

## FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022: The Remaining Legacy within Qatari Legal System

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**ABSTRACT:** FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™; *once a dream! It is now become a true. The tournament's opening match is only few weeks ahead<sup>1</sup> and there are strong evidences that the first winter world tournament to be held in the Middle East is going to be unprecedented. The hosting nation "Qatar" has invested heavily in the preparation process; 7 new A-Z stadiums with advanced quality, unique designs, sustainable materials and technologies along with huge infrastructure projects in transportation, road's networks, housing, fan zones, public inside and outside spaces marks Qatar 2022™ as the first World Cup in terms of investments, preparation processes, and sustainability standards. The Qatari preparations are not limited to those related to the tournament in its narrow concept, but it include some other preparations within the Qatari legal system. These legal amendments and new or special legal instruments will be –among others- the remaining legacy of the Qatar 2022 World Cup. This article will highlight the major legal steps taken by the State of Qatar in its preparation to host the World cup directly or indirectly.*

**KEYWORDS:** FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Legal legacy. Sports Law, Labor Law, Human Rights, Qatari Legal System.

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### INTRODUCTION

"The Qatari people will receive with open arms football fans from all walks of life. The Almighty ALLAH says, "And we made you into peoples and tribes that you may know one another." No matter how diverse our nationalities, religions and ideas are, but our duty is to overcome obstacles, extend a hand of friendship, build bridges of understanding and celebrate our common humanity,

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<sup>1</sup> The opening match is scheduled on Sunday 20/11/2022 between the host nation Qatar and the Ecuador within group A competitions.

and on behalf of my people and on my own behalf, I invite you all to come to Qatar and enjoy this unique tournament, you are all welcome.”. (His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar, 20/9/2022 UN General Assembly, 77 Session, New York. USA) .

### **The Qatari Law regarding the arrangements for hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022**

In 2021, the state of Qatar issued a law called Law No 10 for the year 2021 regarding the arrangements for hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022<sup>2</sup>. The issuance of the law come in line with the Hosting Contract<sup>3</sup>, FIFA requirements<sup>4</sup>, and the Governmental Guarantees offered by the state of Qatar to the International Federation of Football Association “FIFA” on 22/02/2010. These guarantees are related to the following:

- 1 - Entry and exit permits, passports, and travel procedures.
- 2- Work permits.
- 3- Tax exemption.
- 4 - Safety and security.
- 5- Bank and foreign exchange operations.
- 6 - Protection and exploitation of commercial rights.
- 7 - Communications and information technology.
- 8 - Legal issues and compensation.
- 9 - Accommodation.

This paper will highlight briefly on these topics in the same order adopted by the Law. It is worth mentioning that Article 2 of the Law provides for the purpose of the law and its’ time scope by stating that: “The provisions of this law shall apply for the purpose of holding the 2022 World Cup hosting events in the State of Qatar, not exceeding the period of the tournament<sup>5</sup>”. This article in deed gives the Law its uniqueness; since the application of the Law will be only in a short and specified timeline, which makes in total approximately 45 days.

The Enabling Law is a unique law within Qatari legal system in terms of its duration and its exceptional rules; although the application of the law is limited to the duration of the tournament, but its effects may long remain within the legal practice in Qatar whenever the existence of such

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<sup>2</sup> The Enabling Law No. (10) of 2021 regarding the arrangements for hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, available in Arabic is: <https://www.almeezan.qa/LawPage.aspx?id=8667&language=ar>

<sup>3</sup> According to Article 1 of the Law, Hosting Contract means; the contract for hosting the tournament and each contract stems from and results from it, as the case may be.

<sup>4</sup> Article 1 of law defines FIFA requirements as the special standards and guarantees agreed upon in the hosting contract and the representations and undertakings contained in the government guarantees.

<sup>5</sup> Article 1 of the Law defines Tournament period as the period that begins ten days before the opening match of the tournament and ends five days after the date of the last match of the tournament.

law deemed necessary or more practical. This is indeed desirable because Qatar is acting as an international sports hub in terms of hosting mega sport events<sup>6</sup>.

### **Entry and exit permits, passports, and travel procedures.**

The main theme of the law was stated in Article 3 that, stipulates that: “The competent authorities are obligated to establish a quick and simplified mechanism to issue entry visas to the country, work permits and licenses, company registration, and any other permits, licenses or approvals required by this law, without restriction, condition or discrimination in any way”<sup>7</sup>. Furthermore, Article 4 of the law continues to provide some details by stating that: “The granting of entry visas to the country is for foreign nationals”. Indicating that the granting of a visa to enter the country may be rejected or canceled based on security or health reasons, or to maintain public order or the security of the tournament.

This provision indeed is of special significance in the shadow of the global health crisis caused by the Covid-19 epidemic and other public health concerns, and of course, it has a merit given the terrorists threats, which unfortunately appears or may appear from time to time.

