

Special Meeting on
Global Events

SMGE

MUNUC 36

Model United Nations at the University of Chicago

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CHAIR LETTER

Delegates,

Welcome to SMGE and MUNUC XXXVI! This year, SMGE will debate the myriad of concerns surrounding the coming together of the global community. I am excited to see how the nature of our committee, with its broad topic and focus on the future, will shape the discussions and solutions presented over the course of our conference together.

A bit about me: My name is Emma; I am a fourth-year in the College studying Sociology and History; and this is my fourth year at MUNUC! Last year, I chaired CSW and was previously a co-chair for UNESCO and a moderator for the WTO (live laugh love ECOSOCs). In addition to MUNUC, I also compete with our MUN team and serve as the Director-General of ChoMUN, UChicago's collegiate MUN conference. Outside of the MUNiverse, I work as a barista at ex-Libris (the best student-run café on our campus!) and complete intake for the Exoneration Project, a legal clinic that works to overturn wrongful convictions. Although we will be focusing on the world's largest stages and symposiums, I hope that you will use this topic as a stepping stone to engage with the nitty-gritty of topics such as international commerce, tourism, climate change, and public health. I recognize that these issues may be new for many of you, and I hope that this background guide will provide you with both a strong foundation for committee and in your daily conversations as well. I would also encourage you to explore outside of the committee and continue your own research if you'd like to learn more! I am unbelievably excited to meet you and see what you bring to SMGE at MUNUC 36!

Warmly,

Emma Kugelmass

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HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

Economic and Social Council Special Meetings are called as a necessity when global events require concentrated action and attention on a pressing niche issue. Special Meetings (SMs) are convened by an organ of the UN (in this case ECOSOC), rather than individual commissions such as the CSW, WTO, etc. Accordingly, SMs are not considered a standing functional committee or expert commission of the UN. Rather, when a SM is called, all ECOSOC members are encouraged to bring their committee and country-specific expertise and concerns to the conversation. Previously, ECOSOC Special Meetings have been called to discuss the SARS Outbreak (2003), the Indian Ocean Earthquake of 2004 (2005), as well as the Covid-19 pandemic (2020).¹ Historically, Special Meetings have convened to discuss the issues around major global events, rather than the events themselves. In doing so, Special Meetings prioritize solutions that ensure long-term international cooperation efforts, as is the primary purpose of the ECOSOC organ.²

¹"ECOSOC Special Meetings on Emerging Issues and Emergency Situations." UN.Org. United Nations Economic and Social Council, Accessed August 16, 2023. <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/ecosoc-special-meetings-emergency-situations>.

²"Economic and Social Council." UN.Org. Model United Nations Economic and Social Council, Accessed August 16, 2023.

Special Meetings have been convened to discuss a wide range of global issues, touching on multiple Sustainable Development Goals with each session. In May of 2023, an ECOSOC SM was held on the sole topic of SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).³ The purpose of this narrowly-focused SM was in preparation for the SDG 16 Conference, a joint effort by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO).⁴ Following the SDG 16 Conference, the 11th session of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) convened in July of 2023.⁵ The HLPF is the UN's primary body for discussing sustainable development; the initial Special Meeting ensured

<https://www.un.org/en/model-united-nations/economic-and-social-council>.

³"ECOSOC Special Meeting: Unleashing the Transformative Power of SDG 16." SDG.IISD.Org. IISD SDG Knowledge Hub, May 2, 2023. <http://sdg.iisd.org/events/ecosoc-special-meeting-unleashing-the-transformative-power-of-sdg-16/>.

⁴"SDG 16 Conference 2023." SDG.IISD.Org. IISD SDG Knowledge Hub, June 1, 2023. <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://sdg.iisd.org/events/sdg-16-conference-2023/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1692226347302119&usg=AOvVaw285CUTsXEOJlZ8hEOG05xS>.

⁵"High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2023." SDG.IISD.Org. IISD SDG Knowledge Hub, July 20, 2023. <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://sdg.iisd.org/events/sdg-16-conference-2023/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1692226347302119&usg=AOvVaw285CUTsXEOJlZ8hEOG05xS>.

that SDG 16 was prominently discussed and a prioritized focus of the forum.⁶ Special Meetings enable continued focus on specific and unique issues, even as those issues are discussed by the global community on a larger stage and at a larger scale.

All members of the Economic and Social Council within the United Nations are eligible to attend Special Meetings. ECOSOC is composed of 54 member delegations that each serve a term of three years.⁷ Members are elected by the General Assembly in accordance with proportional representation according to region.⁸ This is to ensure equitable advocacy within the Economic and Social Council and its respective committees. Through the collaborative efforts of all ECOSOC member states, Special Meetings have been and will continue to be critical opportunities for international cooperation and a more equal and empowered future.

⁶"High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development." Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform. United Nations, July 20, 2023. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>.

⁷Ibid.

⁸"General Assembly Elects 19 Economic and Social Council Members to Terms Beginning 1 January 2020, Adopts Resolution Commemorating Signing of United Nations Charter." United Nations. Meeting Coverage and Press Releases, June 14, 2019. <https://press.un.org/en/2019/ga12153.doc.htm>.

GUIDANCE ON GLOBAL ASSEMBLIES AND EVENTS

Statement Of The Problem

There is an entire Wikipedia page dedicated to the controversies surrounding the 2022 **FIFA World Cup**.⁹ The article is broken down into sections about the different areas where conflict arose: hosting, qualification, matches, controversies, people, and promotional and related media.

Human rights as a topic of specific international focus—including concerns about **migrant worker** treatment, gender parity, and LGBTQ acceptance—was reviewed by the Human Rights Watch, which referred to the event as, “A World Cup of Shame.”¹⁰

Among other notable points of international outrage were environmental and economic impacts. Stadiums for the games required 10,000 liters of water per day to be functional, which required high volume desalination, powered by oil and gas. The environmental strain on the

region caused by these water demands was heavily criticized in an article published by *The Guardian*.¹¹ The cost of hosting the event was similarly criticized. The total expenditure was speculated to be around \$220 billion U.S. dollars, 60x more than what South Africa spent to host the World Cup in 2010.¹² There is no question as to why this degree of scandal necessitated a Wikipedia page; how unique and extraordinary the 2022 World Cup was!

⁹Wikipedia. 2023. “List of 2022 FIFA World Cup Controversies.” Wikimedia Foundation. Last modified August 15, 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_2022_FIFA_World_Cup_controversies.

¹⁰“A World Cup of Shame: FIFA Fails LGBT Rights Test in Qatar.” Hrw.Org. Human Rights Watch, July 7, 2022. https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/07/07/world-cup-shame-fifa-fails-lgbt-rights-test-qatar?gclid=CjwKC_Ajw-b-kBhB-EiwA4fvKrJHKNrJAwM9f42w8kxM0MJRtz_wOeC2JNkQhD2Eb1YJTnIz-FIgRkBoCXOkQAvD_BwE.

¹¹“10,000 Litres a Day for Each Pitch: Water Strain in the Gulf and the Qatar World Cup.” Theguardian.Com. The Guardian, October 7, 2022.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/oct/07/10000-litres-day-pitch-qatar-world-cup-hug-e-impact-gulf-waters>.

¹²“Qatar World Cup Set to Hit All-Time Revenue High: Reports.” Dohanews.Co. Doha News, November 12, 2022. <https://dohanews.co/qatar-world-cup-set-to-hit-all-time-revenue-high-reports/>.



Figure 1. Protesters at a German soccer match prior to the 2022 World Cup¹³

There are also Wikipedia pages for the four previous World Cups and their respective controversies.¹⁴ There is even a Wikipedia page that lists every scandal and controversy at the Summer and Winter Olympics since 1908.¹⁵ The same goes for Eurovision political controversies, riots at the Papal Conclave, and specific pages

¹³"FIFA Clashes with European Countries over Human Rights at the Qatar World Cup." Lifegate.Com. Lifegate, November 18, 2022. <https://www.lifegate.com/human-rights-fifa-qatar-world-cup>.

¹⁴Wikipedia. 2023. "Category: FIFA World Cup Controversies." Wikimedia Foundation. Last modified April 6, 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:FIFA_World_Cup_controversies.

