To the member associations of FIFA

Circular no. 1581

Zurich, 24 May 2017
SG/scb/nro

Bidding process for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to invite you to express your interest in submitting a bid to FIFA to host the final competition of the 2026 FIFA World Cup™.

In accordance with the decision of the 67th FIFA Congress, based on regulations to be issued by the FIFA Council, the bidding process for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ will consist of two phases:

1. **Phase 1:** the FIFA general secretariat shall invite the member associations affiliated to CONCACAF, CAF, CONMEBOL and the OFC to submit to FIFA a bid; and

2. **Phase 2:** in the event that the bids received in phase 1 are not selected by the 68th Congress, the FIFA general secretariat shall invite all member associations to submit to FIFA a bid (including the member associations affiliated to the AFC and UEFA), except for the member associations that submitted a bid in phase 1.

For the avoidance of doubt, this circular relates to phase 1 of the bidding process for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ only.

Please note that, as alluded to above, the bidding process for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ shall be governed by specific regulations to be issued by the FIFA Council. The contents of this circular and the entire bidding process for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ are subject to said regulations, once approved.

**Bidding and hosting requirements**

On 9 May 2017, the FIFA Council ratified the content to be provided by bidding member associations as part of the bidding process and a high-level description of key hosting requirements to be fulfilled by the member association(s) appointed to host and stage the 2026 FIFA World Cup™. The document containing this information is enclosed for your reference. The conclusive hosting requirements for all operational areas will be set out in the hosting documents to be provided by FIFA to interested member associations during the bidding process.
Eligibility for phase 1 of the bidding process

As alluded to above, the following member associations are eligible to participate in phase 1 of the bidding process:

- all member associations affiliated to CONCACAF, CAF, CONMEBOL and the OFC.

An eligible member association that expresses an interest and has registered to participate in the bidding process may prepare and submit an individual bid or a joint bid in collaboration with one or more other eligible member associations.

Timeline for phase 1 of the bidding process

All relevant information about the bidding process will be given in the bidding registration, which will be provided by FIFA to the member associations that submit the completed expression of interest form. An overview of the key deadlines of the bidding process is provided below:

Timeline*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 August 2017</td>
<td>Deadline to submit the completed expression of interest form to FIFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 August 2017</td>
<td>FIFA to dispatch the bidding registration to the member associations that have returned the completed expression of interest form by the above deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 September 2017</td>
<td>Deadline to submit the completed bidding registration (including any ancillary documents requested by FIFA) to FIFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2017</td>
<td>Distribution by FIFA of the bidding agreement, the hosting agreement and further bidding and hosting documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 November 2017</td>
<td>Deadline to submit the completed bidding agreement to FIFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 March 2018</td>
<td>Submission of the bid book, the signed hosting agreement and all other hosting documents to FIFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2018</td>
<td>Designation of bids for submission to the FIFA Congress by the FIFA Council and decision on the selection of the member association(s) hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ by the FIFA Congress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Dates are subject to change as required.
Expression of interest form

In order to participate in the bidding process for the hosting of the 2026 FIFA World Cup™, please complete and duly execute the attached expression of interest form and submit it to FIFA by **17:00 CET (Central European Time) on 11 August 2017** at the latest.

The completed expression of interest form must be submitted to FIFA:

- by hand, courier or registered delivery, marked for the attention of the FIFA Chief Competitions & Events Officer, at the following address:

  FIFA-Strasse 20
  8044 Zurich
  Switzerland; or

- by e-mail, marked for the attention of the FIFA Bidding Team, to the following address:

  2026bid@fifa.org.

In the case of a joint bid, each member association interested in participating in the bidding process with a joint bid must return an individually executed expression of interest form, naming the other member association(s).

Next steps

FIFA will dispatch the bidding registration to the interested member associations by 18 August 2017.

Please note that all documents provided by FIFA to the member associations in relation to the bidding process will be in English. FIFA will not provide translations in any other language and will not accept the submission of any such documents in any other language.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the FIFA general secretariat.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Fatma Samoura
Secretary General

Encl. Expression of interest form
2026 FIFA World Cup™: Process for Selection of Member Associations

cc: FIFA Council
Confederations
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

regarding the hosting and staging of the final competition of the

2026 FIFA World Cup™

By duly completing and executing below this expression of interest form and submitting it to FIFA, we hereby confirm that

[insert name of member association] (the “Member Association”)

has an interest in participating in the bidding procedure for the right to host and stage the final competition of the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ and wishes to receive FIFA’s bidding registration.

The Member Association has an interest in submitting:

☐ an individual bid

☐ a joint bid together with:

[insert name of other member association(s) participating in joint bid]

Duly authorised, for and on behalf of:

[insert name of member association]

Signature: ............................................................. Signature: .............................................................

Name: ............................................................. Name: .............................................................

Title: ............................................................. Title: .............................................................

Date: ............................................................. Date: .............................................................