Dear friends of football,

This is an unprecedented time for women’s football. The sport is thriving as never before, filling iconic stadiums and attracting unparalleled levels of global fan interest and media coverage. It is no exaggeration to say that we are entering a new era for the women’s game.

It has been four years since the record-breaking FIFA Women’s World Cup 2015 in Canada. The following year, we established a dedicated Women’s Football Division at FIFA and began an ambitious ten-year plan to increase the number of female footballers to 60 million worldwide. Building on this, late last year, we launched the first-ever FIFA Women’s Football Strategy, setting out our approach in black and white.

On the eve of the FIFA Women’s World Cup France 2019, which is poised to set new records, this is the perfect moment for us to assess the progress of the women’s game and how to fully implement our strategy.

However, football does not belong to FIFA, but rather to everyone. This is why it is crucial to be on the same page as the sport’s stakeholders as we embark on the next stage of our long-term commitment to the women’s game and, more widely, gender equality.

The FIFA Women’s Football Convention is the first time that our organisation is gathering such high-profile leaders and decision-makers from the spheres of sport, politics and civil society to share perspectives on the direction of the women’s game. Only by working together can we make the most of this new era for women’s football.

Gianni Infantino
FIFA President
Dear friends and supporters,

Welcome to the inaugural FIFA Women’s Football Convention.

This landmark forum can be considered the first waypoint on our long journey to fulfil the enormous potential of the women’s game around the world, affording us the opportunity to reflect on what we are getting right and how we can still improve.

With our first-ever Women’s Football Strategy, FIFA has committed to harnessing the power of football and using competitions to highlight the positive social impact that the game has on women and girls everywhere. We are already seeing this impact through our various participation and talent-nurturing initiatives.

What is more, the hugely anticipated FIFA Women’s World Cup France 2019 will underscore that sporting greatness is not limited by gender. There is no better way to inspire and empower a new generation of young women to take up the game and elevate it to greater heights.

Now, for two days in Paris, it is our responsibility and our privilege to determine the roles that each of us will play in driving positive change through football and to lay the groundwork for furthering diversity and equality, both on and off the pitch. The inaugural FIFA Women’s Football Convention is a crucial stepping stone in promoting the women’s game, making football a sport for all and advocating against gender discrimination.

We must uphold the spirit of the France 2019 slogan – Dare to Shine – and always keep the goal of encouraging and empowering the next generation of girls and women at the heart of our discussions.

Fatma Samoura
FIFA Secretary General
Introduction

Women’s football today

Introduction

While 24 nations will be represented at the FIFA Women’s World Cup France 2019™, the sport of football is for everyone, which is why FIFA has invited our 211 member associations, as well as key stakeholders from across the globe, to attend our first-ever Women’s Football Convention.

Leaders from the world of football, politics and society will be present in Paris over the next two days to discuss the development of the women’s game, the social benefits of football for women and girls, and the positive impact it can have on female empowerment.

FIFA considered it crucial to host an event of this magnitude in the lead-up to the Women’s World Cup, not only to draw further attention to what is going to be the biggest female sporting event to date, but also to highlight the work that is being carried out to embrace, educate and empower women around the world through football.

Over the next couple of days, you will hear from a variety of speakers who have their own story to tell, who are influential and successful in their field, and who are here because they are playing their part in giving women and girls the opportunity to fulfil their potential – whether that be in football, sport or society.
Women’s football today

In 2018, FIFA launched its very first dedicated Women’s Football Strategy, which charts the course of how we will work with confederations, our member associations, clubs, players, media, fans and other key stakeholders.

FIFA is spearheading the transformation of the women’s game at all levels. Through the allocation of resources and the creation of our strategy, we have demonstrated that women’s football is a key priority for the organisation.

Working closely with our 211 member associations and the six confederations, FIFA aims to develop and grow women’s football throughout the world to ensure that all girls and women have the opportunity to play the sport that we all love. For FIFA, women’s football is more than just a game – it is about having a positive social impact on women and girls around the world.

Whilst the interest in our game is growing and commercial opportunities are beginning to become more prominent, there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that every young girl around the world has access to football at grassroots level, while continuing to make the game at the top level more attractive to sponsors and new fans.

Guided by the five pillars of our Women’s Football Strategy, FIFA will ensure that girls and women are not discriminated against, have the opportunities to play or work in the game, and have role models that they can look up to – and one day emulate – through football.
The first day of the FIFA Women’s Football Convention is dedicated to women’s football stakeholders and representatives of our 211 member associations and the six confederations.

We will explore and debate the five strategic pillars of the FIFA Women’s Football Strategy with a view to defining the key priorities and practical solutions that will support the development of the women’s game.

Master of ceremonies: Carol Tshabalala
Social media moderator: Amanda Vandervort

6 JUNE 2019 - FIFA WOMEN’S FOOTBALL STRATEGY

08:30-09:30 DOORS OPEN & WELCOME COFFEE

09:30-10:00 OPENING REMARKS: Fatma Samoura, FIFA Secretary General
WELCOME REMARKS: Noël Le Graët, President of the French Football Association

10:00-11:00 SESSION ONE – DEVELOP AND GROW

1. Keynote address by Sarai Bareman, Chief Women’s Football Officer, FIFA
2. Panel discussion: Catalysts for change
   Moderator: Alex Scott, MBE, pundit, presenter and former professional footballer, FIFA Legend
   - Doreen Nabwire Omondi, Women’s Football Development Officer, Football Kenya Federation
   - Lucía Mijares Martínez, Sports Development Director, Mexican Football Association
   - Rachel Pavlou, The Football Association National Women’s Football Development Manager
   - Michael Essien, professional football player, FIFA Legend
   - Fatema Hayat, board member and Women’s Football Committee Chair, Kuwait Football Association

11:00-12:00 SESSION TWO – SHOWCASE THE GAME

- Interview: Youth competitions and their impact on the women’s game
  Moderator: Fabimar Franchi, Head of Sustainability and of Women’s Football Development, CONMEBOL
  - Verónica Boquete Giadâns, professional football player, FIFA Legend
  - Mónica Vergara Rubio, Head Coach, Mexican Women’s U-20 National Team

- Panel discussion: Reaching new heights, FIFA Women’s World Cup™
  Moderator: Laura Georges, General Secretary, French Football Association
  - Mikael Silvestre, FIFA Legend
  - Brigitte Henriques, Vice-President, French Football Association and France 2019 LOC
  - French Football Association representative
  - French Football Association representative
  - French Football Association representative

12:00-13:15 LUNCH
13:15-14:20  SESSION THREE – COMMUNICATE AND COMMERCIALISE

• Presentation: Changing the perception of women’s football
  - Karina LeBlanc, Head of Women’s Football, Concacaf, FIFA Legend
  - Fan Movement representatives
    - Emma Clarke, coach and women’s football advocate
    - David Mundo, blogger

• Panel discussion: Women’s football commercial landscape
  Moderator: Amanda Davies, sports anchor, CNN
  - Barbara Slater, BBC Director of Sport
  - Kate Johnson, Vice-President and Head of Global Sponsorship Marketing, Visa
  - Shoko Tsuji, Head of Partnership Success, MyCujoo
  - Philippe Le Floc’h, Chief Commercial Officer, FIFA

14:20-15:15  SESSION FOUR – GOVERN AND LEAD

• Interview – Game changers: men in decision-making positions championing women’s football and women in football
  Moderator: Emily Shaw, Head of Women’s Football Development & Governance, FIFA
  - Håkan Sjöstrand, General Secretary, Swedish Football Association
  - Jean-Michel Aulas, President of Olympique Lyonnais

• Case study
  - Nadine Kessler, Head of Women’s Football, UEFA

15:15-15:45  COFFEE BREAK

15:45-16:55  SESSION FIVE – EDUCATE AND EMPOWER

• Keynote address: Fatuma Abdulkadir Adan, Executive Director, Horn of Africa Development Initiative

• Panel discussion: The power of football
  Moderator: Clarence Seedorf, FIFA Legend, coach, role model
  - Samar Nassar, board member of the Union of Arab Football Associations and the Jordan Football Association
  - Oumou Kane, Head of Women’s Football, Mauritanian Football Association
  - Jean Sseninde, Chief Executive Officer, Sseninde Foundation
  - Laura Youngson, co-founder, Equal Playing Field and Ida Sports

16:55-17:15  CLOSING REMARKS: Fatma Samoura, FIFA Secretary General

17:15  TRANSPORT TO DINNER
Programme
Day 1

10:00-11:00, SESSION ONE – DEVELOP AND GROW
The first pillar of the FIFA Women’s Football Strategy is focused on developing the women’s game, both on and off the pitch, at all levels. Together with the confederations, FIFA is supporting member associations to develop the women’s game locally and to attract, retain and grow female participation with a view to increasing female players across the globe to 60 million by 2026. This pillar also reinforces the necessity for each member association to have a comprehensive women’s football strategy. To develop the game effectively means having clear pathways within the game for players, coaches, administrators and referees alike. Panellists will discuss and highlight best practice examples from their own countries and debate the challenges and barriers that exist to women’s football development.

