has prompted changes to how the World Cup host is chosen and various securities to prevent match fixing and tournament manipulation. Now, both governments and sponsors watch FIFA intently, especially as both the FIFA Council and FIFA Congress is pressured to publicize most of their decisions. Members of FIFA, from regional managers to the president, have kicked it with corruption in the past; now, with emerging threats to the stronghold FIFA has built around football, members must engage in extreme caution.



Even as far back as 2015, concerns over existing laws for migrant workers made headlines as Qatar won the bid unexpectedly. Pictured: Foreign workers in a Qatar construction site for the 2022 World Cup Stadium. Source: New York Times

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/event/2015-FIFA-corruption-scandal>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/nine-fifa-officials-and-five-corporate-executives-indicted-racketeering-conspiracy-and>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.vox.com/2015/5/27/8665577/fifa-arrests-indictment>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/14098944>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/06/qatar-hundreds-of-migrant-workers-employed-as-security-guards-at-fifa-world-cup-denied-justice-for-abuses/> & <https://www.forbes.com/sites/samindrakunti/2022/10/31/qatar-world-cup-comes-with-human-rights-abuses-and-controversy/>

# Current Situation

## Introduction

The date is December 2021. As members of the FIFA Council, you are finishing preparations for the 2022 World Cup to be hosted in Qatar. Controversies regarding the selection of Qatar still remain relevant, especially as FIFA officials continue to be indicted, but the goal is to ensure the event goes smoothly. However, growing concerns over the upcoming World Cup as well as outside leagues put a damper on the successes of your organization.

## Controversy Surrounding Qatar

FIFA sought to ensure that Qatar could accommodate an influx of football fans and players from around the globe in the most ethical way possible. In fact, FIFA has publicly said they are committed to upholding human rights for the workers involved in the construction of stadiums<sup>13</sup>. This would prove to be disastrous for FIFA, as an investigation would reveal that Qatar's labor laws subjected expatriate workers to unreasonable costs, long working hours, withheld compensation, and little recourse given by the government. In addition, many activists are protesting the policies of Qatar and other Middle Eastern nations hosting World Cup qualifiers, with many fans and players of World Cup teams declaring that they will protest in solidarity with migrant workers, the LGBTQ community, various ethnic and religious groups, and many more discriminated or harmed in the lead up to the World Cup. One of the biggest priorities throughout your emergency meetings as the FIFA Council is to handle the PR nightmare caused by the emerging controversies in Qatar, ensuring the globe that FIFA will take corrective action and seek justice for those harmed.

## A New Challenger to FIFA's Regional Competition



Although large clubs within UEFA support the idea of a European Super League, fans are largely against the idea. Nonetheless, momentum for this league was set forth by COVID-19 hitting club revenue streams. Pictured: Fans protested the European Super League. Source: BetUS

Within Europe, FIFA maintains a strong presence through the UEFA Champions League, an annual regional club championship, and the UEFA European Championship, a tournament amongst each participating European country. Discontent with the management of these tournaments, however, as well as concerns over the dominance of English club football in Europe, has prompted certain football to favor an alternative to the UEFA Champions League - the European Super League (ESL). Proposed early in 2021 by Spain football club Real Madrid, the league promises to have

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/program/talk-to-al-jazeera/2021/12/18/fatma-samoura-the-road-to-qatar-2022>

more frequent tournaments and allow smaller clubs to have a platform for competition, avoiding these clubs being financially “drowned” by clubs popular across the continent such as Manchester United and Barcelona.

Although there are many valid criticisms directed towards the ESL, such as the creation of “superclubs” by having the same permanent members play against each other, the most important thing is the commitment of various clubs to the ESL - or, at least the concept of one. FIFA and UEFA have existing resources available to build up smaller clubs, but something must change to appeal to both European clubs seeking to bolster their revenue stream and fans who want to see their regional team represented. The FIFA Council will have to use any tactics necessary within its powers to retain clubs within the club championships it sponsors.

## Weeding Out Corruption

Since the decision for Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup was made, many FIFA officials and affiliated companies have been exposed for bribery, fraud, and other crimes. This has made the FIFA organization appear untrustworthy to the public, which may impact future attendance to World Cups, sponsors partnering with FIFA, and players looking to commit to a World Cup team. Dealing with negative press from these corruption cases will be paramount, as well as making efforts to actively prevent and investigate corruption. Most notably, as you finish preparations for the 2022 World Cup, preventing match-fixing and tournament manipulation will be necessary.

