



ZENITH

MARMARAMUN'26

FIFA

Agenda Item

Evaluation of FIFA's World Cup host country selection process and criteria ahead of the 2034 World Cup

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Strive For Perfection

10th Anniversary

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ZENITH

Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Participants,

On behalf of the Secretariat and Organization Team, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to MarmaraMUN'26 Zenith. Following last year's pursuit of perfection, we now gather at the Zenith, the highest point, symbolizing our collective ambition in the 10th year anniversary of MarmaraMUN Society. As the Secretary General of the MarmaraMUN'26 Zenith and the Club President of the MarmaraMUN Society I am very pleased to host you at our university.

Zenith means the highest point, it comes from astronomy, where it describes the highest point in an arc traveled by a star or a planet or another celestial body. The sun reaches its Zenith when it is as high in the sky as it is going to go on that day. MarmaraMUN always represent the highest point, now we are putting a milestone for the MUN Community. You will gain experience from the best of the business in our country, almost every single one of our board members have secretariat experiences and they contributed to the community for years. This statement also goes for our organization team and its members. You will debate, meet qualified people and of course, have fun.

Our carefully selected committees and agendas promise an exceptional academic experience. I invite you to speak with courage, think openly, and engage with respect. Every single individual present in the conference is hand-picked from 1500+ applicants, so make it count and use the opportunity wisely. At the end of the day MarmaraMUN'26 Zenith is where ideas rise, friendships form, and legacies begin.

Welcome to MarmaraMUN'26 Zenith and be prepared to strive for perfection.

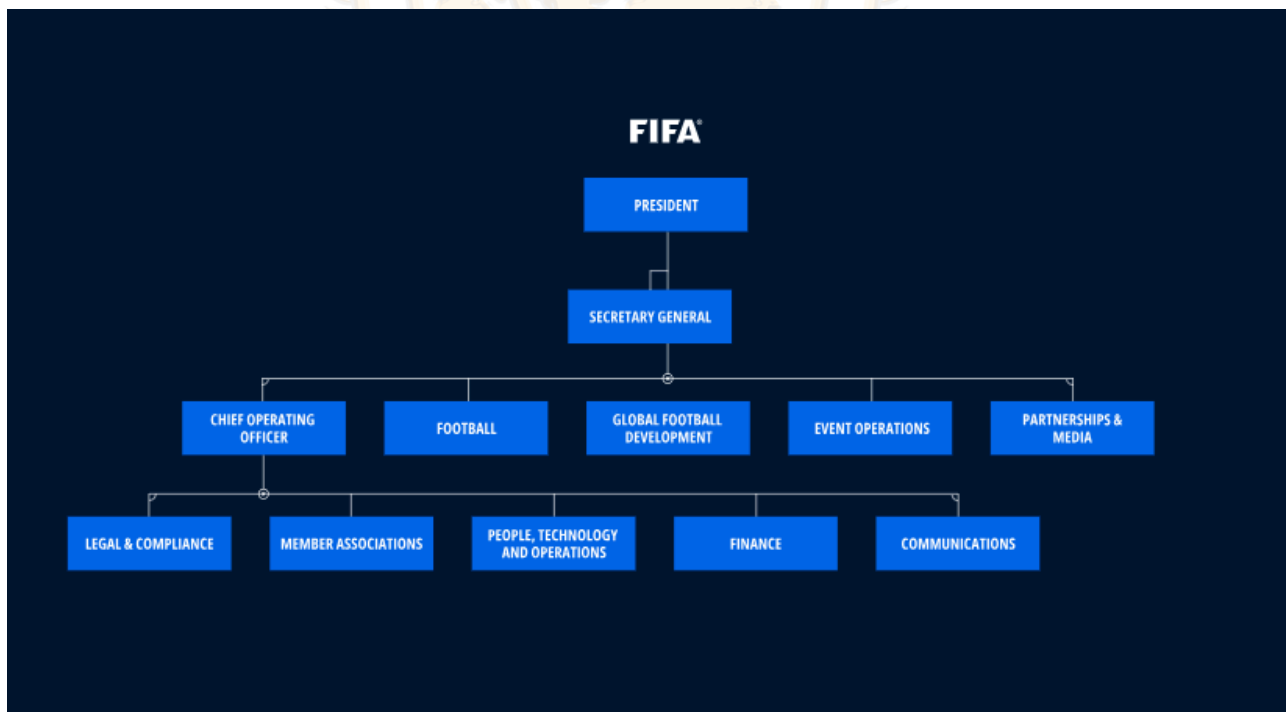
Sincerely,

Korcan Musa KARAŞAHİN

Secretary General of MarmaraMUN'26 Zenith

2. Introduction to the Committee

FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) was founded in 1904 in Paris and has been serving as the international operational body of football ever since (InsideFIFA,2024). Membership of FIFA includes more than 200 national football associations (Brittanica).FIFA is responsible for setting the rules of football. However, it would be a huge mistake to see FIFA as an organization that only deals with the rules of football and everything happening on the pitch. The missions of FIFA are broader. FIFA is responsible for promoting football development in all levels including grassroots initiatives to elite international competitions (InsideFIFA,2024). Actions of FIFA can be listed under 12 categories which are advancing football, refereeing, legal&compliance, transfer system, women's football, innovation, talent development, tournament organization, sustainability, human rights, educational initiatives and health&medical. FIFA is a huge organization which has several committees dealing with the aforementioned categories.



Outside the pitch, FIFA is running 7 different campaigns: Football Unites the World, No Discrimination, No Racism, Be Active, Concussion: Suspect and Protect, World Football Week, Reach Out. The goal behind these campaigns is simple: To show the entire world that football is not just football.

Due to a confirmed bribery scandal involving the 2034 bidding process, FIFA has revoked Saudi Arabia's status as host. The removal was executed under the Host City Agreement's "Disrepute" clause, marking the first time a confirmed host has been unseated due to financial corruption. For the host position, there will be five candidate countries and blocs: **China, Argentina, Türkiye & Azerbaijan, Australia & New Zealand, and Norway & Sweden & Denmark**. Delegates of the FIFA Congress will be required to select the new host following the specialized procedure detailed in the second section of this guide. During the selection process, several critical criteria must be evaluated, including economic capacity, infrastructure, football culture, and potential diplomatic crises.

3. Rules of Procedure of the Committee

A. Committee Structure

This committee simulates the host selection process of FIFA for the 2034 FIFA World Cup. The committee will consist of 30 delegates, each representing a commissioner responsible for evaluating bids and selecting the host nation. Delegates will be divided into five candidate commissions, with six commissioners in each commission, representing the five bidding groups competing to host the tournament.

B. Candidate Commissions

The five candidate commissions represent the bidding groups: China, Argentina, the joint bid of Türkiye and Azerbaijan, the joint bid of Australia and New Zealand, and the Nordic bid consisting of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.

C. Roles of Commissioners

Each delegate represents a commissioner within their respective commission. The specific roles of commissioners will be determined within the committee under the guidance of the committee board.

D. Debate Format and Presentations

Debate will follow modified MUN procedures. Traditional moderated caucuses will be replaced by semi-moderated caucuses, allowing more flexible interaction between delegates while still being guided by the chair. Unmoderated caucuses will allow commissions to coordinate strategies and develop their bids. On the final day of the conference, each commission will deliver a formal presentation defending its candidateship file. After each presentation, a Question and Answer (Q&A) session will take place, allowing commissioners from other commissions to question the proposal and evaluate the strength of the bid.

E. Crisis Elements

A crisis team will periodically introduce updates related to the candidate process, including political developments, economic changes, or infrastructure challenges affecting the bidding nations. Delegates will be expected to respond to these updates and adapt their strategies accordingly.

F. Candidateship File

Each commission must prepare and submit a candidateship file outlining its proposal to host the tournament. This document will form the basis of the commission's final presentation and defense of its bid for hosting the 2034 FIFA World Cup.

