



LASALLECUNMUN 2025

FIFA

International
Federation of
Association Football

“Corruption and
Transparency at FIFA:
Measures to Prevent
Corruption and Ensure
Transparency in Decisions”

Background Guide

FIFA



Dear delegates,

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you to LASALLECUNMUN 2025. My name is Pamela Menéndez Araiza and I have a high regard for being your president of the International Federation of Association Football committee along with the moderator of this chair, Cecilia Sofía González de León and our conference officer, Gabriel de Brum Santos. We are honored to be your chair this year and we hope to give you the best experience of this model for each one of you.

This is my third time participating in a Model of the United Nations and first time as president. Since my first year at MUN I really enjoyed the model and this year I decided to be part of it again. I am 16 years old and currently in fourth semester of high school at Universidad La Salle Cancun. I practice ballet, I usually spend my free time with my friends and family and I like to listen to music. In my first MUN I was on the S.H.I.E.L.D. committee, and it was a wonderful experience for me as a delegate. I loved the committee and the topic, which is one of the reasons why I wanted to be part of a new committee, promoting and proposing a new major problem that exists around the world and that a fair solution can be reached.

We wish with all our hearts that you come to have an unforgettable experience and that more than anything, enjoy it. We all can be a bit nervous but it is really important to be sure of ourselves and speak throughout in the debate. We have high expectations of all of you and we are sure that you will do an incredible job on this model. Anything you need make sure you can contact me without hesitation, I'm available for any questions you may have.

Wishing you all the best,

Pamela Menéndez

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COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), is an independent institution that emerged on May 21, 1904 in Paris, with the aim of unifying the rules of football and making it a much simpler and more attractive game for fans as for players. The problems that FIFA deals with are mainly those that go against the ethical principles of footballers, in the same way, FIFA deals with cases of manipulation related to football matches and competitions, as well as those that go against ethical principles, such as doping of football players, since the federation considers it an act detrimental to the integrity of football. Within FIFA there is the Football Court which is made up of 3 chambers that will make decisions regarding disputes related to football and requests of a regulatory nature. The functions of the court are governed by the Rules of Procedure.

Topic: “Corruption and Transparency at FIFA: Measures to Prevent Corruption and Ensure Transparency in Decisions”

INTRODUCTION

The International Federation of Association Football has a duty to protect the values of this sport, including all FIFA Confederations. The whole of the fans should care about the corruption that exists within FIFA since in honor of sport it should represent something honest and fair.

There have been large amounts of money invested for diverse tournaments, such as stolen money accusations and bribes. Payment differences between countries teams and players, like economic support preferences between teams that have been since football has turned to an official sport. Match manipulation such as sold referees is very customary nowadays. There is a lack of transparency within this business, producing dissatisfied and disappointed opinions and comments around the world, bringing out as main problems money laundering and fraud. It is overriding to find measures to prevent corruption and reach a solution to end fraud and ensure transparency in decisions.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

For decades, football expanded around the world, starting with an office center in the center of Zurich as an unprofessional organization until 1974, when the president of FIFA was Stanley Rous, who was later challenged by the Brazilian Joao Havelange, president of the Brazilian sports confederation. Informed of the FIFA situation, he saw ambitious opportunities. That is how politics came into play.

At the FIFA Congress on June 11, 1974, Havelange received 68 votes, while Stanley Rous obtained 52. With Joao Havelange being named the new FIFA president, this was a turning point for FIFA. This symbolized the arrival of capitalism to FIFA and it went from being a small club of friends to a business. He proposed various programs, however there was not enough money until in October of this year, Sepp Blatter was hired, who gave a presentation to Coca-Cola and in 1976 they announced the support of Coca-Cola in a press conference. Cola Company for youth development and competition programs at FIFA. Later, large companies such as Adidas, KML, Philips, Canon, among others, joined.

After the beginning of the commercialization of football, these contracts also opened the door to irregular practices and influence peddling, as sponsors gained great power in sporting decisions. Although corruption was not so evident at the time, the centralized power in FIFA and the lack of transparency in the distribution of resources began to raise suspicions.

