TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

«Together»

Zurich, 15 May 2015

Dear friends of football,

Over the past few months, I have been present at five confederation congresses in my role as FIFA President, and I have been struck by the spirit of solidarity that drives you all on. This is all to your credit! Indeed, solidarity and unity were very much in evidence at each of the congresses that I attended in Asunción, Vienna, Cairo, the Bahamas and Bahrain. I was unable to be present at the OFC’s congress in January, but I already know how firmly unity is embedded in everything that this confederation does. I thank you all for your commitment, endeavour, trust and confidence.

This is how we must go forward together: showing solidarity with each other. Let us share our resources, our knowledge and our opportunities for the greater good. Those who have more give to those who have less. As you know, football is more than just a simple game – it gives hope, it unites people and it builds bridges, even in difficult situations.

Having said that, I am aware that there is still work to be done in various areas, and that we need to:

- continue to invest in education and to promote women’s football;
- step up our anti-racism and anti-discrimination efforts;
- protect the health of the players;
- fight against match manipulation;
- consolidate our relationships with our business partners;
- strengthen the position of professional football at FIFA.

Let us forge ahead together in accordance with our slogan, “Develop the game, touch the world and build a better future” – but we must also make sure that this is not mere wishful thinking. Let us assume a true leading role in striving to make the world a better place by promoting global harmony through the Handshake for Peace.

FIFA represents 209 associations, 300 million active participants and 1.6 billion people who are connected with the game, whether directly or indirectly. We can, and we must, play a role on the global stage, so let us do so – together. For the Game! For the World! For FIFA!

Joseph S. Blatter