

THE 69TH FIFA CONGRESS

SPECIALIZED COMMITTEE



**Dearest Delegate,**

*Can you hear the roar of millions as the whistle blows?
Can you hear the anticipation of a nation,
The soft swell of a people, hoping, sighing, praying, dreaming? Can you hear the sounds of the
World Cup? Play on, play on, play on – For glory awaits.*

Over a hundred years ago, the Federal International Football Association (FIFA) was founded to govern the world's most popular game. Since 1930, FIFA's mission has expanded to include the organization and promotion of Soccer's pinnacle event - the World Cup. In this committee, you will understand and navigate the challenges of managing a sport played by billions, and guide FIFA through one of the most difficult epochs in the organization's history. With constant corruption scandals and allegations of wrongdoing, the leadership of FIFA is under intense scrutiny by media and fans alike. Questions over Gianni Infantino, the current president, and his leadership abound, and multiple candidates jockey to be next in the line of succession should he fall. Critics argue that the 2022 World Cup was awarded under dubious circumstances to Qatar. They point to Qatar building a World Cup on the blood of slave labourers and argue that the potential human rights abuses tarnish the image of FIFA. Looking beyond, multiple nations compete for the honour and prestige of hosting the 2026 World Cup, and it is up to the delegates of the 69th FIFA Congress to make wise decisions as the organization begins a long path towards cleaning up its public image and reputation.

For the Game. For the World.

Are you ready for kick-off?

Anvesh Jain

Director

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**A Profile of the FIFA World Cup:**

The FIFA World Cup is one of the biggest tournaments in world sport, and is passionately followed by billions of fans every four years as it is contested in different host countries around the globe. The format of the World Cup has traditionally involved a 32 team competition with a group stage and then single-elimination knockouts thereafter, until one nation is crowned champions. In the history of the Cup, eight national teams have won in the twenty iterations of the tournament that have been played since its inauguration in Uruguay in 1930, and among those Brazil has won more times than any other nation with five victories. FIFA has voted to expand the World Cup to a 48 team competition by 2026, once again denoting the tournament's prominent status as a truly globe-spanning entity.

For most countries, hosting the World Cup is an opportunity to boost tourism and prestige on the international stage. Every four years, the tournament draws in "massive amounts of sponsorship and revenue for TV rights, advertisements, tourism, and direct investment into the local economies of the host nation" (BBC iWonder, 2014). This is before mentioning the prestige and stature bestowed by hosting a global event on the scale of the World Cup. Nations and continents hosting the World Cup are said to have "arrived" on the international stage, and with hosting privileges come the connotations of political eminence, domestic development, and cultural authority. For example, "an estimated 715.1 million people watched the final match of the 2006 FIFA World Cup held in Germany" (FIFA, 2013). For the hosts of the World Cup, a spotlight is shone upon the nation, giving them a chance to present themselves and their culture to the gaze of billions.

Timeline of important events:

1930 - Inaugural World Cup hosted in Uruguay

1934 - First World Cup to have a qualification stage, hosted by Italy

1938 - First time titleholders and host nations are awarded automatic qualification

1950 - First World Cup hosted after the Second World War, hosted by Brazil

1954 - First televised World Cup, hosted by Switzerland

1966 - First "modern" World Cup with marketing, mascot, and official logo, hosted by England

1982 - World Cup expanded to 24 teams, hosted by Spain

1998 - World Cup expanded to 32 teams, hosted by France

2002 - First World Cup held in Asia, first jointly-hosted World Cup, hosted by Korea and Japan

2006 - Now previous winners were not granted automatic qualification, hosted by Germany

2010 - First World Cup held in Africa, hosted by South Africa
(BBC, 2014)

**Guiding Questions:**

1. Why do nations choose to host the World Cup, going to the trouble of organizing such a massive and costly endeavour? What is the purpose of global tournaments in general?
2. What is the role of the World Cup in facilitating cultural dialogue and exchange?
3. How can Sport be used as a vehicle for both national expression and international unity?

TOPIC ONE: CRISIS IN QATAR**Background on Qatar:**

Officially known as the State of Qatar, Qatar occupies a small peninsula off of the Arabian Peninsula that has been sporadically occupied since prehistoric times. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2017). The independent emirate was controlled by many local and foreign dynasties before it was under the partial control of the United Kingdom due to threats from the Ottoman Empire.

