

LEGACYMUN'26
Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)
STUDY GUIDE

Co-Under-Secretary General: Mustafa Aslan

Co-Under-Secretary General: Doruk Şentürk

Agenda Item:

World Cup bidding process

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1. Letter from the Secretary General

2. Letter from the Co-Under-Secretary General

Dear Participants,

I would like to welcome you all to the LEGACYMUN'26 FIFA Committee.

My name is Mustafa Aslan, I am currently on a gap year and intend to major in political science. It is my honor to serve as the Under-Secretary-General of this committee.

I have been attending Model United Nations conferences in Antalya and many other cities for the past three years.

I would like to thank the entire executive team, especially the secretarial Selin Esin. and my last thanks to my Co-Under Secretary General Doruk Şentürk.

If you have previously participated in one of my committees, you will know that I generally host special committees. If this is your first time participating in one of my committees or in a special committee, there is no need to be nervous; the study guide has been prepared to support you throughout the process.

If you have any questions regarding the committee, please feel free to contact me via the contact information below, even for the smallest concerns. As an academic team, we have included all the necessary information in the study guide.

I wish you all success in advance.

Under Secretary General, Mustafa ASLAN

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3. Letter from the Co-Under-Secretary General

Dear delegates, distinguished academic team and fellow participants;

I am honored to welcome you all to the Legacy Model United Nations Conference (LEGACYMUN'26). As Doruk ŞENTÜRK, it's a pleasure to serve you as an Under Secretary-General of the FIFA committee with Mustafa Aslan.

I am studying chemical engineering in Hacettepe University and this year is my preparation year.

I want to thank the executive team for giving me an opportunity to serve as under secretary general in this delightful conference and my co-under secretary general Mustafa Aslan for his offer. I cannot wait to meet all of you personally and I hope you can have a great time with the time you spend in the conference. You can contact me at any kind of situation or problem, do not hesitate to ask me any questions about the committee.

Lastly, I want to finish my letter with the speech of Father of Turks, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk:

"Ben sporcunun zeki, çevik ve aynı zamanda ahlaklısını severim."

Sincerely,

Under Secretary General, Doruk ŞENTÜRK

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“0 506 022 2348

4. Introduction

4.1. Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)

FIFA, world governing body of association football (soccer), founded in Paris in 1904. FIFA is headquartered in Zürich, and its membership includes more than 200 national football associations. As association football's governing authority, FIFA sets the rules of play, establishes standards for refereeing and coaching, oversees international player transfers, organizes the World Cup (both men's and women's) and other international tournaments, and promotes the global development of the sport.

History



Football developed in England, where an attempt at codifying rules began in the 1840s. As the sport spread to Europe, South America, and elsewhere around the globe, local and national leagues began developing. The spread of international matches in the early 20th century led to calls to establish global rules. Seven countries—Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland—founded FIFA in Paris in 1904. Germany was not represented at the meeting in Paris, although it played a role in FIFA's founding. At the founding meeting, Robert Guérin, a French journalist who led the effort to create the organization, was elected as FIFA's first president; he served until 1906.

England (where the powerful Football Association [FA] had been established in 1863) did not join until 1906. That year, English football executive Daniel Woolfall was elected as FIFA's president, a position that he held until his death in 1918. Under his leadership, the rules of football were further standardized, and the first international football tournament was

established for the 1908 Olympics. FIFA also created an exception to its one-association-per-country rule under Woolfall's leadership, enabling separate Irish, Scottish, and Welsh associations to join by 1911. In the early 1910s, FIFA expanded beyond Europe as Argentina, Chile, South Africa, the United States, and others joined. This growth spurred the initiation of an international tournament separate from the Olympics under the leadership of FIFA's third president, French football administrator Jules Rimet (1921–54).

The first FIFA World Cup tournament was hosted by Uruguay in 1930. Thirteen countries participated, and Uruguay defeated Argentina 4–2 in the championship match. The United States finished third. Noticeably absent was England, which had withdrawn from FIFA in 1928 over concerns about the encroaching power of FIFA over the FA. England rejoined in 1946 and played in its first World Cup in 1950. The Men's World Cup tournament has been held every four years, except during and just after World War II. Traditionally played in either Europe or South America, the Men's World Cup was first hosted in North America in 1970 (Mexico), in Asia in 2002 (cohosted by Japan and South Korea), in Africa in 2010 (South Africa), and in the Middle East in 2022 (Qatar).