## The 2030 World Cup

World Cup hosts are decided 7 years in advance, meaning that 2023 will be the year to decide on the 2030 World Cup host. As the FIFA Congress now has authority to decide on which bids to host the World Cup, the FIFA Council must come up with several viable options to host this tournament. In addition, since 2030 marks 100 years since the first ever World Cup, the globe will expect special preparations for this event, commemorating its long history.

Since the 2026 World Cup has already been decided, and a FIFA region (ex: CONCACAF) cannot currently be chosen consecutively to host the World Cup, decisions for which bids could potentially support this monumental tournament must be considered carefully. However, recent changes have afforded the FIFA Council some flexibility. For instance, the 2026 World Cup will take place in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, breaking a long-standing FIFA rule of disallowing co-hosts. When considering a 2030 World Cup host, do not be afraid to break new ground, or even bend the rules.

## Conclusion

Not only will you be tasked to handle the preparations for the 2022 World Cup, but also its controversies. Meanwhile, rising pressure from the announcement of the ESL puts FIFA in a vulnerable position to have its identity stripped away region by region. All of this must be handled while simultaneously planning for the future of FIFA. So the question remains: are you going to follow tradition, or will you keep kickin' it with corruption?

# Committee Expectations

The FIFA Council as a decision-making body has slightly different requirements than a traditional body. Your directives must focus on anything related to tournament organization and format (including the FIFA World Cup), managing the organization's various football regions, and public outreach/marketing. Delegates should keep in mind how both the public and other internal bodies of the FIFA organization would respond to their actions (such as FIFA Congress). Lastly, when deciding countries for the 2030 World Cup, please keep in mind dates, stadium locations, budgeting and expenses, and whether the country can feasibly support a World Cup tournament.

Your crisis notes should be relevant to the role you are representing; in other words, keep in mind the powers your character would realistically have according to the character dossier. If at any point you are unsure about what your character can do, please contact Director Sebastian Lorenzo at [store034@fiu.edu](mailto:store034@fiu.edu) prior to the conference or ask directly through your crisis notes.

Throughout this committee and the duration of FIMUN, there will be a zero-tolerance policy for any allusion to, or direct form of, discrimination. This includes, but is not limited to, racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, and any other form of prejudice against a delegate, character, region, culture or identity. Additionally, any form of violent discriminatory acts, sexual content, and other obscenities will not be accepted in directives, crisis notes, JPDs, speeches, or any other form of content produced within this committee and FIMUN.

## Special Mention

This background guide has been prepared with the help and advice of Florida International Model UN members. A big thanks to Tracy Mussotte specifically for her assistance in revising this background guide.

# Character Dossier

All characters are based on real FIFA Council members, but care should be taken to stay within the descriptions outlined in this document.

**Important Note:** All “Vice President” title characters act as corporations and must act under guidelines limited by the financial audits of their respective countries.

## **FIFA President**

The FIFA President, elected by the FIFA Congress, works with the general secretariat to carry forth the daily operations of FIFA and any decisions by the FIFA Congress. They play a political role when engaging with member countries of FIFA, working to ensure cooperation with the FIFA guidelines and to prevent any controversies that may impact the FIFA administration or the locations of important FIFA tournaments. Their influence within the FIFA administration can allow for changes regarding tournament format or coordinating with any of the executive committees under the general secretariat (accounting, marketing, etc.).

## **FIFA Secretary General**

The FIFA Secretary General is a position that is appointed by the FIFA Council from the FIFA President’s proposal, whose role is intended to oversee all football matters. They are the chief executive of the general secretariat. Their roles include, but are not limited to, creating the agenda based on proposals from the Council, attend the meetings of all committees other than the FIFA Council (formerly known as the Executive Committee), and record minutes of the FIFA Congress meetings. This position works alongside a Chief Compliance Officer, who monitors the organization in their work.

