



Gianni Infantino
FIFA President

Nyon, 20 June 2019

Dear Mr Infantino,

Thank you for your letter, received today.

I understand the CAF's current difficult situation and welcome the efforts undertaken by all parties to improve it. However, even with the best will in the world to help CAF, I cannot for the time being approve the detailed proposal set out in your letter, for the following reasons:

Deadline

- The deadline given to respond is far too short for us to examine this proposal with a sufficient degree of seriousness. It is inconceivable to send a letter in the middle of the night (received at 1:50 this morning) and expect a response from me by 10:30 the same day. I am always prepared to help, but the FIFA Bureau of the Council must not be reduced to a mere rubber stamp function. Since the future FIFA General Delegate for Africa is not to take up her functions until 1 August, it would not have been too much to ask to allow the Bureau of the Council members a few days to examine the issue. I cannot be expected to have your proposal examined by UEFA's legal team or consult the European members of the FIFA Council on a subject of such great importance in a mere 90 minutes. Never in the history of our institutions has the FIFA Secretary General, who under the FIFA Statutes leads the organisation, been placed on secondment to take control of a confederation, even with the latter's consent. You must understand that this is not the type of decision to be taken lightly and in haste. Without our legal analysis of the situation and a consultation of the European members of the FIFA Council, I am not at liberty to approve the proposal you put forward.

No official CAF document confirming its decision

- When your teams contacted the UEFA administration in the late afternoon yesterday to inform us that a letter on this issue would be sent to me within the next few hours, my staff asked for one thing: an official statement by the CAF Executive Committee to confirm, on behalf of their member associations, that they were willing to have the FIFA Secretary General become the FIFA General Delegate for Africa for a renewable six months period. Without this written confirmation from the CAF Executive Committee, it is impossible for me to approve the proposal.

Reasonable doubt that the proposal complies with the statutes

- There is also a serious doubt that the solution proposed complies with the current statutes of FIFA and the CAF. Until this doubt has been dispelled and a serious, in-depth legal analysis has been carried out, I am unable to approve the proposal.

Possible conflicts of interest

- Without wishing to call into question the integrity and legitimacy of Mrs Fatma Samoura, whom I hold in the highest esteem, the solution proposed raises a large number of questions and in particular the likelihood of conflicts of interest. How would it be possible not to raise this issue, knowing that the General Delegate for Africa would remain FIFA Secretary General and would act "under the authority of both CAF and FIFA" as stated in your letter. That raises questions about the decision-making procedures and the guardrails that would need to be put in place to avoid any conflicts. It is therefore indispensable, before any decision can be taken, to have a better understanding of the mechanisms envisaged both at FIFA and at the CAF, with an accurate description of the role and powers of the FIFA General Delegate for Africa, an accurate description of the way FIFA would function in her absence, etc. At this stage, I am not in possession of enough information or assurances on this subject to be able to approve the proposal.

For these various reasons, I am sure you will fully understand that, in the current state of affairs and without additional information from you, I cannot approve the proposal set out in your letter sent to the FIFA Bureau of the Council members to appoint a FIFA General Delegate for Africa.

Yours sincerely,

UEFA

Aleksander Čeferin
President



Copy: AFC, CAF, CONCACAF, CONMEBOL and OFC Presidents
European members of the FIFA Council