¹⁵Wikipedia. 2023. "List of Olympic Games Scandals and Controversies." Wikimedia Foundation. Last modified August 14, 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Olympic_Games_scandals_and_controversies#Winter_Olympics.

devoted to common means of cheating in cycling and marathon running.^{16 17 18 19}



Figure 2. Orthodox Christians in Cyprus protesting 2021 Cypriot Eurovision entry, a song called "El Diablo"²⁰

¹⁶Wikipedia. 2023. "Political Controversies in the Eurovision Song Contest." Wikimedia Foundation. Last modified August 1, 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_controversies_in_the_Eurovision_Song_Contest.

¹⁷Wikipedia. 2023. "Papal Conclave." Wikimedia Foundation. Last modified June 24, 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_conclave#Secular_influence.

¹⁸Wikipedia. 2023. "Doping at the Tour De France." Wikimedia Foundation. Last modified July 20, 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doping_at_the_Tour_de_France#:~:text=There%20have%20been%20allegations%20of,of%20competing%20in%20endurance%20cycling.

¹⁹Wikipedia. 2022. "Marathon Course-cutting." Wikimedia Foundation. Last modified July 30, 2022. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marathon_course-cutting.

²⁰"Protesters Demand Withdrawal of Cyprus' 'Satanic' Eurovision Entry." Theguardian.Com. The Guardian, March 6, 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/06/protesters-demand-withdrawal-of-cyprus-satanic-eurovision-entry>.

The same issues are seen consistently across global events, regardless of their nature: are the hosting capacities of the chosen host country fit enough? Was the host selection process fair? What is the human rights record and status of equality in the host country? What are the environmental impacts of event preparations and the climate contributions of the event itself? Is the governing body of the event ethical? What are the financial implications for event staffers and attendees? Will climate and scheduling affect the level of performance? What are the geopolitical implications for participation eligibility, attendance, and access? What role does financial compensation play? How do you ensure the safety of marginalized fans? Is the competition legitimate? What will the impact of the event on the host country be? How do you ensure recovery from the aftermath of the event?

For MUNUC 36, our Special Session is not being convened to discuss the most recent World Cup or Olympic Games. However, these events have made clear the pressing need for a reevaluation of how the global community convenes in response to different circumstances. With controversy so often surrounding global events, it would be easy to accept that conflict is an unavoidable aspect of the world coming together. Yet, while conflict and difference may be inevitable, controversy is something that can be addressed. Especially when the same kinds of controversy arise regularly, regardless of event, scale, and audience.

Learning from these events, this body will develop clear expectations for determining where global meetings are held, which countries are eligible to host, when these meetings can or should be held, who is considered an eligible attendee, what the experience of attending should be like, the process for restoring the event site in the aftermath, and how to institutionalize improvements from one global event to the next.

History Of The Problem

Selection Process

When discussing global assemblies, we should start with the most essential and obvious aspect of these events: location and the process of hosting. By and large, the nature and culture of global events are dictated by their host country, and the host selection process sets the tone for the progression of the event. Each global event has its own location selection process. Some, like the Olympics, World Cup, and Eurovision vary from year to year. Others, like the Papal conclave, music festivals, or life events for heads of state have their location predetermined. Oftentimes the host country selection for a global event is embroiled in conflict, whether it be concerning the selection process itself or the selected host. Rarely does conflict surrounding host selection disrupt an event in its entirety, but global host concerns can detract from the excitement of the impending event and even distract from the event

itself.



Figure 3. *Protestors in LA Fighting Against the City's Potential Hosting Bid*²¹

The most common response to host dissatisfaction is an event **boycott**. Boycotting global events has various **geopolitical** repercussions, which greatly vary depending on the country boycotting and their reasons for this action. A boycott can involve not sending competitors/athletes but still spectating, avoiding the event in its entirety, publicly lambasting the event but still attending, and anything in between. Additionally, depending on the kind of event, the significance of not attending can vary. For example, a country's decision to not participate in Eurovision due to financial constraints is much less controversial than the decision to boycott the Olympics in light of

concerns about the host country's human rights violations.

Regardless of an event's host selection process, there are common concerns and topics of discussion that factor into the decision. Although countries often bid for the opportunity to host, their decision to make a bid is contingent on their ability to effectively host and complete the following host responsibilities: build stadiums; ensure safety of attendees, performers, and competitors; adequately supply housing options; provide food, entertainment, and essential services; and all while maintaining their country's economic health. With sporting events, there is an additional emphasis on the host country's climate conditions relative to the needs of competing athletes.



Figure 4. *FIFA Announcing American, Canadian, and Mexican Host Cities for the 2026 World Cup*²²

²¹"The Tokyo Olympics May Be Over, But for NOlympics LA the Fight Has Just Begun." Kcet.Org. KCET, August 14, 2021. <https://www.kcet.org/news-community/the-tokyo-olympics-may-be-over-but-for-nolympics-la-the-fight-has-just-begun>.

²²"FIFA Announces Host Cities for 2026 World Cup." Insidethegames.Biz. Inside the Games, June 18, 2022. <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1124557/fifa-2026-world-cup-host-cities>.

Regardless of the above, the fairness of host selection is always heavily debated. Did the eventually selected-host country really deserve to be chosen or was there a backroom deal? These concerns are especially pressing if the aforementioned hosting qualifications are not sufficiently met throughout the course of the event according to the standards of the global community. In brief, the selection process for the Olympics, FIFA World Cup, and Eurovision are outlined below.

Olympics

The host country of the Summer and Winter Olympics is chosen by the members of the **International Olympic Committee**, based on a majority vote in a secret ballot.²³ Countries who are candidates to be selected do not participate in the vote.²⁴ The International Olympic Committee is composed of athletes, leaders of International Sports Federations, and representatives of international organizations recognized by the IOC as interested parties in the games.²⁵

²³"Who Chooses the Host for Future Olympic Games?" Olympics.Com. International Olympic Committee, <https://olympics.com/ioc/faq/roles-and-responsibilities-of-the-ioc-and-its-partners/who-chooses-the-host-for-future-olympic-games>.

²⁴Ibid.

²⁵Ibid.



Figure 5. *Italy's Celebration Following their Selection as the Hosts of the 2026 Winter Games*²⁶

Major cities and countries make bids to host either the Winter or Summer games every two years. The host is usually selected seven years prior to the Games to account for adequate preparation time.²⁷ Bidding cities undergo a ten month audit process by the IOC to ensure the city is capable of hosting the games.²⁸ Ample accommodation is the primary criterion for this audit. Following the audit, surviving "Candidate Cities" pay a fee of close to 150 thousand USD.²⁹ Once the host city is selected, these bids are immediately used to begin construction for the upcoming Olympics.

Fifa World Cup

²⁶"Italy Selected to Host 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan, Cortina." Ncbnews.Com. NBC News, June 24, 2019.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/italy-select-ed-host-2026-winter-olympics-n1020881>.

²⁷"How Is an Olympic Host City Chosen?" Worldatlas.Com. World Atlas, May 2, 2018. <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/how-is-an-olympic-host-city-chosen.html>.

²⁸Ibid.

²⁹Ibid.

The host selection process for the World Cup is similar to the Olympic Games. Interested host countries submit a bid to the International Federation of Association Football (Federación Internacional de Fútbol Asociación) (FIFA), expressing their interest and outlining their plans to host.³⁰ These plans must include stadium and facilities proposals, accommodation plans, and safety protocols.³¹ Similarly to the Olympics, the host country is selected close to seven years prior to the games, which once again, is to ensure that ample planning and preparation can be conducted.³² The host is selected through an exhaustive ballot system by FIFA's Congress, which has 209 members, one for each national football association of FIFA.³³

³⁰"FIFA World Cup 2026: Navigating the Hosting Process." Marketscale.Com. Market Scale, February 15, 2023. <https://marketscale.com/industries/sports-and-entertainment/fifa-world-cup-2026-navigating-the-hosting-process/#:~:text=FIFA%20selects%20the%20host%20country,plans%20for%20hosting%20the%20tournament.>

³¹Ibid.

³²"How Does a Country Get to Host the World Cup? (Explained!)." Soccerknowledgehub.Com. Soccer Knowledge Hub, July 10, 2022. <https://soccerknowledgehub.com/how-does-a-country-get-to-host-the-world-cup/>.

