

MINUTES

of meeting no. 22 of the

FIFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

at FIFA headquarters, Zurich,
on 22 and 23 March 2007

-
- PRESENT:** Joseph S. Blatter, FIFA President – in the chair; Julio Grondona, Senior Vice-President – deputy chairman; David H. Will, Issa Hayatou, Dr Chung Mong-Joon, Jack A. Warner, Ángel María Villar Llona, Michel Platini – vice-presidents; Dr Michel D’Hooghe, Isaac D. Sasso Sasso, Ricardo Terra Teixeira, Mohamed bin Hammam, Senes Erzik, Chuck Blazer, Worawi Makudi, Amadou Diakité, Dr Viacheslav Koloskov, Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, ‘Ahongalu Fusimalohi, Junji Ogura, Slim Chiboub (until item 12 only), Dr Amos Adamu, Marios Lefkaritis – members; Reynald Temarii – OFC President, observer; Dr Urs Linsi – General Secretary; Scott Burnett – minutes
- EXCUSED:** Dr Nicolás Leoz – member
- ALSO PRESENT:** Members of the FIFA management
- DURATION:** Thursday, 22 March 14.00 - 18.40h
Friday, 23 March 09.00 - 12.45h

- *****
- I. WELCOME
 - II. ROLL CALL
 - III. MINUTES
 - IV. AGENDA



- A. ITEMS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION**
 - 1. President's report
 - 2. Confederations' reports
 - 3. Tsunami Task Force
 - 4. IFAB meeting 2007
 - 5. FIFA U-20 World Cup/FIFA U-17 World Cup
 - 6. Committee for Fair Play and Social Responsibility
 - 7. Sports Medical Committee
 - 8. Goa/ Bureau
 - 9. Task Force for the Good of the Game
- B. ITEMS SUBMITTED FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION**
 - 10. 57th FIFA Congress (Zurich, 30-31 May)
 - 11. FIFA Congress 2008
 - 12. FIFA Club World Cup 2007
 - 13. 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™
 - 14. 2014 FIFA World Cup™ in South America
 - 15. Football for a Better World
- C. FINANCIAL MATTERS**
 - 16. FIFA Marketing & TV AG
 - 17. Finance Committee
- D. LEGAL AND SPORTS POLITICAL MATTERS**
 - 18. Member associations
 - 19. Legal matters
- E. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
 - 20. Miscellaneous
 - 21. Next meeting

I. WELCOME

The President welcomed the members to Zurich for the first FIFA Executive Committee meeting of 2007. He noted that, in line with article 30 paragraph 7 of the FIFA Statutes and the applicable provisions of the UEFA Statutes, Michel Platini would henceforth assume the position of FIFA vice-president following his election as UEFA President on 26 January and his predecessor Lennart Johansson's decision to step down as a FIFA vice-president with immediate effect. As a consequence, Marios Lefkaritis was taking over Michel Platini's seat as a member of the FIFA Executive Committee for the remainder of the latter's mandate in the position and until any formal decision to the contrary was passed on this matter by the UEFA Congress. After a short presentation, the President wished them good luck in their new positions. Mentioning the various elections that had been organised by the confederations at their respective congresses in recent months to determine their representatives on the FIFA Executive Committee for the 2007-2011 period, the President noted that those elected or re-elected would formally be installed in their positions on 31 May by the FIFA Congress.

Rounding off his introduction to the meeting, he extended his congratulations to Worawi Makudi who had been elected president of the Football Association of Thailand earlier in the week.

II. ROLL CALL

The General Secretary called the roll. All the members were present with the exception of Dr Nicolás Leoz who had excused his absence in advance of the meeting.

III. MINUTES

The minutes of the following meetings were approved without amendment:

- Executive Committee no. 21 on 5-6 December 2006
- Players' Status Committee no. 9 on 17 October 2006
- Finance Committee no. 19 on 4 December 2006
- Organising Committee for the FIFA Club World Cup no. 10 on 15 December 2006
- Referees Committee no. 10 on 30 January 2007
- Organising Committee for the Olympic Football Tournaments no. 2 on 30 January 2007
- Associations Committee no. 10 on 31 January 2007
- Committee for Women's Football and the FIFA Women's World Cup no. 2 on 2 February 2007
- Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 and U-17 Women's World Cups no. 4 on 2 February 2007
- Internal Audit Committee no. 10 on 27 February 2007
- Legal Committee on 27 February 2007

The Executive Committee also ratified the decision passed by the FIFA Emergency Committee on 9 March 2007 to lift the suspension in place since 24 October 2006 on the Kenya Football Federation in view of the progress that the latter had since made in bringing its affairs into line with FIFA requirements.