Within the last six decades Qatar (under the rule of the Al Thani family since the mid-1800s) has evolved from a poor British territory to an independent state with the highest per capita income in the world (since 2007) (Central Intelligence Agency, 2017). Qatar enjoys control of one of the largest reserves of petroleum and natural gas in the world (British Broadcasting Corporation, 2017). Qatar has always depended on foreign labor in its petroleum and natural gas extraction process due to an insufficient native population and immense supply of oil. Non-Qatari people represent 88.4% of the population of Qatar (Central Intelligence Agency, 2017).



Relations between Qatar and other Gulf states are complicated. Foreign ambassadors are routinely removed from Doha. Most recently, some countries have accused Qatar of allegedly supporting terrorism and have demand Qatar cease immediately. Multiple reports have stated that Arab countries plan on boycotting the FIFA world cup



over the crisis but these have been denied by FIFA (British Broadcasting Corporation Sports, 2017).

Qatar and the World Cup:

Qatar's hope of hosting the 22nd edition of the FIFA World Cup has been consistently plagued with issues. These issues include human rights concerns as it relates to labor, pitch conditions, corruption of the original bidding process and strained diplomatic relations between Qatar and its neighboring countries.

According to a Deloitte report, Qatar plans on spending \$200 Billion USD on the 2022 World Cup (Deloitte, 2013). This is a huge expense, considering that the population of Qatar is 2 million people, of which only about 225,000 are Qatari citizens. The investment would result in Qatar spending \$100,000 per capita, compared to \$350 for the Sochi Olympic Games, \$73 for the Brazil World Cup and \$54 for the South African World Cup. This number ends up being 286 times more expensive - per capita - than the most expensive Olympic Games in Sochi (Gregory, 2013).

Considering the immense amount of money being spent, and the socioeconomic landscape of Qatar, there will be little benefit "in the typical measures of effects" (Dorsey, 2011). For example, Qatar will not experience any return resulting from: investment in infrastructure, local companies benefiting from infrastructure development opportunities, a long-term boost to tourism and related industries such as hospitality and air transport, job creation or increased wealth for the local population as a result of secondary expenditure in the economy. Qatar's main benefit will be improved public works and public relations that will give the country more prominence and give a different image of the Arab world.

In the Middle East, Qatar's winning of the bid was a considered by many to be a regional victory. Advocates pointed out the opportunity for the Arab World to present itself in a different light compared to the impressions given by Western media. Through hosting the World Cup, Qatar can show off its country and culture directly to an audience of billions, and can show the world the warmth and hospitality of the Qatari people.

Challenges:

Many have seen Qatar's bid to be a problem the following reasons:

Geography:

With an area of 4,416 square miles, Qatar is the smallest nation to host the World Cup since Uruguay in 1930. Many people see this as a major issue considering the expected major influx of tourists. Those who excuse the size, also have concerns about the sweltering temperature in the area. The Qatari government has aimed to turn these cons into benefits by introducing a rail system that will allow fans to (hypothetically) attend multiple matches in the same day (considering that 10 of the 12 stadiums are in 20-Kilometer radius). The



government has also moved the World Cup to the winter – per FIFA recommendations (Al-Suwaidi, 2015).

Conservative and Corrupt Government:

Qatar has a very conservative penal code that extends to accepted, legal practices in many other countries. Homosexuality, sleeveless shirts and even bounced checks are punishable by law and can result in jail time (Online Qatar, 2012). Qatar has been ranked as 121st out of 178 countries on the Press Freedom Index, 144th out of 167 countries on the Democracy Index has only recently been upgraded from the lowest rating by the State Department for propensity to engage in human trafficking (Reporters Without Borders; The Economist Intelligence Unit; US Department of State, 2017).

Human Rights Concerns:

In 2013, the International Trade Union Confederation claimed that almost a dozen people were set to die per week (600 per year and 4,000 in total) due to the poor working conditions of the World Cup project (The Guardian, 2013). Workers have described conditions where they are forced to work in 50-degree heat and employers retain employee salaries for months and often do not return passports. Often times more accurate numbers are hard to obtain because of governmental control. In 2015, BBC reporters were even arrested for gathering additional information (BBC, 2015). The Qatari government has obviously categorically denied these allegations citing that numbers were for the entire construction industry and not merely for the World Cup. In response, the organizing domestic government committee for Qatar's World Cup (the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy) issued a 50-page document entitled "Workers' Welfare Standards" which hopes to improve relations. The committee also releases compliance reporting in conjunction with a third-party monitor (Impactt Ltd.). It "detail[s] the successes and challenges encountered while implementing the Workers' Welfare Standards." (Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, n.d.).

