



# FIFA WORLD CUP DOMINATION!

## 2016

*Chairs: Bim-Ray Yau, Akash Mahajan*

*USG: Victor Villalobos*



## Topics

- I. A New Location for World Cup 2022
- II. Addressing Corruption with Qatar as World Cup Host



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### **Akash's Welcome Letter**

Delegates,

I want to personally welcome you all to BearMUN MMXXIII! My name is Akash Mahajan and it is my pleasure to be one of the chairs for the FIFA Council! It has always been a passion of mine to discuss with others what the world is like in the football lens and what we can do as a society to develop us not as individual members of this esteemed council, but as a single unit.

In a world where football dominates the global scene, there is bound to be controversy, especially within FIFA and the upcoming World Cup in Qatar. Whether it entails spearheading robust anti-corruption measures to safeguard the integrity of the tournament or fostering international cooperation to combat illicit activities, you will play a pivotal role in shaping this committee's response to the financial and ethical challenges posed by FIFA's World Cup. It is incumbent upon each of you to embrace your convictions and amplify your commitment to eradicating corruption! The chairs eagerly anticipate the outcomes of this committee's efforts and the priorities you will passionately champion in the fight against corruption in Qatar's World Cup.

Remember this, even if you and your fellow delegates are debating, always have fun and enjoy these moments! Let's make this committee one to remember!

See you all in December,

Akash Mahajan

Chair, FIFA Council, World Cup Domination, 2016

[akashmahajan2025@berkeley.edu](mailto:akashmahajan2025@berkeley.edu)



## **Bim-Ray's Welcome Letter**

Esteemed Delegates,

I am Bim-Ray Yau, and I am honored to co-chair the committee addressing the critical matter of combating corruption within FIFA during the upcoming World Cup in Qatar, alongside Kaito. I am thrilled to witness your active involvement in deliberating on this pressing issue that intersects the realms of sports, ethics, and governance.

The urgency of this topic cannot be overstated, especially in light of the upcoming World Cup, where allegations of corruption have cast a shadow over the event's integrity. As we gather to address these concerns, it is essential to acknowledge that FIFA's history of corruption has far-reaching implications for the sporting world and global perception. While our committee's focus is on the current challenges within FIFA, it is essential to recognize the broader implications of corruption within international sports organizations. Corruption not only undermines the credibility of these institutions but also has socio-economic ramifications, affecting both the host nation and the global football community.

Before we convene in December, I encourage each of you to delve into the intricate web of corruption within FIFA. Examine past instances, such as the scandals surrounding bidding processes and financial mismanagement. Analyze the strategies employed to combat corruption, including reforms and investigations. Moreover, consider the role of transparency, accountability, and ethical standards in restoring trust within the organization.

I eagerly anticipate our collective efforts to address corruption within FIFA and restore integrity to the upcoming World Cup. Your insights and strategies will play a pivotal role in shaping our committee's response to this complex issue. I look forward to our fruitful discussions and the impactful solutions we will develop together!

Best regards,

Bim-Ray Yau, Co-Head Chair

bimrayyau@berkeley.edu



## **Committee Introduction**

Welcome to FIFA Council World Cup Domination! The year is 2016, and you as delegates will be representing the countries of members of the FIFA Council. The FIFA Council, established since the inception of FIFA in 1904, serves as the primary decision-making body within FIFA, the governing body for international football (soccer). Comprised of 37 representatives drawn from all six regional confederations, the council reflects the global reach and diversity of football. Led by FIFA President Gianni Infantino of Switzerland, the Council is responsible for guiding the worldwide sport of football and upholding its core values. Its key objectives include promoting football's accessibility on a global scale, advancing women's football and their involvement in governance, and ensuring integrity and fair play in the sport. In essence, the FIFA Council plays a crucial role in overseeing the growth and preservation of football's principles, both on and off the field.



## FIFA Background

The FIFA World Cup is one of the biggest tournaments in the world, and is passionately followed by billions of fans every four years as it is contested in different host countries around the globe. The format of the World Cup has traditionally involved a 32-team competition with a group stage and then single-elimination knockouts thereafter, until one nation is crowned champion. In the history of the Cup, eight national teams have won in the twenty iterations of the tournament that have been played since its inauguration in Uruguay in 1930, and among those Brazil has won more times than any other nation with five victories. FIFA has voted to expand the World Cup to a 48 team competition by 2026, once again denoting the tournament's prominent status as a truly globe-spanning entity.