11:00-12:00, SESSION TWO – SHOWCASE THE GAME
The optimisation of FIFA women’s football competitions is key to broadening the appeal of the game to players, fans and commercial partners. The FIFA Women’s World Cup™ and youth World Cups are the pinnacle of our sport at each level. The second pillar of our strategy focuses on enhancing these competitions as key drivers of development by examining ways to improve regional qualifying pathways, further developing FIFA youth tournaments and exploring the introduction of new competitions to increase the opportunities to showcase our best players at the highest level. The first interview will highlight the importance of FIFA’s youth competitions to the coach and players, followed by a panel session which will highlight the 2019 edition of the FIFA Women’s World Cup and the impact of the event on its players and the women’s game.

13:15-14:20, SESSION THREE – COMMUNICATE AND COMMERCIALISE
FIFA will broaden the exposure of women’s football and grow its commercial value through the implementation of a dedicated marketing and communication strategy that highlights competitions and development and harnesses its full commercial potential and social impact. Women’s football represents the single biggest growth opportunity to the game and its governing bodies. Leveraging its empowerment values, strong female ambassadors and wider audience appeal will be a key part of this growth. The session will highlight FIFA’s efforts to look “outside the box” in its communication on the women’s game, with the panel discussion highlighting the changes and innovations being made in the commercial sector and encouraging the member associations to develop their own commercial strategies.

14:20-15:15, SESSION FOUR – GOVERN AND LEAD
FIFA strives to improve governance structures of women’s football at all levels of the pyramid, FIFA included. Empowering women’s football within organisational structures and ensuring that it is appropriately resourced is a key objective of this pillar. Furthermore, broadening female representation in football decision-making at the highest levels is a clear goal for each member association, with a target to have at least one woman present on their executive committee by 2026. Within this pillar, FIFA also aims to improve its levels of governance, by refining existing regulatory frameworks, such as the women’s international match calendar, that will foster the professionalisation of the women’s game. The best practice case studies highlighted in this session aim to inspire and remind the member associations present of the benefits of gender-balanced leadership and the successful return on investment in women’s football.

15:45-16:55, SESSION FIVE – EDUCATE AND EMPOWER
FIFA is harnessing the power of the game and its competitions to highlight football’s positive social impact on women and girls all around the world. By addressing and bringing into focus specific issues affecting the female population and partnering with government stakeholders and NGOs, the aim is to develop sustainable projects that help to improve the lives of women and girls through football. Female empowerment and societal benefits of football are the topics of this session, and through both the keynote and the panel discussion, the participants will inspire and demonstrate football’s ability to positively impact the lives of women and girls around the world.
The second day of the Women’s Football Convention will be dedicated to political leaders, social influencers and distinguished global figures who have made a difference in the field of sport and can inspire and guide our joint effort to develop the women’s game for the benefit of a more inclusive and diverse society.

With the findings of Day 1 presented at the outset, the discussions on Day 2 will focus on the societal benefits of football and the wider topic of gender equality and women’s empowerment across the game with a view to highlighting the organisational initiatives required to reach the objectives laid out in the Women’s Football Strategy.

Each of the day’s three sessions represents high-level barriers and challenges to the women’s game globally and will showcase ways to overcome these barriers through concrete and sustainable strategies, programmes and partnerships.

7 JUNE 2019 – CHANGEMAKING AND EMPOWERMENT THROUGH FOOTBALL

08:30-09:30 DOORS OPEN & WELCOME COFFEE

09:30-10:30 OPENING REMARKS by Gianni Infantino, FIFA President

WELCOME SPEECH by Roxana Mărăcineanu, French Sports Minister

Q&A with Mia Hamm, FIFA Legend

10:30-11:40 READY FOR KICK-OFF – CULTURAL AND SOCIAL BARRIERS

- Panel discussion: Overcoming cultural and social barriers
  - Moderator: David Sabir, General Secretary, Bermuda Football Association
  - Noel Curran, Director-General, European Broadcasting Union
  - The Honourable Olivia Babsy Grange, CD, MP, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Jamaica
  - Nawal El Moutawakel, former Sports Minister of Morocco, former Olympian
  - Machacha Shepande, Head of Sports Division, African Union
  - Franck Castillo, General Secretary, Oceania Football Confederation

- Keynote address: Sahle-Work Zewde, President of Ethiopia

11:40-12:30 TACTICS – RESOURCING THE WOMEN’S GAME

- Keynote address: The Honourable Mia Amor Mottley, QC, MP, Prime Minister of Barbados

- Panel discussion: Why the women’s game should be viewed as an investment
  - Moderator: Carol Tshabalala, sports broadcaster
  - Baroness Sue Campbell, CBE, Director of Women’s Football, The Football Association
  - Vittorio Montagliani, FIFA Vice-President and Concacaf President
  - Marta Lucia Ramirez, Vice-President of Colombia
  - Joyce Cook, Chief Member Associations Officer, FIFA
12:30-13:20 **THE WAY FORWARD – EDUCATE AND EMPOWER**  
- Keynote address: Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO  
- Panel discussion: Women’s football as a tool for social development  
  Moderator: Karina LeBlanc, Head of Women’s Football, Concacaf, FIFA Legend  
  - Dr Natalia Kanem, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund  
  - Rémy Rioux, Chief Executive Officer, French Development Agency  
  - The Honourable Dr Mahali Phamotse, Minister of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation, Lesotho  
  - Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director-General of Democracy at the Council of Europe

13:20-13:35 **FIFA AND UN WOMEN – SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
Interview with Gianni Infantino, FIFA President, and Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women

13:35-13:45 **CLOSING REMARKS by Gianni Infantino, FIFA President**

13:45-15:00 **LUNCH**

14:30 onwards **TRANSPORT TO HOTELS – PREPARATION FOR OPENING MATCH**
Programme
Day 2

10:30-11:40, READY FOR KICK-OFF – CULTURAL AND SOCIAL BARRIERS

Keynote address
This session aims to address the cultural and societal barriers that hinder the participation of women and girls in football (and sport in general), whilst also negatively impacting on the development and growth of the game.

Panel
The panel session will allow the sharing of insight and experiences from various key stakeholders aimed at overcoming existing barriers and encouraging more women and girls to play football. The panel will also discuss how women’s football can become an important tool for social integration in our societies and communities and highlight the importance of football’s governing bodies partnering with other stakeholders to enhance the game’s positive impact.

11:40-12:30, TACTICS – HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Keynote address
This session aims to address the capacity-building elements and the financial sustainability of women’s football by highlighting the opportunities available to grow the game and enhance its commercial value. By showcasing the importance of having the right people and the right programmes in place, women’s football can become a strong asset for each and every member association.

Panel
With an experienced panel comprising representatives of a government, a confederation, a member association and FIFA, this session will demonstrate why and how each of the various stakeholders has chosen to invest in the women’s game (through human and/or financial resources), particularly through the introduction of new initiatives to accelerate growth. There will also be discussions around the promotion of women’s football in order to engage and grow our audience and share best practice examples on how we can improve its commercialisation.


Keynote address
This session aims to outline how we can collectively strengthen our ability to positively impact the lives of women and girls around the world through the unique opportunities and positive benefits of football. We will highlight the importance of how governments, NGOs, member associations and other key stakeholders can successfully work together for the benefit of society.

Panel
This panel discussion will focus on the importance of linking life skills, education and values through football to enrich the development of young girls. It will also showcase the value of football (and sports in general) in empowering women physically, socially and economically.

By defining joint commitments, we can aim to make women’s football a force for good. Highlighting FIFA’s concrete partnerships at the highest level will showcase what is possible for FIFA member associations and the benefits of the women’s game.
FIFA and UN Women have agreed to join forces through football for the benefit of women and girls around the world.

UN Women is the United Nations entity mandated to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women. Its goal is to achieve a world free from gender discrimination and violence through its Planet 50-50 by 2030 campaign.

FIFA, world football’s governing body, is committed to promoting gender equality, as enshrined in its Statutes, which state FIFA’s objectives, including its effort to ensure that the game of football is available to all – regardless of gender or age – the development of women’s football and the full participation of women at all levels of football governance.

In line with the above, both UN Women and FIFA recognise the importance of close collaboration between public authorities, international organisations, the private sector, and media and sports organisations, both in respect of making sport activities more accessible to women and girls and in disseminating the diverse sport content that promotes gender equality. Both parties also recognise that major sporting events have the potential to deliver a legacy of positive changes that challenge persistent forms of discrimination that hold back progress for all.