³³"The Structure and Policies of FIFA." Sites.Duke.Edu. Soccer Politics: A Discussion Forum About the Power of the Global Game, <https://sites.duke.edu/wcwp/tournament-guides/world-cup-2014/fifa-institutional-politics/the-structure-and-policies-of-fifa/#:~:text=The%20FIFA%20Congress%20is%20composed,elect%20the%20President%20%5B3%5D.>

Between 2010 and 2014, FIFA committed to rotating between continents for their games.³⁴

Prior to this policy, the World Cup had only been held in Europe and the Americas.³⁵ This policy was excessively controversial, and in 2018, FIFA adopted a modified continental rotation requirement.³⁶ Any country was able to bid to host, assuming the World Cup had not been hosted by their continental federation for the two prior years.³⁷ FIFA has specific requirements for hosting their games, including thresholds for stadiums, practice areas, accommodating **infrastructure**, and safety protocols.³⁸



Figure 6. *The 2002 World Cup, Co-Hosted by Korea and Japan was the First to be Hosted Outside of Europe and the Americas*³⁹

³⁴Ibid.

³⁵"Selection of World Cup Football Host." Topendsports.Com. Top End Sports [Sports + Science], <https://www.topendsports.com/events/worldcupsoccer/hosts/selection.htm>.

³⁶Ibid.

³⁷Ibid.

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹"Remembering Korea-Japan 2002: The Build Up." Theasiangame.Net. The Asian Game, September 5, 2022.

Eurovision

Eurovision has a very different and interesting selection process. The international song competition, which has been organized by the European Broadcasting Union since 1956, is the oldest annually-televised music competition and one of the longest running television programs. Following a country's win at Eurovision, they are honored with the hosting for the following year's competition.⁴⁰ Cities within the winning country bid to host, with a few criteria specific to the competition prioritized. Similar to other major global events, capacity for accommodations is the primary focus for host city eligibility.⁴¹ Beyond this, each country's process for selecting their host city is unique. For the UK's 2023 competition (they hosted on behalf of Ukraine), they selected their host city through a two stage evaluation process.⁴²

<https://www.theasiangame.net/remembering-korea-japan-2002-the-build-up/>.

⁴⁰"Selecting a Host City for the Eurovision Song Contest." Karlosinternational.Com. Karlos International, <https://www.karlosinternational.com/selecting-a-host-city-for-eurovision/>.

⁴¹Ibid.

⁴²Jacob, Liana. "Eurovision 2023: What Requirements Does a Host City Need to Be Chosen? What Is the Process? When Will the Host City Be Announced?" Yorkshirepost.Co.Uk. The Yorkshire Post, August 4, 2022. <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/whats-on/arts-and-entertainment/eurovision-2023-what-requirements-does-a-host-city-need-to-be-chosen-what-is-the-p>

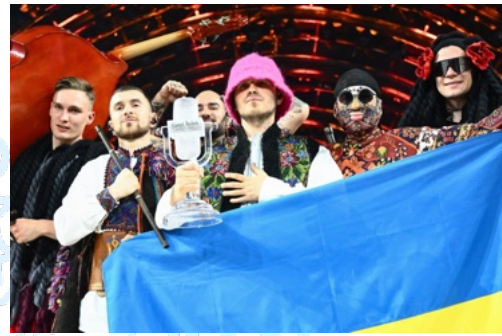


Figure 7. *Ukraine's Victory at Eurovision 2022*⁴³

There have been multiple scandals concerning bribery in both the FIFA and Olympic host selection processes, both speculated and confirmed. In these events, most suspicions surround the choice to host despite clear climate concerns for athlete performance, geopolitical consideration about the host country/cities place in global affairs, and concern for the relationship between governing officials and members of election commissions. The Eurovision host selection process is able to mostly avoid concerns of corruption in selection by virtue of relying on the chosen winners of the competition.

The Cost Of Hosting

It is an honor and a privilege to host global events, and countries compete for years to successfully be chosen to host. As a host country, the entire world looks on as you show the best of

rocess-when-will-the-host-city-be-announced-3793969.

⁴³Treisman, Rachel. "Ukraine Wins Eurovision 2022 with Overwhelming Support from the Audience." Npr.Org. NPR, WPSU Penn State, May 14, 2022. <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/13/1098810226/eurovision-ukraine-kalush-orchestra>.

what you have to offer. However, this honor comes at an incredibly steep cost, both metaphorically and literally. The cost of hosting global events has grown exponentially in recent years, and the financial burden of hosting has started to discourage many countries from bidding. This is especially significant given the increased pressure from the global community to diversify host locations. With host costs rising, the pool of eligible countries decreases and even countries who can afford to host are beginning to think twice.

World Cup

The 2022 Qatar World Cup made headlines when the total cost for hosting the event was reported to be close to 220 billion USD.⁴⁴ While this was largely due to high infrastructure costs, in part caused by the extreme temperature conditions of Qatar, this broke the record for FIFA World Cup event costs.⁴⁵ Prior to Qatar 2022, the most expensive World Cup had been the previous tournament hosted by Russia in

⁴⁴Craig, Matt. "The Money Behind the Most Expensive World Cup in History: Qatar 2022 By the Numbers." *Forbes.Com*. Forbes, November 19, 2022.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/mattcraig/2022/11/19/the-money-behind-the-most-expensive-world-cup-in-history-qatar-2022-by-the-numbers/?sh=86df43fbff5e>.

⁴⁵Statista Research Department. "Cost of Hosting the World Cup 1994 - 2022." *Statista.Com*. Statista, January 25, 2023. [statista.com/statistics/1361481/world-cup-host-total-costs/#:~:text=As%20of%202022%2C%20the%20FIFA,du%20to%20high%20infrastructure%20costs](https://www.statista.com/statistics/1361481/world-cup-host-total-costs/#:~:text=As%20of%202022%2C%20the%20FIFA,du%20to%20high%20infrastructure%20costs).

2018, with a total expenditure of 14.2 billion USD.⁴⁶ Something interesting about the World Cup is that the financial burden of hosting is managed entirely by the host country. As part of the bidding process, countries are required to demonstrate their financial abilities to adequately accommodate the event's demands; however, the actual cost of hosting often far exceeds the host's initial projections.

Olympics

While similar to FIFA's World Cup bidding process, in which host country candidates are required to demonstrate their financial eligibility, the Olympics relies on a different funding structure. Although the host country is responsible for funding a significant portion of the event's preparation costs, the International Olympic Committee, alongside other designated NGOs (non-governmental organizations), commit to financing this global event.⁴⁷ Although this has allowed a greater diversity of host countries, the cost of the games varies depending on the season and climate of the host location.⁴⁸

Accordingly, the cost of the event can vary greatly and some countries have begun to back down from hosting because of this barrier. There has

⁴⁶Ibid.

⁴⁷"How Are the Olympic Games Financed?" *Olympics.Com*. International Olympic Committee, <https://olympics.com/ioc/faq/roles-and-responsibilities-of-the-ioc-and-its-partners/how-are-the-olympic-games-financed>.

⁴⁸Ibid.

been increasing discourse surrounding the appeal of Olympics hosting given the scale and publicity of the event. This will be discussed further in the background guide, but following the 2 billion dollar loss from the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics, countries have increasingly declined to place host bids.⁴⁹

Eurovision

Similarly to the Olympics, Eurovision is not exclusively funded by the host country. Rather, Eurovision relies on a contributory, competitive “buy-in” structure in order to fully finance its competition.⁵⁰ Each year, Europe’s largest economies contribute a significant portion of funding in return for a spot in the final round.⁵¹ Most recently, these countries contributed about seven million dollars each.⁵² Although the total cost of hosting has varied (Moscow in 2009 cost \$42 million, whereas Malmo in 2013 cost \$20 million, Copenhagen in 2014 cost \$54 million, and most recently, Liverpool in 2023 cost \$30 million), the financial impact and expectation has

continued to grow, with variation primarily due to location considerations.⁵³

Participation in the competition is not contingent on financial participation. Regardless, some countries have even chosen not to compete in recent years due to financial constraints.

Although this background guide has focused primarily on the role of host countries and barriers to hosting, financial barriers to entry of any kind are a necessary consideration when evaluating the structure and accessibility of global events and programming.

