

The organising committees for all events under the direct control of FIFA, especially the FIFA World Cup but also FIFA Women's and Youth tournaments, should be obliged to use Integrity Pacts⁴ (anti-corruption contracts) for any construction projects and to publish reports under the new Sector Supplement Events of the Global Reporting Initiative, which provides guidelines for Corporate Social Responsibility.

Conclusion

Throughout its history, the workings of football's governing body have been opaque. However, people across the world, in all walks of life, are calling for an end to "business as usual" and demanding accountability from those in power. If FIFA wants to rebuild trust it must embrace transparency.

Football's governing body must be an example of the fair play that it promotes on the pitch. That is why it is so important for FIFA to address the wave of corruption allegations with a thorough, independent and transparent investigation, and why it should undertake the reforms recommended above.

Football is the world's most popular game with a global fan base numbering in the billions. It is a role model for youth everywhere and few bodies have such an opportunity for delivering a message of fair play, integrity and respect for the rule of law. A strong governance structure that explicitly rejects bribery and corruption, and officials, management, employees, volunteers and players committed to implementing a concrete anti-corruption programme, will send a strong message to the world. That is the way forward.

⁴ Integrity Pacts were designed by Transparency International to limit corruption in public contracting. They include an independent monitoring system under the leadership of civil society, which ensures increased accountability of spending. www.transparency.org/global_priorities/public_contracting/integrity_pacts

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