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<sup>6</sup>In Monday 17 October 2022, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa announced that Qatar will be the host nation for the 2023 Asian Cup football tournament after China withdrew earlier this year because of its “zero-COVID” policy. This is the third time Qatar will be hosting the tournament, having staged it in 1988 and 2011. He added ““Qatar’s capabilities and track record in hosting major international sporting events and their meticulous attention to detail are well admired throughout the globe.” “Given the short lead time in preparation, we know that the hard work begins immediately but with their existing world-class infrastructure and unrivalled hosting capabilities, we are confident that Qatar will stage a worthy spectacle befitting the prestige and stature of Asia’s crown jewel.”. Asian Football Confederation official website; [https://www.the-afc.com/en/about\\_afc/committees/executive\\_committee/news/qatar\\_to\\_host\\_afc\\_asian\\_cup\\_2023\\_india\\_and\\_saudi\\_arabia\\_shortlisted\\_for\\_2027\\_edition.html](https://www.the-afc.com/en/about_afc/committees/executive_committee/news/qatar_to_host_afc_asian_cup_2023_india_and_saudi_arabia_shortlisted_for_2027_edition.html)

<sup>7</sup> His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar make clear in speech to the UN General Assembly 77 when he said, “Qatar will welcome the world in November of this year when we host the FIFA World Cup 2022. The challenge we took up twelve years ago required real resolve, determination, a lot of planning and hard work. And here we are today, standing on the threshold of hosting the world's teams and their fans, and **opening our doors in Doha for all of them without discrimination** to enjoy the football matches and the amazing atmosphere of the tournament, in addition to witnessing the economic and cultural development in my country”. He went on to say, “In this tournament, which will be held for the first time in an Arab Muslim country and for the first time in the Middle East in general. The world will see that one of the small and medium-size countries is able to host global events with exceptional and impressive success, in addition to its ability to provide a spacious ambience for diversity and constructive interaction between peoples”. Qatar Amiri Diwan official website, <https://www.diwan.gov.qa/briefing-room/speeches-and-remarks/2022/september/20/hh-the-amir-speech-in-opening-session-of-general-debate-session-of-un-general-assembly>

In addition, and to guarantee fairness and transparency the Security Committee shall notify the Supreme Committee of the reasons for the rejection or cancellation, and the Supreme Committee shall notify FIFA<sup>8</sup> of these reasons.

Regarding the duration of the visas, the Law provides that visas shall be valid only for the period of the tournament. Therefore, entry visas granted in accordance with the provisions of this law to FIFA or the Supreme Committee shall expires with the end of the period of time for the tournament, and it is permissible, in cases of necessity, to request an extension for another period<sup>9</sup>. In practice, the SC and competent authorities issue Hayya Card to every person who buy a ticket to watch a match in the Qatar 2022 World Cup tournament, Hayya Card will allow its holder to enjoy many free of charge services such as transportation such as metro, buses and marine taxi. It will also allow the holder to get many other public services during his/her staying in Qatar against zero charge or a discounted one<sup>10</sup>.

The efficiency of this practice was examined in the Arab Cup hosted by Qatar in 2021 and proved to be efficient and helpful since it simplify the entry requirements to Qatar and qualify its holders to utilize many free public services.

In fact, such a practice applied by the Qatari authorities may set an example for Qatar and any other hosting state on how to deal with crowds willing to come to state in the future mega sport events.

The Hayya card practice may be considered as part of the legal and organizational legacy of the Mega sport events and FIFA World Cup, Qatar 2022. In this regard, the Amir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani while addressing the opening session of 77th UN General Assembly shed the light of the Hayya Card and the legacy it may leave on people's movement across borders. HH states that; "We note the signs of the positive impact of this event in our region, as brotherly Arab countries regarded the Hayya card, which includes an entry visa to Qatar, as also a visa for Hayya Card holders to enter these countries. A situation that received a

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<sup>8</sup> World football's governing body, FIFA is the owner of the FIFA World Cup™ and ultimate decision making authority for the tournament, setting the technical requirements, coordinating the delivery of the competition and managing the key tournament stakeholders.

<sup>9</sup> It is to be stressed here that, requesting extension of visas will not automatically guarantee its extension.

<sup>10</sup>Qatar Amiri Diwan official website, <https://www.diwan.gov.qa/briefing-room/speeches-and-remarks/2022/september/20/hh-the-amir-speech-in-opening-session-of-general-debate-session-of-un-general-assembly>

warm welcome from the public opinion, and inspired Arab people to look forward to a barrier-free future between people”<sup>11</sup>.

Article 5 of Law specifies a short time approval for individuals included in the FIFA lists by stating that, “The Security Committee shall issue entry visas to individuals on FIFA lists, based on requests submitted by FIFA or the Supreme Committee within five working days at most from the date of submitting the documents necessary to issue the visas”.

In this context, the Individuals included in FIFA Lists was defined by Article 1 to mean participants and persons participating in the activities, who are included in the FIFA Lists.

As per labor permits during the tournament, Article 6 of the Law provides that; “Foreign nationals are not required to submit a copy of the work permit, during the period of operation of this law. This provision applies to employees of FIFA and its affiliated organizations, their contractors, suppliers of goods, works contractors and service providers, FIFA’s commercial partners, broadcasters of events, confederations and national football associations Football, the host federation, the Supreme Committee and the company”<sup>12</sup>. Further to this, Article 7 of the Law set an exception to labor law rules by stating that;

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<sup>11</sup> Qatar Amiri Diwan official website, <https://www.diwan.gov.qa/briefing-room/speeches-and-remarks/2022/september/20/hh-the-amir-speech-in-opening-session-of-general-debate-session-of-un-general-assembly>

<sup>12</sup>In the application of the Law, Article 1 of the Law provides definition for certain terms as follows:

**Foreign nationals:** anyone who holds a passport for another country or a valid travel document approved by the country.

**FIFA Contractors:** Individuals and legal entities who, directly or indirectly, have entered into any type of contractual relationship with FIFA. Or any individual or entity authorized by FIFA in connection with activities, including FIFA’s business partners, suppliers of goods, works contractors, service providers and Broadcasting of events organized by FIFA, as well as the subcontractors of these entities.

**FIFA Business Partner:** Every entity granted by FIFA any of the commercial rights owned by it.

**Suppliers of goods, works contractors and service providers:** Entities authorized by agreement with FIFA, or with entities approved or designated by FIFA to supply goods, carry out works or provide services before and during the period of the tournament.