After World War II FIFA's membership grew rapidly, to more than 100 members in the 1960s and more than 200 in the early 21st century. As the World Cup's popularity grew, so did the number of teams in the tournament. Sixteen teams qualified for the men's tournament from 1954 to 1978, 24 from 1982 to 1994, and 32 from 1998 to 2022. In 2017 FIFA approved a plan to expand the number of qualifying teams to 48 for the 2026 Men's World Cup, which is the first tournament co-hosted by three countries: the United States, Mexico, and Canada. In November 2025 FIFA president Gianni Infantino announced the establishment of the FIFA Peace Prize, which will be awarded annually to "individuals who have taken exceptional and extraordinary actions for peace."

In 1991 China hosted the first FIFA Women's World Cup, which is held every four years, usually one year after the men's tournament. The U.S. team won the inaugural tournament, defeating Norway 2–1 in the championship match. In 1991 and 1995 the tournament featured 12 teams. The field expanded to 16 teams in 1999 and 24 teams in 2015 and 2019. Australia and New Zealand were selected in 2020 to co-host 32 teams in the 2023 tournament.

4.2. Structure and Responsibilities of FIFA

FIFA is an association established under the Laws of Switzerland. Its headquarters are in Zurich.

FIFA's supreme body is the FIFA Congress, an assembly made up of representatives from each affiliated member association. The Congress has met 66 times since 1904; it now assembles in ordinary session once every year and, additionally, extraordinary sessions have been held once a year since 1998. At the congress decisions are made relating to FIFA's governing statutes and their method of implication and application. Only the Congress can pass changes to FIFA's statutes. The congress approves the annual report, and decides on the acceptance of new national associations and holds elections. Congress elects the President of FIFA, its General Secretary, and the other members of FIFA's Executive Committee in the year following the FIFA World Cup. Each national football association has one vote, regardless of its size or footballing strength.

The President and General Secretary are the main officeholders of FIFA, and are in charge of its daily administration, carried out by the General Secretariat, with its staff of approximately 280 members. FIFA's Executive Committee, chaired by the President, is the main decision-making body of the organisation in the intervals of Congress. FIFA's worldwide organisational structure also consists of several other bodies, under authority of the Executive Committee or created by Congress as standing committees. Among those bodies are the Finance Committee, the Disciplinary Committee, the Referees Committee, etc.

Besides its worldwide institutions (presidency, Executive Committee, Congress, etc.) there are six confederations recognised by FIFA which oversee the game in the different continents and regions of the world. National associations, and not the continental confederations, are members of FIFA. The continental confederations are provided for in FIFA's statutes, and membership of a confederation is a prerequisite to FIFA membership.

- *AFC – Asian Football Confederation,*
- *CAF - Confederation of African Football,*
- *CONCACAF – Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association,*
- *CONMEBOL – Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol,*
- *OFC – Oceania Football Confederation,*
- *UEFA – Union of European Football Associations Teams,*

representing transcontinental nations of Russia, Turkey and Kazakhstan are UEFA members, although the majority of their territory is outside of continental Europe. Cyprus and Israel are also members for political reasons. Monaco, Vatican City, Kosovo and Northern Cyprus are not members of UEFA or FIFA, while Gibraltar is only a member of UEFA. In total, FIFA recognises 209 national associations and their associated men's national teams as well as 129 women's national teams; see the list of national football teams and their respective country codes. FIFA has more member states than the UN, as FIFA recognises 23 non-sovereign entities as distinct nations, such as the four Home Nations within the United Kingdom or politically disputed territories such as Palestine. Only nine sovereign entities are not members of FIFA: Monaco, Vatican City, United Kingdom, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Palau and Nauru.

The FIFA World Rankings are updated monthly and rank each team based on their performance in international competitions, qualifiers, and friendly matches. There is also a world ranking for women's football, updated four times a year.

4.3. Role and Authority of the FIFA Council and FIFA Congress

The FIFA Council (FIFA Executive Committee) is an institution of FIFA; the governing body of association football, futsal and beach football. It is the main decision-making body of the organization in the intervals of FIFA Congress. Its members are elected by the FIFA

Congress. The council is a non-executive, supervisory and strategic body that sets the vision for FIFA and global football.

