



Mrs Lydia Nsekera

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Dear Mrs. Nsekera,

On behalf of everyone at **DISCOVER FOOTBALL**, we would like to sincerely congratulate you on your recent election into the FIFA-Executive Committee!

As a non-governmental organization engaged in supporting women's football all over the world, we take great courage from your election and have high expectations that a woman on the Executive Committee may strengthen the structures for women in the world of football, on and beyond the field.

Over the last few years we have met more than 200 women from different continents and countries who certainly had one thing in common: the love of football. Based on this experience, we would like to inspire you to consider the obstacles that persist in women's football.

In our opinion, three aspects are of particular importance: firstly, the concept of gender mainstreaming should be given greater consideration within all projects and programs at FIFA; secondly, the advancement of gender capacity in FIFA needs to be guaranteed; and thirdly, the rule to finance women's football departments should be followed more strictly. The quality and consideration of all three aspects can only be guaranteed through an external evaluation program.

Of course, money alone will not make women in football equal.

First and foremost, we think that all future programs funded or initiated by FIFA should be regarded under gender mainstreaming aspects. This means that the effect of a particular program on women should be considered before its implementation: how can the program contribute to and support structures of gender mainstreaming and gender equality? Furthermore, we have the impression that the federal football associations oftentimes do not know which capacity lies in women playing football and how structures to include women can be developed. Therefore we strongly encourage you to initiate an education program to support the building of gender capacity within all structures of FIFA as well as within the federal football associations. This is the only way to guarantee gender mainstreaming in a long-term perspective and to enhance structures on the national and global level that encourage and support women in doing what they love so much: playing football.

With great respect for your work and our best wishes for success for your new task,

the **DISCOVER FOOTBALL** Team