



Montevideo, January 4, 2021

The “Asociación Uruguaya de Fútbol” (Uruguayan Football Association) wishes to express its solidarity and absolute support to Edinson Cavani in this adverse circumstance in which he has been involved.

We know the player, but we know the human being very especially since he was a teenager in his passage through the youth teams. We are witnesses of his noble soul. We have seen him grow towards glory and return once and again being always the same simple, supportive and humble person.

Edinson is a person of impeccable morals and ethics, a human being of calm temper and solidary sensitivity.

The analysis of the fact that led to the disciplinary process and the imposed sanction, has merited its unanimous rejection by those who apply the most elementary criteria of cultural contextualization and meaning of expressions in the Spanish language.

In our Spanish language, which differs greatly from the Spanish spoken in other regions of the world, the nicknames “negro/a” or “negrito/a” are used regularly as an expression of friendship, affection, closeness and trust, and in no way refer in a contemptuous or discriminatory manner to the race or skin color of the alluded person.

[The “Academia Nacional de Letras” \(National Academy of Letters\) of Uruguay expresses the above with conclusive clarity in its formally issued statement, indicating - among other arguments - the following:](#)

“In the variety of Spanish language in Uruguay, for example, between couples and friends, between parents and children, we can hear and read



expressions such as “gordis”, “gordito”, “negri”, “negrito/a”. In fact, the person who is treated with these vocatives does not have to be overweight or have a dark skin color”.

It is also relevant to take into account that the gratitude of Cavani that started this confusion, was addressed to a Uruguayan, who is also his close friend and therefore, knows and shares his manner of speaking.

Therefore, it is clear that the process that led to the sanction of Edinson Cavani has not considered this elementary analysis, thus leading to a flagrant injustice that damages the morals of a person of impeccable behavior.

Based on these considerations, the “Asociación Uruguaya de Fútbol” (Uruguayan Football Association) strongly requests the FA to review the sanction imposed to Edinson Cavani. We are convinced, from our deep knowledge of his person and the analysis of the fact, that he is not worthy of neither said sanction, nor the consequent moral injury.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the AUF wishes to express its unwavering commitment in the fight against racism and all forms of known discrimination against people, human groups, communities or nations. Besides, both our Uruguayan Soccer and our Country have been pioneers in all these struggles in the world, even in times when oppressive regimes of freedoms and human dignity were still in force. In addition, in our field, the principles and values that sustain this struggle are incorporated in the training of footballers and people, and in them Edinson Cavani has been trained.