



## Transcription of interview

# **Make Goals Not War** director **Matias “Maty Campeonísimo” Margulis** and **FIFA** president **Joseph S. Blatter**

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**MC:** Maty Campeonísimo

**JB:** Joseph S. Blatter

**MC:** You and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan announced you would work together to promote football for development and peace. How is football an instrument for peace?

**JB:** Football can create a better world. This is definite and we see it here at the Street Football Festival. Why? It is pure integration, it is pure solidarity, it is tolerance, it is anti-racism, and it is about getting people together. This is part of the big activities that we are doing in the world of football. Here at the World Cup we are sending positive emotions all around the World. These positive emotions create understanding around the world because this allows people to speak to another about football which creates common understanding. So football is a good tool for a better world.

So if this better world is to work for peace, this (football) is a necessary step. We want to make a better future through our game.

**MC:** Under your tenure as FIFA president, FIFA has grown beyond just football and has accepted its social responsibility. It now has development programs all over the world. Explain to me where this vision originated?

**JB:** I've been working for 31 years in football. I was the first development officer at FIFA. I am still a development officer. Development is education and you can never stop education. We have realized that football is more than just game, more than just a professional game with a high level of entertainment.

Football has 250 million active participants in the world and when you add their families who are indirectly involved in football, this practically means that we represent one sixth of the world's population. So we have to see that this movement is part of our society. In our society we need to not only look at the technique and tactical parts of football or the business side of football. We have to look at the social and cultural part.

That's why FIFA has to take social responsibility for the game and this is now our outlook for the next couple of years. I announced this at the FIFA Congress in Munich two days before the start of the 2006 World Cup and announced our new project and outlook, "Football For A Better World." We are also integrating this through Win in Africa for Africa.

FIFA has to take more responsibility. That means that we will not just work with humanitarian programs agencies, but also that we need to do something ourselves, through our own organizational pyramid, through national federations, the leagues, the clubs, and the players.

**MC:** Our organization Make Goals Not War and Maty Campeonísimo have been traveling all over Germany talking with fans, players, and politicians to get support to use football to resolve international conflicts. We envisage a future with no war and where football matches are used to settle international conflict. What do you think of this idea?

**JB:** That is a wonderful idea. If you have a conflict, you can settle it through a football match. You have these characteristics present in a football match; you have two teams or two parties going into combat. But it is a fair combat because there are rules and there is a referee. You don't have that in war. And specifically, you also have a time limit which ends at the 90 minute and a geographical limit because you have a physical boundary of the field.

FIFA invites all parties to going into a war situation to have a football match for 90 minutes and this will make the world a better place.

**MC & JB:** Make Goals Not War!