



International Federation of  
Football Association

FIFA

*Topic A: Choosing the 2026  
World Cup Host*

ALEXMUN 2017

Dear delegates,

Welcome to our ALEXMUN 2017 committee; one of the topics we will be discussing in this MUN is the corruption within the FIFA organization. We are very pleased of you joining us and we are also very sure you will have a wonderful time with us this year. We ask you to be as active as you can in this debate, so that we can create a discussion of interest.

My name is Arantza Ramírez, the president of the FIFA Committee. I studied on a boarding school for a year (The Grier School, Birmingham, PA), in which I was chosen to be part of the Honors Social Studies class because of my development in the class and continuously concern about the world's issues and problems. I promise to make the most of it, and put all my effort and time for it to be as successful as the others, but also to make it an entertaining debate.

Next, we have our moderator, Florencia Diez González, who is really passionate for this year's ALEXMUN, not only because she loves debating, but by the fact that the topic that will be discussed is about an international recognized football soccer association, which is in charge of organizing plenty of events such as The World Cup, The Women's World Cup and even The Olympic Games. She really thinks that ALEXMUN is a great opportunity for young people to create a safe environment for discussion. She is truly interested and excited for this topic to be done by the first time with you all.

Also Yareni García Aguilar will be part of this committee as the Political Advisor. During her years in the Bachillerato Alexander Bain, she has developed, an amazing capacity of debating and language acquisition. She has been in the Bachillerato Alexander Bain since she was a child, and has always been concerned of my community in general.

Let us inform you that all the members of this chair have Cambridge University Certifications of the use of English, which guaranties a fluent debate.

For this committee, the communication is a very important aspect, and we are always pleased to help you in any way we can, and of course, answering all of the questions you might have. You can contact us throughout our emails at any time. They are as following:

- [arantza.ramirez@bab.edu.mx](mailto:arantza.ramirez@bab.edu.mx) Arantza Ramírez Serratos (President)
- [florencia.diez@bab.edu.mx](mailto:florencia.diez@bab.edu.mx) Florencia Diez González (Moderator)
- [yareni.garcia@bab.edu.mx](mailto:yareni.garcia@bab.edu.mx) Yareni García Aguilar (Political Advisor)

### **Committee Brief:**

FIFA stands for “Fédération Internationale de Football Association”. It is an association founded in 1904 in Paris by delegates from Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. The headquarters are located in Zurich. It has 211 member and its prime goal is to join the nations across the world by playing football in a just and fair way. Those 211 member associations are countries from around the world, from all the continents; some of these members are: Argentina, Mexico, United States, China, Germany, Italy, Spain, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Denmark, Brazil, etc.

The FIFA has divided 6 worldwide cups for each continent: CONMEBOL (South America), UEFA (Europe), AFC (Asia), CONCACAF (America), OFC (Oceania) and CAF (Africa). There is also the World Cup, which is played every 4 years, where all members from the FIFA compete to become the World Champions.

The first World Cup ever celebrated was in 1930 in Uruguay, and since then it has been celebrated every 4 years. The only times it wasn't celebrated was in 1942 and 1946 due to World War 2.

The World Cup first gained popularity thanks to the color transmission on TV in the 1960's.

The FIFA's directive team is made up by a President, some vice presidents, the Secretary General and the council member. The actual president is Gianni Infantino from Switzerland and the Secretary General is Fatma Samoura from Senegal. Another task of FIFA is to protect the integrity of football, so it is constantly fighting corruption which has recently been a serious problem.

FIFA believes it has the power to join the nations into one, so a platform is built to improve standards of education, health and sustainability, and to raise living standards and quality of life across the world. It is much more than just football, it is a worldwide union.

### **Key Words:**

- *Soccer*: a form of football played between two teams of 11 players, the ball is moved by kicking or bouncing just by having contact with your feet, knees, torso, etc... except your hands. This rule doesn't apply to goalkeepers.
- *Corruption*: a dishonest act, most of the times related to money.
- *Nations*: the territory of a country which includes a community and a government.
- *Headquarters*: the main offices of an organization or where a certain event is going to take place.
- *Fair*: free from injustice.
- *Justice*: the quality of being just, or the moral of rightness.
- *Economy*: the management of money.
- *Equality*: the quality of being equal and uniform.
- *Structure*: a system considered from the point of view of a whole.
- *Referee*: an authority who is in charge of evaluating actions.
- *Favoritism*: the action of favoring a person or a group over others.
- *Budget*: an expected income.
- *Development*: the act of progress.
- *Leagues*: an association of individuals which have the same goal.