The aim of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to create a framework for strengthening and further developing synergies and the collaboration between UN Women and FIFA.

It is based on the three pillars of the UN Women approach to sport as a tool for achieving gender equality:

i. **Policy**: cooperation and coordination of FIFA and UN Women’s efforts in relevant national and international sport policy initiatives so that gender equality and women’s empowerment gain a prominent position.

ii. **Legacy**: sustainable projects that will help create a lasting legacy and cultural change, and empower women and girls around the world. Women and girls will receive support through football activities to build their leadership skills, confidence and overall autonomy.

iii. **Advocacy**: awareness of topics relating to gender equality and women’s empowerment through sport, making use of, among others, FIFA’s football legends and UN ambassadors, as well as major competitions.

The MoU outlines the general framework of cooperation between the two organisations and it will be followed by a concrete cooperation plan with joint actions and a detailed roadmap.
Fatma Samoura
FIFA Secretary General

Having spent 21 years working on high-level United Nations programmes in Italy, Djibouti, Cameroon, Guinea, Niger, Madagascar and Nigeria, Fatma is well known for her commitment to furthering humanitarian causes. It was this commitment and tenacity that led to her being chosen as FIFA’s Secretary General in May 2016 and officially taking up office in June that year.

Before she joined FIFA, Fatma spent the first part of 2016 serving as the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator and UN Development Programme Resident Representative for Nigeria.

Prior to her mission in Nigeria, she spent over five years as the UN Resident Coordinator and UN Development Programme Resident Representative for Madagascar. There, she oversaw the peaceful 2013 presidential elections, which paved the way for a return to constitutional order and a resumption of foreign investment and development aid, following several precarious years for the East African nation.

As the first Muslim, African and woman to hold the position of FIFA Secretary General, Fatma is a trailblazer for diversity and gender equality. Since her appointment, the number of women employed by the organisation has increased across the board, including in senior management roles. She also played an integral part in the success of the record-breaking 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ and will oversee the eighth edition of the FIFA Women’s World Cup™ this summer in France.

Fatma is committed to using her voice to promote equality and inclusion. She believes in the unique power of football to encourage young people around the world to Dare to Shine™ and be the best that they can be in whatever they do.

Gianni Infantino
FIFA President

Born in Brig, Switzerland, to Italian parents, Gianni Infantino has been in football administration for over 20 years. A father of four girls and a passionate football fan, he has dedicated his career to the promotion and protection of the game.

After studying law at the University of Fribourg, he worked as the General Secretary of the International Centre for Sports Studies (CIES) at the University of Neuchâtel and as an advisor to a number of football bodies in Italy, Spain and Switzerland before joining UEFA in 2000.

Appointed as the Director of UEFA’s Legal Affairs and Club Licensing Division in 2004, he led the institution’s work in developing relationships with key stakeholders such as the European Union and the Council of Europe in order to tackle issues threatening the integrity of the game, such as racism and match-fixing. After being promoted to Deputy General Secretary, he subsequently became General Secretary in 2009.

Over the course of his time at UEFA, Gianni led a team of over 400 people working on the provision of a democratic and sustainable environment for European football. He notably oversaw the implementation of initiatives such as improved commercial support and an increased role in decision-making processes for member associations of all sizes, as well as spearheading the development of UEFA’s competitions at every level of the game – including the exponential growth of the UEFA Champions League and the expansion of the UEFA European Championship.

In 2015, Gianni was appointed to the FIFA Reform Committee. The following year, he was elected FIFA President, with the firm commitment to partner with the organisation’s 211 member associations to grow football, protect its integrity, bring the game to all and build a stronger institution.
Sahle-Work Zewde  
President of Ethiopia

Sahle-Work was elected as the fourth President of Ethiopia in October 2018, becoming the first woman to hold the post.

Starting at the Ministry of Education, she later joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and began her diplomatic career as the Ethiopian Ambassador to Senegal, with accreditation to Mali, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and The Gambia. She served in Djibouti and at the Intergovernmental Authority on Development for ten years, before becoming the Ethiopian Ambassador to France, Tunisia and Morocco and a Permanent Representative to UNESCO. After her return to Ethiopia, she was appointed Permanent Representative to the African Union and Director-General for African Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

She joined the United Nations in 2009 as the first female Special Representative of the Secretary-General and as the Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic.

In 2011, she was appointed as the first dedicated Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi at the level of Under-Secretary-General. In June 2018, Secretary-General António Guterres appointed her as his Special Representative to the African Union and the Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union. She was the first woman to hold these three UN positions.

The Honourable Mia Amor Mottley, QC, MP  
Prime Minister of Barbados

Mia is the eighth Prime Minister of Barbados. She became the first woman to occupy that high office following the general elections in May 2018, in which she led the Barbados Labour Party to an emphatic victory, winning all 30 seats in the House of Assembly by the largest margin ever seen in the country.

An attorney-at-law and Queen’s Counsel, she has been active in the political life of Barbados for almost three decades. First elected in 1994, she is presently in her sixth term as an MP for the constituency of St Michael North East.

From 1994 to 2008, she served in the cabinet of three successive administrations, first as Minister of Education and Culture, then as Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs, and then as Minister of Economic Affairs. She was appointed Deputy Prime Minister in 2003.

Mia presently holds the portfolios of Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment and leads the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Single Market and Economy in the CARICOM quasi-cabinet.
Fatuma Abdulkadir Adan  
**Executive Director, Horn of Africa Development Initiative (HODI)**

Through the HODI, established in 2003, Fatuma created Shoot to Score, Not to Kill – a programme aiming to reinforce and promote the peaceful resolution of conflict in areas of persistent tribal warfare. Using football, HODI empowers women and girls to have a more active voice.

In 2008, Fatuma devised the Breaking the Silence Using Football programme to help girls lift the lid on issues that affect them by creating a network of peers who share information on life skills and providing a safe space for girls to learn from each other. In 2010, she initiated the first community savings scheme for peace.

Fatuma’s work has been featured in several publications and garnered numerous accolades, including the FIFA Diversity Award 2018, a Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award (World Economic Forum) and a Commonwealth Points of Light Award.

Fatuma has a law degree from Moi University and a Postgraduate Diploma in Law from Kenya School of Law.

Jean-Michel Aulas  
**President of Olympique Lyonnais**

Jean-Michel is the President of French club Olympique Lyonnais and has held a number of senior roles across football and business.

His business interests date back to 1983 as the founding Chairman of the Cegid Group, the leading French publisher of management software.

He also founded the family office HOLNEST, again in 1983, before his first ventures into football in 1987, when he became the President of Olympique Lyonnais – a club whose women’s side has gone on to become one of the most successful teams in the world.

He is a member of the Executive Committee of the French Football Association and the European Club Association Executive Board, while he also sits on the newly formed FIFA Professional Women’s Football Task Force.

In addition, he was made an Officer of the French Legion of Honour in 2017, which is the country’s highest order for military and civil merits.
Audrey Azoulay
Director-General of UNESCO

Having worked in the culture sector since the start of her career, Audrey has served numerous institutions, including notably the European Commission, providing her expertise on issues concerning culture and communication. She worked as an advisor on culture to the President of the French Republic in 2014 and was appointed as the Minister of Culture and Communication in 2016. A graduate of France's École Nationale d'Administration and of the Paris Institut d'Études Politiques, she also holds an MBA from the University of Lancaster in the UK.

Audrey has a long-standing commitment to intercultural and intergenerational dialogue, to advancing education for all and to the dissemination of scientific and cultural knowledge, which she is determined to uphold as the head of UNESCO.

Sarai Bareman
FIFA Chief Women's Football Officer

Born in Auckland, New Zealand, to a Samoan mother and Dutch father, Sarai’s passion for football started as a young girl. Encouraged to play by her father, a coach, she pursued her love of the game to the highest level, representing the Samoan women’s national team.

After a career in the banking and finance industry in New Zealand, she worked at national association level as the CEO of the Football Federation Samoa, where she was responsible for overhauling the financial management and for the strategic rebuilding of the organisation. In July 2014, she moved back to New Zealand to take up the position of Operations Manager at the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC), before being promoted to the role of OFC Deputy General Secretary.

In 2015, Sarai was appointed as the only female member of FIFA’s Reform Committee, where she was a strong advocate for change within the organisation, in particular calling for concrete requirements concerning women’s football. She was named the Chief Women’s Football Officer in 2016 and she currently heads up the Women’s Football Division, which is implementing the recently launched Women’s Football Strategy in conjunction with FIFA’s 211 member associations. This aims to grow participation, enhance commercial value and build on the foundations of the game, all while leveraging the societal benefits of football.