## **FIFA Vice President Bahrain (AFC)**

Bahrain is represented as one of the vice presidents of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). Although underrepresented in the Men’s World Ranking, their clubs have remained competitive in the AFC Champions Leagues, most notably Al-Riffa, Al-Hidd and Malkiya. They have direct connection to the general secretary of their administration, which includes involvement in legal affairs connected to player expulsions and team misconduct. Although not directly involved in setting the AFC’s budget, Bahrain has leverage in deciding how funds are appropriated within their specific budget designations. As the president of AFC, they may create various tournaments of football leagues and decide which clubs may participate.



### **FIFA Vice President Japan (AFC 2)**

Japan is represented as one of the vice presidents of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). This representative also serves as the president of the Japan Football Association (JFA), containing legendary clubs such as the Kashima Antlers, known for dominating Japan's professional leagues and some AFC tournaments. They have appeared in seven FIFA World Cups since 1998, and although they have yet to perform highly at the global level, football remains one of the most popular sports in Japan. Specifically, the J. League (and its divisions from J1-J3) is a major success for football anywhere in the AFC, often cited as a model for how football should be treated anywhere in the AFC.

### **FIFA Vice President Philippines (AFC 3)**

The Philippines is represented as a vice president of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). This representative is also a prominent member of the FIFA Beach Soccer Committee, organizing a subsidiary of FIFA that hosts the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup. As a country, the Philippines have had some unremarkable placements, only qualifying once in 2019 for the AFC Asian Cup and never qualifying for the FIFA World Cup. However, at the helm of organizing the increasingly popular & accessible Beach Soccer sport, the Philippines may find itself in an increasingly more important role in catering to youth interest in football.

### **FIFA Vice President Slovenia (UEFA 1)**

Slovenia is represented as one of the vice presidents of the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA). They have qualified for the FIFA World Cup and UEFA European Championships a few times, but they notably have many football associations within its own border; their best team, NK Maribor, enters the UEFA Champions League quite often compared to other associations. Considering the vast popularity of European football, Slovenia holds a lot of power through chairing the UEFA Congress and Executive Committee, as well as connecting with sponsors and international organizations in hosting the UEFA European Championship and UEFA Champions League. However, they are in the "hot seat" when it comes to dealing with the emerging European Super League, and is the closest to the UEFA executive functions to be able to implement reforms to its regional tournaments.

### **FIFA Vice President Hungary (UEFA 2)**

Hungary is represented as one of the vice presidents of UEFA. Although trendsetters in 20th century FIFA and UEFA, being strong FIFA World Cup competitors in the 1950s, their teams unfortunately have not caught up to other competitors in modern times. Although involved in the UEFA organization alongside the UEFA President Slovenia, they are also connected to the international banking community, chairing the OTP Bank Group and having a PhD in economics. As a result, they advise Slovenia and UEFA's general secretariat in planning the logistics and budgets for tournaments, giving them a wide perspective on both football and global economic responses to football.

### **FIFA Vice President England (UEFA 3)**

England may not be represented as one of the vice presidents of UEFA, but undoubtedly represents the confederation by chairing the English Football Association (EFA). The English Premier League is one of the most watched football events in the entire globe, and teams such as Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool and many more are regionally internationally supported. By chairing the organization responsible for running these events, the FIFA representative of England can affect policy within the EFA as well as make decisions about both the clubs and leagues within the EFA's scope. However, pushing for substantial changes requires tapping into public engagement and marketing to convince your global audience.

### **FIFA Vice President South Africa (CAF)**

South Africa is represented as one of the vice presidents of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) as well as the owner of South Africa's greatest club, the Mamelodi Sundowns. Although South Africa does extremely well within its own region, most players end up playing for both UEFA and FIFA national teams instead; South Africa is not very known for high-level international teams, but they are known for setting record-breaking television views for hosting the 2010 World Cup. By virtue of being president of CAF, however, South Africa has great influence on the creation of leagues and inclusion of specific clubs within the CAF region. On top of this, the representative of South Africa is a philanthropist with various businesses tied to African products and resources, namely minerals.

