

FIFA statement on Human Rights Watch report of 27 September 2017

FIFA has taken note of Human Rights Watch's report of 27 September 2017 on heat-related health risks to construction workers in Qatar. The report is primarily directed at the Qatari authorities but also includes a discussion of the mechanisms put in place by the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, the entity that is responsible for developing the infrastructure for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

FIFA is fully committed to implement its responsibility to respect human rights in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles. This commitment is enshrined in article 3 of the FIFA Statutes, adopted in February 2016, which states that FIFA is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and strives to promote the protection of these rights. This commitment was further specified in FIFA's Human Rights Policy that was adopted by the FIFA Council in May 2017 (see [here](#)).

In regard to the human rights of construction workers involved in building infrastructure for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, FIFA collaborates closely with the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC). As acknowledged and credited by Human Rights Watch in its report, significant measures have been put in place at the FIFA World Cup construction sites focusing on the protection of workers' health and safety, including specific procedures related to heat.

The effectiveness of these health and safety mechanisms has also been highlighted by international trade union representatives from the Building and Woodworkers' International (BWI) who have participated in inspections on the sites (see e.g. [here](#) and [here](#)). Furthermore, in April 2016, the Supreme Committee was awarded the internationally recognised Gold Health & Safety Award by the UK-based Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) for these mechanisms (see [here](#)).

As part of its continuous efforts to help further improve the systems in place, FIFA will engage with the SC to discuss the research and recommendations from Human Rights Watch. It will analyse, together with the SC, whether and how to amend the existing mechanisms related to heat stress in the interest of the health of workers engaged on the SC's construction sites.

FIFA recognises its responsibility to address human rights risks that are directly linked to its operations in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles. In that regard it is important to note that, contrary to the implications made by Human Rights Watch in its report, the vast majority of construction work currently undertaken in Qatar is not linked to the 2022 FIFA World Cup. As part of the government's National Vision 2030, Qatar started a wide-ranging and ambitious programme to develop its national infrastructure well before and independent of the awarding of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Nevertheless, FIFA will continue to engage with the Qatari authorities to build on the initiatives put in place for the 2022 FIFA World Cup and help raise the bar in regard to labour standards across the country in accordance with relevant ILO Conventions and to the benefit of all workers employed in Qatar. Achieving this goal will also require the effort and collaboration of all national and international actors involved in construction in Qatar and we call on everyone to acknowledge and act upon their individual human rights obligations.

For an overview on FIFA's work on human rights, please consult the June 2017 FIFA Activity Update on Human Rights (see [here](#)).