



## **TARBUTMUN 2020**

### **Fédération Internationale de Football Association FIFA**

**Participating Countries:** Delegation of FIFA – Delegation of FIFPRO – Mexico - United states – Spain – United Kingdom – France – Austria – Canada – Japan – Russia - Germany – Italy – Uruguay – China – Brazil – Argentina – Guatemala – Peru – Belgium – Switzerland – Sweden - South Africa – Chile – Paraguay

**Topic A:** Corruption Between Team Owners and in the Transfer Market.

**Topic B:** Closing the Wage Gap Between Men and Women.

Dear Delegates,

This year is the first edition of the FIFA committee in TarbutMUN. We, your chairs, are hoping to have an amazing working process and learning experience. We are also looking forward to helping you in every possible way so that we can get an excellent debate. During these two days of debate, you will be discussing and trying to find viable solutions to these critical topics. FIFA is capable of playing a central role in such areas as establishing peace, fighting discrimination, promoting health, protecting children's rights, and many other issues, including education. As for each delegate, we hope to see you in your full disposition in searching for your country's position and looking for a possible and viable solution. You will need to decide what is the best solution to solve these important world problems. If you have questions regarding the topics, the committee, or your country, please do not doubt asking any of us at any time; we will be delighted to help.

Welcome delegates to this new committee we believe that it will be excellent. We hope you get an incredible experience in this debate because "together we can change the world."

Sincerely,

Marion Weisser FIFA Committee

**President:** Marion Weisser-  
weisser.marion10@gmail.com

**Moderator:** Adolfo Mussali-  
adolfo mussali7@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Elias Borovoy-  
eliboro04@gmail.com

Feel free to contact any of us by mail at any time

## **History of FIFA**

When the idea of founding an international football federation began, the intention of those involved was to recognize the English people who founded their Football Association back in 1863. Hirschman, secretary of the Netherlands Football Association, was the man who proposed creating FIFA.

This proposal was accepted in 1904, when Belgium and France met in the first official international match on May 1, 1904. FIFA was founded at the Rue Saint Honoré 229 in Paris on May 21, 1904. Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland were the first countries to get involved in FIFA. Nowadays, there are 211 national associations in FIFA from six regional confederations Africa (AFA), Asia (AFC), Europe (UEFA), North & Central America, and the Caribbean (CONCACAF), Oceania (OFC), and South America (CONMEBOL).

## **Function**

The Federation Internationale de Football Association has the following responsibilities.

- Picks who has the chance to hold the World Cup by visiting the countries that have requested to have it and choosing who has displayed the best arrangement for the competition.
- Arranging worldwide competitions.
- FIFA considers it to be as ensuring and building up the sport of football for everybody around the globe
- To search for choices to arrange competitors, to guide competitors to clubs, to distinguish and contact competitors with accessibility, to arrange the states of exchange of competitors among other comparative exercises.

## **FIFA and the United Nations**

FIFA has long collaborated closely with the UN in numerous campaigns and programs aimed at promoting peace and development with football as a vehicle.

## **Topic A: Corruption Between Team Owners and in the Transfer Market.**

### **Background**

It is not a secret that there is a lot of corruption inside football. Regarding the transfer market and corruption between team owners, through the years the corruption has increased every day. Ever since the 2000s, where teams began to be bought by multi-millionaires and Arab sheiks, corruption has increased. Team owners decide whether their team wins or loses that game, or even put money on the table for the referees. The transfer market is an absolute mystery for most people inside the football business. How much the team is going to pay for a player, and most importantly, where do they get the money to buy them, and to pay them significant figures.

The first, and probably worst ever, corruption case in football was in the 2004-2005 season in Italy. Serie A, Italy's League, was hit by one of the biggest corruption cases ever recorded in football. The teams involved were Juventus, AC Milan, Fiorentina, Lazio, and Reggina. These teams contacted the head of Italian referees and told him that the referees that would "Do any kind of favor" to Juventus, would be rewarded later on. A few months later, the other four teams did the same thing. The Italian Football Federation started to look into this, and when they had evidence, they sanctioned each team differently. Just like in this case, there are many others that people do not know.