Following the 2016 FIFA Extraordinary Congress, FIFA announced that a new set of statutes would come into force. These changes have seen the FIFA Executive Committee changed, to become the FIFA Council, with a new structure, and more power. It is led by the president of FIFA. It has also been announced that the Secretary General will now report to the council, and will work with a Chief Compliance Officer, who monitors the organisation in their work. All existing members of the committee remained in role until their respective positions faced re-election at their respective confederations. The new members of the FIFA Council came into force on 30 September 2016. There are a total of 37 new members on the council. It came into force before the 2016 Ordinary FIFA congress.

The new council will be made up of the following individuals:

- The President
- CONMEBOL: one vice-president and four members
- AFC: one vice-president and six members
- UEFA: three vice-presidents and six members
- CAF: one vice-president and six members
- CONCACAF: one vice-president and four members
- OFC: one vice-president and two members

Issue	FIFA Congress	FIFA Council
Statutory status	Supreme and legislative body	Strategic and oversight body
Basic character	Assembly of FIFA's member associations	A 37-member governing body
Representation/voting	Each member association has one vote	The President has one ordinary vote on the Council
Key structural role	Exercises FIFA's highest legislative authority	Sets strategy, issues regulations and handles matters not assigned to another body
Relationship to day-to-day administration	Not FIFA's operational administration	Supervises the general secretariat, which performs executive, operational and administrative tasks

	Members of standing committees requiring independence	Chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of Audit and Compliance Committee and judicial bodies	Other members of Audit and Compliance Committee and judicial bodies
Other official function in FIFA	Not permitted for members themselves and their immediate family members including during the four years preceding initial term	Not permitted for members themselves and their immediate family members including during the four years preceding initial term	Not permitted for members themselves and their immediate family members including during the four years preceding initial term
Other official function in a confederation or a member association	Not permitted for members themselves and their immediate family members including during the four years preceding initial term	Not permitted for members themselves and their immediate family members including during the four years preceding initial term	
Material business relationship with FIFA, a confederation or a member association	Not permitted for members themselves and their immediate family members including during the four years preceding initial term	Not permitted for members themselves and their immediate family members including during the four years preceding initial term	

The Bureau of the Council shall deal with all matters within the competence of the Council requiring immediate decision between two meetings of the Council. The Bureau of the Council shall consist of a maximum of seven members. The FIFA President and the six confederation presidents are ex officio members of the Bureau of the Council.

The President shall convene meetings of the Bureau of the Council. If a meeting cannot be convened within an appropriate period of time, decisions may be passed through other means of communication. Such decisions shall have immediate legal effect. The President shall notify the Council immediately of the decisions passed by the Bureau of the Council.

All decisions taken by the Bureau of the Council shall be ratified by the Council at its next meeting.

General Rules and Progress

Congress

Articles 25-32 of the FIFA Statutes explain Congress' composition and responsibilities.

Congress is held once a year, unless an Extraordinary Congress is convened sooner (such as the Congress that occurred in Zurich in 2016), and is attended by each member association (i.e. the 211 member associations that have been admitted into membership of FIFA by Congress).

There is an initial notification of when and where Congress is to take place that is sent to members associations four months in advance of Congress and this is followed by a formal notification sent to member associations one month before Congress, which will include an agenda for Congress, as well as the FIFA President's report, the financial statements, and the auditors' report.

Congress is responsible for, amongst other things, the election or dismissal of candidates for the office of FIFA President and for the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of various committees. Other notable responsibilities of Congress include the approval of FIFA's budget, the suspension, expulsion or admission of a member association (the full procedure of which is explained in articles 10-17 of the FIFA Statutes), the adoption or amendment of the FIFA Statutes and the designation of the host country for the final competition of the FIFA World Cup and FIFA Women's World Cup .

Where matters at Congress require votes, each member association has one vote. Only those member associations present, i.e. by its delegates, can vote; voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted. Further, unless otherwise specified by the FIFA Statutes, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the votes is required for a matter to be decided. For example, a proposal to adopt or amend the FIFA Statutes requires a quorum of over 50% of member associations and approval by 75% of those present.

The Council

Articles 33-34 of the FIFA Statutes identify the Council's composition and powers.