Qatar Football:

Unlike other hosts of the FIFA World Cup, Qatar does not have a strong presence in, or cultural linkage to global football. The Qatari men's team was only founded in 1970 and is ranked 97th in the world; normally the team would not have come close to qualifying for the World Cup (Federation of International Football Association, 2017). The Qatari team has also never qualified for either the FIFA Confederations Cup or the World Cup. One Business Insider writer even categorizes the team as "a complete joke," citing their history and a missed shot during a game between Qatar and Uzbekistan (Carlson, 2010).

Bribery Allegations:

Before the vote, odds makers had the chances of the Qatari bid winning at about 6-1 against, and FIFA suspended two of its delegates for vote selling allegations. In addition to



this, the Qatari government had a surplus of about \$12 Billion USD giving it both the means and opportunity to have bribed officials (Silver, 2010). While FIFA did conduct and release a corruption report that cleared both Qatar and Russia of wrongdoing, this was only part of the report and Michael Garcia, who completed the report, resigned over its handling (Longman, 2014). Garcia said that the version of his report that was published contained “numerous materially incomplete and erroneous representations”, raising further suspicion in regards to the potential for bribery to have occurred during the bidding process (Longman, 2014).

Diplomatic Relations:

As mentioned before, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) cut ties with Qatar stating that it was destabilizing the Middle East. Qatar has refused to adhere to the lists of conditions given by its Gulf Coast neighbors and despite Qatar’s denials, Saudi Arabia has cut its land border with Qatar. All four countries (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates) have cut air and sea ties to the country (BBC, 2017). One report by Cornerstone entitled “Qatar in focus: Is the FIFA World Cup 2022 in danger?” states that “Qatar is under greater pressure regarding its hosting of the tournament... the current political crisis has seen - or at least raised the possibility of - a Qatari opposition movement emerging... given the current political situation... it is certainly possible that the tournament will not be held in Qatar” (Roan, 2017). The sanctions placed on the country is yet another hurdle that contractors and organizers must cross.

Possible Solutions:

Most of the talk surrounding Qatar and the World Cup have been aimed at reversing the bid and finding a new host. Yet as 2022 looms closer a new host seems more and more unlikely. While it remains an option, there are other, less severe, potential solutions.

FIFA Oversight:

In December 2015, FIFA tasked John Ruggie, former UN Special Representative on business & human rights and Harvard Kennedy School Professor to write a report detailing his recommendations on what it means for FIFA to demonstrate respect for human rights and ensure a standard is kept across its global operations (Ruggie, 2016). With human rights concerns in Qatar being brought to light, there may be a need for this independent body (or others whether it be internal or external to FIFA) to step in. The FIFA Human Rights Advisory board is mandated to meet at least twice a year and began with their first meeting on March 13 2017 (FIFA, 2017). While the advisory board is made up of individuals based on their professional experience and human rights experience, this board is still new and may not be able to truly provide the push necessary to change crucial aspects of the Qatar human rights crisis. As a result, it may also be necessary for FIFA executive members to turn to the United Nations Human Rights Committee or even to the General Assembly itself.



Sanctions:

The benefit of going to the United Nations would be the opportunity to impose UN backed sanctions on Qatar to truly ensure that the issues and challenges are resolved in a timely manner. It would not be an unlikely possibility considering that Qatar is already under sanctions from its other Gulf Coast neighbors for other issues (Keating, 2017).

Freedoms:

As stated before, Qatar is a very conservative country with strict rules and regulations many of whom result in death or jail time. Many freedoms that World Cup visitors are used to enjoying while at home will not longer be available to them. The Qatari organizers have already banned alcohol consumption in public places and are pushing for it to also be banned in the stadiums. The secretary-general of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy suggested in an interview with Arabic language newspaper *Al-Sharq* that alcohol will only be available in “far away” places (Rowe, 2016). While the Qatari government has stated that it will not change its laws for the tournament, they might agree to be more lenient to those foreigners who may break laws unintentionally. This could prove problematic for tourists who fear running afoul of an ill-defined legal code that is, by the Qatari government’s admission, selectively enforced. Alcohol is considered a staple of many sporting events, Soccer included, and the Qatari government’s position on this issue could hamper the type of sports tourism FIFA expects World Cup hosts to be able to facilitate in order to make the tournament more enjoyable in general.