4. Historical Background

A. History of the FIFA World Cup

Before the organization of the World Cup was established the football tournament was being held as part of the Summer Olympics. This tradition continued until the 1920's. But at those times the game of football faced a transition to professionalism which was not consistent with the Olympic spirit (FootballHistory,2026). Hence, FIFA started to make plans and arrangements to organize a World Cup. The decision which included arranging the first edition of the FIFA World Cup was officially declared on May 26, 1928. The first official World Cup was hosted by Uruguay in 1930 with 13 nations. Since then the World Cup has been organized every 4 years except for the interruptions that occurred due to the Second World War. The number of nations that joined the World Cup has also changed over the years. From 1934 to 1978, 16 nations were eligible to attend the World Cup. That number was changed to 24 between 1982 to 1994. From 1994 to the current day 32 nations are participating in the World Cup. Brazil holds the record of being the most participated nation in the World Cup (22) and winning the tournament most (7). Even though the conditions and the number of nations has altered during the years, the prestige and the joy of the World Cup has remained the same.



The first World Cup Final between Uruguay and Argentina

B. Past Host Selection Processes

1. The Early Era (1930–1954):

In the initial decades, hosting rights were often awarded during FIFA Congress meetings based on neighborhood to football's "centers of strength"—Europe and South America.

1930: Uruguay was chosen without a formal vote after other bidders (including Italy, Spain, and the Netherlands) withdrew to celebrate Uruguay's first constitution.

Logistical Conflict: Selection was often controversial due to the three-week boat journey between continents. This led to a boycott of the 1938 tournament in France by Argentina and Uruguay, who believed the host should alternate strictly between the two continents).

2. The Era of Alternation (1958–1998)

To prevent further boycotts, FIFA established a pattern of alternating hosts between Europe and the Americas.

Political Deals: Bidding was sometimes settled through mutual agreements. For instance, in 1966, West Germany and Spain agreed to support each other's bids for the 1974 and 1982 tournaments respectively, effectively "trading" hosting duties .

The 1986 Exception: Mexico became the first two-time host in 1986 after Colombia, the original selection, resigned due to economic difficulties (Topend Sports, 2026).

3. Modern Rotation (2002–2014)

The turn of the century saw the World Cup move to new territories, beginning with the first co-hosted event in *South Korea and Japan (2002)* (Topend Sports, 2026).

Formal Rotation Policy: Following a narrow 12-11 vote that gave the 2006 tournament to Germany over South Africa, FIFA introduced a mandatory continental rotation policy to ensure the tournament reached every confederation .

Implementation: This policy led to South Africa hosting in 2010 (Africa) and Brazil in 2014 (South America). However, the policy was criticized when Brazil became the only official bidder for 2014, leading FIFA to abandon the strict rotation in 2007 (Topend Sports, 2026).

4. Recent Reforms (2018–Present)

The dual selection of Russia (2018) and Qatar (2022) in 2010 sparked significant controversy and bribery allegations, leading to a overhaul of the voting system (Topend Sports, 2026).

The Two-Tournament Rule: Current rules state that a nation is ineligible to bid if it has hosted either of the previous two World Cups .

Congress Vote: While the 22-member Executive Committee previously decided hosts behind closed doors, the host is now chosen by a public vote of the entire FIFA Congress (all 211 member associations).

2026 Selection: This was the first time the Congress voted under the new transparency rules, selecting the "United" bid of Canada, Mexico, and the USA over Morocco .

5. Football is not Just Football

A. Economic Impacts of Football

The economic impact of football can differ in varied ways such as commercial revenues to national GDP growth.

1. Global Revenue and Commercial Power

Football is the center of the global sports industry, which facilitates billions in international trade.

Club Revenue: The 2024/25 season saw the top 20 revenue-generating clubs in the world surpass €12 billion in total revenue for the first time (Deloitte, 2026).

Income Streams: For the world's elite clubs, income is split across three main streams: commercial (sponsorships and merchandise), broadcasting rights, and matchday revenue (ticket sales and hospitality). In the 2023/24 season, commercial revenue accounted for the largest share at €4.9 billion, followed by broadcasting at €4.2 billion (Deloitte, 2025).

Trade Values: European countries alone imported approximately €13.3 billion in sporting goods and exported €11.7 billion in 2019, with football equipment being a major driver of these figures (Eurostat, 2021).

2. Economic Impact of Major Tournaments

Hosting mega events like the FIFA World Cup is often concluded with massive tourism and infrastructure development.

Viewership and Rights: The 2018 World Cup in Russia reached 3.57 billion viewers, making it a premier platform for selling global broadcasting rights and attracting millions of international tourists (FIFA, 2018).

Economic Catalysts: Nations bid for these events because they act as an incentive for local economies; however, some studies suggest that while they bring short-term tourism increases, the long-term impact of expensive stadium subsidies can be uncertain or even negative relative to the regional average (ResearchGate, 2026).

B. Political Impacts of Football

Football is often described as the "perfect political tool" because its global reach allows states and political actors to influence social movements, national identity, and international relations (CEON, 2025).

The political impact of the sport can be categorized into three primary areas:

1. Soft Power

States use football to enhance their international aura and legitimacy without using coercive force (Bourg & Gouguet, 2023).

Diplomacy of Attraction: Soft power is the ability to get what you want through attraction rather than payment or coercion. Countries like Qatar and Abu Dhabi have used club ownership (PSG and Manchester City) to make their national brands everywhere with the world's most popular sport (University of Manchester, 2022).

2. National Identity and Propaganda

Football serves as a powerful medium for nation-building demonstrating national strength (ResearchGate, 2026).

Regime Legitimacy: Totalitarian and democratic states alike have used football to promote national unity. For example, Germany used the 2006 World Cup to showcase its successful reunification and modern, progressive identity to the global community (ResearchGate, 2026).

Propaganda: The "will and tenacity" of political ideologies are often mapped onto football success. Mussolini famously declared football stadiums symbols of fascist strength (University of Manchester, 2022).

3. International Relations

Football acts as a "diplomatic thermometer," reflecting or even mitigating international tensions.

Sanctions: Football institutions are increasingly forced to take political stances. Following the invasion of Ukraine, European football bodies (UEFA) took firm positions against Russia, reflecting the broader political alignment of the European Union (WIMAYA, 2024).

Conflict: While football can reflect minor conflicts between rival nations, it also serves as a tool for public diplomacy that can unite divided societies around a shared sense of logic. (DergiPark, 2026).

C. Social Impacts of Football

Football has a profound influence on societies across the world, shaping cultural identities, social relationships, and community development. As the most widely followed

sport globally, football connects billions of people and plays an important role in forming national pride and collective identity. International competitions such as the FIFA World Cup often act as moments of national unity where citizens from different social, ethnic, and political backgrounds come together in support of their national teams. Victories in these tournaments are frequently interpreted as national achievements and can strengthen a sense of belonging among citizens. In many countries, football clubs also function as important community institutions that provide social spaces where individuals interact, build local identity, and participate in shared cultural traditions surrounding the sport.

Beyond national identity, football also contributes significantly to youth development and social mobility. Grassroots football programs supported by organizations such as FIFA and UEFA aim to increase participation in sport while promoting education, discipline, teamwork, and healthy lifestyles. In many developing regions, football initiatives are used as tools for social development, offering young people opportunities for education and personal growth while helping communities address issues such as poverty, inequality, and lack of access to organized recreational activities. However, football also reflects broader social challenges that exist within societies. Issues such as racism, discrimination, and violence among supporters have historically been present in the sport, prompting international campaigns and regulations designed to promote inclusion and equality. Initiatives such as anti-racism campaigns launched by UEFA highlight the role of football as a platform for raising awareness about social issues and encouraging more inclusive environments within stadiums and sporting institutions. As a result, football remains not only a form of entertainment but also an important social force that can influence attitudes, behaviors, and social cohesion within communities around the world.

D. Diplomacy in Football

Football has increasingly become an important instrument of international diplomacy due to its enormous global popularity and its ability to influence public perception and international relations. Governments frequently use football as a form of soft power, a concept in international relations that refers to the ability of states to shape global influence through attraction rather than coercion. Hosting major sporting events such as the FIFA World Cup allows countries to showcase their infrastructure, economic development, cultural heritage, and

political stability to a global audience of billions of viewers. For many states, particularly emerging or developing nations, hosting international football tournaments is seen as an opportunity to strengthen international reputation, attract tourism and investment, and demonstrate their capability to organize large-scale global events.