### **Introduction to the Issue:**

Since the very first World Cup, people have been complaining about what is behind the spectacle, meaning the issues the country tries to hide in order to be a great World Cup Host.

Before examining this, we need to know the process through which FIFA chooses its next World Cup Host.

Each country decides for itself if he wants to postulate as World Cup host.

There are some essential requirements for a country to be the headquarter:

1. The government of the country must be supportive with all the activities related to it.
2. The country must be in conditions to offer 12 modern stadiums with a capacity of 40 000 people and 80 000 for the inaugurations and closing ceremony.
3. The country's economy should be stable and it shouldn't cause any disruption in the complete development of the Cup.
4. The stadiums, training zones and press areas should be in good conditions.
5. The cities hosting the games should work as hotel zones because of the amount of tourists attending the games.
6. Medical attention must be available for delegations and travelers.
7. Security must be reinforced.

Once these requirements are checked, the countries that pass are voted on by the FIFA's executive committee.

The host countries are noticed 8 years before the World Cup in order to get ready with anticipation time.

By reading this, we can all agree that the host country is very carefully selected so it must not cause any "issues", but let's talk about past World Cups.

**2002 World Cup:** Hosted by 2 nations, Japan and South Korea. It was a good experience with non-issues but internally it was a logistic complex process which FIFA established never to be allowed, since it had been said from the very first World Cup that only one country would host it. This exception was allowed, however, setting a precedent for multi-nation World Cups.

Historically, powerful nations have "played dirty" when their country is not selected as host; that is the example of **Germany 2006**. This country imposed itself as World Cup host and did not passes all the filters requested to be chosen; furthermore, Germany did not take into consideration the existence of other candidates that might have been better prepared to host it.

Even though FIFA didn't select it as it should have, Germany hosted the 2006 World Cup.

Now let's talk about **Brazil 2014**. This country has been in bankruptcy for at least 5 years thanks to the ex-president Dilma Rousseff which was accused of corruption and stealing among other complains. When the 2014 World Cup was decided to be hosted there, Brazil was going through hard times related to poverty, but stadiums were built anyway; more than 250,000 people were either directly or indirectly forcefully removed from their living spaces. Some experts say Brazilian politicians used the games as an excuse to clear out Brazilian slums and reclaim them. Eleven million Brazilians lived in these slums. Furthermore, The total cost of the games was \$12 billion, a price tag that many are convinced was not worth it, considering the social inequality plaguing the country. Brazil spent billions on twelve stadiums, even though FIFA only requires a minimum of eight built stadiums.

Another issue worth bringing to topic is the violence lived during the World Cup. Many tourists complain about Brazilians aggressively fighting during the matches, this was because Brazilians were angry at people and at the government for spending millions of dollars in hosting a World Cup while half of the population had nothing to eat. People living at the "favelas" have barely something to wear and live in small rooms with all their family because it is all they can afford, which explains their anger when the government suddenly has that amount of money to build stadiums.

In other words, Brazil wasn't economically ready to host a World Cup and this was known worldwide, and even though FIFA chose it.

This previous information has let us know that the selection of the headquarter is not "carefully" selected as FIFA says it is, maybe in its beginnings it was, but recently, and facts don't lie, it has been chosen for many different reason other that the process every candidate should pass.

Every country is free to propose itself candidate for hosting a World Cup but it is FIFA's responsibility to choose the best one that will not only give a good show, but will not interfere with the country's economy or the people's security.

### **The Problem Now:**

The 2018 FIFA World Cup, which will be taking place in Russia, starting June 14 and ending July 15 2018, will be the 21st FIFA World Cup. For Russia to be able to be the headquarter of the next world cup, the country was given the hosting rights on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010. It is important to mention that this will be the first World cup held in Europe since 2006.

The final match will take place on 15 July in Moscow at the Luzhniki Stadium.

With this known, we are now mentioning some of the issues that people believe might have a big impact and affect next year's World Cup's headquarter.