Who Could Replace Qatar?

The World Cup’s venue has only been changed once before. Four years before the 1986 World Cup, the location was changed from Columbia to Mexico. This was largely due to the unrest in the country ranging from politics to economics to the rise of drug lords. Even after Columbia had decided not to host the games it was not easy to find a replacement (Ogden , 2014) The same would happen if it is decided to replace Qatar.

The likely first contender would be the United States as listed by English bookmaker and betting shop “Coral” (The Washington Post, 2014). This is firstly because due to FIFA regulations, nations belonging to CONMEBOL (South America), UEFA (Europe), or AFC (Africa) are ineligible because of World Cups in Brazil (2014), Russia (2018) and South Africa (2010). The only remaining eligible federations, assuming this rule is not amended as it has been before, are CONCACAF (North America, Central America, Caribbean) or the AFC (Asia).

This, coupled with the fact that the United States came second in bidding against Qatar would make them a favorite. However, that would not take into account FIFA’s reservations. FIFA has made it clear that they would rather the World Cup be hosted in



areas that have not previously hosted the cup and thus allow the sport to continue to grow internationally (Business Insider, 2014).



Guiding Questions:

1. The last time a host of the World Cup was changed was in 1986 from Colombia to Mexico. This was done mainly because of economic issues. While it is a precedent, does it provide enough backing for the council to even consider doing it again?
2. Considering the persistent scandals and allegations swirling around the bidding process for Qatar, would it be that hard of a sell? Who would be in support or against this motion? Consider the countries that lost the bidding, those who are in a crisis against Qatar and those countries that are set to benefit from it being held in Qatar (i.e. those getting stadium material when it is taken apart).
3. With diplomatic crises and human rights concerns looming ahead, should FIFA turn to another oversight body such as the UN with their problems?
4. What kinds of values does your country prioritize when making decisions regarding the 2022 World Cup? Press Freedoms? Human Rights? How are you willing to defend these values?
5. Changing the host would be a monumental effort, considering the short time frame in which new stadiums and accommodations can be prepared. What are some other



solutions to make a World Cup in Qatar still possible? Should those solutions be pursued over choosing a new host? What would be easiest, cheapest, and safest?

6. What are some alternative hosts should Qatar be deemed not fit to host the World Cup?
7. How are your own country's diplomatic relations with Qatar? Consider the stakeholders involved, and how your international relations with Qatar might be affected in other industries depending on how you choose to support them in FIFA.

**TOPIC TWO: WORLD CUP 2026****Introduction:**

The FIFA World Cup is one of the most prestigious soccer tournaments in the world, in which 48 teams compete for one goal; the World Cup Trophy. This trophy is given every four years to one country, who is crowned the 'Champion of the World'. With recent controversies surrounding the bidding and awarding process regarding Russia and Qatar's hosting, the need to set a precedent for a host country has never been greater. Consider this a chance for a new start in the way FIFA awards host countries for its most prestigious event. Delegates are being asked to consider the following five bids: USA, Canada, Mexico in a joint bid; Morocco; Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay in a joint bid; Australia and New Zealand in a joint bid.

In order to host this renowned event, a host country is chosen by the FIFA executive committee, in which 24 individuals decide between the respective bidders for one host. FIFA then produces technical reports on the hosting abilities of the country in question and the members vote from there. The winner must carry a 50 percent plus one rule, and if no bid has a majority, then the bidder with the lowest votes is eliminated and a new round of voting begins (Fylan, 2009). Most recently, the World Cup was contentiously awarded to Russia for 2018 and Qatar for 2022.

In order to host a world cup, FIFA demands that stadiums need a net capacity of 40,000 for group stage matches and 80,000 for the opening match and the final (US Soccer,



2017). In addition to this, stadiums must be able to host a 20,000 square foot hospitality village no more than 150 metres from the stadium (Kelso, 2009).