### **FIFA Vice President Sierra Leone (CAF 2)**

Sierra Leone is represented as one of the vice presidents of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and is the elected president of the Sierra Leone Football Association (SLFA), the governing body of football in Sierra Leone founded back in 1960. The SFLA still has yet to break the barrier in the world of football, having not yet been in the FIFA World Cup with reasons such as not entering, qualifying, or withdrawn. Although the same results happened for Sierra Leone within the Africa Cup of Nations, they were still able to make the group stages in 1994, 1996, and 2021. However, this representative is an owner of Sierra Leone club FC Johansen, as well as a large advocate for women's football in Sierra Leone and beyond. Their input in keeping the football landscape equal in addition to their country's increasing success in CAF places the representative of Sierra Leone in an influential position.

### **FIFA Vice President Egypt (CAF 3)**

Known for the widely successful association football Al Ahly, with over 40 titles won in the Egyptian Premier League and fantastic performances at the CAF Champions League, Egyptian football is full of passionate fans. Although not as successful at the World Cup stage, this vice president of CAF nonetheless represents a strong portion of CAF's association football. However, controversy within football has previously torn the nation apart, with riots leading to the cancellation of the 2012-13 season. Egypt has nonetheless persevered, and can provide a unique insight into the football controversies of today.

### **FIFA Vice President Canada (CONCACAF)**

Canada is represented as one of the vice presidents of the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) region. Although not often qualifying for the World Cup, Canada has made substantial runs within CONCACAF championships in the late 1990s and early 2000s, with clubs such as the Vancouver Whitecaps and CF Montreal placing well within the Canadian Football League. Considering the relatively influential countries within CONCACAF, the representative of Canada's position in leading the executive committee of CONCACAF allows for statutes and regulations to pass with them as the final deciding vote, making large-scale changes as to their championships and organizational structure. Beyond this, as a representative of a large FIFA region, they hold influence when connecting with sponsors and investors.

### **FIFA Vice President United States (CONCACAF 2)**

As a vice president of the CONCACAF region, the U.S. has undergone a very interesting football history. Qualifying in eleven editions of the FIFA World Cup, one of the highest in the region, they placed third in the inaugural edition of the World Cup in 1930 only to never place in the top 5 again. Yet, with public interest sparking anew in 1994 when they first hosted the World Cup, U.S. efforts have once again been concentrated on both the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and the U.S. men's national team, producing international legends such as Landon Donovan and Clint Dempsey. However, with extreme pressure from outside forces to "snatch" these high-scoring talents playing within and for the U.S., this representative finds itself at a crossroads - loan out players, or turn the U.S. into an international force to be reckoned with.

### **FIFA Vice President Cuba (CONCACAF 3)**

This vice president for CONCACAF faces a unique problem within its region. Starting with the 2002 Gold Cup in Los Angeles up to as recent as 2019, Cuban athletes have defected from their team during tournaments. The Cuban national football team has made large strides in the Caribbean Cup and made upsets against other CONCACAF nations during the 2000s, but is slowly bleeding players either due to concerns with their country or to seek better professional football prospects in the United States. Thus, it is paramount for this representative to consider the factors influencing this issue and work to provide the football career these players seek. Considering their position in CONCACAF's management, Cuba looks towards this individual to prevent the downfall of Cuban football.

### **FIFA Vice President Paraguay (CONMEBOL)**

Paraguay is represented as one of the vice presidents of the Confederation of South American Football (CONMEBOL). As a competitor of the original 1930 World Cup, Paraguay as a country has appeared a couple of times in the FIFA World Cup, but has notably appeared many times in the Copa América (CONMEBOL's national football tournament), along with having a strong club team in Club Olimpia. CONMEBOL contains many exceptionally strong teams historically in the FIFA World Cup series, and being a top representative of this FIFA region affords Paraguay large negotiating power for countries in its continent to host tournaments and gather sponsors, both national and international. Their ability to manage CONMEBOL's clubs and national leagues can help foster some of the world's greatest football talent.

### **FIFA Vice President Venezuela (CONMEBOL 2)**

Venezuela is represented as one of the vice presidents of CONMEBOL. Having only become affiliated with FIFA in 1952 - far later than the rest of CONMEBOL - Venezuela has undergone many arcs in its time on the world stage. Starting as a hidden boss with fantastic players such as Luis Mendoza and Rafael Santa in the 1960s & 70s, a string of various coaches through the 2000s and 2010s would bring the national team to high peaks: beating Brazil 2-0 in a friendly match in 2008, placing fourth in the 2011 Copa América, etc. Their passion for football is evident, with association football clubs such as Caracas and Minervén placing in continental tournaments such as the Copa Libertadores. It is up to this representative, however, to take the next step in mobilizing its dedicated fans to bring forth a new era for CONMEBOL and utilize their position within the region to set the stage for another successful era for Venezuela.