Football diplomacy also operates through international cooperation between governments, sporting institutions, and regional organizations. The organization of global tournaments requires coordination between multiple actors including national governments, host cities, security agencies, and governing bodies such as FIFA. This cooperation can encourage diplomatic engagement and foster stronger relationships between participating states. In some cases, football has even served as a platform for political dialogue between rival countries, as sporting events provide neutral environments where leaders and officials may interact outside traditional diplomatic settings. Additionally, football competitions can reflect broader geopolitical dynamics, with sporting organizations sometimes responding to international conflicts, sanctions, or political disputes involving participating nations. Consequently, football has evolved beyond a purely athletic competition and now plays an important role in global diplomacy, serving both as a symbol of international cooperation and as a stage where political and diplomatic dynamics can become visible to the global public.

6. Host Selection Criteria

A. Economic Capacity and Financial Sustainability

Economic capacity is one of the most critical factors in the selection of FIFA World Cup host countries. Hosting the tournament requires extremely high financial commitments, including investments in stadium construction, transportation infrastructure, security, tourism facilities, and operational logistics. Therefore, potential hosts must demonstrate both the ability to finance the event and ensure that the expenditures remain economically sustainable in the long term.

The total cost of hosting the World Cup has increased significantly over the past decades. For example, the 2014 FIFA World Cup hosted by Brazil cost approximately \$11–15

billion, including investments in stadiums, airports, urban transport systems, and security infrastructure. While Brazil experienced a short-term increase in tourism and international visibility, several stadiums built specifically for the event later struggled to generate sufficient revenue to cover their maintenance costs. This raised debates about whether the economic benefits justified the enormous public spending.

Similarly, the 2018 FIFA World Cup hosted by Russia required around \$11 billion in total investments. Much of this funding was allocated to transportation infrastructure, airport expansions, and stadium construction across multiple host cities. Although Russia benefited from improved infrastructure and tourism growth during the event, critics argued that large portions of the investments were financed through public funds rather than private partnerships, increasing the burden on government budgets.

The most expensive tournament in history was the 2022 FIFA World Cup hosted by Qatar, where overall spending—including stadiums, transport systems, hotels, and new cities—reportedly exceeded \$200 billion. However, most of these investments were part of Qatar's broader national development strategy rather than expenditures exclusively for the tournament. This example highlights how wealthy states may integrate mega-events into long-term economic development plans.

1. Economic Benefits of Hosting

Supporters of hosting the World Cup often highlight several potential economic advantages:

Tourism Growth:

Millions of international visitors travel to host countries during the tournament, boosting revenue for hotels, restaurants, and local businesses.

Infrastructure Development:

Major infrastructure projects—such as airports, roads, rail systems, and telecommunications networks—can accelerate national development.

International Visibility:

Hosting the World Cup can significantly improve a country's global image and promote future tourism and investment.

Employment Opportunities:

Large construction projects and event management create thousands of temporary jobs in sectors such as construction, hospitality, and security.

2. Economic Risks and Criticisms

Despite these benefits, many economists argue that the financial risks of hosting the World Cup are often underestimated:

High Public Spending:

In many cases, governments finance a large portion of infrastructure and stadium construction through public funds, potentially increasing national debt.

Underused Infrastructure:

Some stadiums built for the tournament become “white elephants,” meaning they are rarely used after the event but still require costly maintenance.

Opportunity Costs:

Funds spent on sporting infrastructure could potentially be invested in other sectors such as healthcare, education, or housing.

Short-Term Economic Impact:

Studies have shown that while tourism increases during the event itself, the long-term economic impact on GDP is often limited.

3. Increasing Emphasis on Financial Sustainability

In recent years, FIFA has placed greater emphasis on financial sustainability in the host selection process. New bidding regulations encourage countries to:

- Use existing stadiums and infrastructure whenever possible

- Share hosting responsibilities between multiple countries
- Provide transparent financial guarantees
- Demonstrate long-term economic planning

These reforms aim to reduce the financial risks associated with hosting mega sporting events and ensure that the World Cup leaves a positive and sustainable legacy for host nations.

B. Infrastructure and Stadium Standards

Infrastructure and stadium readiness are among the most demanding requirements in the host selection process for the FIFA World Cup. The tournament requires multiple stadiums with capacities generally ranging from 40,000 to 80,000 seats, along with advanced media facilities, security systems, hospitality areas, and transportation access. In addition to stadiums, host countries must provide well-developed airports, highways, rail systems, hotels, telecommunications networks, and training facilities capable of supporting millions of visitors and thousands of journalists.

Because of these requirements, infrastructure investments often represent a large portion of total World Cup costs. For example, the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil required major upgrades to stadiums and transportation networks. The government spent roughly \$3–4 billion on stadium construction and renovation alone, while additional billions were invested in airports, metro systems, and urban mobility projects. While these investments improved certain transportation systems and increased tourism during the event, several stadiums built for the tournament later struggled to find regular use.

1. The “White Elephant” Stadium Problem

One of the major criticisms of mega-sporting events is the creation of “white elephant” stadiums—large and expensive facilities that become underused after the tournament ends. Maintaining these stadiums can cost millions of dollars annually, creating long-term financial burdens for local governments.

A frequently cited example is the Arena da Amazônia in Manaus, which was built for the 2014 World Cup at a cost of approximately \$300 million. After the tournament, the stadium had limited use because the region does not have a large professional football club capable of regularly filling a 40,000-seat stadium.

Another example is the Arena Pantanal in Cuiabá, also constructed for the same tournament. Despite hosting several World Cup matches, the stadium later struggled to attract major sporting events and has faced financial difficulties related to maintenance and operational costs.

Similar concerns appeared after the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, where stadiums such as the Cape Town Stadium remained expensive to maintain while being used relatively infrequently by local teams.

2. Positive Infrastructure Legacies

Despite these challenges, World Cups can also produce positive long-term infrastructure benefits. In some cases, investments improve transportation systems, urban planning, and tourism infrastructure that benefit citizens long after the event.

For instance, the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia included major upgrades to airports, railways, and roads across multiple cities. These improvements helped modernize transportation networks and increased international tourism in several regions.

Similarly, the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar introduced advanced stadium technologies such as modular seating and cooling systems. Some stadiums were designed to reduce capacity or be partially dismantled after the tournament, allowing materials to be reused in other countries or sporting projects.

3. FIFA's Current Approach to Infrastructure

In response to past criticism regarding excessive spending and unused stadiums, FIFA has modified its host selection policies. Modern bids are encouraged to:

- Use existing stadiums whenever possible
- Renovate rather than build new venues
- Share hosting responsibilities between multiple countries
- Design stadiums with flexible post-tournament uses

These policies are intended to reduce unnecessary construction and ensure that infrastructure investments provide lasting value for host nations.

4. Importance for Future Host Nations

When evaluating potential hosts, FIFA now examines not only whether a country can build the necessary infrastructure, but also whether the facilities will remain economically and socially useful after the tournament. Countries that can demonstrate sustainable planning and efficient use of existing infrastructure therefore have a significant advantage in the host selection process.

C. Football Culture

Football culture is an important qualitative factor in the selection of host countries for the FIFA World Cup. While infrastructure and financial capacity are essential, FIFA also considers the level of public engagement with the sport, including domestic league popularity, youth participation, fan culture, and historical performance in international competitions. A strong football culture helps ensure vibrant stadium atmospheres, high local attendance, and lasting enthusiasm for the tournament among the host population.

Countries with deeply rooted football traditions often have long-established professional leagues, strong youth development systems, and large fan bases. For example, nations such as Brazil, Germany, and England possess extensive football infrastructures and passionate supporters, which contribute to the overall success and global appeal of the World Cup.

In contrast, countries with less developed football cultures may face challenges in generating widespread public engagement with the sport. This does not necessarily prevent

them from hosting the tournament, but it may affect stadium attendance, domestic enthusiasm, and the long-term legacy of football development after the event.