### **Conflict**

Many leagues in the world suffer from corruption. The most common is when team owners try to control everything that is happening in the league, including what the players do and where do they go. In some leagues around the world, when a player hands in a transfer request, it is one of two reasons: they are already negotiating with another team, or they want to leave the team desperately. Usually, when the first one happens, the

teams let the player leave. Although when the second reason takes place, the owners try to harm the player as much as they can.

In many countries, few teams control the league. Since they are the ones that bring most of the income, they get their way in most cases. If one of the main owners wants one team to be relegated, they have the power to see it happen, otherwise, they can damage the league. They also decide where each player goes. Basically, the owner has control over whether his team wins or not, depending on who they are playing, and if the deal will be reciprocal. This is absolute corruption, since each team should win on its own, and without the help from its owner.

## **Present Situation**

FIFA is working to avoid corruption at all costs, especially between team owners, since almost all of the business resides on the teams and not on the tournaments involving nations. The problem is that inside of FIFA and UEFA, there is a lot of corruption, including its president and the people inside of FIFA.

Today, the transfer market has been corrupted more than ever. Many teams negotiate with players even before the club they are playing for knows. One clear example of this is what happened between Antoine Griezmann and Barcelona. The player sealed a deal with Barcelona in November of 2018, but signed with Barcelona in the summer of 2019, after he was sold from Atletico Madrid. What happened here has happened multiple times, and it is unfair to the team the player plays in, because the player can sign with other teams without authorization or even telling its current club.

On the other side, FIFA is trying to strengthen every league in the world, so that each country's federation is not corrupted, and everything can work perfectly. If the league is corrupted from the inside, usually the federation is in big problems, because team owners can decide everything that happens in the country, regarding football. This includes who gets called up with the national team, even if they do not deserve it.

## **Most Important Countries**

Spain: Spain has two teams that spend the most money in the transfer markets such as Barcelona and Real Madrid. The two presidents of these teams (Jose Maria Bartomeu, Florentino Perez) have been accused several times of not complying with the agreements when hiring or selling a player.

USA: The United States Attorney General Loretta Lynch announced the action against 14 people: 9 senior executives of FIFA and five businesspeople involved in acts of corruption that developed for 24 years within one of the entities less transparent in the world, FIFA. The corrupt executives decided, after paying bribery, who would televise the matches, where the world cups would be, even who would hold managerial positions at FIFA.

France: There has been tax evasion, money laundering, match-fixing. The football business, which moves billions every year, has become a global problem that the French Government wants to curb with a pioneer rule in Europe, 30% of the money from a transfer does not reach its final destination. All this in a business that, according to FIFA's own accounts, moves every year in transfers between 2,000 and 3,000 million euros.

FIFA: FIFA's president, Gianni Infantino, has been accused several times of committing corruption, In the last time, he said that it would not happen again and that he will not let any case of corruption in FIFA.

FIFPRO: It is an international soccer organization formed by 40 national associations and about 38,000 members. Its main mission is to defend the rights and interests of professional soccer players before federations, clubs, sponsoring companies, or other agents in the professional field. The federation counts among its members the most important player associations in the world, such as Spanish, English or Italian, in America,

the representations of Argentina and Brazil are the important ones. It should be noted that there are associations such as the German and the Paraguayan that are not part of the FIFPRO.

Mexico: A topic that has been talked about a lot in recent times is the famous gentlemen's agreement, or *pacto de caballeros*, which is a very common practice in Mexico, and has as main objective to ensure and protect the interests and the investments made in some soccer players. It is used by the managers of the Mexican Soccer League and is a modality that is outside the regulations established by the International Federation of Associated Soccer (FIFA). This agreement is not stipulated in any regulation, and it is between the team owners in order to protect their interests. This gives them greater control in the negotiations of the players, regardless of the conditions. This means that the team or club will always be involved, even if the player has six months or less of the contract, the franchise will always take part of the money for that transaction.

## Past UN Actions

Regarding this topic in particular, the UN has done very little to help FIFA. The only time they acted, was when Sepp Blatter, ex-president of FIFA, and 14 FIFA officials were arrested and suspended from FIFA, after many allegations that they were corrupt. There is no hard evidence, though it seems obvious that they forced the World Cup in Qatar in 2022. The United Nations do not focus on sports, unless something of extreme high risk may happen, for example the Islamic State's threats against 2018 World Cup in Russia, where the UN did intervene.