Sarai is a member of FIFA’s Management Board.
Biographies

Verónica Boquete Giadáns
(aka Vero or Verocity)
Professional football player, FIFA Legend (Spain)

Vero is the best-known female Spanish footballer. She has won multiple club honours in Spain, Sweden, the USA and Germany – topped by the UEFA Women’s Champions League – and has claimed numerous individual accolades.

Vero captained her country at the UEFA Women’s EURO and the FIFA Women’s World Cup™ and earned more than 50 caps, scoring almost 40 goals.

She has played professionally in Spain, the USA, Russia, Sweden, Germany, France and China PR, with spells at top clubs including Paris Saint-Germain and Bayern Munich. In 2004, Vero won the UEFA Women’s U-19 European Championship with Spain.

She has received many accolades during her career, including the US Women’s Professional Soccer Michelle Akers Player of the Year Award. She has been nominated for the UEFA Women’s Player Award and was also nominated for the 2014 FIFA Ballon d’Or.

Vero is the only female member of the FIFA Legends squad that is still playing.

Baroness Sue Campbell, CBE
Director of Women’s Football, The Football Association

A trained PE teacher, Sue taught in Manchester and lectured at Leicester and Loughborough Universities. During this time, Sue represented her country as a player, coach and manager. She then went on to spend four years as a regional officer with Sport England.

Eleven years as the CEO of the National Coaching Foundation (NCF) followed, before she became the CEO of the Youth Sport Trust. In 2005, Sue took over as the Chair of the NCF, a role in which she continued until 2017. Sue was appointed the Head of Women’s Football at The Football Association in 2016 and became its Director of Women’s Football in 2018.

In 2005, Sue was appointed as the Chair of UK Sport. She held this position for two terms, overseeing Team GB and Paralympic GB at the London 2012 Games, before stepping down in April 2013.

Sue has received 11 honorary doctorates and a Sunday Times Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2003, Sue was made a Commander of the British Empire for her services to sport.
Joyce Cook
Chief Member Associations Officer, FIFA

Joyce took up the role of FIFA Chief Member Associations Officer on 1 November 2016. As a member of FIFA’s Management Board, she oversees the FIFA Forward Programme, FIFA’s investment in football development through its 211 member associations.

Shortly after joining FIFA, Joyce was awarded a CBE in Queen Elizabeth II’s 2017 New Year’s Honours, for services to accessibility and sports at national and international level.

The founder and Managing Director of the Centre for Access to Football in Europe (CAFE), during the 2014 FIFA World Cup™, Joyce supported FIFA in making the event more accessible to disabled people and helped implement an audio-descriptive commentary service for partially sighted and blind fans. Before joining FIFA, Joyce was also a board member at the Fare network, a director at Women in Football, the Chair of Level Playing Field and a board member at the Sports Grounds Safety Authority.

Franck Castillo
General Secretary, Oceania Football Confederation (OFC)

Franck was appointed the General Secretary of the OFC in 2018. He had previously served as the OFC’s Head of Social Responsibility from 2009, in which role he developed Just Play, a social programme using football as a tool to raise awareness and to attempt to counteract social issues.

From 2010 to 2013, Franck was the CEO of the Pacific Youth and Sports Conference, which explored the use of sport as a tool to help young people.

Prior to his career in sport, Franck managed hotels in France and Tahiti before becoming CEO of a youth association in Tahiti, where he was responsible for developing new youth-specific social programmes. As the CEO of the Pacific Youth Festival in 2006, he helped raise awareness of the social issues facing 27 Pacific countries and presented the first Pacific Youth Charter at the UNESCO General Assembly in 2007.

Franck has a master’s degree in communication, administration and marketing.
Noel Curran
Director-General, European Broadcasting Union

Noel took up the role of Director-General of the European Broadcasting Union in 2017. He is the former Director-General, Managing Director of Television, and Current Affairs Editor of RTÉ, Ireland’s national television and radio broadcaster.

A strong and long-time advocate of public service media, Noel is also an award-winning investigative journalist and producer. As an editor and producer, Noel’s programming won numerous awards for journalism in Ireland and internationally.

He was also executive producer on a range of live television events, including the Eurovision Song Contest in 1997, general election coverage, live entertainment series and factual programming.

Noel attended Trinity College, Dublin, where he studied European broadcasting policy and graduated from Dublin City University in communication studies, specialising in national and international broadcasting policy and writing a thesis on the role of public service broadcasting.

He is currently Adjunct Professor of Journalism at Dublin City University.

Amanda Davies
Sports anchor, CNN

Amanda joined CNN in April 2012 and has since fronted the network’s World Sport coverage for multiple major events.

In addition, Amanda also presents monthly Formula 1 programme The Circuit, hosting live shows from the paddock on race weekends and interviewing the world’s leading drivers.

Before joining CNN, Amanda was at the BBC, delivering the sports news on BBC News weekend bulletins and BBC Breakfast. She also hosted international football show Sports World Have Your Say on BBC World News and the weekly magazine show Your News.

Born in Manchester and now a London resident, Amanda started her career in production, working for Sky Sports and Sky Sports News. She holds a master’s degree in geography from the University of Oxford, where she was awarded the prestigious Philip Geddes Memorial Prize for journalism during her studies.

Amanda co-hosted the Draw for the FIFA Women’s World Cup France 2019™ in December 2018 and will front CNN’s coverage of the tournament.
Nawal El Moutawakel
Former Sports Minister of Morocco, former Olympian

At the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984, Nawal became the first Muslim, Moroccan or Afro-Arab woman to win an Olympic gold medal.

At the conclusion of her sports career and university degree, Nawal became actively involved in the Moroccan and international sports scene, twice serving as her country’s Minister of Youth and Sports.

In 2016, she became a board member of the Moroccan Football Association (FRMF) and the President of the FRMF’s Women’s Football Commission. She was also a member of Morocco’s bid committees for the 2006 and 2026 editions of the FIFA World Cup™.

In 1995, she became a member of the IAAF Council, while in 1997, she was elected to the IOC, where she held a number of positions before becoming the Senior Vice-President.

Nawal has been recognised with nine awards during an illustrious career. These include being awarded a National Merit (Exceptional Order) distinction by Morocco’s late King Hassan II in 1983, being made a Grand Officer of the National Order of Merit by the President of the Republic of Tunisia in 2005 and being made a Knight of the Legion of Honour by the President of the French Republic in March 2015.

Michael Essien (aka the Bison)
Professional football player, FIFA Legend (Ghana)

Michael is a Ghanaian professional footballer and a FIFA Legend and is involved in many social projects through the Michael Essien Foundation.

At national-team level, he represented his country at the FIFA U-17 World Championship 1999 and FIFA World Youth Championship 2001. He made his debut for the senior team in 2002, representing Ghana at three CAF Africa Cup of Nations tournaments and two FIFA World Cups™. He retired from international duty in 2015 with 58 caps and nine goals.

His glittering club career has taken in stints at some of the world’s best clubs, including in France with Lyon, in Spain with Real Madrid, in Italy with Milan and most notably in England with Chelsea, where he won the 2011-2012 UEFA Champions League.

At humanitarian level, he founded his own charity organisation to create opportunities, hope and inspiration for children all over Africa and for the underprivileged in his hometown of Awutu Breku.
Biographies

Fabimar Franchi
Head of Sustainability and of Women’s Football Development

Fabimar has a background in economics and is CONMEBOL’s current Head of Sustainability and Women’s Football Development.

She worked for more than 18 years in both the public and private sectors, leading projects and implementing programmes aiming to promote diversity, inclusion and sustainability.

At international level, she has managed various inclusion projects dedicated to women executives in the corporate world, while developing and empowering communities across Latin America and the Caribbean.

As the Head of Sustainability and Women’s Football Development at CONMEBOL, she believes in the positive social transformation that football can bring about. Also, through football, she promotes women’s potential in the various roles they cover on and off the pitch in the CONMEBOL region.

Thanks to her experience abroad and her leadership positions in multicultural teams, she is convinced of the positive power of humanity to create and build.

Laura Georges
General Secretary, French Football Association (FFF)

Laura is a former French international player and the current General Secretary of the FFF.

As a player, she collected 188 caps for her national team and participated in three FIFA Women’s World Cups™ and four UEFA Women’s EUROs. At club level, she lifted the UEFA Women’s Champions League trophy twice.

After 21 years on the playing field, Laura concluded her playing career in June 2018. Today, she is fully dedicated to her role of General Secretary with the mission to represent the FFF President and be the ambassador for the Local Organising Committee for the FIFA Women’s World Cup 2019™.

She is a renowned FIFA Legend and UEFA Ambassador for the development of the game on and off the pitch, and she is currently involved in solidarity and humanitarian projects to share her life experiences with young people.
The Honourable Olivia Babsy Grange, CD, MP
Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Jamaica

Olivia has had a long, productive and inspiring career as a cultural activist, developing and managing talent.