Papal Conclave

An additional global event funding structure that is worth examining is self-financing. For this, we can look to the Vatican’s hosting of the **papal conclave**, or the election of the new pope. Huge numbers of people from all corners of the globe flock to Vatican City to witness the selection of the Church’s new head. The cost of accommodating these visitors, as well as press covering the event is huge; however, because the cost of the event is similar to the demands of hosting, the Vatican is largely able to self-finance the event with minimal loss and often make a profit.⁵⁴ Although this economic model for a

⁴⁹ Brito, Renata, and Stephen Wade. “AP Analysis: Rio De Janeiro Olympics Cost \$13.1 Billion.” *Apnews.Com*. Associated Press, June 14, 2017. <https://apnews.com/general-news-d1662ddb3bae4d2984ca4ab65012be78>.

⁵⁰ Gilchrist, Karen. “Can the UK Afford to Host Ukraine’s Eurovision? It Can’t Afford Not To.” *Cnbc.Com*. CNBC, May 12, 2023. <https://www.cnbc.com/2023/05/12/how-much-do-es-it-cost-the-uk-to-host-the-eurovision-song-contest.html>.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ “The Finances Behind the Vatican.” *Theeconreview.Com*. The Economics Review at New York University, March 2, 2023. <https://theeconreview.com/2023/03/02/the-finances-behind-the-vatican/#:~:text=Financial%20income%20from%20commercial%20investments,million%20income%20projections%20for%202022>.

global event is often unachievable given the demands of an event, the fact that it is possible is worth considering given the increasing concern surrounding the financial burden of hosting global events.⁵⁵

Economic Motivations For Hosting

One of the compelling, if not the most compelling, reasons to host an international event is the tremendous potential for profit. Between a massive increase in jobs and a boom for tourism, hosting global events is sought after for economic benefit. While the 2022 World Cup was surrounded by scandal for the treatment of its migrant workers, these migrant workers came seeking the increased jobs brought by event preparations.

It is estimated that more than 6,500 migrant workers from surrounding countries came to Qatar to work on the World Cup.⁵⁶ Qatar was expected to receive a 20 billion dollar economic

boost from hosting the games.⁵⁷ This was mostly from a massive increase in tourism brought by the games. Tourism anywhere in the world relies on foreigners visiting national sites and landmarks, shopping, eating, enjoying entertainment, and engaging with the businesses and economy of a country in as many different ways as possible. With global events that draw huge crowds for multiple days and weeks, the potential for tourist engagement can be an economic game changer, especially for countries desperately looking to grow.



Figure 8. *Migrant workers in Qatar for the 2022 Fifa World Cup*⁵⁸

⁵⁵Ibid.

⁵⁶Pattison, Pete, and Niamh McIntyre. "Revealed: 6,500 Migrant Workers Have Died in Qatar since World Cup Awarded." *Theguardian.Com*. The Guardian, February 23, 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/feb/23/revealed-migrant-worker-deaths-qatar-fifa-world-cup-2022>.

⁵⁷Killingstad, Liam. "The Most Expensive World Cup in History." *Frontofficesports.Com*. Front Office Sports, April 10, 2022. <https://frontofficesports.com/the-most-expensive-world-cup-in-history/#:~:text=Qatar%20is%20set%20to%20spend,worlds%20most%20prestigious%20football%20tournament>.

⁵⁸"The Workers Who Build Qatar's World Cup." *Marketplace.Org*. Marketplace Morning Report, November 18, 2022. <https://www.marketplace.org/shows/marketplace-morning-report/the-workers-who-built-qatars-world-cup/>.

Safety At Global Events

Migrant Workers and Worker Safety

As previously mentioned, one of the biggest stories from the 2022 World Cup was the role of migrant workers who came to work on event preparations. International alarm about the treatment of these workers was the headline story leading up to the games, as the human rights abuses suffered were shocking in scale. Four days after the World Cup had begun, the European Parliament urged Fifa and Qatar to compensate workers for their suffering while working on infrastructure for the games.⁵⁹ Concerns about wage abuse, inhumane working conditions in the blistering heat, and multiple deaths fueled the international outrage surrounding the treatment of migrant workers.

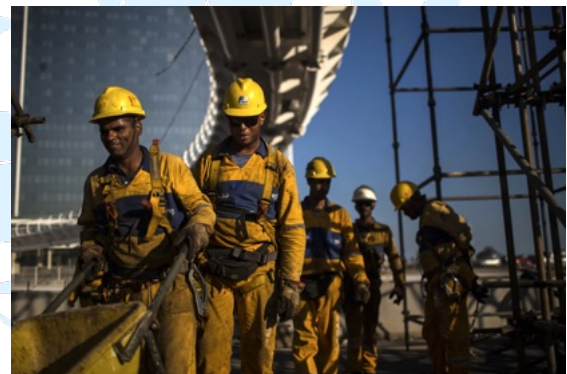
The concern for migrant workers in Qatar was not the first time a global event had introduced concern for worker safety. Leading up to the 2016 Rio Olympics, 11 workers were killed while on

the job preparing for the games.⁶⁰ The same safety concerns had been raised four years prior for the tens of thousands of migrant workers who helped build the Sochi 2012 Winter Olympic games.⁶¹ There appears to be a common trend of migrant worker abuse at global events. Historically, these transgressions were largely excused given the significance of the event at hand, but more and more there is an increasing global concern and disillusionment with the impressiveness of global venues when the human rights abuses of workers are widely known.

Figure 8. *Workers at the Rio Olympics*⁶²

Security and Safety of Global Attendees

Unfortunately the danger of global events is not contained to preparation. Global events present some of the most well-demonstrated and strategically advantageous sites for massive



Workers Ahead of Russia's 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi." Hrw.Org. Human Rights Watch, February 6, 2013.

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2013/02/06/race-bottom/exploitation-migrant-workers-ahead-russias-2014-winter-olympic-games>.

⁶²Cuadros, Alex. "What the Olympics Mean for Rio." Newyorker.Com. The New Yorker, August 5, 2016.

<https://www.newyorker.com/sports/sporting-scene/what-the-olympics-mean-for-rio>.

⁵⁹Francavilla, Claudio. "EU Parliament Backs Remedy Fund for Qatar Migrant Abuses." Hrw.Org. Human Rights Watch, November 24, 2022. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/11/24/eu-parliament-backs-remedy-fund-qatar-migrant-abuses#:~:text=On%20November%2024%2C%20the%20European,and%20making%20the%20games%20possible>.

atrocities and acts of violence. Beyond the obvious need for baseline venue security, like with any event, large groups of people contained within tight spaces present potentially very dangerous opportunities for people looking to cause harm and wreak havoc. This background guide will cover a few of these safety concerns in brief.

During the Atlanta Summer Olympics in 1996, a domestic terrorist placed a homemade **pipe bomb** under a concert sound tower in Centennial Olympic Park, which was acting as the town square of the games. A security guard found the bomb, alerted the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and the area was in the process of evacuating when the bomb detonated. One individual was killed by the bomb, 111 others were injured, and a cameraman suffered a heart attack while running from the blast.⁶³ Eric Rudolph, the individual responsible for the bomb, was caught after explosions at an abortion clinic and lesbian nightclub occurred and the same kind of bomb was used.



Figure 9. *The Site of the Centennial Olympic Park Bombing*⁶⁴

Global events present a unique opportunity to exercise geopolitical interests. At the Munich 1972 Summer Olympics, nine Israeli Olympic athletes were taken hostage and two were killed by the militant Palestinian organization Black September. In return for the Israeli athletes, Black September demanded the release of 234 Palestinian prisoners who were being held in Israeli jails following the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Black September had received assistance from a West German Neo-Nazi group and the success of their kidnapping was largely attributed to lax security in the German facilities. The victims of the Munich Massacre were honored at both the 2016 and 2020 Summer Olympics. While this event is exceptionally violent and unusual, the potential for hostage situations during global events is not. Although a similar hostage situation has not occurred since, this last example of safety

⁶³ Jacobs, Jeff (July 28, 1996). "In Atlanta, Fear Roams Hand In Hand With Anger". *Hartford Courant*. Archived from the original on March 3, 2016.

⁶⁴ Carlson, Adam. "'88 Days of Hell': The True Story of the Atlanta Olympic Bombing and the Wrongfully Suspected Hero at the Center." People.Com. People Magazine, January 1, 2020. <https://people.com/movies/richard-jewell-centennial-olympic-bombing-real-life-story-now/>.

concerns at global events addresses hostage situations that may go unnoticed by the general public.

