

The 2022 FIFA World Cup™: Building Human and Environmental Legacies through Sport

The 2022 FIFA World Cup™ represents an immense opportunity to foster solidarity between different cultures and strengthen sustainability and respect for human rights across Qatar and the Gulf. As the first Muslim and Arab State to host the tournament, Qatar has pledged to use the World Cup as a rallying point for the future of the region, leaving a lasting human and environmental legacy for the entire Arab world.



First and foremost, since Qatar won its bid to host the tournament in 2010, the country has introduced wide-ranging reforms to its labour laws. These include, in 2015, the introduction of a Wage Protection System to ensure the timely electronic delivery of workers' wages; in December 2016, the abolition of the 'kafala' system, which required that foreign workers secure permission from their sponsor to work, change jobs, or leave Qatar; most recently, in 2017, Qatar set out plans to introduce a minimum wage.

Such progress has been duly recognised by the international community. On Monday 26th February 2018, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva hosted an event titled, "Hosting Mega Sport Events: Strengthening the Respect for Human Rights". This brought together representatives from sports, government and civil society to reflect on the role that sporting events can play in promoting human rights and to identify challenges that can arise.

The Secretary General of Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC), H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi, spoke during the event, declaring that Qatar's World Cup preparations are fulfilling their promise to serve as an inspiration for improved human rights protections across the country. Partnerships with globally-recognised experts on labour and human rights, including the Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI) trade union, further ensure that international standards take root in Qatar. Combined with state-level reform, these changes

are helping to ensure the FIFA World Cup™ in Qatar delivers on its promise to leave a lasting human legacy for workers across the region.

In addition to increased workers' protections, Qatar has integrated environmental sustainability into all aspects of its FIFA World Cup™ preparations. In February 2018, H.E. the Minister of Municipality and Environment, Mohamed bin Abdullah Al Rumaihi, inaugurated the SC's Tree Nursery.

This 425,000m² facility – the biggest landscape turf farm in the world – uses recycled sewage water to produce more than 1,200,000m² of landscape grass per year and houses up to 16,000 trees. Now operational, the SC Tree Nursery will provide all the greenery Qatar needs to fill its eight iconic FIFA World Cup™ stadiums. After the tournament, it will transform into a huge public park.

But it is not just environmental sustainability that sets the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar™ apart from previous tournaments. Ras Abu Aboud Stadium, located on Doha's southern waterfront, will seat 40,000 spectators up to the Quarter-Finals in 2022. Built using modified shipping containers to reduce construction time and wastage, the modular structure will be dismantled after the tournament and reassembled into various sports or cultural venues across Qatar. For the first time in FIFA World Cup™ history, the venue could even be rebuilt in its entirety in another host nation, heralding a new era of reusable and sustainable mega-event infrastructure. It's one of the many tournament innovations Qatar is offering to the world of football and travelling teams and fans in 2022.

Ever since Qatar bid to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup™, the country has striven to deliver on its promise to leave a lasting positive legacy for Qatar and its people. With four-and-a-half years to go until kick-off, the nation's dreams are fast becoming reality as the world looks on expectantly. Qatar promised to deliver the most amazing FIFA World Cup™ that will make the entire Arab world proud and leave a profound legacy. Qatar is on track to deliver on that promise.