Before moving on to the agenda and in response Chuck Blazer's question as to whether the Executive Committee was actually in a position to approve the minutes of standing committee meetings or if in fact it could only accept these documents, especially if the body in question had not met and approved the minutes itself in the meantime, the President underlined that the chairman and deputy chairman of all these committees were Executive Committee members and the Executive Committee could therefore be confident that the minutes were an accurate record of the relevant meetings. However, he indicated that the Legal Committee would, nevertheless, debate the subtle distinction Chuck Blazer made between the Executive Committee's authority to approve or merely to accept minutes of standing committee meetings and report back its findings in due course.

IV. AGENDA

The members unanimously approved the addition to the agenda of Toronto FC & Bermuda Hogges as item 19.12, the international match calendar as item 19.13 and a request from the Hong Kong Football Association regarding a special anniversary match as item 20.2. Furthermore, it was agreed that a report on the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2008 would be added to the items submitted for discussion listed under item 5 of the agenda.

A. ITEMS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

1. President's report

The President opened his report by expressing his deep sadness at the deplorable scenes of violence on the pitch between players that had tarnished the reputation of the game of football in the preceding weeks including incidents during high-profile club matches in England and Spain. He emphasised that this increase in violence between players would be given special attention during the 2007 FIFA Congress in Zurich on 30-31 May.

He then called for a minute's silence in memory of the members of the international football family who had sadly passed away since the last Executive Committee meeting: Abdullah Al-Dabal (Saudi Arabia) – former FIFA Executive Committee member and FIFA honorary member; René Hüssy (Switzerland) – long-serving FIFA instructor and FIFA Order of Merit holder; Werner Hackmann (Germany) – president of the German football league; Sampson Emeka Omeruah (Nigeria) – former chairman of the Nigeria Football Association; Jacoby Michel (Vanuatu) – deputy chairman of the Vanuatu Football Federation; Judge Keba Mbaye (Senegal) – president of the Court of Arbitration for Sport and honorary IOC member; Siegfried Honga (Cameroon) – FIFA instructor for administration & management; Mirosljub Rajic (Serbia) – general secretary of the Football Association of Serbia; Eliane Cremona (Luxembourg) – former general secretary of the Luxembourg football association; Blagoje Vidinic (Serbia) – member of Yugoslavia's 1960 Olympic gold medal-winning team; Sergio Ibarra Alcaino (Chile) – U-17 national team player; Ihab Kareem (Iraq) – young footballer who lost his life in a car bombing in Baghdad; David Vanole (USA) – former national team player; José Carlos Bauer (Brazil) – member of 1950 FIFA World Cup™-winning team; Somphone Phommakoun (Laos) – international referee; René Mathieu (Switzerland) – former international referee and FIFA instructor; Georg Buschner (Germany) – former coach of German Democratic Republic; Lamar Hunt (USA) – pioneer of professional football in the USA; Filippo Raciti (Italy) – police officer killed by hooligans after an Italian league match between Catania and Palermo.

Moving on to news of a happier nature, the President pointed out that the four-year period completed since the widespread criticism of FIFA's finances at the Extraordinary Congress in Seoul in May 2002 had been a great success leaving the governing body in a comfortable position with good financial reserves, thanks in no small part to the visionary decision to conclude a securitisation transaction in 2001 on the strength of part of the projected marketing revenue for the 2003-2006 period along with FIFA's commitment to boost revenue and reduce costs through the SCORE initiative. Looking to the years ahead, the 2006 FIFA Congress had already passed a USD 3.2 billion revenue budget for the 2007-2010 period and the projected revenue for 2011-2014 was even higher, thus making a grand total for the eight-year period of USD 7 billion a realistic proposition.

The President then reminded the members of the ongoing conflict that FIFA was involved in with MasterCard and VISA regarding the signing of a FIFA Partner contract in the financial services sector for the 2007-2014 period. The case had resulted in an unfavourable decision for FIFA from a New York court in December against which FIFA had since appealed. In the meantime, MasterCard had approached FIFA to propose that the two organisations meet in order to discuss the dispute. At the same time, VISA remained keen to honour the contract it had signed with FIFA. The President acknowledged that, while the case could cost several million US dollars, FIFA was nevertheless on the way to resolving the dispute and any financial expense incurred would constitute only a small fraction of the revenue FIFA generated between 2007 and 2014. He gave



his assurances that the FIFA President, together with the chairman of the Finance Committee, would handle the matter diligently and called for the support and understanding of the Executive Committee in this regard.