Delegates, it is your responsibility to review each of these five bids and, amongst yourselves, select the next host of the 2026 World Cup. Take into consideration different aspects of each bid, and when making your decision bear in mind the different actors involved as well as your relations with each of these potential hosts. No country is completely neutral; see how each of these bids could benefit the growth and development of soccer within your own nation, and consider geography, tourism, economics, and the politics inherent to five competing bids. See who has or hasn't supported you in the past, and see what kinds of steps you can take to manage relationships with the different football confederations and organizations of the world.

USA, Canada, Mexico – CONCACAF:

The United States, Canada, and Mexico have formally launched a bid for the 2026 World Cup. Should they win, it would be only the second time the World Cup will have been hosted by multiple countries. All three countries are uniquely suited to accommodate FIFA's high-standards for hosting a FIFA World Cup (US Soccer, 2017).

History of previous events:

Both the United States and Mexico have previously hosted the World Cup, with USA hosting in 1994 and Mexico in 1970 and 1986. Although Canada has never hosted a Men's World Cup, they most recently held the 2015 Women's World Cup (North America Bid, 2017). Their ability to host these previous events have left them with multiple stadiums in each respective country which satisfy the high demands set in place by FIFA.

Additionally, all three have multiple stadiums which meet FIFA's regulations, and together they are considered global hubs for tourism, communication, technology, and business. These countries have extensive infrastructure already in place in order to let matches take place with ease.

Tourist Viability:

All three countries are more than qualified for the hosting of a major sporting event such as the World Cup. They offer world class facilities with a growing population interested in the sport. Many of their industries are service based, allowing for the needs of tourists to be met. In addition, all three countries offer many tourist facilities and amenities, including primary tourist resources (resources for tourists already in place) to secondary tourist resources (built to serve the needs of demand for primary resources).

**Public Opinion:**

A recent survey of adults in these countries have confirmed a broad public support for the hosting of the World Cup. The survey found that 77% of North American residents are in favour of hosting the first ever 48 team World Cup, and 81% of respondents across the three countries agree that hosting the tournament would be good for their specific country (US Soccer, 2017).

Challenges:

The United States, Canada and Mexico have a variety of challenges facing them ahead of their bid. The most obvious perhaps, is the inherent distance between cities, and thus stadiums, for the players, managers, journalists and other staff. In addition, fans of respective nations may be denied entry into these countries, particularly the United States, based on their country of origin. There are many VISA restrictions and the price of flights provided by airlines may be astronomically high for fans to pay.

Morocco – CAF:

The World Cup has only been played in Africa once, when South Africa hosted in 2010. Morocco has previously bid for the hosting rights four times unsuccessfully, although they have received the support of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to host the 2026 event (BBC Sport, 2017).

History of previous events:

Morocco has a long history of hosting high-profile soccer events. Although they have never held a World Cup, they have held the 2013 and 2014 FIFA Club World Cup, 2013 African U-17 Championship, and 2011 CAF U-23 Championship (Futbol Maroc, 2016).

In line with Morocco's recent interest in hosting soccer events they have been developing their infrastructure and stadiums. This includes building their marquee stadium: Grand Stade de Casablanca which will have a capacity in excess of 90,000. They have multiple stadiums that would be able to house group stage matches. To help with transportation of not only players, but tourists, Morocco has been extensively developing their rail and highway system, including building more highways to connect stadiums between one another (Morocco World News, 2016).

Tourist Viability:

Morocco remains a hub for tourists, building more hotels and more secondary tourism facilities. There are safety concerns with Morocco however, as petty crime and scams run rampant. In addition, Morocco is a conservative Muslim country, which requires tourists to dress more conservatively than in Western culture (Gov.UK Foreign Travel Advice, 2017). That being said, Morocco tourism has increased healthily from 7.5 million in 2006 to over ten million in 2016 (Tourism Observatory Morocco, 2017).

**Potential for more events:**

Although officially the 2019 African Cup of Nations (AFCON) is being held in Cameroon, there have been worries that Cameroon's infrastructure projects will be unable to cope with the increase from 16 to 24 teams. Morocco has humbly offered to stage the event, should Cameroon be unable to. This would provide Morocco with the perfect opportunity to impress FIFA officials before the decision is made on the hosts of the 2026 World Cup, showing that they can be world-class hosts even on such short notice (Vanguard, 2017).