It is widely documented and recognized that major global events lead to an increase in **human trafficking**, regardless of where they are held in the world.⁶⁵ Trafficking, or “the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining a person for labor, services or commercial sex acts by means of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of exploitation, involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, slavery or any commercial sex act involving a minor” is a major problem all over the world.⁶⁶

The NFL Super Bowl has been regarded as one of the world’s largest trafficking events given the documented increase in human trafficking which targets its spectators.⁶⁷ Given the increased demand for manual labor, sex for hire, and other forms of work around global events like sporting matches, concerts, and ceremonies, trafficking is more likely to occur. Although human trafficking

is not discussed as often as it should be, it is consistently a major security concern with global events and can have massive impacts if left unchecked.



Figure 10. *It's a Penalty, a Human Trafficking Advocacy Organization focusing on Global Events, Campaign Poster for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics*⁶⁸

What Happens After The Event?

The final aspect of global events that ought to be considered is what happens after the event ends. Following the 2016 Rio Olympics, pictures of dilapidated stadiums circulated around the world, much to the horror of the global community. With so much time, money, effort, and even life going into the building of these events, it is devastating what happens after they are all over. Many former sites of glory are full of debris, trash, and a host of other hazards.

Abandoned stadiums, once full of fields of lush grass and pristine amenities are ransacked, crumbling, and moldy, and quickly-built

⁶⁵ "Human Trafficking Surrounding the Olympics." Humantraffickingsearch.Org. Human Trafficking Search Presented by Freedom United, August 5, 2016.

<https://humantraffickingsearch.org/201685human-trafficking-surrounding-the-olympics/>.

⁶⁶Luttrell, Terri. "Human Trafficking and Major Sporting Events: The Dark Side of the Super Bowl." Acamstoday.Org. ACAMS Today, March 28, 2019. <https://www.acamstoday.org/human-trafficking-and-major-sporting-events-the-dark-side-of-the-super-bowl/>.

⁶⁷Ibid.

⁶⁸De Carvalho, Sarah. "The Power of Sporting Events in the Fight Against Human Trafficking." Itsapenalty.Org. It's A Penalty, <https://itsapenalty.org/2021/08/24/power-of-sporting-events/>.

residential buildings stand empty and overgrown.⁶⁹



Figure 11. *A 2016 Rio Olympics Aquatic Stadium, 6 months after the Games*⁷⁰

Although many global stands and stages are quickly left behind rather than reused, some efforts have been made to repurpose and reuse existing stadiums, buildings, and sites. There are still some Olympic villages that have been maintained that visitors can explore, and other sites that have been repurposed into urban renewal projects, arenas, waterparks, and venues.⁷¹

⁶⁹Davis, Scott. "What Abandoned Olympic Venues and Stadiums From Around the World Look Like Today." Businessinsider.Com. Insider, March 5, 2020.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/abandoned-olympic-venues-around-the-world-photos-rio-2016-8>.

⁷⁰Knowlton, Emmett. "Here Is What the Abandoned Venues of the Rio Olympics Look Like Just 6 Months After the Games." Businessinsider.Com. Insider, February 13, 2017. <https://www.businessinsider.com/rio-olympic-venues-are-abandoned-just-6-months-after-games-2017-2>.

⁷¹Diskin, Eben. "7 Repurposed Olympic Sites That Are Still Worth Visiting Today." Matadornetwork.Com. Matador Network, July 19, 2021.



Figure 12. *Tennis Palace in Helsinki Today*⁷²

For example, the above Tennis Palace, a stadium originally built in Helsinki, Finland for the 1940 Summer Olympics was left unused until the 1952 Olympics. When in-use, the stadium primarily served as a venue for basketball games. Today, the building is used as a cultural center, home to multiple museums, and a movie theater.⁷³ Similarly, the water sports venue in Beijing where Michael Phelps won his eight gold medals in 2008 is now a water park. Happy Magic Water Cube is

<https://matadornetwork.com/read/repurposed-olympic-sites-still-worth-visiting-today/>.

⁷²"Tennispalatsi ("Tennis Palace") in Downtown Helsinki." Discover Helsinki. September 5, 2019. Video, https://www.facebook.com/discoverhelsinki/photos/tennispalatsi-tennis-palace-in-downtown-helsinki-originally-a-tennis-facility-bu/695050934295935/?paipv=0&eav=Afb4mER0hL_wzliIBiPEqIUTCfd_68m2ZM_-M5Z51ZdSvmAA5FFdvD1P7s4w8WlzNIY&_rdr.

⁷³"The Water Cube Gets Happy Magic." Travel.Spotcoolstuff.Com. Spot Cool Stuff Travel, August 22, 2011. <http://travel.spotcoolstuff.com/beijing-china/happy-magic-watercube-water-park>.

now the second most popular tourist attraction in Beijing, following the Great Wall of China.⁷⁴



Figure 13. *Inside the Happy Magic Water Cube*⁷⁵

Past Actions

Global events, as discussed in detail throughout this background guide, present a wide variety of conflicts and concerns. They also present amazing opportunities for celebration. To confront some of the challenges that come from organizing, hosting and participating in these events, different countries and organizations have opted for certain changes and ideas over time to address these various issues.

Bribery

Following a bribery scandal in 2015, FIFA adopted new metrics for evaluating host bids. The 2015 FIFA scandal was a criminal investigation into suspected **money laundering**,

bribery, wire fraud, and **racketeering**.⁷⁶ Sports marketing executives, alongside continental football bodies CONMEBOL and CONCACAF, amongst others, were under investigation.⁷⁷ A **whistleblower** in the case then revealed that multiple bribes had been accepted in exchange for support of Qatar's World Cup bid.⁷⁸



Figure 14. *New York Times Cartoon Referencing the Fifa Scandal*⁷⁹

⁷⁶"Nine FIFA Officials and Five Corporate Executive Indicted for Racketeering Conspiracy and Corruption." Justic.Gov. U.S. Department of Justice, May 27, 2015. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/nine-fifa-officials-and-five-corporate-executives-indicted-racketeering-c-onspiracy-and>.

⁷⁷Rollin, J.. "2015 FIFA corruption scandal." Encyclopedia Britannica, March 16, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/event/2015-FIFA-corruption-scandal>.

⁷⁸"FIFA Corruption Crisis: Key Questions Answered." Bbc.Com. BBC, December 21, 2015. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32897066>.

⁷⁹Chappatte, Patrick. "On the FIFA Corruption Scandal." Nytime.Com. New York Times, May 29, 2015. [https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/30/opinion/patrick-chappatte-fifa-soccer-sepp-blatter-scandal.htm](https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/30/opinion/patrick-chappatte-fifa-soccer-sepp-blatter-scandal.html)l.

⁷⁴Ibid.

⁷⁵Ibid.

The new selection process was adopted following the selection of Qatar as the 2022 World Cup host. The new process will now prioritize, among other metrics, human rights requirements, sustainable event management, and environmental protection in bidding.⁸⁰ In addition to tackling issues of bribery and corruption in host bidding and selection, the additional focus on safety and security also responds to other major issues faced by global events.

Addressing Safety

As previously mentioned, one of the best responses to concerns of human rights violations in global events is to prioritize preventative measures in all aspects of its organization. Beyond host selection, it is important to ensure that the host country's work regulations and hiring practices are effective at managing worker safety, and more importantly, enforceable. Campaigns like "It's a Penalty" collaborate with planning organizations of global events to ensure that safety and security is at the forefront of every major event decision.⁸¹ Other nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations have similarly

been essential for establishing proper protocols that defend against issues of trafficking and manage crowd safety.



Figure 15. NGO Partnership in the U.S. Focused on Human Trafficking During Major Sporting Events⁸²

Separate from concerns regarding human rights violations and audience safety, the safety of female athletes and their attire has recently become a global conversation. While this is certainly not a human rights violation, many female athletes have spoken out against their required attire, citing their discomfort, impracticability, and unnecessary bodily exposure while competing or presenting.⁸³ Sporting organizations have recognized these messages, but many have still held firm on their clothing policies, with a few even requiring female athletes

⁸⁰Molinaro, John. "What You Need to Know About the 2026 FIFA World Cup Host City Selection Process." Sportsnet.Ca. Sportnet, June 15, 2022. <https://www.sportsnet.ca/soccer/article/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-2026-fifa-world-cup-host-city-selection-process/>.

