

Position Statement: The Migrant Workers' Centre in Qatar

9th of December 2021

Dear Mr. Infantino,

We are writing to you today to endorse the proposal by Builders and Woodworkers International (BWI) for the establishment of a Migrant Workers' Centre in Qatar.

Although in recent years, there have been important legislative and policy developments to protect the rights of migrant workers in Qatar, including on World Cup stadium construction, it is clear that this historic journey is not yet over. FIFA's influence and engagement at the highest levels of government remains important and key to the tournament leaving a positive legacy.

As you know, Article 3 of the FIFA Statutes states that the organisation "is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights." This commitment is further spelt out in FIFA's Human Rights Policy and in the commitments in the Sustainability Strategy for the World Cup in Qatar. These commitments include supporting, accompanying, and sustaining reforms and enabling further advances in the protection of the human rights of migrant workers in Qatar toward and beyond 2022.

Experience shows that full respect of worker rights depends on not just effective enforcement from the top, but also the support for and organisation of workers from the bottom. While migrant workers continue to be banned from forming and joining trade unions, the establishment of the Migrant Workers' Centre would be an important step towards supporting those who will remain in the country once the tournament ends. It will provide a vital space for these people to learn about their rights, develop skills in worker representation, and seek legal assistance and advice.

That is why we, the undersigned, endorse BWI's proposal to establish the Migrant Workers' Centre, and we urge FIFA to actively and urgently support this proposal, including by engaging with the Supreme Committee, Ministry of Labour and other key actors in operationalising it as a vital contribution to realising the rights, improving the conditions, and amplifying the voice of migrant workers.

If enabled to operate effectively – including through the commitment by the Qatari authorities to safeguard its status and independence, legal protection of all workers involved in it and proper resourcing - we consider the Migrant Workers' Centre could be an important step towards ensuring that a key part of the FIFA World Cup legacy is the protection and advancement of the rights of migrant workers and the betterment of their conditions long after the tournament is over.

Signed by partners of the Belgian information and consultation platform on Qatar

Patrick Vandenberghe
President
ACV- CSC BIE



Pierre Cuppens
General Secretary
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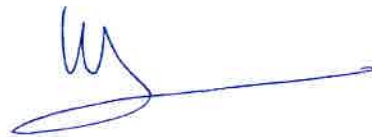
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