For most countries, hosting the World Cup is an opportunity to boost tourism and prestige on the international stage. Every four years, the tournament draws in massive amounts of sponsorship and revenue for TV rights, advertisements, tourism, and direct investment into the local economies of the host nation. This is before mentioning the prestige gained by hosting a global





event on the scale of the World Cup. Nations and continents hosting the World Cup are said to have “arrived” on the international stage, and with hosting privileges come the connotations of political eminence, domestic development, and cultural authority. For example, “an estimated 715.1 million people watched the final match of the 2006 FIFA World Cup held in Germany” (FIFA, 2013). For the hosts of the World Cup, a national spotlight is cast upon them and they are given a chance to present themselves and their culture to the gaze of billions.





## Timeline of Important Events

**1930** - Inaugural World Cup hosted in Uruguay

**1934** - First World Cup to have a qualification stage, hosted by Italy

**1938** - First-time titleholders and host nations are awarded automatic qualification **1950** - First World Cup hosted after the Second World War, hosted by Brazil

**1954** - First televised World Cup, hosted by Switzerland

**1966** - First “modern” World Cup with marketing, mascot, and official logo, hosted by England

**1982** - World Cup expanded to 24 teams, hosted by Spain **1998** - World Cup expanded to 32 teams, hosted by France

**2002** - First World Cup held in Asia, first jointly-hosted World Cup, hosted by Korea and Japan

**2006** - Now previous winners were not granted automatic qualification, hosted by Germany

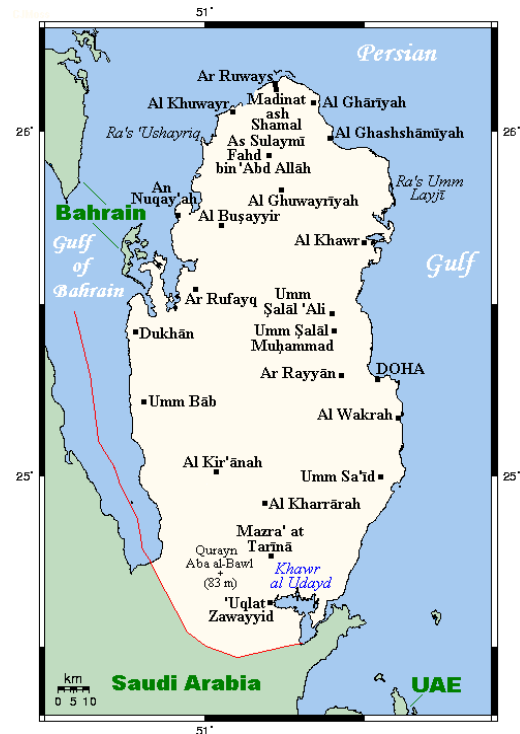
**2010** - First World Cup held in Africa, hosted by South Africa

## Topic A: A New Location for World Cup 2022

### General Overview

#### Background on Qatar:

Qatar, officially known as the State of Qatar, is a small country off the Arabian Peninsula. Over the years, the country was ruled by various local and foreign dynasties — before it fell under the partial control of the United Kingdom due to threats from the Ottoman Empire. Within the last six decades, Qatar (under the rule of the Al Thani family since the mid-1800s) has evolved from a poor British territory to an independent state with the highest per capita income in the world (since 2007) (Central Intelligence Agency, 2017). In the last six decades, Qatar, under the rule of the Al Thani family since the mid-1800s, has undergone a remarkable transformation. From being a British territory, it emerged as an independent state with the world's highest per capita income since 2007, primarily due to its substantial reserves of petroleum and natural gas.



#### Qatar and the World Cup:

In recent years, Qatar has faced controversies in its role as the host nation for the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Accusations of supporting terrorism and demands for change in its policies have led to strained relations with other Gulf states. Some reports even suggested potential boycotts of the World Cup over this crisis, although FIFA officially denied such claims. A variety of issues have



plagued Qatar regarding it being the host of the World Cup, including human rights concerns as it relates to labor and allegations of corruption during the original bidding process.

In 2013, the International Trade Union Confederation made alarming claims, asserting that nearly 600 workers per year were at severe risk of losing their lives due to the World Cup working conditions. Workers reported having to toil in scorching 50-degree heat, experience delayed salary payments, and endure the withholding of passports by employers. The actual figures are likely to be even more severe, but a lack of transparency in the Qatari press has prevented accurate reporting. The Qatari government, however, refuted these allegations, arguing that the cited statistics were not exclusive to the World Cup and rather pertained to the entire construction industry. In response, the domestic organizing committee responsible for Qatar's World Cup, known as the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, released a comprehensive 50-page document titled "Workers' Welfare Standards" aimed at improving working conditions and relations. To ensure accountability, the committee also publishes compliance reports in collaboration with a third-party monitor, Impactt Ltd.