⁸¹"It's a Penalty - What We Do." Itsapenalty.Org. It's A Penalty, <https://itsapenalty.org/what-we-do/>.

⁸²"Super Bowl Sunday - It's Time to Act." Usiaht.Org. U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking, <https://usiaht.org/superbowl/>.

⁸³"Clothes of a Woman." Indianexpress.Com. The Indian Express, July 7, 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/women-athletes-protest-sexist-outfits-tokyo-olympics-7425510/>.

to pay fines if they do not dress according to convention.⁸⁴ Not only does this demonstrate an institutional disrespect for the needs and interests of female athletes, but it also affirms a culture of silencing others when expressing issues with authority, thus creating an unsafe and unhealthy environment for female professional athletes.⁸⁵



Figure 16. *Teammates from the German Women's Gymnastics Team at the Tokyo Olympics, 2021*⁸⁶

New Hosting Models

When Ukraine won Eurovision in 2022, per competition rules, they were awarded the honor of hosting the 2023 competition. However, given

the ongoing situation in Ukraine, Great Britain stepped in to host on Ukraine's behalf.⁸⁷ While uncommon given the intensely competitive bidding process and the potential for massive tourist engagement, proxy hosting opens up a new solution to the issue of exclusivity in hosting.



Figure 17. *Special Promotional Poster and Logo Made for UK Proxy Hosting of Eurovision 2023*⁸⁸

Although there has always been debate about the elitism of hosting, partially due to the high costs of events, hosting on behalf of or in collaboration with other countries offers a way to reap the benefits of hosting without suffering from staggering costs.⁸⁹ This joint hosting will be seen in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, where games will be played across Mexico, the United States, and Canada.⁹⁰ Although multinational hosting and

⁸⁴Benchetrit, Jenna. "Women Athletes Are Pushing Back Against the Uniform Status Quo." Cbc.Ca. CBC News, June 30, 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/entertainment/women-at-hletes-uniform-changes-1.6122725>.

⁸⁵Pruitt-Young, Sharon. "The Sexualization of Women in Sports Extends Even to What They Wear." Npr.Org. NPR. WPSU, July 23, 2021. <https://www.npr.org/2021/07/23/1019343453/women-sports-sexualization-uniforms-problem>.

⁸⁶Planas, Antonio, and Associated Press. "Female Athletes Grab Spotlight at Olympics with Political and Social Demonstrations." Nbcnews.Com. NBC News, July 27, 2021. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/olympics/female-athletes-grabbing-spotlight-olympics-political-social-demonstrations-n1275222>.

⁸⁷Ibid.

⁸⁸"Liverpool to Host Eurovision Song Contest 2023 on Behalf of Ukraine." Eurovision.Tv. Eurovision Song Contest, October 7, 2022. <https://eurovision.tv/mediacentre/release/liverpool-host-eurovision-song-contest-2023-behalf-ukraine>.

⁸⁹Woodyatt, Amy. "The Winter Olympics Don't Really Represent the World: Costs, Climate and Quotas Keep the Majority Off the Podium." Cnn.Com. CNN, February 22, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/21/sport/winter-olympics-elite-wealthy-intl-spt/index.html>.

⁹⁰Ibid.

proxy hosting is not an option for all countries and is unable to work for all kinds and variations of global events, it may provide a comprehensive solution to some of the largest events plaguing global events today.

Taking Action

Boycotts

One of the most common ways that individuals have voiced their displeasure on the global stage is through their behavior during global events.

There is a long history of countries not sending teams to compete, athletes refusing to play against certain countries, or notable absences from ceremonial events.⁹¹ Although certain sporting events in particular have discouraged these kinds of boycotts, regarding them as instances of poor sportsmanship, boycotts continue to be a common way that geopolitical interests are promoted on a global scale. This is especially true in instances of global events where heads of state are involved, since their absences are notable and can have significant negative impacts on diplomatic progress.⁹² Although sporting events and concerts may not seem like serious

opportunities for global progress, the relationships between nations developed on stages of entertainment can translate into meaningful international connections that stretch from the field to nations' capitals.

Figure 18. *Boycotts in the 1960s and 70s Against Apartheid in South Africa, African Nations Joined by Other Countries Around the World Threatened to Boycott the Olympics if South Africa Competed*⁹³

Protests

Beyond the individuals who participate in global events, protests are also a common way that everyday folks can express their opinions and



thoughts on ongoing global events.⁹⁴ In light of many of the human rights abuses and scandals of recent global events, it has been common for people to take community action leading up to games. This has come in the form of marches,

⁹¹Kennedy, Lesley. "6 Times the Olympics Were Boycotted." History.Com. The History Channel, July 26, 2021.
<https://www.history.com/news/olympic-boycotts>.

⁹²Liptak, Kevin. "Snubs from Key Leaders at Summit of the Americas Reveal Biden's Struggle to Assert US Leadership in Its Neighborhood." Cnn.Com. CNN, June 8, 2022.
<https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/07/politics/summit-of-the-americas-joe-biden/index.html>.

⁹³Gershon, Livia. "Fighting Apartheid with Sports." Daily.Jstor.Org. JSTOR Daily, February 3, 2022.
<https://daily.jstor.org/fighting-apartheid-with-sports/>.

⁹⁴Scribner, Herb. "All the Protests (so Far) at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar." Axios.Com. Axios, November 26, 2022.
<https://www.axios.com/2022/11/26/fifa-world-cup-2022-qatar-onelove-germany-iran-protests>.

protests, walk-outs and stand-ins. Similarly, audience engagement and participation is a crucial way that individuals can act on global issues.⁹⁵ For example, following the outrage surrounding working conditions in Qatar, some soccer fans swore off watching games.⁹⁶

Sanctions

Finally, an additional way that global events can assist with international actions are sanctions. Historically, certain countries have been uninvited from global events, as including them would run contrary to current diplomatic behavior of the time. Most recently, it was announced in July of 2023 that Russia and Belarus will not be invited to participate in the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympic Games because of their actions against Ukraine.⁹⁷



Figure 19. *Protestors Supporting Sanctions Against Russian and Belarusian Competition at the Upcoming Olympic Games*⁹⁸

Possible Solutions

Looking forward, there are many different ways to approach and improve global events. In this background guide so far, we have touched on a multitude of concerns that commonly arise during some of the more frequent and popular events. However, beyond improving within these select areas, there are other points that our Special Session should also feel free to address, given that

⁹⁵Radio Farda. "FIFA Allows Banners Supporting Iranian Protesters at World Cup After Iran Eliminated." Rferl.Org. RadioFreeEurope RadioLiberty, December 1, 2022. <https://www.rferl.org/a/fifa-allows-banners-iran-protests-world-cup/32157150.html>.

⁹⁶Parker, James. "Ode to Not Watching the World Cup." Theatlantic.Com. The Atlantic, November 19, 2022. <https://www.theatlantic.com/culture/archive/2022/11/dont-watch-world-cup-morally-wrong-qatar/672192/>.

⁹⁷Westerman, Ashley. "The IOC Says It Will Not Invite Russia and Belarus to the 2024 Olympics in Paris." Npr.Org. NPR WPSU, July 14, 2023. <https://www.npr.org/2023/07/14/1187641752/ioc-not-invite-russia-and-belarus-to-2024-olympics#:~:text=The%20teams%20from%20Russia%20and,in%20a%20statement%20on%20Thursday>.

⁹⁸Dedaj, Pualina. "Russia, Belarus Not Officially Invited to 2024 Paris Olympics, IOC Says." Foxnews.Com. Fox News, July 13, 2023. <https://www.foxnews.com/sports/russia-belarus-not-officially-invited-2024-paris-olympics-ioc-says>.

they are relevant to the scope of the committee.



Figure 20. *The First Modern Olympic Games in Athens,⁹⁹ also known as Athens 1896 or the Games of the I Olympiad, had the Largest International Participation of Any Sporting Event to Date¹⁰⁰*

Namely, how often should global events be held? Are there more opportunities where the global community should come together, and if so, how do we facilitate this happening? Is there a way to institutionalize progress when it comes to

⁹⁹“Athens to Athens: The Summer Olympics, 1896–2004.” Olympic Cities, February 25, 2011, 28–60.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203822920-10>

¹⁰⁰Wikipedia. 2023. “1896 Summer Olympics.” Wikimedia Foundation. Last modified July 27, 2023.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1896_Summer_Olympics.

international assemblies? Are global events comparable, and if they are, why are some kinds of events improving yet others are still lagging behind? If the global community cannot come together physically, are there creative ways to still be united in the same moment? Within each of these questions, there are a myriad of creative solutions that will empower and strengthen the global community and the events we share. As for the issues raised in this background guide, here are some potential approaches.

