

10 February 2022

Mrs. Sabrina Vettorato,
Secretariat

Re.: Concerns re. the Establishment of an Entity for Safe Sport

Coordination Secretariat for the Establishment of an Entity for Safe Sport

Dear Mrs. Sabrina Vettorato,

We are writing to you from the [Sport & Rights Alliance \(SRA\)](#), a global alliance committed to embedding human rights, including child wellbeing and safeguarding, as well as anti-corruption standards in world sport. We serve as a force multiplier for civil society groups and trade unions working to promote the rights of everyone affected by sport, including children, women, activists, journalists, LGBTI+ people, fans, athletes, and workers.

As you know, some of our partners have received your letters re. the establishment of the Coordination Secretariat (January 26, 2022); and around the first online meeting to “exchange ideas” (February 2, 2022). We are writing to you as a collective since we have jointly come to the conclusion that **there are still critical concerns in the conceptualization of a global Safe Sport Entity and the establishment of its Coordination Secretariat.**

As mentioned in an earlier letter sent to Ingrid Butler on July 16, 2021 (attached again here for reference), we remain unclear as to how you will ensure safe and non-exploitative ways of engaging with survivors during these meetings, as well as how you have envisaged representation of human rights experts, including player associations, in the governance structure in view of guaranteeing the Entity’s ***independence*** and ***transparency***.

Unfortunately, we have not found the communication of the establishment of the Coordination Secretariat and first meeting to be fully transparent nor ***human rights compatible*** as both letters fail to mention who are the other experts involved, nor are there clear terms of reference - objectives, outcomes, timetable. While we welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the agenda, without access to the necessary background information it is not possible to provide meaningful inputs.



THE ARMY OF SURVIVORS



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL Deutschland e.V.



It is also worth mentioning that we have not found any reference to our previous letter and feedback sent on July 16, 2021 on the 'Final Report of the Consultation Process to Consider the Creation of an International Safe Sport Entity (October 2021)'. Engagement and dialogue with the individuals and groups intended to use the grievance mechanism should be the top priority to ensure its **legitimacy, accessibility** and that it is a **source of continuous learning**. Without exchange and feedback on our inputs, it is difficult to develop trust and confidence in the envisaged entity.

References in **highlight** are made to the criteria for effective "non-state based grievance mechanisms" set out in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), Principle 31, as they provide a framework for defining all essential elements such an entity would need to meet.

As independent global organizations committed to ending the widespread abuse of athletes and with vast expertise exposing abuse in sports, **we kindly request the Coordination Secretariat to provide feedback on the following questions before the first meeting scheduled for February 17:**

1. What was the process behind the establishment of the Coordination Secretariat; and how have the Task Leader and other positions been selected? Was there a transparent, open selection process to fulfill those roles?
2. What are the steps taken to ensure the non-exploitative engagement of survivors during these consultation meetings and as representatives in the governance structure of the Entity?
3. How is the governance of the Coordination Secretariat independent from FIFA?
4. What are the overarching objectives, outcomes and timeline sought for the Coordination Secretariat and its first meeting on February 17?
5. Who are the other experts invited and on what basis were they selected to attend the meeting on February 17? Are we allowed to appoint or recommend other organizations to the meetings?
6. As the entity is intended to be global, how will the Coordination Secretariat ensure diversity and inclusion in its establishment, governance and representation (please exemplify)? Will there be translation and interpretation available, including sign language (if so, to which languages)?

We look forward to your response and we remain at your disposal if you have any questions or would like to schedule an online meeting with us. We can be contacted by email at andrea@sportandrightsalliance.org.

Sincerely,


Andrea Florence

Acting Director, **Sport & Rights Alliance**

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About the Sport & Rights Alliance

The Sport & Rights Alliance's mission is to promote the rights and well-being of those most affected by human rights risks associated with the delivery of sport. Its partners include **Amnesty International, The Army of Survivors, Committee to Protect Journalists, Football Supporters Europe, Human Rights Watch, ILGA World (The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association), the International Trade Union Confederation, Transparency International Germany, and World Players Association, UNI Global Union.** As a global coalition of leading NGOs and trade unions, the SRA works together to ensure sports bodies, governments and other relevant stakeholders give rise to a world of sport that protects, respects, and fulfils international standards for human rights, labor rights, child wellbeing and safeguarding, and anti-corruption. The SRA Acting Director, Andrea Florence is based in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and can be reached at +55 11 98420 0025 or andrea@sportandrightsalliance.org.