

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2025

Remarks in an Exchange With Reporters Prior to the 2026 Fédération Internationale des Associations de Football (FIFA) World Cup Draw
December 5, 2025

[The President's remarks were joined in progress.]

The President. It's a great honor to be here. Gianni has done a fantastic job. We're setting records—*[inaudible]*.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Well, I think so. They have a little bit of a shot. Pretty stiff competition. But I would say they would have a small chance.

2025 FIFA Peace Prize

Q. [Inaudible]—win the FIFA Peace Award?

The President. Well, it would be an honor.

2026 World Cup Draw Event

Q. Will you root for some selection? Will you root for someone?

The President. Well, I root for a lot of countries, but in this case, I'll be rooting for the U.S.A. *[Laughter]*

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. That's great. That's great. We really love it.

2025 FIFA Peace Prize

Q. Mr. President, have you been told that you are going to receive the inaugural peace prize today——

The President. I have not——

Q. ——from FIFA?

The President. I have not been told. There's a rumor about it, but I have not been told. That would be a great honor, and I'm a big fan of Gianni, as you know.

Q. What can fans expect——

Q. Are you hoping to receive that?

The President. Excuse me.

Q. Are you hoping to receive the peace prize?

The President. Well, I don't like to say "hope," but it would be a great honor.

2026 World Cup

Q. What can fans expect of, like, the World Cup in the U.S.?

The President. I think it's going to be fantastic. We've set every record you can set.

Q. What are you telling people who are worried——

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) President Giovanni V. Infantino

Q. [Inaudible]—friend Gianni—[inaudible]—a word about him?

The President. I think he has done a fantastic job.

The President's Schedule

Q. Are you going to be meeting with the President of Mexico today and the——

The President. We might. Yes.

Q. ——Prime Minister of Canada as well?

The President. I might. I might do that.

Q. Will you be discussing immigration and trade with them?

The President. Yes, we'll be discussing.

[At this point, the President and Mr. Infantino posed for photographs.]

The President. Thank you, everybody.

2026 World Cup Draw Event/John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Q. Mr. President, what do you think about the crowd?

The President. Oh, look, the new star—[inaudible].

Congratulations.

Q. Thank you.

The President. You're the new star of television and Fox.

Q. Thank you. How are you doing, Mr. President?

The President. I'm doing very well.

Q. What do you think about the crowd here?

The President. I think the crowd is great, and I think the building is great. We've made a lot of improvements over the last 6 months. Taking—the Kennedy Center was in very bad shape. Now it's getting to be really good. And in 6 months, it's going to be incredible with the improvements we've made.

Q. The first time for the U.S. to host since the nineties.

The President. Right.

Q. Are you ready for it?

The President. I'm ready for it, and they're ready for it. And Gianni, who you know——

Mr. Infantino. Yes.

The President. ——has done a fantastic job with FIFA. And we're looking to have—you know, we're set—we have already set records for tickets sales. I don't think there's ever been anything like it in any sport. And so, I want to congratulate you.

Mr. Infantino. Thank you.

The President. I don't even have to wait. But major records have been set.

How are you?

Q. Good, how are you, sir?

The President. Nice to see you.

Q. Today it's not football—American football. It's soccer. It's——

The President. Right.

Q. ——the big event of soccer.

The President. That's right. That's right.

2026 World Cup Draw Event

Q. So can you tell me about this big day today?

The President. It's just a big day, and it's a great sport. And it really is coming to America. And never—nobody ever thought a thing like this could happen. And I'm very happy to say that we've already set the alltime record on ticket sales long before the first ball is kicked. Right?

Mr. Infantino. A hundred percent. One hundred percent.

2026 World Cup Host Cities

Q. You've had some concerns about crime in American cities, some of the cities that will be hosting. Have they remedied that for you? Are you still considering maybe asking FIFA to move some of those cities?

The President. No, I don't want to do that. But I will tell you, if they do have a problem, by the time we get there, we'll take care of that problem. We can solve that problem.

I've proven that in DC and everywhere else we went, so we'll take care of that very easily. So, if they have a problem, hopefully, they'll let us know that, and we will solve any problem.

Okay? Thank you.

Q. Thank you so much.

Mr. Infantino. All right, thank you so much.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you. Appreciate it.

The President. Congratulations.

2026 World Cup

Q. Mr. President, Brazilian television. America will be hosting the World Cup and the Olympics in 2 years. How important it is—[inaudible]?

