Welcoming a Win-Win Situation for Children and for the FIFA World Cups

Terre Des Hommes welcomes the FIFA President’s commitment to ensure human rights and encourages the strong consideration of children

Geneva, 13th March 2014 - On Tuesday March the 11th FIFA President Joseph Blatter said in an interview with Australian Associated Press: “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.”

Terre Des Hommes sent a letter to President Blatter as a follow-up to his commitment on human rights and called for a united effort to work together with FIFA, host and bidding countries, corporate sponsors, local organising committees and civil society organisations to mitigate negative effects in and around the FIFA World Cups and maximize opportunities for children before, during these major tournaments.

“As a civil society organisation, we believe we have the responsibility to promote the highest level of ambition possible, rather than promoting or accepting compromises. Terre Des Hommes supports and encourages and will closely follow FIFA in the effective implementation of President Blatter’s commitment on human rights by offering its child rights expertise and its determination for change,” said Ignacio Packer, Secretary General of the Terre Des Hommes International Federation.

Terre Des Hommes is currently documenting the effects in South Africa and Brazil on children of the FIFA World Cups and is working with 70 other child rights organisation that share their concerns.

At the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Terre Des Hommes recently presented the multiple effects on children in and around mega sporting events, such as the FIFA World Cups, which go beyond child sexual exploitation and includes but is 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.

Terre Des Hommes, as Presenting Partner of the Corporate Social Opportunity Zone at the lead of the Corporate Social Opportunity zone of the Soccerex Global Convention (6-10th September 2014), has encouraged President Blatter and his team to consider this major
event of the football industry as an important opportunity to discuss existing practice on how the multiple risks children face can be addressed and how the well-being and rights of children can be promoted and respected.

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To know more on Terre des Hommes work on Mega Sports Events and impact on children visit: http://www.terredeshommes.org/causes/children-major-sporting-events/