The Council meets at least three times a year and consists of 37 members: one President (currently Gianni Infantino), eight vice-presidents and 28 other members. Each member of the Council undertakes and accepts responsibility to 'faithfully, loyally and independently act in the best interests of FIFA and the promotion and development of football at global level.

The procedure for the election of the President is set out in articles 40-63 of the FIFA Governance Regulations. The President is elected by Congress for a term of four years in the year following the FIFA World Cup and a President may not serve more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not) . The President, amongst other things, represents FIFA generally and chairs Congress and meetings of the Council . The current FIFA President is Gianni Infantino who was re-elected in June 2019.

The procedure for the election of the other members of the Council is set out in articles 64-76 of the FIFA Governance Regulations. The other members of the Council are elected by the member associations at their respective confederation congresses for a term of four years and, again, a member of the Council may not serve more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not) . The 'respective confederation congresses' refers to the six confederations, which include CONMEBOL, AFC, UEFA, CAF, CONCACAF and OFC and their respective congresses. Each confederation is allocated a number of vice-presidents and members to elect to the Council. For example, UEFA is allocated three vice-presidents and six members and the President of UEFA automatically takes one of the vice-presidentships on the FIFA Council. Each confederation is responsible for ensuring that they elect at least one female member to the Council. No more than one representative from the same member association may serve on the Council at the same time.

If between two meetings of the Council there is a need for an immediate decision on a matter within the competence of the Council, the FIFA President can convene a meeting of himself and a maximum of seven members of the Council, which is collectively known as the Bureau of the Council. The FIFA President and the presidents of each of the six confederations are

also ex officio members of the Bureau of the Council. Recent examples of decisions made by the Bureau of the Council include lifting a suspension on the Pakistan Football Federation and addressing the outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Decisions of the Bureau of the Council are subsequently ratified at the Council's next meeting.

The Council is integral to the direction and operation of FIFA. At its highest, the Council has the power to "define" FIFA's mission, strategic direction, policies and values, in particular with regard to the organisation and development of football at worldwide level and all related matters. The Council oversees the overall management of FIFA by the General Secretariat .

In respect of FIFA's business and financial matters, the Council is responsible for defining the standards, policies and procedures applicable to

(i) the awarding of commercial contracts by FIFA, (ii) FIFA's football development grants, and (iii) the operational costs of FIFA .

Further, the other powers of the Council include (see articles 34.4-34.13 of the FIFA Statutes and articles 8 and 9 of the FIFA Governance Regulations):

Deciding the place and venue of the final competitions of FIFA tournaments and the number of teams taking part from each confederation (except for the FIFA World Cup and FIFA Women's World Cup final competitions);

The compiling of an international match calendar (;

Appointing the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the standing committees and of the chambers of the Football Tribunal;

Being responsible for the FIFA Governance Regulations and other regulations; and the appointment or dismissal of the Secretary General.

The General Secretariat

Articles 36-37 of the FIFA Statutes identify the role and function of the General Secretariat.

The General Secretariat works under the direction of the Secretary General, who is the chief executive officer of FIFA that is appointed, and may be dismissed by, the Council. The current Secretary General is Fatma Samoura.

The Council delegates considerable responsibilities to the General Secretariat, which acts under the authority and supervision of the Council and is accountable to it. The responsibilities delegated by the Council to the General Secretariat include the organisation of all FIFA competitions, execution and management of FIFA's business and financial matters, management of the operations and day-to-day business of FIFA and the negotiation, execution and performance of all FIFA's commercial contracts.

Standing Committees

Articles 39-46 of the FIFA Statutes identify FIFA's standing committees and their functions.

There are seven standing committees all of whom report to the Council and advise and assist the Council, and ergo the General Secretariat, in their respective fields of function. The Council is responsible for appointing chairpersons and members of the standing committees . The standing committees are:

The Finance Committee, which determines FIFA's strategy regarding financial and asset management and advises the Council on these matters, and also prepares FIFA's budget to be submitted to the Council for approval ;

The Development Committee, which deals with FIFA's global development programmes, such as the FIFA Forward Programme;

The Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions, which is responsible for, inter alia, organising all official FIFA competitions, proposing new competitions to the Council, and global strategies against match manipulation;

The Football Stakeholders Committee, whose membership includes representation from each of the six confederations, and whose duties include advising and assisting the Council on all matters relating to football, particularly the structure of the game and technical matters, and relations between clubs, leagues, associations, confederations and FIFA;

The Member Associations Committee, which deals with relations between FIFA and its 211 member associations and those associations' compliance with the FIFA Statutes;

The Referees Committee, which implements and interprets the Laws of the Game and may propose amendments to the Laws of the Game to the Council, and appoints referees and assistant referees for matches in competitions organised by FIFA; and

The Medical Committee, whose members hold qualifications in sports medicine and which deals with all medical aspects of football, including anti-doping and providing guidance to players, coaches and referees.