She is an artist, an event planner, a pioneering contributor to the development of the reggae and dancehall music industry in Jamaica, Canada and the United States, and an ardent supporter and promoter of Jamaica’s creative and cultural industries.

She has been a member of the Jamaican Parliament since 1997 as the representative of the people of St Catherine Central, and was appointed Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport in 2016. She previously served as Minister of Information, Youth, Sports and Culture between 2007 and 2011, with responsibility for women and gender affairs, entertainment, community development and special projects.

In June 2009, she had the distinction of being appointed as the first Caribbean Community Champion for Culture, with responsibility for advocating, among other things, capacity-building for cultural industries, cultural institutions and individual artists.

Mia Hamm
FIFA Legend (USA)

After 17 years, two Women’s World Cup titles, two Olympic gold medals, and near-unparalleled success as a marketing icon, Mia retired from professional football in 2004 as one of the most important and recognisable female figures in the history of sport.

During her illustrious career playing for the United States national team, she shattered many American records, most notably those for international goals (158) and assists (144).

In the years since her dominant run on the global stage as a player, Mia has continued to serve as an inspiration to young girls looking to rise to the pinnacle of the sporting world. She has maintained an active presence within the football community and has served as an outspoken advocate for Title IX and gender equality across sporting lines.

She is the face of not merely a sport but rather of an entire generation of female athletes through her foundation.
FIFA Women’s Football Convention, 6 & 7 June 2019

Biographies

Fatema Hayat
Board member and Women’s Football Committee Chair, Kuwait Football Association (KFA)

In May 2018, Fatema was elected as the KFA’s first female board member and appointed the Chair of its Women’s Football Committee (WFC). Under her leadership, the WFC has organised the country’s first-ever national women’s futsal league, established girls’ and women’s national teams and worked closely with FIFA on the development of a four-year strategic plan.

For more than 20 years, Fatema’s dream was to establish women’s football as a sport in Kuwait. Upon returning from college, she started organising tournaments to provide opportunities for girls to play and later joined the American University of Kuwait, where she coached the first female university football team in the country. Her efforts influenced other universities and resulted in the University Championship Cup, a multi-sport tournament contested between universities.

In recent years, Fatema has also advised and supported the Kuwait Women’s League and the Women’s Football Tournament, two social initiatives that have helped elevate women’s football and served as a stepping stone for the professionalisation of the game in Kuwait.

Fatema has an MA in International Affairs and a postgraduate certificate in organisational development.

Brigitte Henriques
Vice-President, French Football Association (FFF) and France 2019 LOC

Brigitte is a former French international player and the current Vice-President of both the FFF and the Local Organising Committee of the FIFA Women’s World Cup France 2019™.

As a player, she collected 31 caps with the French national team from 1988 to 1997 and won three French league titles with FCF Juvisy.

After concluding her playing career, Brigitte coached at the French Centre National du Football in Clairefontaine and managed the women’s section of Paris Saint-Germain for four years.

In 2011, Brigitte became the first woman to hold the position of General Secretary and Vice-President in the history of the FFF.

In charge of the feminisation of French football, she successfully completed the bidding process for hosting the FIFA Women’s World Cup 2019 in France and designed the women’s football development plan that increased the number of registered female players from 86,000 to over 184,000.
Kate Johnson
Vice-President and Head of Global Sponsorship Marketing, Visa

Kate oversees a global portfolio that includes the company’s long-standing partnerships with the IOC, FIFA and the NFL.

Prior to joining Visa, Kate was a senior director within WME-IMG’s global consulting group. During her tenure, she managed numerous clients, building strategic global marketing programmes and sponsorship activations for events including Wimbledon, the World Golf Championships, golf’s US Open and The Open Championship, and the Beijing, Vancouver, London and Sochi Olympics.

In 2017, Kate was named one of Adweek’s most powerful women in sport and won the Sports Business Journal’s Forty Under 40 Award. She is also a recipient of the prestigious Leaders Under 40 global sports industry and marketing award.

Kate was a 2004 Olympic silver medallist in the women’s eight with coxswain rowing event (W8+). A 2002 world champion, she has held both Olympic and world records. Kate graduated from the University of Michigan and was inducted into its Hall of Honor in 2016.

Oumou Kane
Head of Women’s Football, Mauritanian Football Association (FFRIM)

Oumou is currently the Head of Women’s Football at the FFRIM and was selected to take part in the FIFA/UEFA Women in Football Leadership Programme in 2018.

She has served as the President of an NGO called Association Multiculturelle pour un Avenir Meilleur (a multicultural association for a brighter future, AMAM) since October 2011. Priorities for the organisation include cultural and social promotion, gender equality, the fight against poverty, and access to basic social services such as health and education. Since 2013, AMAM has organised numerous gala football matches in Mauritania – something that was previously perceived to be unacceptable in Mauritanian society.

In 2015, Oumou was awarded a Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, an initiative supported by President Barack Obama.

After tireless work, Oumou was instrumental in establishing the first-ever women’s national team in Mauritania in 2019.

Oumou holds a master’s degree in business administration, international trade and marketing. She is proficient in French, English and Arabic.
**Dr Natalia Kanem**  
*United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*

Dr Natalia Kanem was appointed the Executive Director of the UNFPA in October 2017, having started her career in academia with the John Hopkins and Columbia University schools of medicine and public health.

She has over 30 years of strategic leadership experience in medicine, public and reproductive health, social justice and philanthropy. While serving as a Ford Foundation officer from 1992 to 2005, she helped pioneer work in women’s reproductive health and sexuality, eventually becoming Deputy Vice-President for its worldwide peace and social justice programmes.

From 2014 to 2016, Natalia served as the UNFPA Representative in the United Republic of Tanzania and in July 2016, she was named the UNFPA’s Deputy Executive Director in charge of programmes. She is the founding President of ELMA Philanthropies Inc., a private institution focusing on young people in Africa.

Natalia holds a medical degree from Columbia University and a Master of Public Health from the University of Washington, with specialisations in epidemiology and preventive medicine. She is also a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard University.

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**Nadine Kessler**  
*Head of Women’s Football, UEFA*

Nadine is a former German international player and the current Head of Women’s Football at UEFA.

In 2014, Nadine was a standout player and claimed the FIFA Women’s World Player of the Year and UEFA Best Women’s Player in Europe awards.

At international level, she helped the German national team to victory at the UEFA Women’s European Championship in 2013. Nadine is a three-time winner of the UEFA Women’s Champions League with VfL Wolfsburg and FFC Turbine Potsdam. Furthermore, she won four German league titles and two German Cups.

As the Head of Women’s Football at UEFA, Nadine uses her position to pass on her knowledge for the good of the women’s game. Along with her team, she strategically leads the growth of women’s football and aims to further develop the game in all corners of Europe, as well as to take UEFA’s women’s competitions to even greater heights.
Philippe Le Floc’h
FIFA Chief Commercial Officer

Philippe, who joined FIFA in October 2016, is a seasoned sports marketing and media executive with over 25 years’ experience. A member of FIFA’s Management Board, Philippe oversees all commercial activities and drives the organisation’s commercial performance.

Previously, Philippe spent six years in the Middle East and Asia, working with strategic marketing and media consultancy firms CAA Sports and his own Customised Solution. Before that, Philippe worked as UEFA’s Marketing Director for ten years. His responsibilities included developing and implementing media content and sponsorship strategies, as well as marketing UEFA competitions.

Prior to joining UEFA, Philippe had a five-year stint with Switzerland-based sports marketing agency ISL Marketing. Clients included the IOC, FIFA, UEFA and the IAAF. In his capacity as the Vice-President – Head of Event Licensing, Philippe created and managed the agency’s event licensing group.

Philippe started his sports marketing career with three years as the Marketing Director at IMS/Studio 6, a Lausanne-based marketing and global communications agency, whose main sports clients included the IOC, the Olympic Museum and the Russian Olympic Committee.

Philippe holds an MBA from HEC Lausanne in Switzerland, a Master’s in Business Law (Major in International Trade) from Paris XI University in France and a BA Honours in Law and Politics from the University of Kent in the UK.

Noël Le Graët
President of the French Football Association (FFF)

Noël has been the President of the FFF since 2011 and has a background in business, politics and football.

Born in Bourbriac (Côtes-d’Armor) in 1941, he has been influential for a number of companies, including having established the Le Graët Group, of which he was CEO between 1986 and 2014.

He has close ties to the area of Guingamp, having been Mayor between 1995 and 2008 and had two spells as the President of the football club En Avant de Guingamp (1972 to 1991 and 2002 to 2011). The second of these stints was capped by French Cup glory in 2009.