- 1. Distance:** As all of you might know, Russia spans one-sixth of the world's entire land mass and, although the matches will be performed in the "European" part of the country, that a lot of distance for foreign people who have never been in the country before, making them pay for trains, airplanes, or ways of transportation for them to be able to watch their country's matches. This also means that these mains of transportation should be in perfect conditions, and be enough of them for the amount of people that will be going to use them A clear example is that Kaliningrad, the most westerly host city which will be used, and Yekaterinburg, the most easterly city, are farther apart than traveling from London and Moscow (30 hours). And travelling by train between them would take more than 36 hours.
- 2. Terrorism:** Russia has been battling with the Islamic community in the North Caucasus for the past two decades. Recent attacks in Brussels, Spain and Paris have suggested that western European targets may be more vulnerable than Russian ones these days. However, it has been affirmed that security forces will be on high alert for the World Cup.
- 3. Infrastructure:** When Russia won the right to host the World Cup in December 2010, the government assured that they would build an impressive network of high-speed trains between many of the host cities to replace the current slow trains, in order to make the visitors move faster throughout the country. However, some of these proposals have been declined, but there are still plans to complete an amazingly fast train to cut the journey time between Moscow

and Kazan which are currently about 12 hour apart. It is important to

take into consideration that they only have 1 year to make this possible.

- 4. Stadiums:** The Russian Government announced last month that the new stadiums in construction in Nijni Novgorod and Volgogrado, are supposed to be finished in December 2017, but they will not be ready, but until the first trimester of 2018.
- 5. Racism:** Russian fans have been sanctioned for numerous racism scandals. A clear example is that The Russian Football Union (RFS) was even fined after Euro 2012 for the racial abuse by supporters that was directed at the Czech Republic defender Theodor Gebre Selassie. Also, a number of black players playing in the Russian league have constantly complained of persistent racism from their teammates and the fans in general. There has been a concern that Russian authorities have not taken the issue seriously, denying the problem, despite around 100 racist incidents in only two seasons.
- 6. Doping:** The scandal around doping in sport in general has not touched soccer, but it has embroiled the key figures organizing the World Cup, including the sports minister, Vitaly Mutko. With Russian athletes banned from the Rio Olympics and the Athleticism World Cup, there has been mutual anger and distrust between Russia and the international sporting community.
- 7. Airport:** The airport of Khrabrovo, which is not finished yet continues being in a catastrophic situation, according to the Vedomosti diary.
- 8. Language:** Due to the lack of knowledge from the Russian workers, the authorities have promised to teach the police officers basic English lessons for them to be able to communicate with the visitors. Also they must invest in creating enough signaling in English in the airport for the travelers to be able to understand where they must go.



**9. Last chance before Qatar:** Despite all the possible stumbling blocks the World Cup in Russia still has the potential to be a fantastic event, with many of the host cities being great summer destinations. Warm weather could make for excellent holidays for those fans not afraid of a few hiccups. And it is sure to be more fun, more authentic and better all-round than the World Cup after it, in Qatar in 2022.

Now as you may already know, the World Cup after Russia will take place in Qatar (2022) which has caused even bigger concerns in our society because of what the country has gone through for the last years, but also by the simple fact that Qatar is a country which supports terrorism, according to Reinhard Grindel, the president of the German Football Soccer Association. Also, this country has been accused for practicing slavery while creating their stadiums, and also of corruption in the election of the headquarter.

### Topics to be addressed:

Due to the fact that this topic is about the World Cup's Headquarters, and the problems the society considers important in their selection, you may find the following topics necessary for this debate:

- Which aspects are taken into consideration while choosing the headquarters?
- Who is allowed to vote in the selection of the World Cup's Headquarters?
- What may happen if the infrastructure for Russia's 2018 World Cup isn't ready in time. (You may talk about stadiums as mentioned before, means of transportation, etc..)?
- The possibility of a terrorist attack in Qatar 2022 due to its international conflicts.
- The budget FIFA has for every World Cup.
- With all this in mind, what country is the best option for the 2026 World Cup?

### Sources:

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2016/jul/12/russia-2018-issues-facing-organisers-world-cup>
2. <http://www.elmundo.es/internacional/2017/06/06/59359b9e468aeb895b8b45df.html>
3. [http://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias/2016/04/160411\\_brasil\\_impeachment\\_acusacion\\_contra\\_rousseff\\_g](http://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias/2016/04/160411_brasil_impeachment_acusacion_contra_rousseff_g)
4. <https://mic.com/articles/93814/7-big-problems-the-world-cup-left-behind-in-brazil#.1Fht9uHAJ>
5. <http://blog.upsa.edu.bo/?p=3364>
6. <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/definition>