5. Corruption Allegations

FIFA has been beset by numerous controversies, some surrounding the selection of World Cup host countries. Italy hosted the 1934 World Cup, a decision criticized as normalizing its fascist government under dictator Benito Mussolini. Russia and Qatar were selected as hosts in 2018 and 2022, respectively. Both selections were criticized because of the host countries' intolerance toward the LGBTQ+ community, as well as Russia's invasion of Crimea and allegations against Qatar relating to its treatment of workers.

FIFA has also been the subject of allegations of financial improprieties, including fraud and money laundering. In 2010 Chuck Blazer, the head of CONCACAF, was targeted by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for accepting bribes related to the 1998 and 2010 Men's World Cup tournaments. Blazer entered a guilty plea and became an informant against other corrupt FIFA officials.

The 2015 FIFA corruption scandal erupted when the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) released a 47-count criminal indictment charging seven FIFA officials with accepting \$150 million in bribes over two decades. Eventually, more than two dozen sports marketing executives and high-ranking FIFA officials were implicated in a bribery scheme connected to the awarding of hosting rights for the 2018 Men's World Cup to Russia and the 2022 Men's World Cup to Qatar. In response to the scandal, FIFA launched several reforms intended to

foster transparency and better governance, including the formation of the Audit and Compliance Committee in 2016.

Three Media Executives and Sports Marketing Company Indicted in FIFA Case

“The charges unsealed today reflect this Office’s ongoing commitment to rooting out corruption at the highest levels of international soccer and at the businesses engaged in promoting and broadcasting the sport,” stated United States Attorney Donoghue.

“Companies and individuals alike should understand that, regardless of their wealth or power, they will be brought to justice if they use the U.S. financial system to further corrupt ends.”

Mr. Donoghue extended his thanks to the agents and other investigative personnel at the FBI New York Eurasian Joint Organized Crime Squad, the FBI’s Integrity in Sport and Gaming Initiative and the IRS-CI Los Angeles Field Office, as well as their colleagues in the United States and abroad, for their continuing effort in this case.



“The profiteering and bribery in international soccer have been deep-seated and commonly known practices for decades. These men, along with the general public, have known the FBI New York and our many law enforcement partners are investigating the illicit handshakes and backroom deals hidden in the infrastructure of soccer events, venues and marketing contracts. The first public charges date back to 2015. This should illustrate to everyone still hoping to score millions corruptly, we’re going to find you,” stated FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge Sweeney.

“As charged in the Indictment, over a period of many years, the defendants and their co-conspirators corrupted the governance and business of international soccer with bribes and kickbacks, and engaged in criminal fraudulent schemes that caused significant harm to the sport of soccer. Their schemes included the use of shell companies, sham consulting contracts and other concealment methods to disguise the bribes and kickback payments and make them appear legitimate. IRS-CI is proud to have worked alongside our partners at the FBI to unravel this trail of deception,” stated IRS-CI Special Agent-in-Charge Korner. As alleged in the Indictment, FIFA and its six continental confederations – including the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (“CONCACAF”), headquartered in the United States, and the Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol (“CONMEBOL”), the confederation governing soccer in South America – together with affiliated regional federations, national member associations and sports marketing companies, constitute an enterprise of legal entities associated in fact for purposes of the federal racketeering laws. The principal – and entirely legitimate – purpose of the enterprise is to regulate and promote the sport of soccer worldwide. Consistent with previous indictments returned in the case, the Indictment alleges that over a period of more than two decades, the defendants and their co-conspirators corrupted the enterprise by engaging in various criminal activities, including fraud, bribery and money laundering. As set forth in the Indictment, the New Defendants used their positions in the world of international soccer to engage in schemes involving the solicitation, offer, acceptance, payment and receipt of bribes and kickbacks, principally to obtain lucrative broadcast rights to various international soccer tournaments and events. For example, as alleged:

Lopez and Martinez, formerly high-ranking executives of Fox subsidiaries responsible for developing and carrying out Fox’s sports broadcasting businesses in Latin America, joined Full Play and other co-conspirators in a scheme involving the annual payment of millions of dollars in bribes to officials of CONMEBOL in exchange for the lucrative broadcasting rights to the Copa Libertadores, the region’s most popular club tournament, among other events. Lopez and Martinez also relied on loyalty secured through the payment of bribes to certain CONMEBOL officials to advance the business interests of Fox, including to obtain confidential bidding information for the rights to broadcast the 2018 and 2022 World Cup tournaments in the United States, rights that Fox successfully obtained.

Romy was a high-ranking executive and shareholder of Imagina, a privately held, multinational media conglomerate based in Barcelona, Spain, that owned various subsidiaries around the world, including in the United States. Romy participated in schemes to pay millions of dollars to high-ranking officials of the Caribbean Football Union (“CFU”) and of federations within the Central American Football Union (“UNCAF”), both regional soccer unions operating under the CONCACAF umbrella, to secure the media and marketing rights to FIFA World Cup qualifier matches organized by federations within the CFU and UNCAF. In connection with the CFU scheme, Romy and his co-conspirators agreed to pay Jeffrey Webb, a senior official of the CFU and the president of CONCACAF, a \$3 million bribe in exchange for a share of a contract awarding the media and marketing rights to CFU members’ home World Cup qualifier matches for the 2018 and 2022 qualification cycles.

Full Play, a sports marketing company incorporated in Uruguay, based in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and owned by father-and-son defendants Hugo Jinkis and Mariano Jinkis, participated in numerous schemes to pay bribes to officials of CONMEBOL and CONCACAF in exchange for media and marketing rights to various soccer events, including World Cup qualifier and friendly matches, the Copa Libertadores, and multiple editions of the Copa América, a national team tournament administered by CONMEBOL. Hugo and Mariano Jinkis, charged in the first indictment in the case unsealed on May 27, 2015, are among the defendants charged in the Indictment and remain fugitives.

In connection with the above schemes, the Indictment charges Romy and Full Play with RICO conspiracy and all four New Defendants with wire fraud and money laundering offenses. Each of the offenses carries a maximum of 20 years’ imprisonment, and, if convicted, each defendant faces mandatory restitution, forfeiture and a fine.

Other schemes alleged in the Indictment relate to the payment and receipt of bribes and kickbacks in connection with, among other things, contracts for the media and marketing rights to additional soccer events and FIFA’s selection of the countries to host various editions of the World Cup, including the World Cup hosted by Russia in 2018 and the World Cup scheduled to be hosted by Qatar in 2022.

The charges in the indictment are allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty

World Cup 2018 & 2022: More bidding process corruption claims

More allegations of corruption during the bidding process to stage the World Cups in 2018 and 2022 have been made.

The House of Commons Culture Media and Sport select committee has published previously unseen material submitted to it by the Sunday Times newspaper.

It draws on claims by senior sources that officials connected to England's bid for the 2018 World Cup ran an intelligence-gathering operation against rival nations.

Russia and Qatar won the bids.

This submission by the Sunday Times outlines how England 2018 executives compiled a database of rumours and intelligence - gathered by private companies and, significantly, British embassies.

There is, however, no clear evidence supplied by the paper.

Instead, its submission provides detailed accounts of how votes were allegedly bought and sold in the build-up to the December 2010 poll - and how Fifa's opaque rules for bidding nations were exploited.

The paper claims Russia's President Vladimir Putin played a major role in his country's winning bid, even, it says, enlisting Fifa's president Sepp Blatter to help lobby for votes.

Another claim suggests the Russia bid had lobbied for the support of Michel Platini - the Uefa president and voter - by giving him a painting believed to have been a Picasso.

There are also allegations about Qatar, and how its dominance in the natural gas industry helped it secure votes through bilateral trade deals.

Russia, the 2018 World Cup hosts, and Qatar, who will hold the 2022 tournament, have always denied any wrongdoing, and a recent, albeit disputed, summary of a Fifa inquiry cleared them.