Prioritizing Social Values

As dictated by the United Nations’ 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, there are 17 social values and goals that are fit to govern choices made by the international community to ensure long-term progress.¹⁰¹ Luckily for this committee, many of these SDGs are directly related to the needs and demands of global events. Encouraging international events, whether they be sporting matches, concerts, political rallies and campaigns, religious observances, or some combination of the above, to apply Sustainable Development Goals whenever possible will orient global events around the people that they are supposed to serve and protect.

¹⁰¹“In Focus: Sustainable Development Goal 5.” UN Women. August 23, 2022.
https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/in-focus/2022/08/in-focus-sustainable-development-goal-5?gclid=CjwKCAjw5_GmBhBIEiwA5QSMxCuGWX_6AEcpdakhBkY6cUk8CUjWyc5wmG03rqNkZBpM-TYJ14YyBhoCO5gQAvD_BwE.

This approach can be seen implicitly with the updated bidding process for the FIFA World Cup. In this instance, an emphasis on SDGs 5, 8, 10, 12, and 13 (Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Reduced Inequality, Responsible Consumption and Production, and Climate Action), in addition to SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals), is apparent. But what would it look like if prioritizing social values was central to every part of coordinating a global event?

What if stadium building was driven by SDGs 9 and 11, which include Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure and Sustainable Cities and Communities? What about if the opening ceremonies, concert lineup, and heads of state were chosen in accordance with SDG 5, Gender Equality? When it comes to providing amenities for tourists, should the focus be shifted instead to the communities that will be affected by this influx of foreign business, considering SDGs 1, 6, and 7, No Poverty, Clean Water and Sanitation, and Affordable and Clean Energy? In addition, by and large, the most significant issue with global events is that they strain our collective resources and do more harm than good for the international community. In order to reap the benefits of international cooperation, we need to cooperate with each other.

Improving Event Adaptability

If the COVID-19 pandemic taught us anything, it is that people will still find ways to bring communities together, no matter what. This was true of global events that took place during the COVID-19 pandemic and should something similar ever happen again, the global community will now be ready and adaptable. Some global events fare better in the face of adversity than others, largely due to the event's adaptability. We can learn from our experiences during the pandemic, since many of the solutions that arose in response to COVID have the potential to serve the global community well in the case of future challenges.



Figure 21. *Paramedics at an Ice Hockey Game, in COVID Protective Suits*¹⁰²

Some other recent changes that have made events more adaptable include the following:

- opportunities to jointly host and host by proxy,
- intentional expense management and budget flexibility, and the prioritization of safety above

¹⁰²"China Reports Jump in COVID Cases Among Olympic Athletes, Officials." Reuters.Com. Reuters, January 29, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/china-reports-36-new-covid-19-cases-among-olympics-related-personnel-2022-01-29/>.

all else. Reducing the significance of host location and host exclusivity has made the opportunity to host more achievable for many countries.

Although these recent forms of hosting have only been undertaken in the past year (and years to come, see you in 2026!), the possibility alone has transformed what it means to be a host to a drastically different responsibility than in years prior.

Managing expenses is another way to increase adaptability by addressing two primary aspects of global events. Firstly, reassessing how global events are financed once again tackles the issue of event exclusivity. If more countries are able to afford hosting, the kinds of countries that are afforded the prestige is not kept to an exclusive group. Second, and arguably more importantly, financial management accounts for backup support required by sudden challenges. With the COVID-19 pandemic, events were pushed off temporarily or indefinitely, but resources and supplies were still required in the interim. Budget management provides for these unexpected expenses and potentially minimizes the impact that event and gathering costs will have on everyday individuals.

Prioritizing Sustainability

Although an increased focus on sustainability may be included through the prioritization of social values, the role of sustainability in global events presents a tremendous opportunity for

improvement. One of the best examples of sustainability in global events is the repurposing of event spaces as ongoing tourist sites and opportunities for tourism. However, sustainability can be even more achievable if climate action motivates global events throughout all stages of the process.



Figure 22. *Infographic about Event Sustainability Initiatives*¹⁰³

One example of an opportunity for sustainable improvement is post-event job placement. As discussed throughout this background guide, migrant workers play a tremendous role in global events. Their work is often dangerous, sometimes

¹⁰³"How and Why Should Sustainable Events Be Organized?" Mapfre.Com. MAPFRE, November 3, 2021.

<https://www.mapfre.com/en/insights/sustainability/sustainable-events-organized/>.

life threatening, but the promise of economic prosperity is tremendous. After the global event is over, there is no guarantee that these migrant workers will continue to have employment opportunities or economic success, assuming that they were able to achieve either of those things while working on the event. If there were programs that provided transition support for these migrant workers, it would not only benefit the individuals but also the host countries who now have a larger workforce.



Figure 23. *Sustainable Employment Practices*¹⁰⁴

Moving beyond siloed solutions, overall there is an extreme need for institutionalized global event policies and procedures that create safe and engaging events that are beneficial for the global community long-term. If there was a body (this one!) that could formalize potential avenues for improvement, highlight widely found issues, and provide mechanisms for implementable

solutions, the international community would benefit immensely!

Bloc Positions

Aside from national events that attract international audiences, the majority of global events have been hosted in Europe and North America. This means that for the majority of countries at this committee's Special Session, diversity of hosting and accessible participation are of the utmost importance.

The Americas

The United States has hosted more Olympic games than any other country.¹⁰⁵ The sheer number of ready-to-use stadiums and capable supportive infrastructure makes the U.S. an appealing and dependable choice for the international community. This self-fulfilling cycling is found elsewhere in this hemisphere. Canada's bid to host the Women's World Cup in 2015 was in part due to the country's effort to

¹⁰⁴ "The Singapore Business Federation (SBF) Sustainable Employment Initiative Has Turned One!" Singapore Business Federation. December 29, 2020. Video, <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=426199598580046>.

¹⁰⁵ Westbrook, Caroline. "What Country Has Hosted the Most Olympics?" Metro.Co.Uk. Metro, July 19, 2021. <https://metro.co.uk/2021/07/19/olympics-2020-what-country-has-hosted-the-most-games-14927609/>.

increase their soccer success.¹⁰⁶ By hosting, the host country is able to increase their citizens' interest in the sport, grow the sport in their country, and in turn maybe yield even more competitive athletes.

Figure 24. *Map of Olympic Host Locations (up to 2022)*¹⁰⁷

Perhaps the most important global event hosted



by South America was the inaugural World Cup in 1930 in Uruguay.¹⁰⁸ On February 7, 2023, a joint bid between Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, and Paraguay was announced for the 2030 World Cup which would be the 100th iteration of the

tournament.¹⁰⁹ South America, while less common for international games, has most regularly hosted the Pan American Games.¹¹⁰ The Pan Am Games, held every four years in the year prior to the Olympics, features athletes from the Americas and is regulated by National Olympics Committees of competing countries.



Figure 25. *Promotional Poster for the First World Cup in 1930*¹¹¹

¹⁰⁶Murray, Caitlin. "Is the US Ready - or Even Willing - to Host the 2026 World Cup?" TheGuardian.Com. The Guardian, August 11, 2015. <https://www.theguardian.com/football/blog/2015/aug/10/is-the-us-ready-or-even-willing-to-host-the-2026-world-cup>

¹⁰⁷Wikipedia. 2023. "List of Olympic Games Host Cities." Wikimedia Foundation. Last modified August 11, 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Olympic_Games_host_cities.

¹⁰⁸"1930 FIFA World Cup Uruguay." Fifa.Com. Inside FIFA, <https://www.fifa.com/tournaments/mens/worldcup/1930uruguay>.

¹⁰⁹Scandolo, Ramiro, and Janina Nuno Rios. "Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay Submit Joint 2030 World Cup Bid." Reuters.Com. Reuters, February 7, 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/argentina-chile-paraguay-uruguay-submit-joint-2030-world-cup-bid-2023-02-07/>.

¹¹⁰"Santiago 2023." Santiago2023.Org. Santiago 2023, <https://www.santiago2023.org/en>.