He has held several roles overseeing wider areas within French football. He was the President of Ligue 1 – the men’s top flight – between 1991 and 2000, and the Vice-President of the FFF, in charge of economic issues, between 2005 and 2011, also serving as a member of the FFF Council.

Noël is married to Annie and is the father of three girls.
Biographies

**Karina LeBlanc**
*Head of Women’s Football, Concacaf, FIFA Legend*

Karina is a retired professional footballer who has the distinguished honour of being the longest-serving player in Canadian history. With a career spanning 18 years, Karina’s appearances included five FIFA Women’s World Cups™ and two Olympic Games, with the highlight being a bronze medal at the 2012 London Olympics.

Karina is the President and founder of the Karina LeBlanc Foundation, a charity she established to provide resources to adolescent girls from all socio-economic backgrounds to allow them to achieve their dreams and to produce future leaders.

A passionate advocate on climate change, Karina recently spoke at the United Nations General Assembly and on behalf of the Sports for Climate Action platform at the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP 24). She is also a UNICEF ambassador.

In 2018, Karina was honoured by having a sports field named after her in her hometown of Maple Ridge in Canada.

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**Marta Lucía Ramírez**
*Vice-President of Colombia*

Marta is the Vice-President of Colombia, a former senator and former Minister of Defence and Foreign Trade.

She has been the CEO of multiple private-sector companies and private associations, including the National Association of Financial Institutions, ANIF, FEDELEASING and the Coalition for the Promotion of Colombian Industry. She was Colombia’s first female Minister of Defence and the second Latin American woman to hold this title. She centralised military spending during her time in the role, as well as designing management indicators for the armed forces, consolidating training within the three branches of the military and police force, and forming a civil commission for restructuring and strengthening the national police.

Marta also served as the Minister of Foreign Trade from 1998 to 2002 and as a senator from 2006 to 2009. In the senate, she introduced legislative initiatives to permit women to become generals in the military, increase the competitiveness of Colombia’s economy, lower unemployment, mandate English teaching in schools and increase youth participation in society.
Lucía Mijares Martínez
Sports Development Director, Mexican Football Association (FMF)

Lucía specialises in integrating and developing mass participation sports initiation programmes within both the public and private sector. She is currently leading the development of the FMF’s Jugamos Todos national programme, which focuses on increasing physical activity among children through sport. The ultimate goal is for the programme to become part of the public physical education policy for schools.

Over the course of the last five years with the FMF, Lucía’s focus has been on growing women’s football and developing the professional and grassroots game in Mexico. Today, as a result, more than 15,000 girls play football.

Lucía graduated in 2008 from the AISTS Master of Advanced Studies in Sport Administration and Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland, and was named Rising Talent for the Women’s Forum for the Economy and Society in Mexico City in 2017. In 2018, she was selected for the FIFA Women’s Leaders in Football Leadership Programme.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women

Phumzile is a United Nations Under-Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UN Women. She began her career as a leader in South Africa and an activist in the struggle against apartheid. She became an MP and a deputy minister in the Mandela government, fighting against blood diamonds, and subsequently Deputy President, working on the fight against HIV/AIDS and poverty and on education issues.

In 2018, she was named the most influential person in gender policy around the world. She is a member of the G7’s Gender Equality Advisory Council. Under her leadership, the groundbreaking High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment convened by the UN Secretary-General in 2015 highlighted key policy issues for concerted action, including the over-representation of women in the informal sector and unpaid care and the harmful gender norms and stereotypes that constrain progress.

She has led the organisation’s innovative work on disruption of society’s norms, for example with the HeForShe movement’s focus on male engagement in gender equality, or the Unstereotype Alliance’s initiative to use advertising as a force to drive positive change.
Vittorio Montagliani  
**FIFA Vice-President and Concacaf President**

Vittorio has served as the Concacaf President and a FIFA Vice-President since May 2016. He also chairs the FIFA Football Stakeholders Committee.

Previously, Vittorio was the President of Canada Soccer, bringing efficiency and a corporate style to the association through his leadership.

Vittorio is a partner in a nationwide insurance brokerage firm, which he and his two business partners have grown since its inception in 2010 to over 250 employees.

In addition to his vast knowledge of and experience within the game, Vittorio has concluded studies in political science, public administration, French and Spanish.

Vittorio was a member of the United Bid Committee for the FIFA World Cup 2026™ and the Chair of the National Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup Canada 2014 and FIFA Women’s World Cup Canada 2015™.

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Doreen Nabwire Omondi  
**Women’s Football Development Officer, Football Kenya Federation**

Doreen is a Kenyan former football player and the current Women’s Football Development Officer at the Football Kenya Federation.

As a player, she made her debut for the national team in 2001 and later became its captain. At club level, Doreen played for the first professional women’s football club in Kenya and was one of the first female African footballers to make the move to Europe, plying her trade in the German second division. She also won the Copa Andrés Escobar at the streetfootballworld festival 06 in Berlin and was recognised as a star and a role model for girls both on and off the pitch.

As a coach, she has managed her own community-based organisation and worked at the Youth National Talent Academy in Nairobi.

After hanging up her boots, she started to promote football values and principles to foster positive social change, ensure gender equality and advocate for women’s rights.
Samar Nassar  
**Board member of the Union of Arab Football Associations and the Jordan Football Association**

Drawing on her passion for sport, experience as an Olympic athlete, and her professional background in sports management and consultancy, Samar is a change-maker and advocate for youth development and positive societal growth.

From 2014 to 2017, she was the CEO for the LOC of the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup Jordan 2016, where she coordinated every aspect of the international tournament, ensuring the successful delivery of an unforgettable and inspiring FIFA event that created an enduring legacy for Jordan.

Today, she is a board member of the Union of Arab Football Associations and the Jordan Football Association, while also serving on multiple committees within the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC). Prior to this, Samar was a board member of the JOC where she initiated several high-performance and development programmes. In this capacity, Samar led the Athletes Commission and assumed the role of Chief of Mission of the Jordanian delegation for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

In addition to her work on sports diplomacy initiatives, Samar is a board member of the International Women’s Forum (IWF) – Jordan Chapter and is a staunch supporter of female empowerment and leadership advancement. She remains actively committed to mentoring and guiding entrepreneurs and women through various organisations and programmes, such as Ernst & Young, the IWF, the INJAZ Business Leaders Campaign and MyStartup. Moreover, Samar is a member of Generations for Peace, a global non-profit organisation dedicated to sustainable peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

Rachel Pavlou  
**The Football Association National Women’s Football Development Manager**

Rachel has over 27 years of sports development experience, and in the last 21 years has specialised in the development of women’s football at The Football Association (The FA).

Rachel’s main areas of responsibility are to develop football opportunities for under-represented female communities in England and to lead The FA’s International Relations Department in women’s football. She is also a designated expert in women’s football development at both FIFA and UEFA, and a trustee at the Aston Villa FC Foundation.

She has been a key member in the implementation of the FA Women’s Super League, has managed The FA’s talent development programme, headed up research into mixed football and initiated and developed the “Kick off your career campaign”. She instigated the Lionesses’ Player Appearance Programme, the Continental Tyres Girls’ Football Festivals, Soccercise, the FA Girls’ Youth Cup, the Premier League and English Football League Trust female participation programme, the Wildcats Girls’ FC programme, the partnership with Amnesty International UK and the growth of women’s walking football.
Biographies

The Honourable Dr Mahali Phamotse
Minister of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation, Lesotho

Mahali is the Minister of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation of Lesotho. She held two ministerial portfolios between 2015 and 2017, serving as the Minister of Education and Training and Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Correctional Service respectively. She is also the Secretary General of the Alliance of Democrats party, which is one of the current coalition government partners in Lesotho.

Mahali was born in the Butha-Buthe district of Lesotho. After completing both her lower- and upper-secondary education at St Paul’s High School in 1985 and 1987 respectively, she enrolled in a BA in Education at the National University of Lesotho, graduating in 1993. She subsequently enrolled at the University of the Witwatersrand in 1999 and obtained a Master of Education that same year, followed by her PhD in 2013.

Apart from serving as a lecturer at the Lesotho College of Education (1999-2002) and the National University of Lesotho (2002-2015), she has also worked as a teacher at St Cyprian’s High School in Butha-Buthe.

Rémy Rioux
Chief Executive Officer, French Development Agency

Rémy is the CEO of the French Development Agency and chairman of the International Development Finance Club (IDFC). He is an expert in international financial institutions, with a passion for sport, development and Africa.

Since 2016, the mandate and resources of the French Development Agency have been significantly expanded by decision of President Macron. The IDFC, the leading group of 24 national and regional development banks, is the largest provider of public development and climate finance globally (USD 4 trillion in assets, USD 850 billion committed yearly, including USD 200 billion of climate finance).

