



FOOTBALL FOR FRIENDSHIP

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Appendix

Welcome message from President of Russia
to participants, organizers and guests of
6th season of Gazprom's Football for Friendship international children's programme

Dear friends,

I am happy to welcome the participants and guests of the 6th season of Gazprom's Football for Friendship international children's programme in Moscow.

This year, the final events of the project feel particularly festive, as Russia will very soon host the 2018 FIFA World Cup featuring the best footballers on the planet. On the eve of this momentous occasion, young players from 211 countries gathered here in Moscow to demonstrate their talents and abilities in a fair fight, to learn from seasoned football stars, and to meet their peers.

I am convinced that ambitious initiatives like Football for Friendship carry out a vital mission: they support children's and youth sports, promote the values of healthy and active living, and instill respect for different ethnicities and cultures.

Even more importantly, they result in friendly and joyful interactions that make a powerful and lasting impression.

I wish you success and all the best.

Vladimir Putin

President of Russia