### **FIFA Vice President Vanuatu (OFC)**

Vanuatu is represented as one of the vice presidents of Oceania Football Confederation (OFC), the representative of Vanuatu is also known for serving a role in FIFA's Development Committee alongside their position in the FIFA Council, giving them a say in building smaller FIFA-affiliated clubs and leagues around the globe. Vanuatu's national football team has succeeded within the OFC in recent years, but the country (and the OFC as a whole) plays a miniscule part in international sports. However, by participating in the FIFA Development Committee and by virtue of being an OFC former president, the representative for Vanuatu can connect with its neighbors in the AFC to build intercontinental strength. After all, both continental regions have collaborated in the past.

### **FIFA Vice President Fiji (OFC 2)**

As the only FIFA Council Member to ever represent Fiji, the focus of this vice president, who also serves as the president of the Fijian Football Association, is to raise Fiji to the status of World Cup qualification. Although not the most popular sport of Fiji, their national football team has continuously vied for World Cup qualification since 1982, earning podium positions at the OFC Nations Cup and Melanesia Cup in their pursuit. They also recently entered a seven-year plan to earn qualification for the 2026 World Cup, while developing their domestic scene. By increasingly ramping up their football prowess, this vice president has a lot of resources at their disposal to make themselves known within the OFC and beyond.

**Important Note:** All “Member” title characters have more localized powers, usually playing strong roles in managing and connecting with clubs within their country’s football associations and in marketing their specific area.

### **FIFA Member Saudi Arabia (AFC)**

As a president of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF), they currently oversee an expensive remodeling of their football league, the Saudi Pro League. Hiring international talent to compete in Saudi clubs such as Al Hilal and Al-Ittihad, the only other association that invests more money into their league than SAFF is the EPL. Their national team has made significant waves within the AFC Asian Cup, though not as much impact in the FIFA World Cup. Shrouded in controversy over its regional policies, Saudi Arabia nonetheless remains a powerhouse with its extensive access to funds and high commitment to marketing, potentially able to sway over international football fans.

### **FIFA Member Qatar (AFC 2)**

As a host country for the upcoming 2022 World Cup, this representative for Qatar has been placed on the bidding committee board for the country, as well as the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy within their own country, responsible for helping deliver the 2022 World Cup. Although Qatar has been largely unsuccessful in global competition, and have occasionally performed well at AFC national tournaments, they are the home of extremely influential government-sponsored organizations such as Qatar Sports Investments (QSi), investing in international sports as a whole including FIFA-sponsored organizations. Their immense financial involvement rivals that of Saudi Arabia, but at the cost of much greater scrutiny due to the upcoming World Cup event.

### **FIFA Member Malaysia (AFC 3)**

A successful team at Southeast Asia's ASEAN Championship and home of Mokhtar Dahari, one of the greatest international goal scorers in history, Malaysia is represented as one of the FIFA Members on this council. Football is deeply rooted in Malaysia, with many local cups being hosted for their local clubs. Although their success has not expanded onto the World Cup or Olympic stage, there is latent potential, as their governing body, the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) has long been involved in football development and even the upbringing of the AFC since the 1950s. It is thus clear that Malaysia plays a large role in AFC football, and this vice president will have the resources to continue doing great things in the region and beyond.

### **FIFA Member Germany (UEFA)**

Being president of the German Football Association (DFB) puts this individual in direct contact with Bayern Munich, a legendary UEFA Champions League competitor with six trophies under their belt. Germany and the DFB as a whole are known for being founding members of FIFA and UEFA, with thousands of football clubs in the DFB. The long-standing Germany national football team has won four FIFA World Cups, three European Championships, and two FIFA Women's World Cups. It is difficult to understate the leverage of the DFB in garnering sponsorships to fund their successes, but with such international presence, attention needs to be given to its country's leagues, with some critics arguing that the DFB's focus on international affairs fails to address their local leagues.