Rémy is also a former Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (2014-2016), where he coordinated the finance agenda for the French presidency of COP21, leading to the Paris Agreement on climate change. Prior to that, he was Director of the Office of the Minister of the Economy, Finance and Foreign Trade (2012-2014).
David Sabir
General Secretary of the Bermuda Football Association

David has been the General Secretary of the Bermuda Football Association since 1993, serving for eight terms. He has performed many other roles since 1998, including as a FIFA, Concacaf and Caribbean Football Union (CFU) general coordinator, match commissioner, stadium inspector and security officer.

David previously served on the former FIFA Security and Integrity Committee, the Concacaf Security and Fair Play Committee, the CFU Stadium and Security Committee and the Concacaf Statutes and Regulations Committee, and is currently a member of the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee.

David is also a Concacaf administration and team manager course instructor and an advocate for club licensing. In his spare time, he serves as a member of the Bermuda Olympic Association’s Executive Board and the Panam Sports Organization’s Sports Development Commission, and as the President of the Association of National Sports Governing Bodies in Bermuda.

He is married to his high-school sweetheart and has two children aged 26 and 21.

Snežana Samardžić-Marković
Director-General of Democracy at the Council of Europe

Snežana Samardžić-Marković has been the Director-General of Democracy at the Council of Europe since 2012. Under her responsibility, the Directorate General works to help member states create a favourable environment for sustainable democracy and democratic security in Europe.

Three directorates and eight partial agreements under her responsibility provide guidance, assistance and innovation in the areas of democratic governance, participation and diversity. Her responsibilities include the policy areas of education and youth, sport, local democracy, cultural policies, gender equality, children’s rights, the rights of minorities and working against discrimination.

Previously, Snežana held numerous positions in the Serbian Government including those of Deputy Director for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Neighbouring Countries; Assistant Minister of Defence (2005-2007); member of the Foundation Board of WADA, Minister of Youth and Sport (2007-2012) and President of the Fund for Young Talents.
Biographies

Alex Scott, MBE
Pundit, presenter and former professional footballer, FIFA Legend (England)

The England centurion and former Arsenal captain is a well-regarded pundit and broadcaster in the UK.

Alex joined Arsenal at the age of eight and stayed with them for most of her career, skippering the side from the 2014-2015 season through to her retirement. She was a key figure in the club's historic quadruple-winning campaign in 2006-2007.

At international level, Alex amassed 140 caps for England, while also representing Team GB at the London Olympics.

Since her retirement in 2018, Alex has undertaken a successful broadcasting career. She made history last August as the first female pundit on Sky Sports' Super Sunday, fresh off making waves as part of the BBC's punditry team for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™.

Alex is also heavily involved in charitable projects, working with Premier League Communities and launching the Sky Ocean Rescue and Premier League Plastic Pollution Challenge. She also opened The Alex Scott Academy in 2012, the first of its kind for women in the UK.

Clarence Seedorf
FIFA Legend, coach, role model (Netherlands)

Clarence is a FIFA legend who embodies the values of sport, integrity and inclusion.

Born in Paramaribo (Suriname), he played more than 1,000 games at the top level, winning the Champions League four times and being the only player ever to have lifted the trophy with three different clubs. He was selected for the FIFA 100, a list compiled by Pelé in 2004 of the greatest living footballers, and was also named in Real Madrid’s team of the century. During his 22-year football career, Clarence won 23 pieces of silverware, becoming the most successful player in Dutch history.

Clarence accepted the offer to become AC Milan head coach in 2014, before spells in the dugout in China PR and Spain. He is currently coach of the Cameroonian national team.

He is one of five Legacy Champions chosen by Nelson Mandela to carry his message worldwide, and is also a UEFA Global Ambassador for Diversity and Change and a member of the jury for the FIFA Diversity Award.

Clarence has always supported women’s football development and is a source of inspiration for the whole football movement and people worldwide.
Emily Shaw
Head of Women’s Football Development & Governance, FIFA

Emily was appointed Head of Women’s Development and Governance at FIFA in 2017 with the professionalisation of the game, both on and off the pitch, as her primary focus area. In this role, she works alongside FIFA’s member associations on the implementation of key initiatives, such as building women’s football structures and development strategies. In addition, Emily supported FIFA’s process to ensure the mandatory listing of professional female players in the International Transfer Matching System (ITMS).

Prior to joining FIFA, Emily worked for UEFA for ten years, initially for the National Associations Division. In 2010, she established the Women’s Football Development Sub-Department with the launch of the UEFA Women’s Football Development Programme as her first major accomplishment in the role.

Emily was instrumental in moving women’s football forward during her time at UEFA, supporting member associations with the development of the game and spearheading key projects such as the Women in Football Leadership Programme. While at FIFA, Emily has expanded the existing work done to support more women gaining access to key roles in football through the creation of the Coach Mentorship Programme and FIFA’s first youth leadership programme: Captains of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow.

Emily has an MA in social anthropology.

Machacha Shepande
Head of the Sports Division, African Union

Machacha is Head of the Sports Division at the African Union, which recognises the pivotal role sport plays as a catalyst to achieve the African Union's broader global development agenda.

He has held a number of positions in his career leading up to his current role, which include Director of Planning at the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, General Secretary for the Football Association of Zambia and General Secretary of the National Sports Council of Zambia.

Machacha has also sat on the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport and on the World Anti-Doping Agency’s Executive Committee and Foundation Board. He has two master’s degrees, one in sociology and development studies and the other in leading innovation and change.
Mikaël Silvestre  
FIFA Legend (France)

Mikaël is a former French international player. A product of the Stade Rennais youth system, he claimed a first-team spot at the tender age of 18 and spent two seasons with the French club before joining Italian giants Inter in the 1998-1999 season. However, his career really picked up steam following a move to Manchester United in 1999. He was a fantastic asset for the club under Sir Alex Ferguson for nine seasons, amassing 361 appearances in all competitions for the Red Devils, winning everything from five league titles to the UEFA Champions League in 2008. He then spent two seasons with Arsenal.

Spells with Germany’s Werder Bremen and MLS side Portland Timbers followed, before hanging up his boots at Chennaiyin FC, where he featured in the inaugural Indian Super League season in 2014.

Mikaël represented France between 2001 and 2006, earning 40 caps. He was part of the team that won the FIFA Confederations Cup in 2001 and 2003 and reached the final of the 2006 FIFA World Cup Germany™.

Håkan Sjöstrand  
General Secretary, Swedish Football Association

Håkan is a former corporate executive and the current General Secretary of the Swedish Football Association.

Despite a promising football career as a young player at Malmö FF, he decided to focus on his business career.

Håkan held various business-oriented roles and quickly reached executive-level positions. While in Svenska Spel, the national betting company, his responsibilities included retail, branding, marketing, sponsoring and business development.

He also worked as Marketing Director at ICA, one of the strongest retail brands in Europe and the leading grocery chain in Sweden, where he was responsible for brand strategy, communications and CRM, and gained international attention for building long-lasting relationships with customers.

Among other things, Håkan is part of the board of Sveriges Annonsörer, the Swedish association of advertisers, whose main purpose is to increase its members’ return on investment in advertising and media.

Finally, in 2014, Håkan ranked 13th on the list of Sweden’s best communicators.
Barbara Slater
BBC Director of Sport

Barbara took up her role as Director of Sport in April 2009, having previously been the BBC’s Head of Production and Head of General Sports.

Her responsibilities include working with governing bodies to retain a portfolio of broadcasting rights, overseeing the planning and coverage of major events and leading the sports journalism operation at BBC Sport.

Barbara was responsible for BBC Sport’s acclaimed coverage of the London Olympics – the most-watched TV event in UK broadcasting history. She was garlanded with Women in Film and Television UK’s Inspirational Woman Award in recognition of this achievement and is a member of the International Olympic Committee Press Committee and the UK’s Sports Business Council.

Barbara joined the BBC in 1983 as a trainee assistant producer, but has spent most of her career as a producer at BBC Sport, specialising in outside broadcasts. She was awarded an OBE in 2014 for her services to sports broadcasting.

Birmingham-born, Barbara was also an international gymnast, competing for Great Britain at the Olympic Games in Montreal in 1976.

Jean Sseninde
Chief Executive Officer, Sseninde Foundation (Uganda)

Jean is a member of the Ugandan women’s national team and a player for Queens Park Rangers Women (FA Women’s National League South). She was part of the Uganda side that reached the semi-finals of the CECAFA Women’s Championship in 2016 and has previously played for London Phoenix Ladies and Crystal Palace Ladies.

As the CEO and founder of the Sseninde Foundation, Jean provides opportunities for young girls to play football. Her organisation also aims to empower women and young people through education and non-formal skills training.

Jean is the founder of the Sseninde Women’s Development Cup, which is run annually in Uganda and aims to give playing opportunities to young girls and women who have a passion for football.