1. Argentina

Argentina possesses one of the strongest football cultures in the world. Football is deeply embedded in Argentine national identity and social life. The country has produced some of the sport's greatest players, including Diego Maradona and Lionel Messi, and has historically been one of the most successful national teams in international football.

Argentina has won the FIFA World Cup three times (1978, 1986, and 2022), most recently defeating France in the 2022 FIFA World Cup final. The country's domestic league, the Argentine Primera División, attracts large crowds and maintains intense rivalries such as the Superclásico between Boca Juniors and River Plate.

Because of this deep cultural connection to football, Argentina would likely generate strong local engagement and passionate fan support if selected as host.



2. Türkiye & Azerbaijan

The joint bid from Türkiye and Azerbaijan combines two countries where football plays an important role in public life.

Türkiye has a vibrant domestic football environment with passionate supporters and well-established clubs such as Galatasaray S.K., Fenerbahçe S.K., and Beşiktaş J.K.. Turkish stadiums are known for their intense atmospheres, and the national team achieved notable success by finishing third in the 2002 FIFA World Cup.

Azerbaijan has invested heavily in sports infrastructure and international events in recent years. Although football culture is less developed compared to Türkiye, the country has hosted several major sporting competitions and has expanded its football facilities through clubs such as Qarabağ FK, which has achieved success in European competitions.

The joint bid could combine Türkiye's passionate fan culture with Azerbaijan's modern infrastructure investments.



3. Australia & New Zealand

Football has grown significantly in Australia over the past two decades. The creation of the A-League helped establish a stable professional football system, while youth development programs have increased participation across the country.

Australia's national team, known as the Australia men's national soccer team, has regularly qualified for the World Cup since joining the Asian Football Confederation in 2006. The country also demonstrated strong organizational capabilities when co-hosting the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, which recorded high attendance and global viewership.

However, football competes with other major sports in Australia such as rugby, cricket, and Australian rules football, which can limit its cultural dominance compared to traditional football nations.



4. China

Despite its large population and economic capacity, China faces challenges in developing a strong football culture. The national team has struggled internationally and has qualified for the World Cup only once, during the 2002 FIFA World Cup.

The Chinese Super League experienced rapid growth during the 2010s with major financial investments in clubs and international players. However, financial instability and corruption scandals within the Chinese Football Association have negatively affected public trust and league sustainability.

To address these challenges, the Chinese government introduced a national football reform plan in 2015 aimed at expanding youth academies, integrating football into school programs, and increasing grassroots participation. These initiatives aim to strengthen China's long-term football development and build broader public engagement with the sport.



5. Nordic Countries

The Nordic countries—Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Iceland—possess a strong football culture and a long tradition of participation in international competitions. While the region has relatively small populations compared to many World Cup hosts, several Nordic national teams have achieved notable success. Sweden finished as runners-up in the 1958 FIFA World Cup and regularly qualifies for major tournaments, while Denmark won the UEFA European Championship in 1992. Iceland also gained global recognition after qualifying for the 2018 FIFA World Cup and performing strongly in the 2016 UEFA European Championship.

Domestic leagues across the Nordic region are stable and well-organized, though generally smaller in financial scale compared to Europe's major leagues. Despite this, the countries are widely recognized for their strong youth development systems, modern training facilities, and emphasis on grassroots participation. High levels of sports participation and strong community engagement contribute to a healthy football culture across the region.

The Nordic countries also cooperate regionally on sports governance, infrastructure development, and sustainability initiatives. Their experience hosting major international sporting events and maintaining high standards of transparency and governance may strengthen their credibility as potential hosts. However, challenges remain, including colder climates, relatively smaller stadium capacities, and the need for coordinated infrastructure investments across multiple countries to meet FIFA World Cup hosting requirements.

5. Comparative Importance for the 2034 Host Selection

Football culture influences not only the atmosphere of the tournament but also its long-term legacy. Countries with strong domestic football traditions often create highly energetic environments that enhance the global appeal of the World Cup. However, hosting the tournament can also stimulate football development in emerging markets by increasing investment in youth programs and grassroots participation.

For the 2034 host selection, delegates must therefore evaluate whether a host nation should be chosen primarily for its existing football culture or for its potential to expand the global development of football.

D. Diplomatic Crises

Hosting a major sporting event such as the FIFA World Cup requires not only infrastructure and financial capacity but also strong diplomatic stability. Political tensions, sanctions, or international conflicts involving other participating countries could create diplomatic crises that complicate hosting duties for a joint bid such as Türkiye and Azerbaijan.

International sporting events frequently intersect with global politics because sport is often used as a tool of diplomacy and soft power. Governments use sporting events to promote their international image and strengthen relationships, but political disputes can also spill into these events and create controversy or conflict.

1. Regional and Geopolitical Tensions

One potential challenge is the geopolitical environment surrounding the host countries. Both Türkiye and Azerbaijan are located in a region with several ongoing political disputes and rivalries. Diplomatic tensions with certain states could influence how those countries participate in the tournament or interact with the host governments.

For example, tensions involving countries such as Iran or Israel could create political complications if matches involving these teams are hosted in the region. Political protests, security concerns, or diplomatic disagreements could arise during the tournament, requiring careful diplomatic management.

2. Security Concerns Related to the Korean Peninsula

A major challenge for South Korea hosting a large international sporting event is its geographic and political situation on the Korean Peninsula. South Korea shares a heavily militarized border with North Korea along the Korean Demilitarized Zone. The two states

remain technically at war since the end of the Korean War in 1953, and periodic tensions such as missile tests or military exercises can raise security concerns.

Because events like the FIFA World Cup attract millions of visitors and global attention, geopolitical instability in the region could create concerns regarding security, logistics, and international participation. Past sporting events, such as the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, required diplomatic coordination between the two Koreas, demonstrating how regional tensions can influence international sports events.

3. Political Protests and International Pressure

Major sporting events are often used as platforms for political protest. Activists, governments, or international organizations may attempt to highlight political issues such as human rights, regional conflicts, or diplomatic disputes during the event.

For a joint bid by Türkiye and Azerbaijan, criticism or diplomatic pressure could arise regarding regional conflicts such as the dispute between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia. Political demonstrations by fans or international actors could affect the global image of the tournament.

4. Historical Precedents in Sports Diplomacy

History demonstrates that diplomatic tensions frequently influence international sporting events. For instance, political disputes have led to boycotts and protests during events such as the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow, when many countries refused to participate due to geopolitical conflict.

These examples illustrate that global sporting events are rarely isolated from international politics. Host countries must therefore manage diplomatic relations carefully to ensure the tournament proceeds smoothly.

7. Case Studies: Recent World Cups

A. The 2022 World Cup

The FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar is officially the most expensive sporting event in history, with total investment estimates ranging from \$200 billion to \$229 billion (SSBM, 2025).

To put this in perspective, Qatar's investment was roughly 15 times greater than that of the 2018 host, Russia, and potentially more than the previous 21 World Cups combined (SSBM, 2025).

1. The Strategic Framework: Qatar National Vision 2030

It is a common misconception that the entire \$220+ billion was spent solely for a four-week football tournament. Instead, the World Cup acted as a catalyst for the Qatar National Vision (QNV) 2030, a long-term plan to transform the country into an advanced, diversified society (GCO, 2026).

Diversification: The primary goal was to move the economy away from hydrocarbon (oil and gas) reliance by building a world-class tourism and innovation hub (IMF, 2024).

Infrastructure as Legacy: The vast majority of spending was on general infrastructure that would serve the country for decades, rather than just sports facilities (IMF, 2024).

2. Economic Impact

The financial return on such a massive investment is complex and generally viewed as negative in the short term (SSBM, 2025).

Direct Revenue: FIFA retained the bulk of tournament revenue (~\$7.5 billion), while Qatar received roughly \$1.56 billion, primarily from tourism and travel (Michigan Journal, 2023).

GDP Growth: The preparation decade saw a 9% annual growth in public capital spending. In 2022 alone, the event contributed to a 31.5% spike in annual GDP (IMF, 2024).