Before the vote for the World Cup host, oddsmakers had the chances of Qatar bid's being successful at 6-1 against. As a result, when Qatar was selected, suspicions were immediately raised. For one, FIFA suspended two of its delegates for allegations of vote-selling. Additionally, the Qatari government boasted a surplus of approximately \$12 billion USD due to its thriving oil economy. Although FIFA conducted and released a corruption report clearing both Qatar and Russia of wrongdoing, there remains a genuine possibility that Qatar was involved in bribery. In fact, Michael Garcia, who completed the report, resigned due to concerns about the handling of the corruption report. Garcia stated that the published version of his report contained "numerous materially incomplete and erroneous representations," further fueling suspicions regarding potential bribery during the bidding process.



### **Diplomatic Relations:**

On top of issues concerning human rights and corruption, Qatar faces unfavorable diplomatic relations with neighboring countries, adding another logistical burden to its hosting of the 2022 World Cup. Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) severed ties with Qatar, accusing it of destabilizing the Middle East. Qatar has also rejected the lists



of conditions imposed by its Gulf Coast neighbors, and despite Qatar's denials, Saudi Arabia has closed its land border with the country. Furthermore, all four nations (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates) have suspended air and sea links with Qatar (BBC, 2017). In a report titled "Qatar in Focus: Is the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Danger?" by Cornerstone, it is stated that "Qatar is facing increased pressure regarding its hosting of the tournament... the current political crisis has either seen or raised the possibility of a Qatari opposition movement emerging... given the present political situation... it is certainly possible that the tournament may not take place in Qatar" (Roan, 2017).

### **Possible Solutions: Changing the World Cup Location?**

The World Cup's venue has only been changed once before. Four years before the 1986 World Cup, the location was changed from Columbia to Mexico. This was primarily due to the unrest in the country as a result of political issues, economic issues, and the rise of drug lords. Even though the venue was changed, the logistics for switching venues were extremely complicated —



and the same would happen if Qatar was switched out for another country. The likely first contender, as listed by English bookmaker and betting shop “Coral” (The Washington Post, 2014), is the United States. This is largely because nations belonging to CONMEBOL (South America), UEFA (Europe), or AFC (Africa) are ineligible and are/have hosted World Cups in Brazil (2014), Russia (2018) and South Africa (2010). The only remaining eligible federations, assuming this rule is not amended during the course of committee, are CONCACAF (North America, Central America, Caribbean) or the AFC (Asia).

On top of this, the United States came second in bidding against Qatar. This makes them a favorite. However, FIFA may still have reservations regarding the United States hosting the World Cup in 2022. FIFA has stated clearly that they would rather the World Cup be hosted in areas that



have not previously hosted the cup and allow the sport to grow internationally (Business Insider, 2014).



## *Topic B: Addressing Corruption in FIFA*

### General Overview

#### **Background on Corruption in FIFA:**

Despite the topic of corruption taking center stage after what occurred in December 2010, there have been previous instances in which FIFA was a key suspect in corruption scandals. For example, in 2001, one of FIFA's biggest marketing partners, International Sport and



Leisure, was caught in a bribing scandal that revolved around broadcasting rights for the World Cup. At the time, ISL was a major marketing partner for FIFA and had its involvement within the Olympics Committees as well. Most of their profits came from FIFA and the expected, commensurate amounts of revenue that each World Cup gains. The company went bankrupt after failing to pay over £150 million to other parties. In an investigation launched following the downfall of ISL, it was discovered that members within the board of the ISL bribed members of FIFA to make sure that they had marketing rights for the World Cup. Fast forward to 2015, and we are faced with what most people think of when the thought of “corruption in FIFA” is brought up. There are two major events that are key to this: the first is the investigation launched by the United States Department of Justice. This investigation, corroborated by Swiss intelligence, led to the arrest of numerous individuals within FIFA. The charges varied but included racketeering charges as well as money laundering. This not only tainted the reputation of FIFA but it also highlighted that even in organizations that prioritize the “beautiful game”, things may not always be so beautiful after all.



In the same year, Sepp Blatter, the former president of FIFA (1998-2015), resigned due to the pressures of being accused of corruption and behaving unethically throughout his tenure as president.

### **FIFA Corruption in the Eyes of the Public:**

Given everything that happened in FIFA with regards to their corruption scandals, it was only a matter of time before the public took notice and reacted. One of the most notable things that occurred as a result of these allegations was the resignation of Blatter as mentioned. In addition to this, numerous sponsors that FIFA had relied heavily on up to this point were also on the verge of saying goodbye to the football organization. Some of the most notable organizations that were bound to part ways were Coca-Cola, Hyundai, VISA, Adidas, and McDonalds to name a few. In a



statement made by VISA, a correspondent wrote: “Our disappointment and concern with FIFA in light of today's developments is profound. As a sponsor, we expect FIFA

to take swift and immediate steps to address these issues within its organization...Should FIFA fail to do so, we have informed them that we will reassess our sponsorship.” Fortunately for FIFA, VISA never terminated its sponsorship.