**Broadcasters of events:** any legal entity approved by FIFA that performs the tasks stipulated in Article (27) of this law, pursuant to an agreement concluded with or authorized by it.

**Continental Confederations:** The associations affiliated with FIFA, the development dictated by the national football associations at the level of the continents, or within the boundaries of a specific region.

**National Football Associations:** Associations of member countries of the Confederations and FIFA, including the host association, whether or not participating in the tournament.

**Host Association:** Qatar Football Association.

**Company:** FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Company, LLC. “Q22 is a limited liability company incorporated by FIFA and the Qatar 2022 Local Organizing Committee. It is responsible for the planning and delivery

“As an exception to the provisions regulating work in the country, the provisions contained in their contracts. shall apply to individuals appointed by FIFA, FIFA affiliated organizations, confederations, national football associations, the host association, the company, the Supreme Committee and its affiliated entities, suppliers of goods, works contractors and service providers, contractors with FIFA, and partners of FIFA Commercial entities, broadcasters of events, and foreign nationals participating in the activities. It added that, “the Supreme Committee shall notify the bodies that carry out inspection and oversight tasks, in accordance with the policy regulating the work of foreigners, of the FIFA lists that include the individuals referred to in the previous paragraph”<sup>13</sup>.

### **Waivers**

This exception is also extended to include exemption from fees and taxes according to Article 7 which reads as follows; FIFA, Confederations, National Football Associations, the Company, the Supreme Committee and FIFA Entities, suppliers of goods and works contractors to them, contractors and service providers, FIFA business partners, event broadcasters, designated individuals in these categories, and all nationals of Participants in the activities, are exempted from fees, in accordance with government guarantees. Moreover, they are also exempted from taxes, according to the limits issued by a decision of the Minister of Finance, in accordance with government guarantees”<sup>14</sup>.

### **Safety and Security**

In chapter four concerning Safety and Security, Article 9 indicates that: “The Security Committee sets the necessary plans to have a safe tournament with the highest standards, guided by international best practices, and in accordance with the hosting contract and government guarantees, in coordination with the competent authorities. The Committee shall also sets standards for the qualification of security cadres in coordination with the competent training authorities inside and outside the country. In so doing, the Security Committee may enter into partnerships with regional and international entities that have similar competencies, and other specialized local and foreign companies

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of operations and services for the tournament, directly supporting the day-to-day delivery of the matches in accordance with the requirements of FIFA and the needs of each constituent group.”

**Supreme Committee:** The Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy “Established by Emiri Resolution No. (27) Of 2011, the SC is the lead Qatari government entity responsible for the delivery of the tournament stadiums and infrastructure and associated services.”

<sup>13</sup> This includes among others, formation of the labor contract, its duration, wages, working hours, remuneration and termination of the contract.

<sup>14</sup> See Al-Ansari & Associates Law Firm, official website, available online at: <https://www.alansarilaw.com/fifa-world-cup-qatar-2022-law-enacted-copy>

The article provides that; “Each entity participating in the security operations, shall set a program to qualify their representatives in these operations in accordance with the criteria referred to in the previous paragraph. It shall ensure a safe environment during the preparation and holding of the tournament, provided that these programs are approved by the head of the security committee”.

Moreover; and according to Article 10 of the Law, the Chairman of the Security Committee, in coordination with the competent authorities, may issue decisions, instructions for the necessary security measures during the time period of the tournament. These may include disposing of some acts in violation of the provisions of the laws in force in the country, committed on the tournament, in accordance with the hosting contract and government guarantees. The Security Committee may publish in the media the measures taken based on this Article, in a manner that ensures knowledge of it for each of those addressed with its provisions.

As for health care and safety of the individuals, Article 12 provides that, “All competent governmental medical authorities in the country are obligated to prepare their facilities to provide medical assistance to the participants in the tournament and activities. The Law also direct all governmental and non-governmental medical centers and agencies to absorb emergencies and provide medical assistance to participants, persons participating in activities and the public, during the period of the tournament, in accordance with the procedures determined by the Ministry of Public Health, and without prejudice to the requirements of FIFA.

In terms of cyber security, the Security Committee, through the competent authorities, may take measures to provide cyber security, using the latest information technologies, to ensure the realization of the concept of developing communications and information technology, in accordance with the hosting contract and government guarantees. In this regard, the Security Committee, in coordination with the competent authorities, works on setting policies for the use of frequencies during the preparation period for the tournament and during the period for it whenever appropriate to implement priority assignment.

### **Banking and foreign exchange operations**

In different aspect related to currency, banking and money transfer, Article 13 of the Law set certain principles and guidelines by stating that; “For the purposes of facilitating banking and foreign exchange operations, the following must be taken into account:

- 1 - Not to place restrictions on the purchase and sale of the state's currency and foreign currencies.
- 2 - The commitment of the banking authorities in the country to arrange banking operations easily and smoothly through the approved channels in accordance with the legislation of the country related to the regulation of currency trading markets, without prejudice to the controls contained in the circulars and instructions of the Qatar Central Bank on combating money laundering and terrorism financing.

3 - It is not permissible to restrict the entry and exit of foreign currencies.

4 - The exchange and conversion of foreign currencies into US dollars, euros or Swiss francs shall not be restricted in connection with operations connected with activities by concerned parties provided that they are included in lists identifying the entities subject to exceptional measures. The Supreme Committee undertakes the procedures for compiling and publishing these lists, in coordination with the authorities competent.