Between 1990s and 2000sn the consolidation of corrupt practices continued. Under Havelange's successor, Sepp Blatter (1998-2015), FIFA continued to expand and generate large revenues. However, Blatter was criticized early on for fostering a culture of "clientelism" in which funds were distributed on a discretionary basis to different national federations, especially in developing countries, in exchange for political support.

In 2002, the marketing company ISL (International Sport and Leisure), which handled FIFA's broadcast and marketing rights, declared bankruptcy. It was later revealed that ISL had paid millions in bribes to FIFA officials, including Havelange and his son-in-law Ricardo Teixeira. The scandal was one of the first major corruption cases at FIFA and exposed the use of bribes in the awarding of commercial contracts.

CURRENT SITUATION

In May 2015, the US Department of Justice revealed a massive investigation into corruption at FIFA involving fraud, money laundering and bribery in the organization. 14 senior FIFA officials and sports marketing executives were arrested in a raid in Switzerland. U.S. and Swiss authorities collaborated on the investigation, which uncovered decades of corruption in the sale of broadcast rights and marketing contracts. Sepp Blatter resigned shortly after the

scandal broke, and FIFA implemented a series of reforms, including limiting presidents' terms and increasing transparency in its operations. However, the crisis deeply damaged FIFA's image and exposed a culture of systematic corruption.

The elections of Russia and Qatar as hosts of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups, respectively, generated great controversies. Both processes were surrounded by accusations of bribery, vote manipulation and political influence, and it was alleged that several members of the FIFA executive committee had accepted bribes to vote for these countries. These accusations led to investigations in several countries and a series of arrests and indictments. In particular, Qatar's candidacy raised doubts due to the country's extreme weather conditions and logistical limitations. These criticisms increased scrutiny and suspicions that the vote had been financially influenced.

After the 2015 scandal, Gianni Infantino was elected president in 2016, promising reforms. New transparency rules were established and the influence of the executive committee was reduced, replacing it with a broader council. Despite these reforms, criticism and suspicion continue, especially regarding the management of funds and decisions on hosting international tournaments.

Corruption at FIFA has been so deep that it has required legal interventions from multiple countries and structural reforms. However, ensuring transparency and integrity in the management of the organization remains a pending challenge.

Currently, although FIFA has implemented reforms to improve transparency and reduce corruption following the 2015 scandals, challenges remain in public perception and implementation of these changes. Gianni Infantino, FIFA president since 2016, has led several reforms, such as term limits, a restructuring of the voting system and changes to the distribution of funds to try to prevent corrupt practices. However, some critics consider that these efforts have been insufficient and accuse the organization of a lack of transparency in key decisions, especially in the granting of tournament venues.

The staging of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar sparked renewed debate about FIFA's ethical and economic criteria when selecting venues, particularly in terms of human rights and working conditions in the host country. This event highlighted that, although structural corruption within FIFA has decreased, the body faces constant questions about the policies it chooses and how these decisions impact its credibility.

In 2024, FIFA's focus appears to be on improving its reputation, but it still faces criticism and constant surveillance from the media, governments and NGOs, who believe that reforms must be deeper and more transparent to completely eradicate corruption and ensure the integrity of the organization.

COUNTRY BOX

Alfredo Hawit
Ángel María Villar
Ariel Alvarado
Bryan Jiménez
Eduardo Li
Franco Carraro
Jack Warner
João Havelange
Julio Grondona
Julio Rocha
Luis Bedoya
Luis Chiriboga
Luis Hernández
Manuel Burga
Michel Platini
Nicolás Leoz
Rafael Esquivel
Reinaldo Vásquez
Ricardo Teixeira
Sepp Blatter
Sergio Jadue
Worawi Makudi

GUIDE QUESTIONS

- I. What is your delegation's opinion about corruption and lack of transparency in FIFA?
- II. What actions has your delegation carried out that have exposed corruption in FIFA?
- III. What consequences has your delegation received?
- IV. What possible solutions does your delegation propose?

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