¹¹¹Wikipedia. 2023. "1930 FIFA World Cup." Wikimedia Foundation. Last modified August 6, 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1930_FIFA_World_Cup.

Mena Region

Many of the concerns that arose with the Qatar World Cup and original Qatar bid are common with hosting in the **MENA**, or Middle East and North Africa region. On the one hand, countries in this part of the world have an ideal amount of financial resources to cover the costs of hosting. However, the cost of hosting is much higher in this region given the incredibly extreme climate. Additionally, this does not even begin to address the extreme opinions that the global community has regarding the political and social climate of this region of the world.

Figure 26. *Opening Ceremonies at 2022 Qatar World Cup, the First World Cup in the Middle East*¹¹²

By and large, there is not a singular reason why global events are not commonly held in this part of the world. Rather, there is a complicated tangle



¹¹²Smith, Rory. "Qatar Stepped Onto the World Cup Stage. And Immediately Stumbled." *Www.Nytimes.Com*. The New York Times, November 20, 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/20/sports/soccer/world-cup-opening-night.html>.

of geopolitical, social, environmental, and economic strains that are seen as viable reasons enough to not host and sometimes not even compete.¹¹³ This is not to say that the above issues do not exist in other parts of the world. Rather, the global community is better at solving and/or overlooking these tensions when events are held elsewhere.¹¹⁴ Promisingly though, there appears to be a rising trend of sporting event hosting taking place in the Middle East. This was pursued in part to diversify the economies of countries in the region.¹¹⁵ The Olympics have never been hosted in the Middle East but with the World Cup taking place soon in Qatar, it is possible that history will soon be made.¹¹⁶

¹¹³Silber, Carol. "The Middle East at the Olympics: Six Countries Compete While Great Power Politics on Display." *Www.Washingtoninstitute.Org*. The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, February 9, 2022.

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/middle-east-olympics-six-countries-compete-while-great-power-politics-display>.

¹¹⁴Willemsen, Eric. "'Unreal and Surreal': Skiers Slam Asian Winter Games Host." *Apnew.Com*. Associated Press, October 6, 2022.

<https://apnews.com/article/winter-olympics-sports-saudi-arabia-middle-east-c76c2d185e0ce4296806dd1c8deb4602>.

¹¹⁵Miller, Alex. "Middle East Arrives as Sports Destination." *Abmagazine.Accaglobal.Com*. Accounting and Business Magazine, <https://abmagazine.accaglobal.com/global/articles/2021/aug/business/middle-east-arrives-as-sports-destination.html>.

¹¹⁶Reuters Staff. "Qatar Interested in Hosting Olympics, Possibly in 2032." *Reuters.Com*. Reuters, July 27, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-olympics-qatar>

Africa

The African continent has never hosted an Olympic Games and has hosted the World Cup once, in 2010, in South Africa.¹¹⁷ In 2022, Senegal hosted the Youth Olympics but this is hardly a triumph in the global hosting competition. In 1997, there was an Olympic bid for the 2004 games in Cape Town, the capital of South Africa. However, the 2004 Olympics instead took place in Athens.¹¹⁸



Figure 27. *Promotional Logo of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa*¹¹⁹

/qatar-interested-in-hosting-olympics-possibly-in-2032-idUSKCN24S1WW.

¹¹⁷Zaccardi, Nick. "South Africa 2024 Olympic Bid "Unrealistic," Official Says." Nbcports.Com. NBC Sports, March 2, 2015. <https://www.nbcsports.com/olympics/news/south-africa-2024-olympic-bid#:~:text=The%20most%20recent%20African%20Olympic,the%202024%20or%202028%20Olympics.>

¹¹⁸Ibid.

¹¹⁹Wikipedia. 2023. "2010 FIFA World Cup." Wikimedia Foundation. Last modified August 4, 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_FIFA_World_Cup.

African participation in international sporting events has been largely fraught with tensions surrounding the long-history of apartheid. Although the World Cup has been hosted in Africa, South Africa was the host country. Given the contentious relationship between South Africa and other African nations, due to apartheid, this is a contentious "win" for Africa as the host continent. In 1970, South Africa was formally expelled from the International Olympic Committee. When the IOC refused to also expel New Zealand given its continued ties with South Africa, multiple African nations boycotted.

Europe

Europe, home to the Olympics revival movement, Eurovision, and the largest number of remaining royal kingdoms, is the primary location of the majority of athletic, political, and entertainment global events. Europe has hosted the most Summer Olympics and Winter Olympics, fourteen and twelve respectively, largely made possible by their sufficient number of wealthy empires, a product of both colonialism and imperialism.^{120,121}

¹²⁰"Olympic Locations." Nzmaths.Co.Nz. NZMATHS., <https://nzmaths.co.nz/resource/olympic-locations>.

¹²¹ Ibid.



Figure 28. *The “Queen” From The Opening Ceremony of the Most Recent European Summer Olympics (London 2012)*¹²²

European cultural events and fairs, more often than not attract some of the largest international audiences. Its diversity of climate and navigable nature make it an easy choice for hosting. This is leaving aside its dark and devastating international behavior, which increasingly has become a topic of conversation on the global stage. While the UK’s proxy hosting of Ukraine’s Eurovision was largely celebrated, the same would not be the case if European countries began to proxy host for former colonies.

Asia

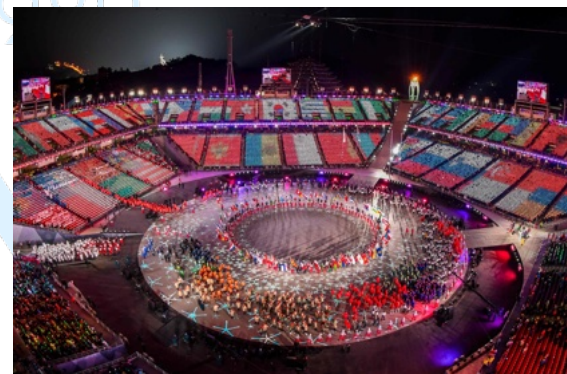
The 2002 FIFA World Cup was notable for multiple reasons. Not only were the games the first World Cup held in Asia, but it was also the first World Cup to be jointly hosted. In another demonstration of novel adaptability, the Tokyo

¹²²“The Queen Parachutes in with 007 (Well, It Seemed Like That).” Standard.Co.Uk. Evening Standard, July 27, 2012.
<https://www.standard.co.uk/sport/sport-olympics/the-queen-parachutes-in-with-007-well-it-seemed-like-that-7982513.html>.

Olympics were held despite the ongoing pandemic. Although global sporting events have been held in Asia, the majority of hosting has occurred in East Asian cities and countries. That may change soon, however, with an expected bid from India to host the 2036 Summer Olympics.¹²³

Although hosting in the Asian continent is nowhere near as dismal as the lack of hosting in Africa, the bulk of Asian countries do not partake in hosting global events. By and large, many of these countries also send small numbers of athletes to compete. Unlike cultural or entertainment events in the West, most Asian festivals, public programs, and political events are not received by international audiences. If these events were to garner greater popularity, this mindset and phenomena could begin to shift.

Figure 29. *Image from the Closing Ceremony of the 2018 Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics*¹²⁴



¹²³Ramesh, M. "Olympic Dreams. India to Bid for

[yeongchang-olympics-wrap/](https://www.yeongchang-olympics-wrap/).

Glossary

Boycott - To withdraw, protest, or otherwise withhold participation

Geopolitical - International relations, specifically concerning political relationships that are affected or influenced by geography

Human trafficking - also referred to as “modern slavery”, The capture and holding of individuals with the intention of forced labor or forced sexual behavior for profit

Infrastructure - Can be ideological or physical; structural societal support (e.g. bridges and roads, or “economic infrastructure”)

MENA - The geographic region of the Middle East and North Africa

Migrant worker - Workers, usually for manual or low-skill positions who move with the purpose of seeking out employment

Money laundering - The process of converting a profit acquired from illegal activity into legally held funds, “cleaning” the money

Pipe bomb - Homemade explosive that relies on a pipe as the primary building structure to hold explosive material

Racketeering - Acquiring or operating a business illegally or using a business to conduct illegal activity as a coordinated activity

Whistleblower - An informant from within an organization, business, or community that alerts outsiders to instances of wrongdoing

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