The President. I think very. It's a great honor. I think Gianni is doing a phenomenal job. We've set every record on ticket sales. It's been really fantastic. But Gianni has done an unbelievable job with FIFA.

The President's Experience With Soccer

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. He was a great—not only that. I got to see a man name Pelé play—right?—that tells you how old I am—when he was on the Cosmos. Do you remember that a long time ago? And it was quite a treat. That was quite an event. And he was—not only was he playing, he

was great. He scored two goals, I think. And so, I was one of the few who got to see Pelé, and I assume he is one of your alltime greats. Right?

Mr. Infantino. Definitely.

The President. So I got to see him.

The President's Favorite World Cup Competitor

Q. Do you have some favorite teams for World Cup?

The President. Well, I have a favorite. It's the U.S.A. [*Laughter*] I don't know what their chances are, Gianni, but maybe the U.S.A. is the——

Mr. Infantino. They're getting better and better, actually.

The President. I think they'll do well.

Mr. Infantino. They are getting better and better.

The President. I think they'll do well.

Thank you very much, everybody.

Q. Thank you so much.

2026 World Cup

Q. Mr. President, World Cup in America just means—[*inaudible*]. So what do you expect from this World Cup?

The President. [*Inaudible*]—record business and only in the United States, but we're also doing record ticket sales with FIFA. And they've already bought—beat their highest record. And we—you know, this a long time before the first ball is kicked. You've sold more tickets than they've ever done before, and better pricing than they've ever gotten before. It's a tremendous success. And it's an honor. And Gianni has done a phenomenal job with FIFA.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—ever?

The President. I think so. I think it's going to be—I mean, ideally, you want to see that every year. Every 4 years, it gets bigger and better. I think we have set every record in the book. We're very happy about it.

Thank you.

The President's Favorite World Cup Competitor

Q. [*Inaudible*]—part of America. Who are you going to support as well?

The President. Well, I think I have to support U.S.A. Otherwise, I'd be in trouble. I wouldn't be President for long.

Mr. Infantino. [*Inaudible*]

The President. [*Inaudible*]—but you have a lot of great teams. You're going to have a lot of great teams.

The President's Interest in Soccer

Q. Should there be a special final: American—[*inaudible*]?

The President. No, but I got to meet Ronaldo the other day, came to the White House. He was fantastic. He's a handsome guy and a great guy. And my son Barron and him—and they had

a big conversation. And my son loves soccer—"football," as you would say. But Ronaldo is great. He's a great guy. He's got the whole package. He's a great player.

Thank you very much. Thank you. [*Inaudible*]

2026 World Cup Draw/Ticket Sales for World Cup

Q. How does it feel to be part of this amazing event? And obviously, your being a part of participating in all the—[*inaudible*]?

The President. The President of Mexico is here, and she's doing a very good job. She's a good woman, very, very excellent job. It's an honor, and we're setting every record, and you're helping us set those records.

Mr. Infantino. And we will do it.

The President. You know, Mexico and Canada are helping us set those records. But as you know, we have a record in ticket sales already, long before the first ball is kicked, and we're going to do great.

I think that Gianni—as you know, he's the head, and he has done a fantastic job.

U.S. Cooperation With Mexico and Canada

Q. And how is the biggest challenge being three countries?

The President. Well, I think that—do you mean for the three countries?

Well, they've gotten together really well, I mean.

Mr. Infantino. All right.

The President. They're getting along very well.

Mr. Infantino. Collaboration is fantastic between the three.

The President's Interest in Soccer/2026 World Cup

Q. And you like soccer?

The President. I do. I like it. I like it more and more.

Q. Yes?

The President. I like it. It's growing in this country—very, really—I mean, someday, maybe it's going to be bigger than anything else.

Mr. Infantino. We'll have to become number one.

The President. I will say this——

Mr. Infantino. Definitely.

The President. ——the ticket sales——

Q. Definitely will happen.

Mr. Infantino. Yes.

The President. Ticket sales are bigger than anything we have ever done in the history of the country, in terms of sports.

Mr. Infantino. For certain.

Q. And the audience is going to be huge.

The President. The audience is going to be tremendous.

Mr. Infantino. Yes.

The President. Yes.

Mr. Infantino. Six billion people.

The President. [Inaudible]

Q. Six billion? That's amazing.

Mr. Infantino. Six billion people.

And today, one billion.

