

**To the member associations of FIFA**

Circular no. 1597

Zurich, 6 October 2017

SG/sco/nro

**Bidding process for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™: Bidding Regulations**

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Background**

On 11 May 2017, the 67<sup>th</sup> FIFA Congress approved a timeline for the bidding process for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™. According to the approved motion, in the first phase of the bidding process, member associations from CAF, CONCACAF, CONMEBOL and the OFC had three months – until 11 August 2017 – to express their interest in hosting the tournament.

Before the passing of the above deadline, FIFA received:

- a joint expression of interest submitted by the Canadian Soccer Association, the Mexican Football Association and the United States Soccer Federation; and
- an expression of interest submitted by the Moroccan Football Association.

For the avoidance of doubt, in relation to the first phase of the bidding process, FIFA will not be accepting any further expressions of interest received after the above deadline of 11 August 2017.

**Bidding Regulations**

On 6 September 2017, the FIFA Regulations for the Selection of the Venue for the Final Competition of the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ ("**Bidding Regulations**") were approved by the Bureau of the FIFA Council and these apply with immediate legal effect from the date of the decision of the Bureau pursuant to art. 7.3 of the Bidding Regulations.

Please find enclosed a copy of the approved Bidding Regulations. Please note that it was decided to provide the document in English only.

Regarding the content of the document, please also take note of the following matters which may concern you:

**1. Bid Rules of Conduct**

We would draw your attention to the approved Bidding Regulations and in particular arts 5 and 6 therein, which confirm the application of the FIFA Code of Ethics and the competence of the

FIFA Ethics Committee, as well as specify as part of the FIFA Code of Ethics certain "Bid Rules of Conduct" which must be met. **Please note that these FIFA Code of Ethics and Bid Rules of Conduct are binding on all officials.**

Accordingly, **we strongly encourage you to share the Bidding Regulations with all representatives of your association.** A further circular regarding ethical conduct during the bidding process will be distributed in due course to assist all officials in understanding their obligations with respect to the rules of conduct relating to the bidding process.

## **2. Selection decision**

Please also be aware that, pursuant to art. 69 of the FIFA Statutes and art. 4 of the approved Bidding Regulations, the FIFA Congress shall select the host association(s) of the final competition of the 2026 FIFA World Cup™. For the first phase of the bidding process, this selection decision will be taken at the 68<sup>th</sup> FIFA Congress scheduled for June 2018, unless the first phase of the bidding process ends earlier (such as by a withdrawal of all bids).

We thank you for taking note of these matters and for your continued support and cooperation throughout this bidding process.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Fatma Samoura  
Secretary General

Encl. Bidding Regulations

cc: FIFA Council members  
FIFA standing committee members  
FIFA general secretariat