



22 April 2021

Mr Gianni Infantino
FIFA President

Dear Mr President,

Dear Gianni

The Swedish Football Association (the Swedish FA) upholds and respects human rights of all people, both in international football and in the overall society. We believe that the world's biggest sport should also be the world's best sport.

When FIFA in 2010 awarded the FIFA World Cup 2022 to Qatar, the labour abuse of migrant workers in the country was well-known and it has continued throughout the period in which much of the World Cup infrastructure has been built. Based on our values, the Swedish FA is of the firm opinion that the decision to grant the tournament to Qatar was incorrect.

Faced with the fact that FIFA awarded the tournament to Qatar, the Swedish FA believes that it is the world of football's responsibility to do all we can to ensure that human rights are respected in the context of preparing for and carrying out the tournament. Since 2016 the Swedish FA – together with external participants from trade unions and human rights organizations – have visited Qatar three times (two times together with our Nordic colleagues). The objective of the visits has been to contribute to improvements in working conditions and human rights in relation to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, and to get the Qatari authorities to use the tournament as a catalyst for a sustainable change to ensure human rights. Through dialogue with the Qatari authorities we have let them know that the violations of workers' rights are being observed and of course are unacceptable from the international sports community's perspective. During our visits we have also met with migrant workers and external experts to get an unadulterated picture of the reality in Qatar.

The Swedish FA have closely followed and of course welcome the changes that the Government of Qatar has made to its labour system in recent years, including to the Kafala sponsorship system. However, despite improvements of the legal framework, many migrant workers still live and work in very difficult conditions in Qatar, and it is

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crucial to urge Qatar to fully implement and enforce its labour reforms and take further measures to protect all migrant workers from labour abuse.

As the tournament draws closer the world of football must also turn our attention to the thousands of migrant workers in the hospitality sector, who will be delivering the Qatar 2022 experience for all the football players, officials and fans alike. When the tournament kicks off, they will be taking care of players, fans and officials in hotels, serving them in restaurants, transporting them around and providing security for venues. Everyone who visits Qatar to watch or participate in the World Cup will almost certainly be looked after by migrant workers along the way. If fans, players and officials are to travel to Qatar confident in the knowledge that the migrant workers they will meet on their journey have been paid properly, treated fairly, are free from the control of exploitative employers and not victims of abusive labour practices, it is time for FIFA and the world of football to take urgent and concrete actions.

To ensure that the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 leaves a positive and lasting legacy for all migrant workers in Qatar, FIFA must immediately

- conduct an adequate human rights due diligence to properly investigate whether labour abuse is taking place on World Cup-related sites, act quickly to stop it and remediate any harm caused, and
- use the full extent of its influence, publicly and privately, to urge Qatar to fully implement and enforce its labour reforms and take further measures to protect all workers, including those employed in the service industry, from labour abuse.

FIFA must also take all necessary steps to make sure that all future FIFA tournament awarding decisions include human rights criteria and a human rights due diligence process, to make sure that tournaments are not awarded nor played in countries where there are any concerns regarding human rights issues.

Already in 2016, the Swedish FA together with our Nordic colleagues sent a letter to FIFA to clarify our position regarding the decision to award the FIFA World Cup 2022 to Qatar. In 2019 we sent you a written report from the Nordic visit in Qatar, and in 2020 we sent a report from the Swedish FA's visit to Qatar in January 2020.