In addition, the provisions of this article may be applied before the period of the tournament, but not exceeding ninety days after it, at the request of the Supreme Committee directed the Qatar Central Bank. However, the period referred to in the previous paragraph may not be extended except with the approval of the Council of Ministers and for the period specified by it.

### **FIFA rights**

Article 14 of the Law provides that; “FIFA's intellectual property rights include:

1 - The name, logo and hymn of FIFA.

2 - Official categories of activities and their designations; It is the vocabulary used in football or related in some way to football.

3- Logos related to activities that use compound or non-composite vocabulary related to a message related to football, which are registered as trademarks of FIFA and whose protection is within the scope of the laws regulating the protection of works and trademarks in the territory of the State.

4 - Sports tournament mascots, logos, billboards, identification symbols, designs and logos for activities, trophies and medals developed by FIFA for official use in activities for which FIFA has exclusive rights.

5- Artistic, musical and literary works, as well as other intellectual works and innovations related to neighboring rights.

6 - Designations and other intellectual innovations developed by FIFA for activities in which FIFA has exclusive rights.

7- Any marketing and advertising rights owned by FIFA

These rights are protected by virtue of law, which stipulates that; “FIFA enjoys its commercial rights related to the tournament, in particular the following:

1 - Use of intellectual property rights.

2- Choosing its business partners, contractors, suppliers of goods, works contractors and service providers.

3- Advertisements.

4- Selling and distributing its products.

5- Carrying out works and providing services in the places of activities.

6 - Covering activities by broadcasting images and sound and in any other way or using any technology, including melodies, lyrics and other protected related rights.

7 - Display activities in public places using audio recording, video recording, or any other method.



FIFA, in coordination with the competent authority, may exercise control over the places of activities to ensure that there is no conflict with its commercial rights

It is prohibited, without obtaining a license from FIFA, to use, record, reproduce, imitate or modify any of the intellectual property rights of FIFA, including importing, exporting, selling, reselling, offering for sale, distributing products or displaying rights intellectual property<sup>15</sup>. Moreover, the registration and use of domain names containing FIFA or similar intellectual property rights in the country is prohibited, without authorization from FIFA. In addition, the competent authorities in the country may suspend the registration or licensing that FIFA objects to in writing, as soon as the Supreme Committee notifies them of this objection and this duty shall be applied in all cases of infringement<sup>16</sup>.

According to Article 18 of the Law, The following acts of unfair competition are prohibited:

- 1 - Any type of commercial activity, which may lead to the false belief that the products or services being marketed are issued, approved or approved by FIFA or the Supreme Committee, including activities involved in the sale and promotion of goods, works and services.
- 2 - Carrying out some public activities for commercial purposes, which leads to the mistaken belief that these activities are related to FIFA or the Supreme Committee, or that they have been approved by either of them.
- 3- Using tickets for advertising purposes or for holding lotteries, competitions, games, bets and advertising procedures, or including the cost of tickets in the list of tourism, accommodation and other services, without the written consent of FIFA.
- 4 - Displaying a public event, without a license from FIFA.

Those who have been approved or licensed in accordance with this Article are obligated to comply with the relevant regulations and decisions issued by FIFA before the start of the tournament. Article 19 of the Law makes a clear reference to FIFA rights in the ticketing process by providing that; “FIFA has the sole and exclusive right to issue, sell and distribute tickets and may authorize third parties to issue and sell tickets. Tickets may not be issued, sold, resold, redistributed or exchanged, without authorization from FIFA or its authorized representative”. Article 20 of Law adds that; the conditions for the sale of tickets, as well as the conditions for including the cost of tickets in the listings for tourist services, accommodation services or other similar services, shall be determined separately by FIFA. The cases, conditions and procedures for return and replacement of tickets are also determined by FIFA<sup>17</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup> Article 16 of the Law

<sup>16</sup> Article 17 of Law

<sup>17</sup> Article 22 of the Law offers FIFA the right to determine the criteria for changing, assigning, re-assigning and canceling seats for the public at the venues of activities, and has the right to change the date, time and places of the activities

FIFA or its authorized representative may process the personal data of citizens and residents of the country who purchase tickets, including registration, organization, storage, identification and use of such data, without obtaining the prior approval of the competent authorities. The Security Committee shall determine the entities that may benefit from the data provided for in the previous paragraph<sup>18</sup>.

And to facilitate FIFA task, Article 23 of the Law offers FIFA, its affiliated organizations, its commercial partners, contractors, suppliers of goods, works contractors, service providers, and broadcasters of events the right to establish companies in the country with a foreign capital of (100%) in the areas related to the activities and within the limits of government guarantees. The company that is established in accordance with the previous paragraph ends with the lapse of ninety days from the date of the end of the period for the tournament, unless it has fulfilled its conditions in accordance with the provisions of the laws in force in the country, and the competent authorities should facilitate the liquidation procedures. With the approval of the Council of Ministers, the period referred to in the previous paragraph may be extended for another period to be determined, based on the proposal of the Higher Committee.

In addition; all products marketed by FIFA, FIFA affiliated organizations, FIFA business partners, suppliers of goods, works contractors and service providers are permitted to be distributed, sold and advertised in the places of activities and the controlled commercial zone<sup>19</sup>.

And in accordance to Article 25 of the Law, and subject to the provisions of Articles (3), (4), (6) of this law, suppliers of goods, works contractors and service providers may perform the licensed works, before and during the time period of the championship, and in particular the following:

- 1 - Coordinating accommodation in hotels to carry out activities for the benefit of FIFA.
- 2 - Activities of transport companies that provide services related to the transportation of passengers, goods and baggage to carry out activities.
- 3- Organizing tourist trips and promoting and selling products used in carrying out activities for the benefit of FIFA,
- 4- Organizing ticket sales.
- 5 - The services of organizing the reception of the public and providing services in the field of transportation, restaurants, tourism activities and other services in conjunction with the possibility of attending the activities.
- 6- Providing services in the field of information technology related to the practice of activities.