The "White Elephant" Risk: To avoid unused stadiums, Qatar designed several to be modular. For example, Stadium 974 was built from shipping containers and fully dismantled after the event, while others are being converted into community hubs, clinics, and schools (Michigan Journal, 2023)

B. The 2026 World Cup

The FIFA World Cup 2026, co-hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico, represents a massive shift in investment strategy compared to Qatar 2022. While Qatar built an entire nation's infrastructure from scratch, the 2026 tournament relies on existing high-capacity infrastructure, shifting the focus from building to optimizing and operating.

1. Investment Scale:

Unlike Qatar's \$220 billion state-led transformation, the 2026 World Cup is defined by a decentralized, high-efficiency investment model.

FIFA's Operating Budget: FIFA has allocated a total operating budget of \$3.8 billion for the 2023–2026 cycle to cover tournament management, logistics, and prize money (Mundo Deportivo, 2026).

Capital Investment: Total capital investments for 2026 are estimated at approximately \$900 million, primarily focused on upgrading existing stadiums to meet FIFA's stringent requirements (Mundo Deportivo, 2026).

2. Host City & Regional Expenditures

Because the tournament is spread across 16 cities in three countries, the financial burden and investment are distributed locally.

Stadium Upgrades: Major venues are investing heavily in "FIFA-fication." For example, AT&T Stadium (Arlington) underwent a \$295 million renovation to widen the field and replace turf with natural grass (Partners Real Estate, 2025).

City-Level Budgets: Individual host cities are managing their own operational costs. Toronto has approved a total budget of \$380 million (CAD), covering everything from security to transit upgrades (City of Toronto, 2025). Los Angeles projects local spending and logistics costs to reach hundreds of millions, largely offset by projected tax revenues (Micronomics, 2024).

Training Infrastructure: Beyond stadiums, investments are being made in grassroots and professional training sites. A notable example is the \$50 million National Training Center in Atlanta, funded in part by private donations (Partners Real Estate, 2025).

3. Projected Economic Impact

The 2026 World Cup is expected to be the most "profitable" in history in terms of GDP contribution relative to initial spend.

Global GDP Impact: The tournament is projected to generate a staggering \$40.9 billion in global GDP impact (Mundo Deportivo, 2026).

U.S. Specific Growth: The United States is expected to see a \$17.2 billion boost to its GDP and the creation of approximately 824,000 jobs (Mundo Deportivo, 2026).

8. Controversies and Criticisms

A. Human Rights Concerns: A Comprehensive Analysis

Human rights have evolved from a peripheral concern to a fundamental pillar in the evaluation and selection of FIFA World Cup host nations, representing one of the most complex challenges delegates will face in this committee. Historically, the immense scale of the tournament, which necessitates massive infrastructure projects and invites unprecedented global scrutiny, has repeatedly exposed host nations to severe criticism regarding labor rights, freedom of expression, and discriminatory practices.

The catalyst for FIFA's contemporary approach to human rights was the intense international backlash surrounding the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. During the decade-long

preparation for that tournament, human rights organizations documented extensive abuses under the kafala sponsorship system, including unsafe working conditions, withheld wages, and thousands of unexplained fatalities among the migrant workforce building the stadiums and related infrastructure. This public relations crisis forced FIFA to recognize its complicity in human rights violations, leading to the commissioning of the Ruggie Report in 2016, authored by John Ruggie, the former UN Special Representative for Business and Human Rights. This landmark report prompted FIFA to officially adopt a formal Human Rights Policy in 2017, explicitly committing the organization to respect all internationally recognized human rights and incorporating rigorous human rights risk assessments into the official bidding process. Consequently, for the 2034 host selection, candidate nations are no longer judged solely on their financial and logistical capabilities, but on their demonstrable adherence to international human rights standards, making this a central point of debate for all delegations.

Evaluating the 2034 candidate blocs requires a meticulous and objective analysis of their respective domestic policies and historical human rights records, as each bid presents unique and significant challenges that delegates must address.

The candidacy of China, for example, is heavily overshadowed by severe, systemic human rights controversies that draw consistent condemnation from the international community. Delegates must grapple with documented reports from the United Nations and numerous NGOs regarding the mass detention and forced assimilation of Uyghur Muslims in the Xinjiang region, alongside stringent national security laws that severely curtail freedom of speech, political dissent, and press freedom in regions like Hong Kong. Awarding the tournament to China would require delegates to debate whether sports mega-events can drive domestic reform or if they merely serve to "sportswash" authoritarian practices. Similarly, the joint bid of Türkiye and Azerbaijan presents profound human rights questions centered on freedom of expression, democratic backsliding, and regional conflict. In Türkiye, international monitors frequently highlight the imprisonment of journalists, political opposition figures, and restrictions on civil society organizations, while Azerbaijan's government is heavily criticized for its authoritarian suppression of political dissent, lack of independent media, and the recent displacement of ethnic Armenians from the Nagorno-Karabakh region, raising serious concerns about the safety and freedom of journalists and activists who would attend the tournament.

The candidacies of Argentina and Australia, while situated in democratic frameworks, are not immune to rigorous human rights scrutiny and present their own distinct set of controversies. In Argentina, the primary human rights concerns are deeply intertwined with socio-economic stability. The nation has a history of severe economic crises that have drastically impacted the economic and social rights of its citizens, leading to widespread poverty and frequent, sometimes suppressed, public protests. Delegates evaluating Argentina must consider the ethical implications of directing billions of dollars toward World Cup infrastructure in a nation where large segments of the population struggle to access basic necessities, potentially sparking civil unrest. Australia, often perceived as a low-risk candidate regarding traditional political freedoms, faces intense international criticism over two primary issues: its highly controversial offshore processing and indefinite detention of asylum seekers on islands like Nauru, and the systemic, historical disparities in health, incarceration rates, and political enfranchisement experienced by Indigenous Australians. Therefore, as delegates debate the 2034 host, they must navigate this complex landscape, recognizing that no candidate is flawless, and must advocate for binding commitments, independent monitoring mechanisms, and robust legal frameworks that ensure the selected host nation protects the rights of workers, marginalized communities, and international visitors throughout the lifecycle of the World Cup.

B. Environmental Impact of Hosting

The environmental footprint of the FIFA World Cup is monumental, encompassing the resource-intensive construction of massive stadiums, the rapid expansion of domestic transportation networks, the immense energy consumption of hospitality facilities, and the unprecedented volume of international air travel required by millions of attending fans. In recent years, as the global climate crisis has accelerated, FIFA has faced mounting pressure from environmental organizations and the international community to dramatically reduce this ecological toll, prompting the organization to make ambitious pledges of delivering fully carbon-neutral tournaments. However, these commitments are frequently and heavily scrutinized by independent environmental watchdogs who accuse the governing body of engaging in systemic greenwashing. For instance, the heavily publicized carbon-neutral claims

surrounding the 2022 World Cup in Qatar were formally determined to be misleading and unsubstantiated by the Swiss Fairness Commission, which found that FIFA had vastly underestimated the true emissions of the tournament and relied on highly questionable carbon offsetting schemes rather than actual emission reductions. Consequently, for the 2034 selection process, the committee must demand that candidate nations present rigorous, transparent, and independently verifiable sustainability strategies that prioritize the utilization of existing infrastructure, mandate the use of renewable energy, and actively minimize the tournament's direct ecological impact rather than relying on retroactive carbon credits.

Evaluating the environmental feasibility of the specific 2034 candidate blocs requires delegates to meticulously weigh each nation's domestic environmental policies, economic drivers, and geographical realities against the pressing need for global ecological sustainability. A bid from Australia presents a profound geographical and logistical challenge, as its immense distance from the majority of the world's football-watching population, combined with the vast expanses between its own prospective host cities, would inevitably generate an exorbitant carbon footprint driven almost entirely by aviation emissions.

