



Geneva, May 2006

To

Mr Joseph Blatter, President
Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), Zürich

Mr Franz Beckenbauer, President
FIFA Worldcup 2006 Local Organising Committee

Dear Sirs,

The World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA), representing more than 20 million physicians, nurses, dentists and pharmacists worldwide is deeply concerned about FIFA's reluctance to reinstate the memorandum of cooperation signed jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO) and FIFA prior to the 2002 FIFA World Cup. In the memorandum, WHO and FIFA agreed "that tobacco and sports do not mix and that tobacco in any form must be removed from all football events associated with FIFA."

The WHPA regards it fundamental that this memorandum is renewed and calls for urgent steps to make the FIFA World Cup 2006 a smokefree event. This is the only way of ensuring that for the duration of the World Cup the spectators from around the world are protected from tobacco smoke and are able to enjoy the largest sporting event in the world as a celebration of health, fitness and fair play – not addiction and death.

The FIFA World Cup 2006 will be televised internationally to billions of people of all ages and races. It is crucial that the image promoted by FIFA is one that encompasses a healthy competitive spirit, not to be overshadowed by the unhealthy, life-threatening habit of smoking. We believe that the FIFA World Cup 2006 is a unique opportunity to fulfil FIFA's commitment with the WHO and the people of the world. A strong smoke free message promoted through the FIFA World Cup 2006 would help in reducing tobacco use worldwide and help in saving millions of lives. We believe that only an outright smoking ban can send out a clear signal against tobacco use.

In calling for a smokefree World Cup 2006, the WHPA has joined the countdown campaign for a smokefree World Cup 2006, an initiative of the UICC Global Smokefree Partnership (www.globalsmokefreepartnership.org), which is being backed by over 230 organizations and alliances from over 40 countries.

Health professionals worldwide are confronted every day with the harmful effects of tobacco use. We urge FIFA and the Local Organising Committee of World Cup 2006 (OK FIFA WM 2006) to join forces with the UICC Global Smokefree Partnership by making the event smoke free and to lead by positive example.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Oulton
Executive Director ICN

Dr Otmar Kloiber
Executive Director WMA

Dr JT Barnard
Executive Director FDI

Ton Hoek
General Secretary and Chief Executive Director FIP

The World Health Professions Alliance brings together dentistry, medicine, nursing, and pharmacy through their representative international organisations, the International Council of Nurses (ICN), the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), the FDI World Dental Federation (FDI) and the World Medical Association (WMA) and represents more than 20 million health professionals worldwide.

www.whpa.org