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<sup>18</sup> Article 21 of the Law

<sup>19</sup> Article 24 of the Law

In addition to this. Article 26 of the Law provides that: “all entities and persons who are not authorized by FIFA are obliged to stop using any of the rights of FIFA in violation of the provisions of this chapter, immediately after being notified by the Supreme Committee or the company at the request of FIFA”. This Article is crucial to ensure the enforcement of these rights and the due observance and implementation of these rights.

### **Broadcasting and Advertising**

Chapter 7 of the Law deals with Broadcasting and Advertising. In Article 27, the Law provides that; “The broadcasters of the events shall undertake the following:

- 1 - Produce and transmit any content, video, audio, video, text or other material related to activities for FIFA or for persons designated by FIFA.
- 2 - Establishing the International Broadcasting Center for the purpose of organizing television and radio broadcasts, using facilities and other electronic equipment associated with events, and managing the center within the framework of the hosting contract and government guarantees.
- 3- Providing media services to FIFA”.

Moreover, to organize broadcasting and advertising, Article 28 of the Law prohibit illegal acts of broadcasting and advertising by stipulating the approval of the FIFA. In this regard. The law states that, “It is not permitted to advertise or promote in the premises of activities or the commercial area subject to control<sup>20</sup>. This ban is applicable during the time of the tournament and the period starting two days before the date of the initial or final drawing of the lottery, and until the day following the date of the completion of the drawing ceremony. Such acts are only permissible with the approval of FIFA, or whoever delegates it.

The Law continues to state that, “In the event of violating this rule, FIFA may submit a request to the Supreme Committee to remove the advertisement and prevent the promotion, and the competent authority shall remove the advertisement and prevent the promotion as soon as it is notified by the Supreme Committee or the company of that”.

Furthermore, Article 29 of the Law provides that, “No rights in connection with advertising may be exercised in the premises of the activities or the controlled commercial area, during the time period of the tournament, except with the approval of FIFA or its authorized representative.

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<sup>20</sup> Article 1 of the Law defines Controlled commercial area to mean, the area adjacent to the stadium or any of the places of activities determined by FIFA, with a diameter not exceeding 2 km, calculated from the middle of the stadium or places of activities and including its airspace. In this area, it is prohibited to engage in certain commercial and other activities, during the day of the match and the day on which precede him. Whereas Restricted area is defined to mean “the area outside the controlled commercial area specified by the Security Committee, and access to which is restricted to authorized persons”.

Any existing and legally licensed commercial activity may be practiced in the controlled commercial zone, unless FIFA objects to it in writing<sup>21</sup>.

### **Transportation and Mobility**

Article 31 of the Law Supreme Committee shall set a strategy to support transportation and mobility, during the time of the championship, in coordination with the competent authorities, and to ensure ease of movement in the country. This strategy shall ensure free movement for security personnel in charge of implementing the security measures for the tournament and holders of identification cards approved by FIFA or the Supreme Committee, by trains and buses designated by the state for this purpose, during the time of the tournament<sup>22</sup>. According to Article 33 of the Law, the public is also allowed to travel free of charge by the means of transportation stipulated in the previous article, during the periods determined by the Supreme Committee, in accordance with the hosting contract.

It is worth mentioning that Article 34 of the Law prohibits, during the tournament period, any increase in the airport service fees, and the collection of any amounts from the airlines, due to the airport operating outside the specified working hours or normal working conditions.

### **Volunteers**

According to the Law, FIFA, Supreme Committee and the Company may use volunteers to carry out the work they are assigned to in the country, without obtaining a work permit. In this regard, the Supreme Committee shall notify the competent authorities with lists of the names of the volunteers, specifying the positions they will occupy within the activities sites.

By virtue of Article 36 of the Law, volunteers from foreign nationals, who come to the country, during the period of operation of this law, shall enter the State according to visas for single or multiple entry at the request of the Supreme Committee and at its discretion, or at the request of FIFA. The period of intermittent stay of the volunteer in the country, may not exceed the time of the tournament. In addition, Volunteers are exempt from any taxes related to their business<sup>23</sup>.

Finally, and to ensure the obedience of the Law, article 38 imposes certain punishments on acts committed against the law, it provides that, “Without prejudice to any more severe penalty provided for by another law:

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<sup>21</sup> Article 30 of the Law provides that, “As an exception to the provisions of Law No. (1) Of 2012 and Law No. (7) Of 2019, referred to, the location and content of FIFA advertisements, FIFA’s commercial partners, FIFA contractors, suppliers of goods, works contractors and service providers, shall be subject to the approval of the Supreme Committee”.

<sup>22</sup> Article 32 of the Law.

<sup>23</sup> Article 37 of the Law.

1 - Anyone who violates any of the provisions of Articles (16), (18), (28/1), (29/1) shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year and a fine not exceeding (500,000) five hundred thousand Riyals, or by one of these two penalties.

2 - Anyone who uses domain names that contain the intellectual property rights of FIFA or something similar in the country shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months and a fine not exceeding (250,000) two hundred and fifty thousand riyals, or by one of these two penalties.

