

Gender inclusiveness in football governance

The following is a timeline of milestones on the road towards greater inclusion of women in football governance.

- 26 February 2016:** The Extraordinary FIFA Congress approved a set of reforms which had been presented by the 2016 FIFA Reform Committee chaired by Dr François Carrard and unanimously approved by the Executive Committee on **3 December 2015**. These principles and recommendations were incorporated into an [amended version of the FIFA Statutes](#) and pave the way for further significant and much-needed changes to FIFA's governance structure. One of the key aspects of the reforms is to increase the role of women in football governance. The reforms include a **greater recognition and promotion of women in football** with a minimum of one female representative to be elected as a Council member per confederation, and promotion of women as an explicit statutory objective of FIFA (cf. articles: 2 e) f), 4, 15 j), 23 j), 27.4, 33.5, 39.4, 49, and 52.2 of the FIFA Statutes, April 2016 edition) to create a more diverse decision-making environment and culture.
- 27 October 2015:** A set of proposals, titled "[FIFA, football and women: why reform must specify inclusion and investment](#)" was submitted by Moya Dodd, co-opted member of the Executive Committee and chairwoman of the FIFA Task Force for Women's Football, to Dr François Carrard, chairman of the 2016 FIFA Reform Committee.
- 18 August 2015:** During its third [meeting](#), the FIFA Task Force for Women's Football proposed that women in football be considered as a priority by the 2016 FIFA Reform Committee. It also proposed that FIFA issue guidelines on gender inclusiveness in football governance and management. The Task Force agreed that FIFA should itself work towards being the role model for those guidelines, which should include: **a target of 30% for women's participation on boards and committees and in senior management roles;** women's football being represented at the highest level and in the decision-making bodies through specialists, ideally women; women's football being fully integrated in the strategy of every member association; and processes, including the club licensing management process, being adapted to the specific needs and situations of women's football.
- 3-5 July 2015:** The [6th FIFA Women's Football Symposium](#) held in Vancouver (Canada) to coincide with the FIFA Women's World Cup 2015™ concluded with clear calls to action for greater inclusion of women in football.
- 24 June 2015:** FIFA launched the [Female Leadership Development Programme](#) with the objective of increasing the number of female leaders and role models in football.
- 6 March 2015:** First annual [FIFA Women's Football and Leadership Conference](#). To mark International Women's Day (Sunday, 8 March 2015), FIFA signed the Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration with the International Working Group on Women and Sport at the FIFA conference – a

declaration which sets out principles to support the empowerment of women in society and to promote gender equality.

- **10 February 2015:** At the [second meeting](#) of the Task Force for Women's Football, discussions on possible concepts outlined details for the creation of a FIFA Women's Club World Cup, including an inaugural edition set for 2017. As part of the proposal, the Task Force noted the importance of introducing such a competition to create an annual showcase of elite women's football and to provide an incentive not only to clubs, but also to confederations and member associations, to strengthen club football and club structures in their respective regions.
- **11 February 2015:** The results of the [FIFA Women's Football Survey](#) were [revealed](#). The survey was conducted in 2014 with the aim of gathering information on six key areas related to women's football. The areas ranged from governance and integration to perception, needs and challenges within women's football.
- **11 June 2014:** Concerning the development of women's football, the FIFA Congress approved the ten key development [principles](#) proposed by the Task Force for Women's Football. It was also announced that development funding for women's football would double in the 2015-2018 cycle. In addition, the Congress approved the extension of the mandate of the co-opted female members of the Executive Committee, Moya Dodd (Australia) and Sonia Bien-Aime (Turks and Caicos Islands), by one year.
- **12 May 2014:** The Task Force for Women's Football identified [ten key principles](#) for the development of women's football, which were discussed and recognised by the FIFA Executive Committee.
- **15 January 2014:** The FIFA Task Force for Women's Football, chaired by Moya Dodd, co-opted member of the FIFA Executive Committee and AFC Executive Committee member, held its [first meeting](#) at the Home of FIFA in Zurich.
- **4 October 2013:** Chaired by FIFA President Blatter, the FIFA Executive Committee held its third meeting of the year at the Home of FIFA in Zurich. The FIFA President opened the meeting by outlining a historic moment: for the first time in the history of FIFA, three women – Lydia Nsekera (Burundi) and co-opted members Moya Dodd (Australia) and Sonia Bien-Aime (Turks and Caicos Islands) – were taking part in a FIFA Executive Committee meeting. On the same date, the Executive Committee announced the creation of the FIFA Task Force for Women's Football, set up to identify and promote priority opportunities for women's football, and to create a FIFA Women's Club World Cup.
- **31 May 2013:** During the [FIFA Congress in Mauritius](#), Lydia Nsekera earned her place on the Executive Committee after receiving the most votes (95) in the first-ever election for a female candidate and was elected for four years. Moya Dodd (70 votes) and Sonia Bien-Aime (38 votes) also joined FIFA's top table as co-opted members for a period of one year.
- **5 February 2013:** In the framework of the FIFA governance reform process of 2011-2013, [four women were announced](#) as candidates to be elected as the 25th member of the FIFA Executive

Committee at the FIFA Congress to be held in Mauritius. The mandate was to be for a period of four years. The candidates were Moya Dodd (AFC), Lydia Nsekera (CAF), Sonia Bien-Aime (CONCACAF) and Paula Kearns (OFC).

- **25 May 2012:** Revision of the FIFA Statutes was approved by a vote taken at the [FIFA Congress in Budapest](#) for an additional position on the FIFA Executive Committee reserved for a woman to be created. The instalment of Lydia Nsekera as a co-opted member of the Executive Committee took place at the Congress.
- **22 May 2012:** Following a [meeting of the FIFA Executive Committee](#), it was announced that Lydia Nsekera, President of the Burundi Football Association and a member of the FIFA Committee for Women's Football and the FIFA Women's World Cup™ and the FIFA Organising Committee for the Olympic Football Tournaments, would be co-opted on to the Executive Committee. It was also decided that a formal election of a female representative on the Executive Committee would be held in 2013 once the new FIFA Statutes had come into force.
- **11 July 2011:** The [5th FIFA Women's Football Symposium](#) was held in Germany, with the ongoing growth and development of the women's game as the primary focus.
- **1 June 2011:** FIFA President Blatter proposed at the [FIFA Congress in Zurich](#) to have a position for a woman on the Executive Committee.
- **29 September 2007:** The [4th FIFA Women's Football Symposium](#) held in China recommended to FIFA that it continue to place more emphasis on creating opportunities for women to serve in football, including increasing the number of women on its committees, notably the FIFA Executive Committee and the FIFA Referees Committee.
- **11 October 2003:** The [3rd FIFA Women's Football Symposium](#) was held in the USA, where participants committed to bringing the game to new heights.
- **4 July 1999:** The [2nd FIFA Women's Football Symposium](#) was held in the USA where an appraisal of the situation at the time and a debate on strategies for future development featured on the programme.
- **22-23 October 1992:** The 1st FIFA Women's Football Symposium was held in Zurich following the first edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup™ held in China in 1991.