Looking at the overarching public, it is clear that they too had something to say about the allegations. Lourdes Garcia-Navarro, a journalist for the National Public Radio, interviewed a few eminent members involved with the football community including Romario, a Brazilian football icon. The people interviewed expressed their concerns that football in Latin American in particular is clouded with corruption and that the leadership is poorly managed.



Despite the fact that Latin America is being highlighted as a region of interest given the amount of people that the US Department of Justice charged, corruption runs deep in all four corners of the world.

### **Nepotism in FIFA:**

Looking past the finances, corruption runs deeper in the form of favoritism. Over the past decades, FIFA has also been at the center of scandals involving acts of nepotism. Former FIFA president, João Havelange appointed his own son-in-law, Ricardo Teixeira, to become the president of the Brazilian Football Federation. It was one thing to appoint a family member, but it took a turn for the worse. In 2012, Teixeira stepped down from being president because of bribery allegations.

The FIFA Ethics Committee went on to ban Teixeira from holding government positions as a whole because he was found guilty of accepting bribes. He would go on to be fined 1 million euros.<sup>1</sup>



Nepotism even goes beyond the highest offices of FIFA that have been discussed. Looking at football programs in particular, there is no shortage of scandalous activity. Youth development programs that are tied with FIFA have infamously chosen children who come from wealthy families. In the grand scheme of things, favoring this wealth that would come from these certain families

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/50604082>





would ultimately undermine the talent that a country does actually foster. This is tied down to an even deeper issue: youth representation at the national level. Should a country fail to recruit proper talent, they will not be the best team that they can be. Many countries in Africa and Latin America have been victims of this sort of nepotism.

### **Possible Solutions:**

Alternative solutions have been proposed that do not involve changing Qatar as the host country. This might be practical given that delegates only have a few more years left to relocate the World Cup and find a new host who has both the financial capabilities and stadiums that do not have to be fully built from scratch, like the ones that are in Qatar. One suggestion is the creation of an additional FIFA oversight committee, possibly in the form of a FIFA Human Rights Advisory Board, which could work in collaboration with the UN Human Rights Committee or the General Assembly itself. Another potential solution could be the imposition of UN-backed sanctions on Qatar to ensure the resolution of its issues. Keeping Qatar as the host of the World Cup could still tarnish the already damaged reputation of FIFA, but from a financial point of view, this would save the footballing organization millions of euros.

Another solution to the issue would be to develop ways for people to report corruption or human rights violations via whistleblowing in Qatar. One could also find a way to establish a committee to ensure that the workers that are in Qatar have access to food, shelter, water, and ultimately get paid a wage as well. With regard to sponsors, FIFA could hold meetings with its sponsors to become more transparent about its financial activity.

Regardless of whether you choose to relocate the World Cup or pursue alternative solutions, it is the responsibility of the FIFA Council to address the numerous issues surrounding Qatar's hosting of the 2022 World Cup.



### **Questions to Consider:**

1. How would fans around the world see FIFA, an organization that is meant to represent football, if they changed their 2022 World Cup host because of their own wrongdoings?
2. How can FIFA be more transparent when it comes to decision-making to minimize corruption scandals?
3. What are some challenges that the FIFA Council will face if the host were to be changed?
4. What are some ways in which FIFA can better its image for its sponsors?
5. Should FIFA impose stricter sanctions or bans on members who are found guilty of corruption?
6. Should fans play a role in addressing the corruption in FIFA?



## Countries

As every delegate will be assigned a country, you should consider how your particular allocation advantages and disadvantages you in both topics. Consider their history with soccer and their politics on sports in order to assess your position, and do not forget to think about what other countries yours aligns with!

1. Netherlands
2. Cape Verde
3. Italy
4. Slovakia
5. England
6. Bosnia
7. Peru
8. Greece
9. USA
10. Northern Ireland
11. Sweden
12. Iceland
13. Hungary
14. Denmark
15. Costa Rica
16. Chile
17. Turkey
18. Albania
19. Poland
20. Belgium
21. Austria
22. Wales
23. Argentina
24. Germany
25. Ghana
26. Ireland
27. Switzerland
28. Ecuador
29. Croatia
30. Algeria
31. Ivory Coast
32. Colombia
33. Portugal
34. Brazil



35. Mexico
36. Romania
37. Spain
38. Czech Republic
39. France
40. Uruguay



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