Q. Wow.

Mr. Infantino. [Inaudible]

Q. Enjoy show time. Thank you so much.

The President. [Inaudible]

Q. Mr. President, how are you? Just a quick—[inaudible].

Q. This is for Telemundo.

The President. How are you?

Mr. Infantino. Yes.

2026 World Cup Draw Event

Q. Hello, Mr. President. How are you? This for Telemundo.

The President. How are you? Good.

Q. How are you?

The President. Very good. Thank you.

Q. How does it feel to have the most important event of sports—that global—in the U.S.?

The President. Well, we do. And right at the Kennedy Center. I'm Chairman of the Kennedy Center. And I hear the Kennedy Center is doing a very good job, so it feels great. Really good.

And Telemundo is doing a good job, too. Thank you.

Q. Thank you.

2026 World Cup

Q. What is the significance of hosting the FIFA World Cup this year?

The President. It's a—in terms of sports, I would say the ultimate. There is no sport like this. It's the biggest sport in the world. And we are setting every record. You know, our ticket sales have gone and set every—every sport—no matter what it is, we've set the record. So—and every though it's very early, there's no ball being kicked yet, but we've already set a ticket sales record.

Argentina National Team

Q. How do you see Argentinean team for this World Cup?

The President. Well, I love Argentina. And your President is doing a very good job, as you know. Milei. You know that right? It's make Argentina great again. MAGA.

Q. And——

U.S. National Team

Q. Do you think the States are building a powerful team for next year?

The President. Who?

Q. The States.

The President. Oh, yes. Sure. I—you're going to have a lot of powerful teams. Everybody has a lot of powerful teams, but you're going to have a lot of great teams. [*Inaudible*]

U.S. Role in Hosting the 2026 World Cup

Q. Mr. President, what does it mean for you guys to host the World Cup right here in the U.S.?

The President. I'm honored to host it. It's a great honor. I mean, it's turned out to be bigger than we thought. We're setting a record for ticket sales, the likes of which no sport has ever seen before.

The President's Interest in Soccer

Q. Did you ever play soccer—or football?

The President. Believe it or not, I did. I did, and I loved it. I had a—I was okay. I wouldn't say—I was not Ronaldo or Messi. I was a little bit short of them. [*Laughter*] But——

Mr. Infantino. Just a little bit.

The President. But they have a little more speed.

But no, I was fine. But I loved playing soccer.

Popularity of Soccer in Latin America

Q. Mr. President, a message for the Latin America and soccer fans?

The President. Yes, I am. And Latin America is great. And they have great soccer. So, good luck in the matches.

[*A reporter asked a question in Spanish, which was translated by an interpreter as follows.*]

U.S. Visas for World Cup Ticketholders

Q. Who is going to be in—[*inaudible*—about these visas for the—these fans that want to come here to the World Cup?

The President. Well, we're going to make it very easy for them. We're working on that right now. We're going to make it very easy. It's going to be a very easy process.

Q. Okay. Say, hi to Colombia over there.

The President. Hello. Is that Colombia?

Q. Yes.

The President. I love Colombia. Hello, Colombia. [*Laughter*]

Q. Okay. Okay. *Muy bien.*

The President. So where are you from?

Q. Paraguay.

The President. Oh.

Q. He's from Paraguay. Yes.

The President. Very good. I love it. I—it's a beautiful country. We get along very well with them. We do a little trade deal with them, and they like us. And that's what's happening.

Q. Panama.

The President. Where?

Very good. I like the canal. [*Laughter*] That canal is pretty good.

[*A reporter spoke in Spanish; no translation was provided.*]

2026 World Cup

The President. What?

Q. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Well, it's going to be incredible. The event is going to be very good. Just this event alone—it's at the Kennedy Center. I see you have it fixed up perfectly.

Mr. Infantino. It will set the tone.

The President. Right? It's beautiful.

Mr. Infantino. It's beautiful.

The President. It's a beautiful place.

Have a good time.

Q. [*Inaudible*]

The President.

[*A reporter spoke in Spanish; no translation was provided.*]

Mr. Infantino. No, gracias. [*Inaudible*]

The President. It's great.

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts/Renovation Work

Q. Mr. President, the U.S. press?

The President. Thank you, everybody, very much. It's a great honor. This has been an honor for a lot of reasons. Number one, they've sold more tickets than any event has ever sold already—long before the kickoff.