### **FIFA Member Portugal (UEFA 2)**

Portugal has had a rocky history with international football, with high highs through UEFA national tournaments, some World Cup events and a fantastic win in Euro 2016, but disappointing lows ranging from missed tournament qualifications to poor coaching. Despite this, the representative for Portugal has succeeded in their role as the president of the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF), and their international presence has been bolstered significantly due to the skills and popularity of Cristiano Ronaldo, promoting high viewership whenever Portugal plays a World Cup match. Leveraging this fanbase will be of utmost importance for the representative of Portugal, particularly when conducting their duties on the UEFA Executive Committee as well as the FIFA Council.

### **FIFA Member Italy (UEFA 3)**

A long-time competitor of the World Cup series, Italy has one of the most decorated football legacies in the history of FIFA, winning four different World Cup titles and placing extremely well in various World Cup and UEFA tournaments. Although Italy's results have been fluctuating in the lead-up to the 2022 World Cup, including not qualifying for the 2018 World Cup, many fans are dedicated to the Italian national team and their various historically-well-performing clubs such as Inter Milan and Juventus, along with their revered players such as Paolo Rossi and Roberto Baggio. Upholding history and pushing Italy's legacy forward will be a priority for this member, especially when establishing brand deals and connecting with other big sporting organizations such as the Olympics.

### **FIFA Member Morocco (CAF)**

The efforts of this individual, who is the president of the Moroccan Football Association (FRMF), have helped push Morocco to the international stage. Their national team has made it to the 2018 FIFA World Cup, and clubs such as Wydad AC and Raja CA dominate both FRMF and CAF tournaments. Looking to put Morocco on the map in the upcoming World Cup, pressure will be placed on this representative to prepare the national team for an outstanding performance, giving attention to CAF and Morocco as potential threats to UEFA and CONMEBOL powerhouses.

### **FIFA Member Nigeria (CAF 2)**

Serving as the president of the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF), this representative has seen their country be part of controversy in the FIFA world. Although not a large presence in the World Cup series, remaining mostly confined to the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), Nigeria became the center of attention as they were temporarily blocked from participating in FIFA tournaments in 2014 due to alleged government interference. Accusations of corruption swirl around the NFF, and swatting them away are a priority. However, several government connections may allow Nigeria to push themselves into relevance in the FIFA landscape.

### **FIFA Member Benin (CAF 3)**

Benin is represented as the elected president of the Benin Football Federation (FBF) within the CAF. The national team has become known as, The Squirrels to the world and have yet to have made it onto the global stage. Despite back in 2010, after Benin's failure to reach the global stage, the FBF decided to let the team go in order to lead a new team to victory. However, they have made it four times to the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in 2004, 2008, 2010, and 2019. Benin's reputation in the AFCON is a remarkable one, as they are the first country to reach quarter-finals in AFCON without a single win prior to their 2019 run. Though, they are not to be underestimated, as this representative of Benin is responsible for launching various football programs in Benin that are steadily increasing the popularity of football in the region.

### **FIFA Member Brazil (CONMEBOL)**

There is no need for introduction for Brazil and the Brazilian Football Association (CBF) - their history speaks for itself. Two appearances in the FIFA World Cup, with five of them being wins, hiring some of the greatest FIFA players of all time in Pelé and Ronaldo, and having an intensive rivalry the Argentina's national team has made Brazil a must-watch World Cup team. Even its clubs under the CBF dominate CONMEBOL tournaments. Working as president of CBF, this representative of Brazil is constantly looked at with high expectations, and will need to leverage its legendary history to push its players, clubs and national team even further - both in marketing and international play.

### **FIFA Member Argentina (CONMEBOL 2)**

As president of the Argentine Football Association (AFA), it is pertinent to keep the country's best interest, as it is the country with the most players in the world registered, with two of their most popular clubs River Plate and Boca Juniors located in the capital of Buenos Aires. Since the inception of the FIFA World Cup, Argentina has been present all but four times. Having won twice in 1978 and 1986, they have also been the runner-ups thrice in the past. There is a great legacy behind as having been one of the most successful teams in the tournament's history, coming to be known as The White and Sky Blue. Because of this, they harbor many rivalries with nations such as, but not limited to, Brazil, England, Germany, Uruguay, and France. They have also performed well within CONMEBOL, having won multiple titles in the CONMEBOL-UEFA Cup of Champions, CONMEBOL Pre-Olympic Tournament, and CONMEBOL Copa America. Carrying this legacy forward while managing potential bitter rivalries between fans of other countries will be paramount to this representative's success.

