Sir,

Your comments on Tuesday, March 11 during the interview with the German Press Agency, “The Congress will be called in to award the World Cup in the future and I will make sure that the Congress can also look at the social, cultural, let’s say the human rights situation,” are very welcomed and are of great importance for adults and children alike who look forward to the FIFA World Cups and its many benefits.

As a civil society organization working in over 70 countries with a large network of partner organisations, Terre Des Hommes welcomes your commitment to ensure that human rights will be considered in the future before the awarding of the World Cup and encourages the strong consideration of children as you do this.

To better understand both the positive and negative impacts of the FIFA World Cup on children, defined as 0 to 18 years of age, Terre Des Hommes is currently documenting its effects in South Africa and Brazil.

As shared by Terre Des Hommes recently at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, the concern of the effects on children in and around mega sporting events, such as the FIFA World Cup, goes beyond child sexual exploitation and includes but are not limited to:

- The negative impacts of forced eviction on children and their families;
- The worst forms of child labour;
- Police violence towards children and
- Insufficient allocation of funds to mitigate new risks for children.

We call for a united effort working together with you, the host and bidding countries, corporate sponsors, local organising committees and civil society organisations to both mitigate negative effects and maximize opportunities for children before, during and after the tournament.
Terre Des Hommes is Presenting Partner of the Corporate Social Opportunity Zone at the Soccerex Global Convention (6-10th September 2014). Soccerex leads the way in bringing together the football industry, providing a unique platform for the game to learn, network and do business. With the addition of the Corporate Social Opportunity Zone, the event will address the issues surrounding the risks on children and football’s responsibility. We foresee it being an important opportunity to discuss existing practice on the multiple risks children face and how the well-being and rights of children can be promoted and respected."

We support and encourage FIFA in the implementation of the commitment to human rights that you have taken on its behalf by offering our child rights expertise and our determination for change.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of our best consideration.

Ignacio Packer
Secretary General