Challenges:

A major challenge Morocco faces is that their transportation may be not developed enough to host a World Cup yet. Although they are in the process of building better transportation to service needs, there is a large cost associated with this infrastructure when taking into consideration what happens with it after the World Cup - what do they do with it then? This transportation will need to service millions of tourists, certainly more than Morocco's population. In addition, tourists may be wary of any safety concerns, especially traveling into Africa, for crime may be slightly higher and health services may be substandard away from large cities.

Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay – CONMEBOL:

There have been serious talks about hosting the World Cup in these countries for 2026. Uruguay most recently held the World Cup in 1930, which was also the first World Cup, and there are talks suggesting the return of the event here before the centennial anniversary. All three countries come from a rich heritage of footballing legends, including modern greats of the game such as Diego Maradona, Lionel Messi, and Luis Suarez.

History

Both Argentina and Uruguay have previously held the World Cup, Argentina in 1978 and Uruguay in 1930. Uruguay have also held the 2018 U-17 Women's World Cup. Paraguay however, have yet to host an event. Argentina will have six stadiums, Uruguay three, and Paraguay two. There are plans to adapt both Argentina's and Uruguay's stadiums in 2024 to increase seating size and refurbish facilities in order to prepare for their bid (Gonzales, 2017).

Tourist Viability:

Both Argentina and Uruguay have economies which are semi-dependent on tourism. Argentina has over 6 million tourists a year whereas Uruguay is over 2.5 million (International Tourism, 2017). Similar to Morocco, tourists will have to watch petty crime, particularly pickpockets. Tourists are warned not to walk alone at night, especially away from the main streets. The government of Canada, for example, recommends exercising



normal safety precautions while in Argentina and Uruguay, as well as a high degree of caution while in Paraguay (Gov Canada, 2017).

Support for the bid:

Most recently, Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez, well known, established professionals from Argentina and Uruguay, wore shirts in an international match to support a bid for the 2026 World Cup. The presence and support of two such professionals, known for being some of the best in their position, will only help to strengthen their countries bids for a World Cup, showing the passion and tradition for Soccer in these nations (Gonzalez, 2017). In addition to this, it is widely expected that much of CONMEBOL will help support their bid in order to bring the World Cup back to South America for the first time since 2014 in Brazil.

Challenges:

The major critics of having the World Cup in South America will point to two reasons. Firstly, they most recently held the 2014 World Cup, and thus FIFA may be focused on expanding the game to areas that have not held the tournament recently. In addition, there are many challenges to a joint bid, particularly flights, VISAs, and distances, similar to the United States, Canada, and Mexico joint bid.

Australia, New Zealand - AFC/OFC:

Australia and New Zealand will be formally launching a bid for the 2026 World Cup. This would allow both countries to automatically qualify, something which they have struggled with in the past. The main hurdle to their World Cup bid is the fact that both countries come from two different confederations, something which FIFA may struggle to overlook.

History:

Although both countries have never held a Men's World Cup before, New Zealand held the 2011 World Rugby Cup, a testament to their ability to hold world-class events (The Guardian, 2015). In addition to this, Australia has held the 2000 Olympics Games, as well as the 2006 Commonwealth Games, both of which, were highly praised (TopEnd Sports, 2015). Australia most recently bid unsuccessfully for the 2022 World Cup, but another attempt could be buoyed by the addition and support of neighbouring New Zealand.

New Zealand proposed that Australia host 70% of the games while New Zealand hosts the remaining 30%. Both Australia and New Zealand already have the stadium capacities the fulfil the requirements met by FIFA, as well as the communication hubs for broadcasting. One major hurdle would be for viewers in North America and Europe, where



games would be played during the night and catching their team play might be difficult as the majority of soccer fans would be in a vastly different time zone (The Guardian, 2015).

Tourist Viability:

Canada recommends for tourists to exercise normal safety precautions while visiting these two nations (GovCanada, 2017). Australia and New Zealand are both highly developed nations and tourists will be sure to feel safe and taken care of during their stay. Considering both Australia and New Zealand have previously held huge sporting events, there is already the infrastructure and framework in place for any expected influx tourists. Furthermore, hosting the World Cup would allow Australia and New Zealand to become global hubs of soccer, exposing the sport to more local fans and giving both countries world-wide exposure.