### **FIFA Member Uruguay (CONMEBOL 3)**

Serving as the president of the Uruguayan Football Association (AUF), this member of the FIFA Council represents one of the first ever international powerhouses of football. Having a strong international presence prior to the 1940s, Uruguay has remained a consistently strong team with some ups and downs. They boast four world FIFA-organized tournament wins and two FIFA World Cup wins among many other great placements. This longtime strength has created some established rivalries against popular countries such as Brazil and Argentina. In recent years, however, their placements were not as strong as their earlier years, especially after the lengthy nine-match ban of Luis Suárez from competitive play in 2014. Such a dramatic incident has put into question how long Suárez would remain with Uruguay, which places pressure on this member of FIFA to protect the long-standing success of Uruguay at the international level.

### **FIFA Member Costa Rica (CONCACAF)**

Currently serving as president of the Costa Rican Football Federation (FEDEFUT), this individual oversees a national team that performs very well in CONCACAF Championships. More importantly, however, Costa Rica remains the sole Central American country to win matches at the FIFA World Cup, while also being third in World Cup appearances within CONCACAF. This has caused many Central American football fans to look up to Costa Rica, which tasks this president of FEDEFUT to build a high-performing national team that will drive attention to Costa Rica and Central America as a whole.



### **FIFA Member Mexico (CONCACAF 2)**

As both a CONCACAF vice president and a long-time president of the Mexican Football Federation (FMF), as well as playing a large role directing Mexico's bid for the 2026 World Cup, this representative of Mexico has played many roles and has thus established many useful connections in the football landscape. Their lackluster performance on the global stage is heavily overshadowed by their passionate football fans across the North American continent, especially for football clubs América Mexico and Guadalajara. These fans have enabled Mexico to push for a joint bid for the 2026 World Cup, and will continue to be an invaluable resource when marketing Mexico's national and club teams across CONCACAF and the globe.

### **FIFA Member Honduras (CONCACAF 3)**

A representative of the Honduras football association Federación Nacional Autónoma de Fútbol de Honduras (FENAFUTH), this representative of Honduras has seen the national football team grow in strength in the 2010s. Qualifying in both the 2010 and 2014 World Cup tournaments, they have enjoyed greater success on the international stage, beating out other CONCACAF teams on their way to the group stage. Examining their football history reveals a very passionate group of fans, of which their pride for the football team served as a boiling point for the 1970 "Football War" against El Salvador. Knowing how football can be an extension of political rivalries, Honduras must carefully maneuver their management of fan interactions to avoid political conflict. This insight is invaluable in today's football landscape, where global conflicts have affected FIFA and the management of football organizations as a whole.

### **FIFA Member New Zealand (OFC)**

As president of the New Zealand Football Federation (NZFF or NZF), this individual represents the highest performing football team in the OFC. Clubs such as Auckland City and Team Wellington dominate rankings alongside clubs from Papua New Guinea, and have a wide youth fanbase despite being only the third most popular team sport in New Zealand. Its national team has very little success in the international landscape, however, largely due to a focus on rugby and cricket in the country. Connecting with the youth audience and marketing the OFC as the place for high-intensity football matches will be the priority, as it drives many of the ticket sales for clubs in the region.

### **FIFA Member New Caledonia (OFC 2)**

When football club Hienghène Sport took the 2019 OFC Men's Champions League over many successful New Zealand clubs - including frequent winner Auckland City - New Caledonia received much more attention in the OFC. A small nation with little presence through their national team, players and clubs have begun to garner sudden attention. For instance, football club AS Mont-Dore recently sent many of their players to international tournaments, most notably the FIFA U-17 World Cup. Although things are on the come-up for this OFC member, much is left to do to gain a spot in the biggest league of them all - the FIFA World Cup. How will a bustling club scene translate into a successful national team? Only the actions of this member can determine the future of New Caledonian football.

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