The Football Association said in a statement: "The Fifa Ethics Committee made specific requests and responding to these requests involved searching in excess of 500,000 documents.

"The search parameters were established with Mr Garcia's office. The documents searched included intelligence gathered by the bid team. All documents within the search parameters were disclosed.

"In addition Andy Anson has confirmed that any intelligence that he believed could be substantiated was shared with Mr Garcia in his interview and that everything else was hearsay, gossip and rumour."

Culture Media and Sport select committee chairman John Whittingdale MP has told BBC Sport that, in light of the Sunday Times submission, he would like to hear from FA executives to ascertain if the 'database' exists and, if so, for them to outline its contents.

Former Fifa executives accused of bribes over World Cup bidding

Former Fifa executives took bribes in return for voting for Russia and Qatar to host the World Cup, according to US prosecutors.

In what could be a highly significant twist in the FBI's long-running investigation into allegations of football corruption, a new indictment was revealed in the US District Court on Monday.

The documents, external claim several former Fifa executive committee members "were offered or received bribes in connection with their votes".

The Department of Justice makes allegations against Nicolas Leoz, the former president of South American governing body Conmebol, and ex-Brazil federation supremo Ricardo Teixeira.

Both are accused of taking money "in exchange for their votes in favour of Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup". Qatar denies the allegations.

Disgraced former Fifa vice-president Jack Warner of Trinidad and Tobago was also allegedly paid £4m through a host of offshore shell companies to back Russia's 2018 bid.

Russia beat England to win the right to host the most recent World Cup in 2018. Warner was president of the North and Central American and Caribbean confederation Concacaf.

Another former Fifa ExCo member - Guatemala football chief Rafael Salguero - was allegedly promised a bribe to vote for Russia.

Leoz died last year under house arrest in his native Paraguay, having fought extradition to the US. Teixeira has been banned from the game for life by Fifa for taking bribes for marketing and media rights for football competitions between 2006 and 2012.

Teixeira and Warner, who is also banned for life, have avoided extradition to the US. Salguero was banned last year, having admitted corruption.

Former executives at US television giant 21st Century Fox have also been charged in the indictment with making payments to South American football officials to secure broadcast rights.

"The profiteering and bribery in international soccer have been deep-seated and commonly known practices for decades," said FBI assistant director-in-charge William Sweeney.

"The FBI... are investigating the illicit handshakes and backroom deals hidden in the infrastructure of soccer events, venues and marketing contracts.

"The first public charges date back to 2015. This should illustrate to everyone still hoping to score millions corruptly, we're going to find you."

What is the background?

Almost 10 years have now passed since Fifa controversially voted for Russia and Qatar to host the sport's showpiece event.

But it was only in 2015, following a dramatic dawn raid at a Zurich hotel close to the governing body's headquarters, that the US Department of Justice announced it was investigating football and TV executives enriching themselves through the game.

The scandal sparked the worst crisis in Fifa's history, with its disgraced president Sepp Blatter eventually standing aside.

A total of 42 people have been indicted, with 26 pleading guilty.

How important could this be?

With Russia staging its World Cup almost two years ago, the focus of the potential impact of these fresh allegations will be on Qatar as it enters the final phase of preparations for the event.

This is not the first time officials have been accused of corruption linked to the Gulf state's bid during the sprawling FBI probe.

In 2017 Alejandro Burzaco, a former TV executive, told a jury in New York that Leo Z, Teixeira - and the now former Argentina football chief Julio Grondona - had been paid to vote for Qatar, which beat the US in the vote.

But never before have US prosecutors formally laid out in such detail how the alleged corruption was conducted.

However, the indictment does not specify who was behind the alleged bribery.

Despite years of suspicion over how they won the vote, Qatar and Russia have always denied any wrongdoing, and both were effectively cleared by Fifa's own investigation in 2017.

But Fifa may find itself under renewed pressure to reopen an inquiry into how the votes were won.

On Tuesday, Fifa said it would "continue to provide full cooperation" and is "closely following these investigations".

A statement read: "It is important to point out that Fifa has itself been accorded victim status in the US criminal proceedings and senior Fifa officials are in regular contact with the US Department of Justice.

"The Fifa ethics committee has already imposed sanctions, including life bans, on football officials mentioned in this process."