The joint bid of Türkiye and Azerbaijan introduces a complex paradox of sustainability; while cross-border co-hosting inherently increases logistical travel emissions, a more pressing concern is the profound reliance of Azerbaijan's national economy on fossil fuel extraction, specifically oil and natural gas, which presents a deep philosophical and practical conflict with the overarching goal of hosting a progressively green tournament. China, on the other hand, possesses the unparalleled state-backed industrial capacity to rapidly construct state-of-the-art, renewable-energy-powered sporting infrastructure and comprehensive electric transit systems, yet its status as the world's largest overall emitter of greenhouse gases and its continued heavy reliance on coal power require delegates to critically assess the holistic environmental cost and potential hypocrisy of a Chinese-hosted event. Finally, evaluating the candidacy of Argentina requires delegates to consider the intersection of economics and environmentalism, questioning how a nation grappling with persistent economic volatility and hyperinflation can secure the massive, reliable capital investment strictly necessary to retrofit aging infrastructure or build new, genuinely sustainable facilities without resorting to cheap, environmentally degrading shortcuts.

9. Economic Analysis

A. The Infrastructure Boost (Pre-Tournament)

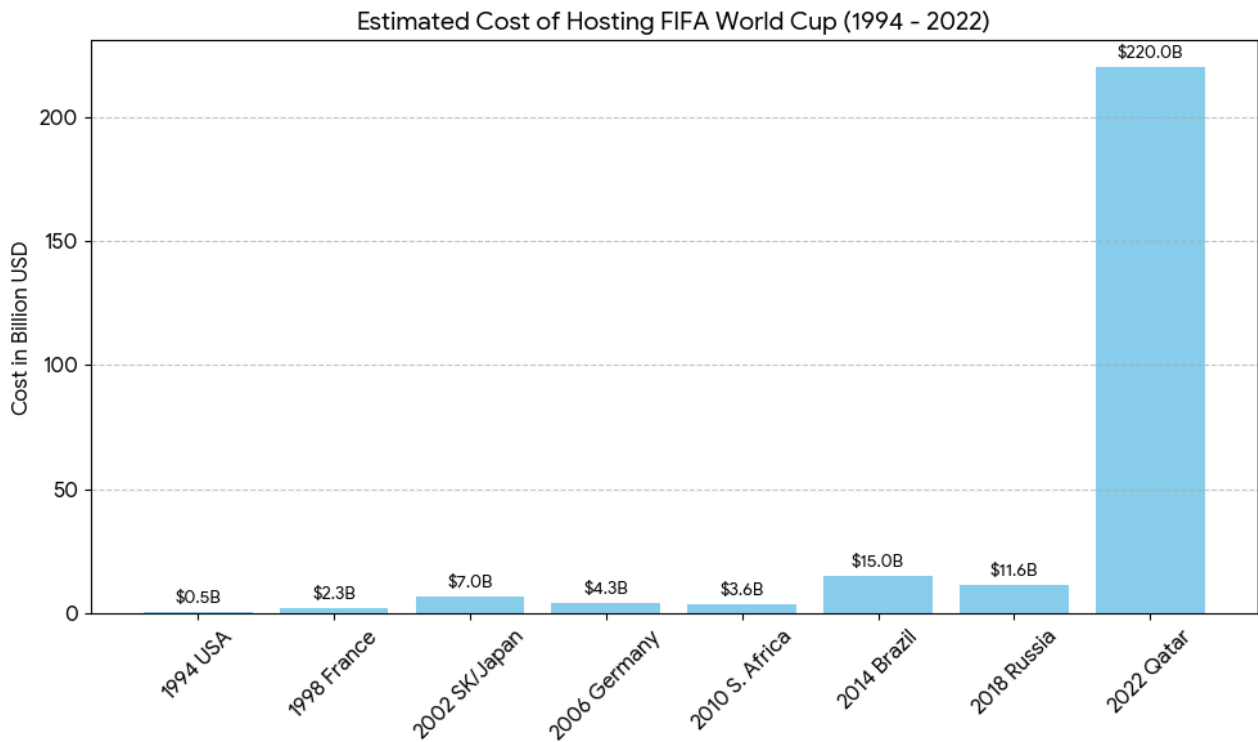
Years before the first whistle, hosting countries see a surge in construction and public spending.

Job Creation: South Africa (2010) projected the creation of 159,000 new jobs, many in the construction sector .

GDP Effect: In Qatar (2022), the decade-long preparation drove much of the country's non-hydrocarbon sector growth, contributing to a 9% annual growth in public capital spending (IMF, 2024).

Opportunity Cost: Analysts argue this money is often diverted from essential services. Brazil (2014) spent \$3.6 billion on stadiums alone—the single largest expenditure—while many promised bus and rail projects were cancelled (Diplomatic Courier, 2024).

The logo for ZENITH features a circular emblem with a globe in the center, flanked by two towers and topped with a crown. The word "ZENITH" is written in a large, bold, serif font below the emblem.



Swiss School of Business and Management (SSBM) Geneva and the Michigan Journal of Economics (2022)

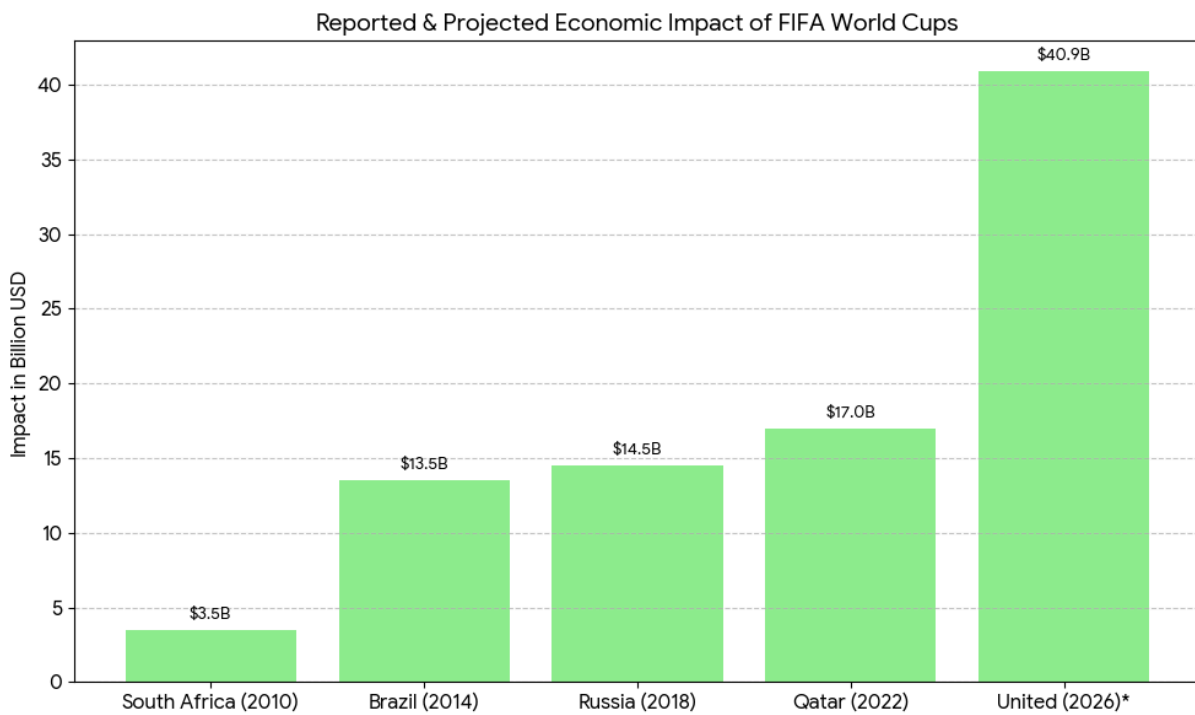
B. The Tournament Spike (During the Event)

The month of the tournament brings a concentrated injection of foreign capital.

Tourism Revenue: South Africa saw travel receipts surge to 51% of total service receipts in Q2 2010, compared to a 42% average in previous years (South African Reserve Bank, 2010).

Retail & Hospitality: Germany (2006) reported a sharp rise in turnover for grocers and beverage retailers during the event month, totaling an extra €3 billion in turnover for the tourist industry (Deutsche Bundesbank, 2006).

Substitution Effect: Conversely, some hosts see a crowding out effect. France (1998) actually experienced a 13.4% decrease in overnight hotel stays by non-residents as regular business travelers avoided the country to escape World Cup crowds.