3 - Anyone who violates the provisions of Article (19/second paragraph) of this law shall be punished with a fine not exceeding (250,000) provided that penalty shall be multiplied by the number of tickets subject of the violation. In all cases, the court shall order the confiscation of the offending materials

Further to this, article 39 of the Law extends the same punishment to the person responsible for the actual management of the violating private legal person if it is proven that he was aware of the violation, or if his breach of the duties imposed on him by the management contributed to the crime.

The legal person shall be jointly responsible for paying the fines and compensations imposed if the violation was committed by one of his employees, in his name or for his benefit.

In this context, the Secretary-General of the Supreme Committee, or whomever he delegates, may conciliate in the crimes stipulated in this law. This conciliation must be before initiating the criminal case, in any state the case is in, and before adjudicating in it by a final judgment, in return for paying the violator the amount shown against the violation in the table attached to this law. Consequently and when the conciliation is conducted, the criminal case may not be initiated or terminated, as the case may be<sup>24</sup>.

Finally, the Law provides that, “The employees of the Supreme Committee and the employees of the competent authorities, who are authorized to have the capacity of judicial control officers by a decision of the Attorney General, in agreement with the Secretary General of the Supreme Committee or the minister or the head of the competent government agency. They by virtue of this capacity shall seize and prove crimes that are in violation of the provisions of this law<sup>25</sup>.

Law No. (11) Of 2021 Concerning the Protection of Trademarks, Copyright and Neighboring Rights of the International Football Association (FIFA)

The aim of the law is provide protection to all Trademarks, Copyright and Neighboring Rights of the FIFA. The most important article in the Law is Article 7, which provides that, “FIFA

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<sup>24</sup> Article 40 of the Law.

<sup>25</sup> Article 41 of the Law.

trademarks<sup>26</sup> are considered well-known and protected, even if they are not registered in the country. This rule is applied regardless of whether the products or services to be registered are identical or similar to the products or services associated with those marks, as long as they are protected in any of the member states of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property Referred to.

The ban contained in Article (8/ Clause 8) of Law No. (9) Of 2002 referred to, applies to identical or similar signs, to the extent that the public confuses the mark to be registered and any translation or literal translation of the FIFA trademarks or for a large part of it". And in the event of a rejection of an application to register a trademark for a third party in implementation of the provisions of this article or the provisions of Article (8) of Law No. (9) Of 2002 referred to, for a reason related to FIFA trademarks, the office must notify FIFA of the rejection decision within ten days from the date of its issuance.

Moreover, according to Article 10 of the Law, FIFA is exempted from fees for trademark registration, deposit of works, audio recordings, performances of performers and its broadcasts.

### **Labor law and some related legal instruments**

Radical and long waited amendments have been made to the Qatari Labor Law and to some relevant bylaws concerning workers' right to change their employers without the permission of their previous employer, endorsement of the minimum wage<sup>27</sup>. Mechanisms by the wages are paid, omission of the exit permit at the end of services, and other issues concerning organizing work hours during the summer days<sup>28</sup>, a national fund to support workers and ensure their safety at work places, workers' welfare and compensation in the event of employers' closure<sup>29</sup>. Many other aspects of reform were made such as reimbursement of unethical recruitment fees, launching pioneering cooling suits, introducing a first-of-its-kind nutrition programme, electronic medical records systems for workers and conducting quarterly audits and inspections across ethical recruitment, accommodation and construction sites.

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<sup>26</sup>Article 1 of the Law defines FIFA owned trademarks to mean Trademarks owned by FIFA related to tournaments organized by FIFA and hosted by the State, until the end of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, even if they are not registered in the State of Qatar.

<sup>27</sup> The Minimum wage is set to be 1000 QR per month, and 500 QR for accommodation, and 300 QR for meals if not provided by the employer. 1800 QR almost equal 500 USD. It is to be mentioned that the minimum wage committee will periodically revise this minimum wage according to inflation rates and living expense.

<sup>28</sup> Starting for 1<sup>st</sup> June until 15 September, special working requirements and equipments are to be applied to protect workers from heat stress.

<sup>29</sup> Roberto Lusardi , "Qatar 2022 World Cup: Laws, Changes and Legacy Benefits", 2018, A version of this article was first published during the week of 18 June 2018 on Lawinsport.com. Available online at: <https://www.tamimi.com/law-update-articles/qatar-2022-world-cup-laws-changes-and-legacy-benefits>

The Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy published the Workers' Charter in 2013 to ensure the wellbeing, health, safety and security of workers at all times. To bring these principles into effect, the SC launched the Workers' Welfare Standards in 2014 as mandatory requirements for contractors to be part of tournament-related projects<sup>30</sup>.

These amendments and standards raise working standards in Qatar labor market and Qatar legislative frameworks up to recognized international standards or even beyond and may set an example for other states willing to reorganize its labor market and modernize its labor legislation in the GCC States<sup>31</sup> or elsewhere.

### **Emiri Resolution No. (80) Of 2011 regarding the Sports Day**

In a pioneering and unprecedented step to encourage sports, the State of Qatar assign an official holiday every year to celebrate sports national wide. According to the Emiri Resolution No. 80 of 2011, Tuesday of the second week of February every year shall be a national sports day.

All ministries and other government agencies including the private sector shall organize sports events on the State Sports Day, in which employees and their affiliates participate, according to their conditions and ages, to achieve awareness of the importance of Sports and its role in the lives of individuals and societies.

These entities shall provide the participants with what is necessary to participate in the aforementioned activities.

According to Article 4 of the resolution, National Sports Day shall be considered as an official paid holiday.

Qatar national sport day initiative was unique and pioneering step in Qatar's effort to brand the nation by certain features, sport was one of these brands<sup>32</sup>. To build the state soft power, the Qatari authorities adopt many other brands i.e. media, diplomatic networks and partnerships, humanitarian aids, education, truism, economic wealth<sup>33</sup>.