Concluding his report, the President pointed out that FIFA was continuing its investigation into the leaks of various internal documents that had occurred during 2006 and one source, who was not part of the internal FIFA organisation but another football source, had already been identified. Although it had not thus far been possible to determine who had leaked the Ernst & Young report regarding Simpaul Travel, the investigation had confirmed that the document had not been transmitted from within the FIFA IT network.

2. Confederations' reports

The reports submitted by the six confederations documenting their activities in the preceding months were noted and thanks expressed to their authors.

The President highlighted the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the foundation of CAF and the decision reached at the African Union summit in Addis Ababa in January to declare 2007 the International Year of African Football.

3. Tsunami Task Force

Mohamed bin Hammam reported that, during its meeting on 30 January, the FIFA/AFC Tsunami Task Force had given its approval to two projects in the Maldives and one in India, which meant that virtually all of the USD 10.552 million gathered by the FIFA/AFC Tsunami Solidarity Fund in the light of the catastrophe that devastated parts of Africa and Asia in December 2004 had been assigned to projects in the stricken region. Furthermore, the deadline for the completion of the projects receiving support from the fund had been extended to December 2007.

4. IFAB meeting 2007

The President explained that, at its 121st Annual General Meeting in Manchester on 28 February, the International Football Association Board had reached a number of decisions including an amendment to Law 4 prohibiting political, religious or personal statements on players' equipment, which also meant that requests to wear a hijab in women's football would have to be rejected. A lengthy discussion on goal-line technology had led to the definition of four clear criteria that would have to be met by any such system, namely, that it must be 100% accurate, indicate immediately whether or not a goal is scored, transmit this information to the match officials only and not be used to assist any other decisions. After debating the possible increase of the number of assistant referees from two to four, the IFAB had invited its technical sub-group to explore this proposal further in collaboration with the FIFA Referees Committee, with a potential view to trialling the arrangement in a U-17 tournament at confederation or FIFA level in due course.

Responding to a question from Dr Michel D'Hooghe, the President indicated that the IFAB had also talked about the dangerous use of elbows and match officials would be reminded in the instructions they received for the 2007-08 season that such actions were to be sanctioned with a direct red card.



5. FIFA U-20 World Cup/FIFA U-17 World Cup

5.1 FIFA U-20 World Cup

Jack Warner reported that the organising committees for the FIFA U-20 World Cup and the FIFA U-17 World Cup had both convened on 19 March. He then confirmed that the 24-team FIFA U-20 World Cup 2007 would take place in Canada from 30 June to 22 July with matches being split between six venues – Burnaby, Edmonton and Victoria in the west of the nation, Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto in the east – and the FIFA headquarters would be situated in Toronto, the setting for both the official opening match and the final. The draw had been held on 3 March in Toronto, followed by a team workshop the next day. With 600,000 tickets having already been sold, the FIFA U-20 World Cup 2007 would be the largest single-sport event ever to take place in Canada. Moreover, the local organisers had recently confirmed that a new 20,000-capacity stadium in Toronto would be completed in time for the event. As Canada's first ever dedicated soccer arena, it would serve as an important legacy for the future development of the sport across the nation.

5.2 FIFA U-17 World Cup

With respect to the FIFA U-17 World Cup Korea 2007, Jack Warner said that preparations in the host nation were progressing well. Since the last inspection visit in November 2006, the local organising committee had confirmed Cheonan, Changwon, Goyang, Gwangyang, Seogwipo, Suwon and Ulsan as the venues for the tournament, the first ever U-17 World Cup to be contested by 24 teams. The construction and renovation work required to ensure that the stadiums met the applicable FIFA requirements had been completed in the preceding months and the final draw was set to be held in Seoul on 17 May, shortly after the conclusion of the qualifying competitions in the confederations. FIFA and the local organising committee were continuing to collaborate closely on promotional activities in an effort to meet their target of selling 735,000 tickets for the event.

The President welcomed these reports and emphasised that the excellent ticket sales for the two tournaments firmly underlined the enormous popularity of FIFA age-group events and youth football in general.

5.3 FIFA U-17 and U-20 Women's World Cups

Chuck Blazer informed the members that in the previous month he had headed FIFA delegations on inspection visits to New Zealand, the host nation for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2008, and Chile, the host nation for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2008.

He stressed that the inspection in New Zealand had confirmed that the country had excellent facilities available and that the local media and government authorities would actively support the competition.

After the Executive Committee had viewed a short promotional film produced by the Chilean organisers of the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2008, Chuck Blazer explained that the FIFA delegation had been pleased to note during its inspection that, while the stadiums earmarked for the tournament were in need of substantial renovation, the Chilean government was making a commitment to finance the improvements. However, in order to leave sufficient time to carry out this work and to avoid potential clashes with the men's football season in Chile, the