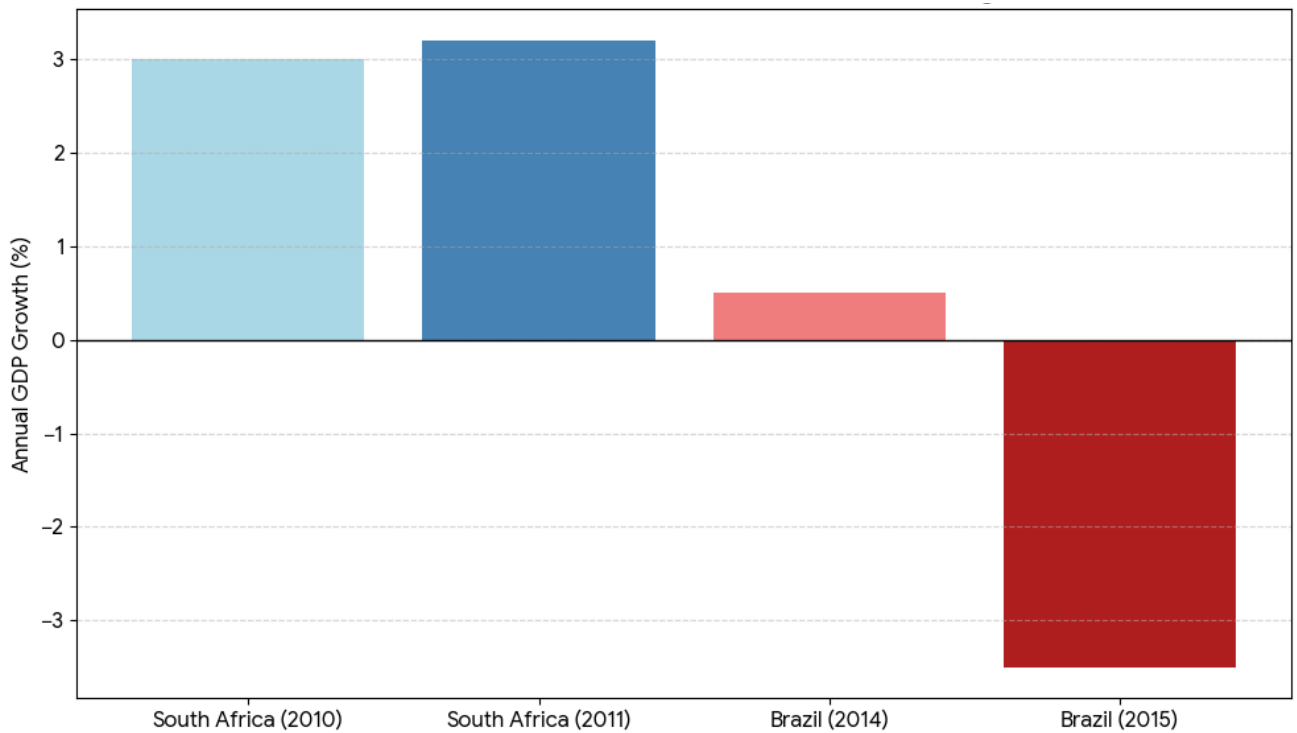
International Monetary Fund (IMF), FIFA Financial Reports

C. The Post-Event Hangover (Long-Term Analysis)

Once the fans leave, the reality of maintaining massive facilities sets in.

Growth Slowdown: Qatar's real GDP growth hit a staggering 8.0% in the quarter it hosted the World Cup, but slowed significantly in 2023-2024 as the "World Cup base effect" faded and global demand weakened (S&P Global, 2026).

Debt & Credibility: Heavy spending often leads to increased national debt. Italy (1990) overspent its \$2 billion budget by nearly double, contributing to long-term indebtedness .



10. Social and Cultural Controversies

A. National Identity and Pride

The intersection of mega-sporting events and national identity presents a profound socio-cultural dynamic that delegates must critically analyze. Hosting the FIFA World Cup is rarely just a logistical undertaking; it is a monumental exercise in state-building, soft power projection, and the cultivation of domestic nationalism. Historically, governments have leveraged the immense global visibility of the tournament to construct and broadcast a highly curated, sanitized version of their national identity, utilizing football as a unifying force to bridge internal societal divides or to legitimize ruling political regimes. This requires the

committee to evaluate the fine line between celebrating genuine cultural heritage and enabling "sportswashing," where states utilize the emotional resonance of national pride to distract the international community from domestic controversies.

For the 2030 candidate blocs, the mobilization of national identity presents distinct socio-cultural implications. A bid from China is inextricably linked to the state's broader geopolitical ambitions and the concept of the "Chinese Dream," wherein hosting the tournament projects an image of undisputed global preeminence, modernization, and internal cohesion. Delegates must scrutinize how this state-mandated narrative actively suppresses and homogenizes the distinct cultural, linguistic, and religious identities of minority populations, projecting a monolithic nationalism that belies domestic repression. The joint candidacy of Türkiye and Azerbaijan introduces a politicized dimension rooted in the ideological framework of "One nation, two states" . This bid asserts Pan-Turkic solidarity and regional hegemony, utilizing the tournament to cement a shared ethno-linguistic identity across borders. Delegates must evaluate the socio-cultural fallout, particularly how an exclusionary focus on Turkic pride might marginalize non-Turkic minority groups and exacerbate regional geopolitical tensions in the Caucasus and the Middle East.

Conversely, Argentina's bid requires an understanding of a culture where football transcends sport and operates as a fundamental pillar of the national psyche, serving as a unifying force in a society fractured by economic volatility and political polarization. While generating authentic cultural passion, delegates must be mindful of historical precedents, specifically the 1978 World Cup hosted by Argentina's military junta, which weaponized football-driven national pride to silence political dissent and mask human rights atrocities. Finally, Australia's bid relies heavily on projecting a harmonious, modern, and multicultural society. The core controversy revolves around the historical and ongoing marginalization of Indigenous Australians. Delegates must question whether the tournament will facilitate genuine reconciliation and authentic representation of First Nations cultures, or merely commodify and tokenize Indigenous heritage for international tourists, masking systemic inequalities within the national identity.

B. Fan Culture and Global Community

The World Cup represents the ultimate convergence of diverse global fan cultures, yet the stadium environment frequently transforms from a mere sporting venue into a highly volatile theater for geopolitical grievance and aggressive nationalism. This dynamic presents a monumental regulatory and diplomatic challenge for the global community and the governing body. FIFA's statutes, specifically Article 4 of the Laws of the Game, strictly prohibit the display of political, religious, or personal messages and symbols. However, enforcing this neutrality is notoriously difficult when host nations or visiting fanbases utilize the unprecedented global broadcast to project deeply entrenched regional conflicts. This phenomenon is characterized by the proliferation of problematic political symbols and ultra-nationalist chants within fan culture, which violate sporting regulations and possess the explicit capacity to incite physical violence, alienate minority groups, and exacerbate international diplomatic crises. Historically, matches involving nations with unresolved territorial or ethnic disputes have seen the deployment of fascist iconography, irredentist banners, and coordinated discriminatory chants targeting rival ethnicities, resulting in severe fines and stadium bans.

For the 2034 candidate blocs, these elements of fan culture require meticulous scrutiny to prevent the tournament from becoming a platform for hate speech. The joint candidacy of Türkiye and Azerbaijan operates within a region fraught with profound geopolitical volatility. Delegates must anticipate and mitigate the highly probable influx of ultra-nationalist symbols, such as the Grey Wolves (Bozkurt) hand gesture—which generated severe diplomatic friction and player suspensions during the 2024 UEFA European Championship—as well as the potential for hostile, state-sanctioned chants directed at neighboring populations concerning the unresolved legacies and displacements of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Similarly, a tournament hosted by China would be heavily policed to enforce strict state censorship over fan expression, ensuring the absolute suppression of any symbols advocating for Tibetan independence, Uyghur rights, or Taiwanese sovereignty, while simultaneously risking state-tolerated, aggressive nationalist displays directed against historical regional adversaries. Even in democratic frameworks like Argentina, football fan culture is deeply intertwined with

national political grievances. This routinely manifests in stadium-wide chants asserting sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), directly challenging FIFA's mandate of political neutrality and requiring the committee to establish robust, enforceable frameworks to ensure the safety and diplomatic integrity of the global event.