Previous Success:

In 2015, Australia and New Zealand co-hosted the Cricket World Cup. The event was claimed as a massive success, and the economic benefits were huge. There were over 145,000 international visitors, and the event was watched by over 1.5 billion people. Consequently, an economic impact and benefit analysis showed that the tournament generated over \$ AU 1.1 billion in direct spending. They achieved this through the introduction of a single visa, which made traveling easier between the two countries, something which could be replicated again in their efforts for a bid (International Cricket Council, 2015).

Challenges:

Australia and New Zealand face two major hurdles to their bid. Firstly, they are in the Southern Hemisphere. The World Cup is normally played in June/July, which is the middle of their winter. Is there any way for them to be able to host the tournament if it will be considerably colder and worse weather? Secondly, a huge majority of their domestic leagues, including rugby, and cricket, take place over these months. Their stadiums will need to be used for the World Cup, and thus, what happens to other popular Australian and New Zealander sports leagues?

Guiding Questions:

1. Consider the benefits and challenges of each bid. Why do you think one is more suited to another? Why do you think your country would support one bid over another?
2. What are the benefits (think of economic, social, political etc.) of one of these bids in hosting the World Cup? What would be best for the sport?



3. Look at each of these bids in relations to your own country and your soccer fans. For example, which one of these bids would be easiest for tourists from your own country to attend? Which ones are in close geographical proximity?
4. How do you benefit in your relations to a certain bid, once you put your support behind it? Consider how your relations would be impacted with countries whose bid you chose not to support.
5. Consider the major drawbacks to each bid. Will they affect your country? If so, are there ways to overcome these drawbacks? If, during the bidding process, your support for a bid is eliminated, how will you then choose who to support and why?
6. Under the procedural rules regarding voting for bids, note that after each round the bid with the lowest number of supporting votes is eliminated. Which bids would you support if your first-choice was eliminated?

Guide to Researching:

Delegates, in preparing for this conference and drafting your position paper, you should thoroughly research your own countries' stances in regards to each of the topics presented in the Background Guide. If you cannot find an explicit stance or current statements from your own country's soccer organizing body or individuals from its national sports ministry, then it is appropriate to consider using examples from the past to extrapolate how your country would behave at the 69th FIFA Conference. There are many journalistic organizations dedicated to reporting soccer-related news, including The Guardian, The BBC, and even the New York Times. Look at national or regional newspapers to find information pertaining specifically to your nation.

You should definitely understand that it's okay to not have a defined position given to you from the real world. An important part of Model United Nations is learning how to act as a separate entity, and make the reasoned choices that are most beneficial for your nation. For example, in the 2026 World Cup topic, some of the bids are not bids that have actually been made for the World Cup in real life. We crafted those bids in order to create an interesting and dynamic conference, and ultimately remember that the goal of this conference is for educational purposes. You should learn how to research, how to speak, and how to think on your feet in a dynamic committee.

Consider your regional relationships with other soccer-playing countries, and how those will affect your decisions in terms of reciprocating past support or trying to forge better relationships going forward. Use the guiding questions at the end of every topic in the background guide to help you get started on your research and consider the types of decisions your country would make under the circumstances presented in this background guide.



If you have been chosen to represent both an individual and a country, remember that you will have to do research on your individual stances regarding the topics, but also that you must do research as a delegate from your country. Representing an individual will be most important in Topic #3, where you must advocate for yourself in regards to the FIFA presidency, but you might want to consider leveraging your title and role elsewhere in the conference.

Here are some sources to help get you started:

The Case for Qatar by Maha Al-Suwaidi

<http://harvardpolitics.com/world/case-qatar/>

Hassan Al-Thawadi on Worker's Welfare, Qatari Goals, and the 2022 World Cup

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/09/sports/soccer/world-cup-qatar-2022-al-thawadi.html>

FIFA's Guide to the Bidding Process of the 2026 World Cup

http://resources.fifa.com/mm/document/affederation/administration/02/91/88/61/en_guidetothebiddingprocessforthe2026fifaworldcup_neutral.pdf

Gianni Infantino faced investigation by FIFA Ethics Committee for alleged malpractice

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2017/jun/18/gianni-infantino-fifa-president-ethics-committee-under-investigation-alleged-malpractice>

Resources

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