She also founded the Creating for Women campaign, which aims to support young girls at school, inspiring them to play football while pursuing their education.
Biographies

Carol Tshabalala
Sports broadcaster

Award-winning South African sports broadcaster, scriptwriter and voice-over artist. Affectionately known as “Simply Carol”, she is currently the anchor of several shows on SuperSport and for Premier League Productions in the UK. She has become a household name and can regularly be seen on screen, covering a whole host of live sporting events, either in the studio or pitchside.

Carol began her career in broadcasting in 2000 and has steadily risen up the industry ever since, earning many honours along the way.

In 2011, she became the first-ever African woman to host the FIFA Ballon d’Or. Since then, she has continued to repeatedly blaze the trail on the sports scene, proving that nothing is impossible. A leading lady in sport with a global appeal indeed.

Shoko Tsuji
Head of Partnership Success, MyCujoo

After joining MyCujoo in October 2017, Shoko helped to implement live streaming in over 40 countries in Asia, in collaboration with the AFC. Out of the many Asian women’s leagues featured on the platform, she played a key role in the partnership with the Japanese women’s league, currently streaming over 200 matches per year on MyCujoo.

Shoko recently moved to the MyCujoo HQ in Amsterdam, where she is now overseeing the partnership success in different markets and also developing the strategy for women’s football. Prior to MyCujoo, she was working in TV production in Spain, broadcasting matches and creating content around La Liga.

Shoko has a bachelor’s degree in sports science from Waseda University and a Master in Communications and Sports Journalism from the Real Madrid Graduate School. She also participated in the 17th edition of the FIFA Master.
Amanda Vandervort

Fan engagement and marketing expert

As Vice-President of Fan Engagement at Major League Soccer (MLS), the top professional men’s league in the USA, Amanda spearheaded the league’s social media, direct-to-fan, and database marketing strategies for nearly a decade. Prior to MLS, she was the driving force behind Women’s Professional Soccer’s cutting-edge social media and fan engagement programme.

Amanda was President of United Soccer Coaches, a 30,000-member organisation dedicated to serving coaches. She was the Head Women’s Coach at New York University and holds her National B coaching licence from US Soccer. A goalkeeper, Amanda was a team captain for two years at the University of Wyoming.

She currently serves on advisory boards for AFDP Global, the Global Goals World Cup and the United Soccer Coaches Foundation. She was an instructor in FIFA Women’s Football Development and a FIFA Women’s Leadership Development Programme mentor.

Mónica Vergara Rubio

Head Coach Mexican Women’s U-20 National Team

Mónica is a former Mexican international player and the current Head Coach of the Mexican Women’s U-20 National Team.

As a player, she participated in the FIFA Women’s World Cup 1999™, Mexico’s first appearance at the tournament. Mónica also took part in the 2002 and 2006 Concacaf Women’s Gold Cups and the 2004 Olympics in Athens. Other highlights included three medals at the Pan American Games in 1999, 2003 and 2011.

In 2011, Mónica kicked off her training career as technical assistant of the Mexican national team at the Women’s World Cup™ in Germany. This experience pushed her to continue her personal and professional development with the objective of improving the level of the game and providing equal playing opportunities to both boys and girls.

After gaining her A coaching licence, she managed the Mexican national team at the 2018 Concacaf Women’s U-17 Championship and the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup Uruguay 2018.
Biographies

Laura Youngson
Co-founder, Equal Playing Field and Ida Sports

Laura Youngson is a world record-holder, TEDx speaker and entrepreneur. She co-founded Equal Playing Field, a global initiative campaigning for gender equality in sport through audacious world records and grassroots football camps around the world. Their first record was the highest-altitude football match ever at the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in 2017.

Laura is currently planning a third world record attempt: the world’s biggest match, to be contested during the Festival of Football, which takes place this summer in Lyon, France from 27 June to 1 July (www.equalplayingfield.com and www.festivaloffootball.org).

She is a serial entrepreneur and also co-founded Ida Sports, a sports company making football boots specifically for female athletes (www.idasports.co).

Laura plays social Sunday league futsal for the Mighty Galahs.

Roxana Mărzăcineanua
French Sports Minister

Roxana is the French Sports Minister and a former Olympic swimmer.

Born in Bucharest, Romania, Roxana won medals at world and Olympic level for France, winning her first national titles in 1991. She became France’s first world champion in swimming after winning a gold medal at the 1998 World Swimming Championships in Perth, before winning silver at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

In November of that year, she received the Legion of Honour, the highest French order of merit for military and civil merits. She retired four years later at the age of 29.

Having worked as a consultant with various broadcasters following retirement, Roxana then moved into politics, running for the French regional elections, and was elected regional councillor for Ile-de-France in 2010.

On 4 September, 2018, she was appointed Minister of Sports in the government of Edouard Philippe, replacing Laura Flessel-Colovic.

Roxana has a master’s degree in English and German. She is married to Franck, and has three children.
Fan Movement

What is the Fan Movement?

FIFA is powering a global Fan Movement to encourage conversation around football. It is designed to create, connect and champion global football communities. FIFA currently supports over 400 passionate football fans around the world through this movement.

The goal of the Fan Movement is to facilitate discussions, enabling fans to share their football-related stories, opinions and activities. The Fan Movement serves to amplify the voice of football enthusiasts around the world, both inside and outside FIFA. This year, we aim to expand the Fan Movement community. Therefore, for the first time ever, football fans around the world are now able to apply to join the Fan Movement!

Similarly, we believe that it’s key to have fans in the room at FIFA events, because without fans, there is no football. On that note, we’re excited to have ten Fan Movement members joining us at this year’s inaugural FIFA Women’s Football Convention. Moreover, on Thursday, 6 June, two members will take the stage to be interviewed by Karina LeBlanc.

David Mundo
Blogger @ExploreFeelGood

David is a passionate football fan who shares his love for the game by hitchhiking and couch surfing around the world from match to match and getting to know different fans and cultures.

During the 2018 FIFA World Cup™, David met a Fan Movement member and immediately wanted to become involved in the campaign.

A picture that David took and posted online, with the hashtag #WeLiveFootball, was selected to illustrate an article about the Fan Movement, entitled Giving the Fans a Voice, in the FIFA 1904 magazine. This was even before David was a Fan Movement member.

David joined the campaign just in time to take part in the very first Fan Movement gathering at the Draw for the FIFA Women’s World Cup™. His first-ever interviews were with FIFA Legends such as Carli Lloyd, Corinne Diacre, Laura Georges, Marinette Pichon and Peter Odemwingie.

Emma Clarke
Coach and women’s football advocate (Twitter @Emma042198)

Football-obsessed Emma is not only a huge fan, but also an advocate for women’s football and a coach. Her ultimate dream is to work in the sport and play an active role in the evolution of the women’s game.

Emma has been part of the Fan Movement since April 2018, when she joined ahead of the FIFA World Cup™ in Russia.

During the Draw for the FIFA Women’s World Cup France 2019™ in December 2018 in Paris, Emma met a number of fellow passionate women’s football fans from around the world at the first Fan Movement gathering.

Emma has produced content that has been featured on FIFA channels, including videos about what the FIFA Women’s World Cup™ means to her and how she fell in love with football.
FIFA Women’s Football Convention, 6 & 7 June 2019

#WeLiveFootball https://www.fanmovement.com/
# MATCH SCHEDULE
## FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP FRANCE 2019™

### Group Matches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Match</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 7 June</td>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>AUS v. ITA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, 8 June</td>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>GER v. ESP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, 9 June</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>NED v. CMR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 10 June</td>
<td>22:00</td>
<td>ITA v. BRA</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 11 June</td>
<td>01:00</td>
<td>FRA v. KOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 12 June</td>
<td>02:00</td>
<td>ARG v. JPN</td>
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<td>Thursday, 13 June</td>
<td>06:00</td>
<td>BRA v. JAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 14 June</td>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>CAN v. CMR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 15 June</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>AUS v. BRA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 16 June</td>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>GER v. ESP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 17 June</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>CHN v. ESP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 18 June</td>
<td>21:00</td>
<td>KOR v. NGA</td>
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### Group F

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Thailand (THA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chile (CHI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden (SWE)</td>
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#### Match Schedule

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>SWE v USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
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<td>21:00</td>
<td>THA v CHI</td>
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<td>1B v 3ACD</td>
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<td>TD v 3BEF</td>
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<td>1A v 3CDE</td>
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<td>W37 v W39</td>
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<td>2F v 2E</td>
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<td>1C v 3ABF</td>
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<td>1E v 2D</td>
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<td>W42 v W42</td>
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<td>21:00</td>
<td>W47 v W48</td>
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**Round of 16**

**Quarter-Finals**

**Semi-Finals**

**3rd Place and Final**