In this topic the resolution should focus on the strengthening of football federations, making them and their presidents less susceptible to corruption. Each country should focus on how to prevent corruption from their own owners. The transfer market has to become stricter and with more rules.

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## **Topic B: Closing the Wage Gap Between Men and Women.**

### **Background**

The US team won the World Cup and reported with its success about 16 million euros to the federation of their country. However, this economic benefit did not reach the players. The Football Federation of the United States had planned that the women's national team would grant a profit of more than 4 million euros in 2017, while the men's team would cause losses of one million euros. These figures do not fit with the later distribution that the maximum organism of the American football tried to make. The federative entity requires that both teams play 20 friendly matches a year. For these meetings, the players were to receive a maximum of 87,000 euros between the fixed per game and the premiums for results. It was the highest figure in case of winning the 20 commitments. The men, on the other hand, would receive a minimum of 88,000 euros if losing all their matches.

In December 2016, the first professional soccer league played by women started in Mexico. Three years later, seven first division teams refused to keep their women's representatives arguing that they are not profitable, despite the fact that the presidency of the MX League extended for one more season the obligatory nature of women's football. It is clear to understand why soccer players ask to improve their salary conditions. According to the Global Sports Salaries Survey 2017, Mexican soccer players earn an average of 3,500 pesos a month. This is 4.4 percent of the salary earned by their French counterparts that is the highest paid in the world, and less than one percent of what a professional male soccer player in Mexico earns. While a player like Oribe Peralta earns more than 46 million pesos a year, an average player earns just over 42 thousand pesos annually, that is talking about the gender gap in professional football in Mexico, we talk about a man earning 1,100 times more than a woman.

## Conflict

In the last men's World Cup event in Russia, the income, mainly from television, was around \$ 6 billion. For the recent Women's World Cup, it is estimated that it was around \$ 131 million, a small fraction of men's income. This means that more people watch men's football than women's football.



## Present Situation

Recognition occurs after a century of waiting. Many moments have passed in history for women to realize their dream, to play women's football. In 2019, inequality on and off the court prevails, after the last World Cup, where the US won, the sponsors and FIFA reaffirmed the commitment to support this. Since last year, the federation announced a five-point global strategy to boost the category, one of the most important maneuvers is to guarantee complete plans by 2022, by the 211 members towards the women who are part of this sport. The governing body wants their participation to double to 60 million worldwide by 2026, as this branch offers great economic opportunities and others that are still unexplored.



## Important Countries

Austria- Austrian women earn 15.7% less than the median wage of men.

Mexico- Mexico has the ninth most significant gender pay gap among countries, with women earning 16.5% less than the median male wage.

United Kingdom - Women currently receive only about 83.2 percent of what the average man does, leaving them with a gender pay gap of 16.8 percent.

Canada- Women in Canada still earn 18.2% less than the median wage of men.

United States- While the US adopted the 1963 Equal Pay Act allowing men and women to obtain equal pay for equal work in the same job, American women still earn 18.2 percent less than American men's median wage.

Japan- Japanese women earn 24.5% less than men.

## **Past UN Actions**

FIFA and the UN signed a memorandum of understanding to help women and girls through football and use sport as a tool for gender equality. The pact was sealed in Paris between the president of FIFA, Gianni Infantino, and the executive director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, on the second and final day of the first FIFA World Convention on women's football, and on the same day that the women's World Cup started in France. "FIFA is an organization whose mission is to develop football, but it also has a very important social role. Through football we can educate, teach how to win and lose, how to believe in yourself. There are very important values for gender equality," Gianni Infantino. He also included that girls from all over the world will play football and the right thing is to recognize it. "We did it with decades of delay, but it is a beginning and we will see the results," he said.

## **Resolution Focus**

Women's soccer has already reached and won the space it deserves, however, the difference in payment between men and women continues to affect this sport. This

resolution should focus on reaching points in favor and points against whether women should be paid as equal as men or not. And the benefits that your country would have if this happened.

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