And number two, we've done a lot of work at the Kennedy Center. It was falling apart, and now it's pretty much back. And we'll get it back within the next 4 or 5 months through construction, and—but you see the way it looks.

And Gianni is just telling me—who's done an incredible job, by the way. He's just telling, you know, how good a job we've done.

Mr. Infantino. That's right.

The President. You can look at the walls. The marble was broken. Everything was a mess. And we've really taken the Kennedy Center—a lot of people thought it was going to be ripped down, and we did just the opposite. So we've done a really great renovation job on it. And over

the next 3, 4 months, it will be complete. And we're honored to have it here, and it's been—it's been very special.

We've set a record on ticket sales, as you probably heard, already, even way before—long before the event itself. And we're working with Canada, and we're working with Mexico. And it's been a really spectacular—so far, it's been spectacular.

Daniel [Daniel Baldwin, One America News Network], do you have a question?

2026 World Cup

Q. What are your expectations? You once said that the FIFA World Cup is an opportunity to put—a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to put the greatness of the United States on display.

The President. Well, I think—

Q. One billion eyeballs will be watching, Mr. President.

The President. Yes, I—think——

Q. What will they here today?

The President. Even today, I understand. I hear that, you know——

Mr. Infantino. Yes.

The President. ——I know we're a little late to get in there, but——

Mr. Infantino. Yes.

The President. ——that's okay.

Mr. Infantino. They wait.

The President. So all my friends, I guess they have to wait. They have no choice, right?
[Laughter]

Mr. Infantino. Yes, they wait.

The President. But no, the numbers are incredible. I hear today's numbers are——

Mr. Infantino. Yes.

The President. ——very big. I hope CNN is covering this.

Q. One billion eyeballs.

Mr. Infantino. Today, 1 billion eyeballs.

The President. Today's numbers are very, very big.

2025 FIFA Peace Prize/The President's Foreign Policy

Q. We are covering it. And you're expected to get the FIFA Peace Prize, Mr. President. What would you say to people who say that prize might conflict with your pledge to strike Venezuela?

The President. Well, I think the peace prize—I mean, I settled eight wars. I don't know that I'm getting it. I haven't been officially noticed. I've been hearing about a peace prize, and I'm here to represent our country in a different sense. But I can tell you, I did settle eight wars, and we have a ninth coming, but—which nobody has ever done before.

But I want to really save lives. I don't need prizes. I need to save lives. And we're saving a lot of lives. And I've saved millions and millions of lives, and that's really what I want to do.

And I also want to run a great country. And the United States right now is the hottest country anywhere in the world. And 1 year ago, it was dead. We had a dead country, and now we have the hottest country anywhere in the world.

Q. Mr. President, will you——

The President's Meeting With President Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo of Mexico and Prime Minister Mark Carney of Canada

Q. What are you going to discuss with Canada and Mexico, Mr.—what are you going to discuss with the leaders of Canada and Mexico?

The President. Well, we're getting—we're going to meet with both. And we're getting along very well. You know, we're getting along very well. I don't know. I think we have a meeting set up for some time after the event.

Q. Will you discuss trade?

The President. Yes, we'll discuss trade. We—get along very well.

Thank you, everybody, very much.

Q. Will you pardon any other Honduran officials?

Q. Do you want them to keep trying to indict Ms. James?

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:13 a.m. at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In his remarks, he referred to Trey Yingst, chief foreign correspondent, Fox News Channel; Cristiano Ronaldo, forward for Saudi Pro League club Al-Nass and Portugal's national soccer team; and Lionel Messi, forward for Major League Soccer club Inter Miami and Argentina's national team. A reporter referred to New York State Attorney General Letitia James. The transcript was released by the Office of Communications on December 8, 2025, with a corrected transcript released on January 2, 2026. Portions of these remarks could not be verified because the audio was incomplete.

Categories: Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters, Washington, DC.

Locations: Washington, DC.

Names: Carney, Mark; Infantino, Giovanni V.; Messi, Lionel; Ronaldo, Cristiano; Sheinbaum Pardo, Claudia; Trump, Barron W.; Yingst, Trey.

Subjects: Canada, Prime Minister; District of Columbia, law enforcement improvement efforts; Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup; John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Mexico, President; News media, Presidential interviews; Panama Canal, ownership and operations; Soccer; U.S. diplomatic efforts, expansion; Visa policy, U.S.

DCPD Number: DCPD202501162.