Few issues in modern sports governance cut as deep as the treatment of LGBTQ+ individuals in World Cup host countries. FIFA's own statutes explicitly prohibit discrimination — yet the organization has repeatedly struggled to uphold that commitment when host nation laws directly conflict with it.

The 2018 World Cup in Russia and the 2022 tournament in Qatar made this tension impossible to ignore. Fans arrived in countries where their identities were either criminalized or actively suppressed. The controversy over the "OneLove" armband ban, the threat of yellow cards for players who wore them, and security staff physically confiscating rainbow flags inside stadiums sent a clear message: when international sporting bodies clash with the domestic policies of authoritarian hosts, it is usually the LGBTQ+ community that pays the price.



This cannot be the precedent the committee accepts for 2034.

1. Türkiye & Azerbaijan

Neither country explicitly criminalizes homosexuality on paper — but that legal technicality offers little comfort in practice. In Türkiye, Pride marches in Istanbul have been met with police violence and mass arrests for nearly a decade, consistently banned under vague "public morality" justifications. In Azerbaijan, LGBTQ+ people face targeted police raids, zero legal protections against discrimination, and pervasive societal hostility. Hosting a tournament that draws millions of international visitors — many of them openly queer — without extraordinary, legally binding guarantees from both governments would be deeply irresponsible.

2. China

China does not criminalize same-sex relations, but the state actively suppresses LGBTQ+ visibility. LGBTQ+ content is routinely censored across broadcast media and digital platforms, and advocacy organizations have been systematically shut down under the banner of promoting "traditional family values." For queer fans and athletes attending a tournament there, the question is not just legal safety — it's whether they could exist visibly and freely at all.

3. Argentina

Argentina's legal framework is among the most progressive in Latin America — it was the first country in the region to legalize same-sex marriage, and its anti-discrimination protections are substantial. However, delegates should not treat legal progress as the full picture. Deep social conservatism persists in many parts of the country, and the gap between what the law guarantees and what LGBTQ+ individuals experience on the ground — particularly outside Buenos Aires — remains a legitimate point of scrutiny. Argentina's record is strong, but the committee should still demand clear operational plans for ensuring fan safety and visibility across all host cities, not just the capital.

4. Australia & New Zealand

This joint bid presents the strongest human rights profile among the candidates on this particular issue. Both nations have enshrined marriage equality in law, maintain robust anti-discrimination frameworks, and have active, well-supported LGBTQ+ civil society movements. Queer fans and athletes attending matches in either country could reasonably expect both legal protection and genuine social acceptance. The challenge for the committee is not scrutiny here — it is ensuring that the high standard this bid represents becomes the baseline expectation for all future hosts.

2. Nordic Region

The Nordic countries—Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Iceland—are widely recognized for strong legal protections for LGBTQ+ individuals and generally high levels of social acceptance. Same-sex relationships and marriages are legally recognized across the region, and anti-discrimination laws are embedded within national legislation and public institutions. Major cities such as Stockholm, Copenhagen, and Oslo regularly host large Pride events and international cultural festivals that attract visitors from around the world.

C. Time Zone Issues

Time zones play an important role in the organization and global broadcasting of the FIFA World Cup. Because the tournament is watched by billions of viewers worldwide, match scheduling must consider peak viewing times in major football markets such as Europe, Asia, and the Americas. If a host country is located in a significantly different time zone, matches may take place at inconvenient hours for large audiences, which can reduce global viewership and broadcasting revenue. For example, tournaments held in East Asia or Oceania often require matches to be played early in the morning or late at night for European audiences, which traditionally represent one of the largest television markets for football. Similarly, tournaments hosted in the Americas can create late-night broadcasts for viewers in Europe and Africa. Therefore, when evaluating potential hosts such as China, Argentina, Türkiye & Azerbaijan, or Australia, decision-makers must consider how time zone differences could affect broadcasting schedules, fan engagement, and the overall commercial success of the tournament. Ensuring a balance between local match times, player welfare, and global audience accessibility remains a key challenge in host selection.

11. Technological Innovations

Technological innovations have become an essential part of modern football and play a major role in the organization of the FIFA World Cup. Host countries are increasingly expected to provide advanced technologies that improve fairness in matches, enhance fan experience, and increase the efficiency of tournament operations. As football continues to evolve, the

integration of new technologies has transformed how the game is played, refereed, broadcasted, and experienced by supporters worldwide.

One of the most significant innovations introduced in recent years is the **Video Assistant Referee (VAR)** system, which was officially implemented by FIFA during the 2018 FIFA World Cup. VAR allows referees to review key decisions—such as goals, penalties, red cards, and cases of mistaken identity—using video replays and additional refereeing officials located in a control room. This system aims to reduce human error and increase fairness in matches, although it has also sparked debates about game flow and the interpretation of decisions.

Another important technological development is **semi-automated offside technology**, which was introduced at the 2022 FIFA World Cup. This system uses multiple tracking cameras and sensors placed inside the match ball to quickly determine offside positions with greater precision. The technology significantly reduces the time required for offside decisions and provides more accurate visualizations for broadcasters and fans.

In addition to refereeing technology, **smart stadiums** represent another key area of innovation. Modern stadiums increasingly incorporate advanced infrastructure such as high-speed connectivity, digital ticketing systems, facial recognition security, and advanced crowd management tools. Some stadiums also use energy-efficient technologies, solar panels, and smart cooling systems to improve sustainability and reduce environmental impact. These features are especially important for host nations aiming to present themselves as technologically advanced and environmentally responsible.

Broadcasting technology has also transformed the global reach of football. Ultra-high-definition (4K and 8K) broadcasting, virtual reality viewing experiences, and advanced camera systems allow fans around the world to watch matches with unprecedented clarity and immersion. Data analytics and real-time statistics are also widely used to provide deeper insights for commentators, analysts, and viewers.

Finally, digital innovations such as mobile applications, fan engagement platforms, and artificial intelligence-based analytics are increasingly used to improve tournament management

and fan interaction. These technologies allow supporters to access live match information, stadium navigation tools, and interactive content throughout the competition.

As countries compete to host future tournaments, including the 2034 edition of the FIFA World Cup, the ability to integrate advanced technological solutions into stadiums, broadcasting, and tournament management will be a key factor in evaluating the strength of each bid. Nations that demonstrate strong technological infrastructure and innovation may gain a significant advantage in the host selection process.

12. Conclusion & Questions to be Answered

Selecting a host for the FIFA World Cup requires evaluating far more than footballing ability. Through the host selection process led by FIFA and the FIFA Council, countries must demonstrate strong infrastructure, economic stability, technological capability, and a lasting development plan for the tournament. Delegates must therefore analyze the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate—China, Argentina, Türkiye & Azerbaijan, and Australia—while balancing global accessibility, sustainability, and the long-term legacy of the tournament.

A. Questions to Consider

1. Which candidate has the strongest **economic capacity and financial sustainability** to host the tournament?
2. Do the candidate countries possess enough **modern stadiums and training facilities** to meet FIFA requirements?
3. How important should **football culture and domestic fan engagement** be in the host selection process?
4. How can **technological innovations** improve refereeing accuracy, broadcasting quality, and fan experience?
5. What role should **sustainability and environmental responsibility** play in the decision?
6. How might **time zone differences** impact global television audiences and commercial revenues?

7. How can host nations ensure **long-term infrastructure use** after the tournament ends?
 8. Should **co-hosting between multiple countries** be encouraged to reduce costs and improve regional cooperation?
 9. How should FIFA evaluate **transportation networks and accessibility for international fans**?
 10. What strategies should host nations implement to guarantee **player safety and match quality under different climate conditions**?
 11. How can host countries ensure **security and effective crowd management** during the tournament?
 12. Should **economic benefits to local communities** be considered a major factor in host selection?
 13. How can new technologies such as **semi-automated offside systems, data analytics, and smart stadiums** shape the future of football tournaments?
 14. To what extent should **political stability and international relations** influence the selection process?
 15. How can FIFA ensure that hosting the World Cup contributes to **global football development**, particularly in emerging football regions?
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