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<sup>30</sup>The updated SC Workers Welfare Standards 2013, <https://www.qatar2022.qa/sites/default/files/documents/Workers-Welfare-Standards-Qatar-2022-EN.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> GCC stands for Gulf Corporation Council or "Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf", a regional international organization founded in 1971 among six Arab State on the Arabian Gulf, which are Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, State of Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Sultanate of Oman, and the Kingdom of Bahrain, with limited membership offered to the Yemen Arab Republic. Iraq participates in in Gulf Football Cup but with no official membership in the GCC. Official website of the Secretariat General of GCC is: <https://www.gcc-sg.org/en-us/Pages/default.aspx>

<sup>32</sup> The ESSEC Sports Chair – ESSEC Business School, "Sport as a nation-branding tool: The case study of Qatar", France, available online at: <https://sports-chair.essec.edu/resources/research-reports/sport-as-a-nation-branding-tool-the-case-study-of-qatar>

<sup>33</sup> For more about the Qatar soft power see, José Ignacio Castro Torres, "From Soft to Subtle Power: The Case of Qatar", 2021, Analysis Paper available online at: [https://www.ieee.es/Galerias/fichero/docs\\_analisis/2021/DIEEEA38\\_2021\\_JOSCAS\\_Catar\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.ieee.es/Galerias/fichero/docs_analisis/2021/DIEEEA38_2021_JOSCAS_Catar_ENG.pdf)

### **Law No. 1 of 2016 concerning the organization of Sports Clubs**

The amended Law concerning the organization of Sports Clubs introduces many Radical amendments and provisions that update to the Law regarding the organization of Sports Clubs for the year 2016 to be in conformity of international standards in regulating sports clubs and its formation, administration, and governance.

In this regard, one may cite Article 50 of the Law as amended in 2018, this article emphasizes the importance of observing international standards in the implementation of the Law. it reads as follows; “In applying the provisions of this law, the principles of independence of sport and relevant international standards must be observed and respected, which include the principles and rules established in the Olympic Charter, the statutes of national and international sports federations, the World Anti-Doping Code, and the International Convention on Anti-Doping in the Field of Sport”.

### **Law No. (24) Of 2015 Promulgating the Law Regulating Tenders and Auctions**

Article 3 of the Law set up the main principles in conducting public tenders by defining public tender as the sum of the announced procedures in accordance with the conditions set forth in this law and regulations, with the aim of reaching the tenderer who submits the best bid.

The public tenders are subject to the principles of justice, openness, equality, equal opportunities, freedom of competition, transparency and value for money”.

These principles are important while conducting all the works relevant to the World Cup projects and preparations as well as all other public works related to infrastructure in the state.

### **Environmental law No. (30) Of 2002**

The environment receives a due attention in Qatar’s public policy. This attention is apparent within the Qatar’s legal frameworks and practices. Besides Qatar’s National vision 2030 which set environmental development as one of its’ four pillars<sup>34</sup>.

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<sup>34</sup>The vision set up certain goals and procedures to achieve environmental development as follows: An environmentally aware population that values the preservation of the natural heritage of Qatar and its neighboring states. An agile and comprehensive legal system that protects all elements of the environment, responding quickly to challenges as they arise. Effective and sophisticated environmental institutions that build and strengthen public awareness about environmental protection, and encourage the use of environmentally sound technologies. These institutions will also conduct awareness raising campaigns, employ environmental planning tools, and carry out environmental research

A comprehensive urban development plan for Qatar that adopts a sustainable policy with regard to urban expansion and population distribution.

Encouragement of regional cooperation to put in place preventive measures to mitigate the negative environmental effects of pollution arising from development activities.

A proactive and significant regional role in assessing the impact of climate change and mitigating its negative impacts, especially on countries of the Gulf. Support for international efforts to mitigate the effects



Article 6 of the Law stipulates that, “All administrative and private agencies are obligated to include the requirement of environmental protection and pollution control in all local and foreign agreements and contracts whose implementation may result in harmful effects to the environment”. It shall ensure that these contracts include penal clause and commitment to the expenses of removing environmental damages and compensation for them”.

### **Institutional and legal frameworks Legacies both in the national and international levels.**

The above-mentioned legacies are not the only aspects of the remaining world cup legacies within the Qatari legal system. One may cite many other aspects in which the tournament affects the Qatari legal system as well as international both at the institutional and legal frameworks. In this regard, significant Qatari initiatives are made at the domestic and global levels as follows.

1. The establishment of Qatar Sports Arbitration Foundation “**QSAF**”<sup>35</sup>; which is an independent semi judicial body with wide and specified jurisdiction to settle and decide sports and sports related disputes in a simple, fast, transparent, and efficient way according to international standards.
2. The Qatari contribution to the establishment the Sport Integrity Global Alliance “**SIGA**”<sup>36</sup>. Besides the active role, that Qatar is playing in **SIGA** works and initiatives. **SIGA** aim is to provide global leadership, promote good governance and safeguard the integrity of sport through a set of universal standards operated by an independent, neutral and global body.
3. The funding of **Stadia** project, which is an initiative established by the INTERPOL in 2012 and funded by Qatar, Stadia was launched as a 10-year project to contribute to policing and security arrangements for the 2022 FIFA World Cup™ in Qatar. According to the official website of the INTERPOL, which highlight the Qatari partnership, support and contribution by stating: “With continued support from Qatar, the project has been extended for a further two years. This will build a lasting legacy of learning, and will support future host countries across the world in securing major international events”<sup>37</sup>.
4. Sports law academic programs such as executive master in Sports Law offered by Qatar Olympic Academy<sup>38</sup> and an undergraduate course in Sports Law within the college of Law

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of climate change. Qatar National vision 2030, Available online at: <https://www.gco.gov.qa/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/GCO-QNV-English.pdf>.