In response to the accusations, Alexei Sorokin, chief executive of Russia's 2018 World Cup, told the Interfax news agency: "This is only the opinion of lawyers. We have repeatedly said that our bid was transparent.

"At the time we answered all questions, including from the investigation branch of Fifa and from the media, we handed over all needed documents.

"We have nothing to add to this and we will not respond to attempts to cast a shadow on our bid."

Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery Legacy (SC) said in a statement it "strongly denies the allegation" contained within the court papers.

It added: "Despite years of false claims, evidence has never been produced to demonstrate that Qatar won the rights to host the Fifa World Cup 2022 unethically, or by means that contravened Fifa's strict bidding rules.

"The SC maintains that it strictly adhered to all rules and regulations for the 2018/2022 Fifa World Cups bidding process and any claim to the contrary is baseless and will be fiercely contested."

6. World Cup Bidding Process

The FIFA World Cup 2026 bidding process set a new standard for transparency, scale, and commercial ambition as North America united under one joint bid. This tournament will be the first hosted by three nations, reshaping how the world's biggest sporting event is planned, funded, and delivered.

Designed to test long-term viability and broad accessibility, the selection marked a turning point in how football's global showcase aligns with infrastructure, technology, and legacy goals.

Bid	Primary Nations	Stadium Commitments	Voting Outcome
2026 FIFA World Cup	United States, Canada, Mexico	23 confirmed venues across 3 nations	Selected for 2026 and 2030 hosting
2030 FIFA World Cup	Joint bid by Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay	Regional stadiums with phased development	Approved alongside 2026 selection

6.1. Bidding Timeline and Key Milestones

The FIFA World Cup 2026 bidding process operated on a strict, FIFA-led calendar that balanced evaluation, due diligence, and final decision-making. From the initial expression of interest to the formal vote, each stage was designed to ensure compliance, risk assessment, and alignment with tournament requirements.

Understanding this timeline helps stakeholders, fans, and analysts track how a complex, multi-nation event transitions from concept to contract. The sequence also highlights where transparency can be strengthened in future bidding rounds.

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6.2. Evaluation Criteria and Weighting

FIFA assessed bids through a comprehensive framework that scored each proposal against commercial, operational, and sporting factors. These criteria were calibrated to reward experience, existing infrastructure, and long-term value rather than short-term promises.

By quantifying subjective elements such as legacy, the process aimed to reduce ambiguity and set clear expectations for future hosts. The weighting also encouraged bidders to focus on sustainable delivery rather than headline-grabbing but impractical investments.

6.3. Political and Commercial Implications

The FIFA World Cup 2026 bidding process underscored how mega-events intersect with geopolitics, economics, and regional cooperation. A joint North American bid leveraged established markets, broadcast revenue potential, and cross-border logistics to present a risk-mitigated option for FIFA.

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This alignment of national interests also influenced governance discussions, highlighting the role of government support, regulatory environments, and public funding mechanisms in shaping viable tournament models.

6.4. Infrastructure Readiness and Legacy Planning

Beyond the vote, the bidding documents outlined how stadiums, transport networks, and accommodation would evolve beyond tournament days. Evaluators examined whether proposed venues could transition into community assets or risk underutilization.

The emphasis on legacy became a decisive factor, favoring regions with existing world-class venues and realistic upgrade plans over proposals that required new construction at significant social and environmental cost.

6.5. Strategic Takeaways for Future Hosting

- Prioritize transparent evaluation criteria to build trust among stakeholders and the public.
- Align bidding timelines with clear, measurable milestones for infrastructure and legacy delivery.
- Leverage existing assets to reduce cost, environmental impact, and operational risk.
- Engage governments early to secure policy support, regulatory clarity, and sustainable funding models.
- Embed long-term community benefits into bid plans to justify public and private investment

7. Questions to be Addressed (QTBA)

1. How can FIFA prevent bribery and vote-buying from influencing the World Cup bidding process?
2. Should FIFA officials who are accused of accepting bribes during a World Cup bidding process be suspended until an investigation is completed?
3. Should FIFA reconsider or revoke the hosting rights of a country if credible evidence of corruption is discovered after the bidding process?
4. Why FIFA broke their own human right rules for World Cup hosts and how can this be prevented?

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