<sup>35</sup> Qatar Sports Arbitration Foundation, official website, <https://www.qsaf.qa/en>

<sup>36</sup>The Sport Integrity Global Alliance, <https://siga-sport.com>

<sup>37</sup> See the of official website for the INTERPOL at: <https://www.interpol.int/en/How-we-work/Project-Stadia>

<sup>38</sup> Qatar Olympic Committee, official website, <https://www.olympic.qa/media-center/qoa-organize-masters-program-sports-law>

curriculum at Qatar University, besides many training courses in Sports Law and related topic offered by office of community services and continuing learning at Qatar University<sup>39</sup>.

5. The issuance of Sports law book by the Qatar University Press in 2021<sup>40</sup> and many Sports Law research papers published in academic refereed journal both in Arabic and in English<sup>41</sup>. These refereed academic works presents a considerable addition to sports law literature especially when it comes to Arabic academic legal literature.

To conclude, one may notice that the hosting of FIFA world Cup- Qatar 2022 enriches Qatari national legal system with quality legislation related to the organization of the tournament in deferent aspects. This happened directly with the introduction of special laws for this purposes. In addition, indirect enrichment happened with the amendments and or exceptions made to existing national laws such as Labor Law, Sports Clubs Law, Sport related legal instruments “National

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<sup>39</sup> The Community Service and Continuing Education Center (CCE), Qatar University, [http://www.qu.edu.qa/static\\_file/qu/CCE/documents/Course%20Catalog/Course%20Catalogue%202020.pdf](http://www.qu.edu.qa/static_file/qu/CCE/documents/Course%20Catalog/Course%20Catalogue%202020.pdf)

<sup>40</sup>Qatar University News Room, 11-2-2021, <https://www.qu.edu.qa/newsroom/LAW/QU-Press-releases-%E2%80%93Sports-Law-Book>, see also <https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/14/02/2021/Qatar-University-Press-releases-%E2%80%93Sports-Law-Book%E2%80%99>

<sup>41</sup> Among them the following,

1- **Football and Sustainability in the Desert, Qatar 2022 Green World Cup’s Stadiums: Legal Perspective**, Abdelnaser Zeyad Hayajneh & others, European Journal of Social Sciences, ISSN 1450-2267 Vol. 55 No 4 December 2017, Pp.475-493, available online at: [http://www.europeanjournalofsocialsciences.com/issues/PDF/EJSS\\_55\\_4\\_09.pdf](http://www.europeanjournalofsocialsciences.com/issues/PDF/EJSS_55_4_09.pdf)

2-“**Sports Law and Sport Integrity in Qatar; Analyzing the Law for Regulating Sports Clubs and other legal instruments in a critical context**”, Abdelnaser Zeyad Hayajneh, Global Journal of Politics and Law Research, ISSN 2053-6321(Print), ISSN: 2053-6593(Online), Vol.9, No.8, pp.1-19, 2021. <https://www.eajournals.org/wp-content/uploads/Sports-Law-and-Sport-Integrity-in-Qatar-Replace-with-this.pdf>

3- **Tracing Environmental Law Principles within the Qatari Legal System**, Abdelnaser Zeyad Hayajneh & others, British Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, December 2017, Vol. 18 (2), ISSN 2048-1268, Pp 102-115, available online at: [http://www.ajournal.co.uk/HSpdfs/HSvolume18\(2\)/HSVol.18%20\(2\)%20Article%209.pdf](http://www.ajournal.co.uk/HSpdfs/HSvolume18(2)/HSVol.18%20(2)%20Article%209.pdf)

4- **We shall blow up the World Cup Ball! The Neutrality of Sports in the Gulf Crisis from a Legal Perspective**, Abdelnaser Zeyad Hayajneh, International Review of Law, 2018, issue 4, available in Arabic at: <https://journals.qu.edu.qa/index.php/IRL/article/view/1434>

Sports Day”, Public Tenders and Auctions Law, Company Law, Tax Law, Environmental law, Laws and practices related to Human rights<sup>42</sup>.

The remaining legacy of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will set a model and good example to others who wish to host mega sports events in terms of providing the suitable and enhancing legal frameworks. Not only the wealth and intentions make dreams come true. Rather, it is a wide range of factors and efforts that do so, in legal, economic, social, and cultural dimensions.

Qatar is in the process of transformation and proceeding very well in the implementation of its national vision 2030. Therefore, the hosting of mega sports events such as the FIFA world cup Qatar 2022 will make significant step forward in Qatar’s efforts to brand the nation by certain features, sport is certainly - among others - one of these features.

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<sup>42</sup> In line with these legal legacies, Qatar was active in sports investments since 2004, with the establishment of Qatar Sports Investments as a private shareholding Organization with the ambition to invest in profit-bearing sports related projects within Qatar and internationally. According to its official website, QSI may act independently or in conjunction with investment partners and can be a facilitator for potential investments in Qatar or internationally. Currently QSI is the sole owner to the prominent French Paris Saint-Germain FC, acquires minority stake “21%” in Sporting Clube de Braga “SC Braga”, Portugal, and has strategic partnership with The International Padel Federation to support Premier Padel. Beside these, QSI owns other sport related business companies i.e. NextStep Marketing, and BURRDA SPORT. For more information see the QSI official web site at: <https://www.qsi.com.qa>

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