

**FIDE Online General Assembly
6 December 2020**

MINUTES

1. FIDE President's address

FIDE President welcomed all to the first ever meeting of the Online General Assembly and said that we are learning to work under new conditions and it is not an easy exercise.

He proposed not to have formal scrutineers since the system does the count automatically and everyone receives the list with all the comprehensive data after the end of General Assembly; the only secret vote is for Olympiad 2024.

The General Assembly approved.

Dear Delegates of FIDE Online General Assembly,
Dear chess friends,

It is a privilege to share with you the results of our work, to summarize what has been achieved over the last two years, and to plan together for the future.

My manifesto in 2018 included several promises, and I can proudly say that our dedicated team has managed to deliver - even during the difficult time of the pandemic.

Our development program provided support to projects in more than 100 countries, and FIDE will keep providing this help since we know how important it is for national federations. Last year we allocated over 2 mln Euro for these purposes, this year we budgeted 1 mln Euro - due to reduced activity caused by the pandemic - but we are ready to get back to a full-scale support once the situation is normalized.

Not only we cared to deliver funds to the federations, we ensured constant technical assistance and communication in such a way that many federations could feel that FIDE is always there for them.

The Olympiad 2020 that could not have been staged due to the pandemic was replaced by the Online Olympiad, and we put a great effort in order to ensure participation and suitable format for over 160 teams. And I am proud that we could organise the first ever competition for players with disabilities as a part of the Online Olympiad with more than 60 teams from 45 countries involved. Another big competition - World Cadet and Youth Online Championship is underway right now.

We have delivered also on another important promise - support for girls and women in chess. We launched the Women's Grand Prix Series, introduced Women's Candidates and raised the prestige of women's chess with various activities aimed at female players of every level.

We reduced drastically and in many cases waived fees that FIDE charged the players and federations. Amateur players and professionals, youth and seniors, developing countries already started to benefit from it.

One of the cornerstones of our ability to deliver was the work with sponsors and partners. The long list of those you can see on our website and social media - but I can just say that in spite of the pandemic we kept working closely with all our partners, including global brands such as Coca-Cola, Total, Cisco, Gazprom and raised sufficient funds in order to support our numerous social programs. For the first time ever FIDE made a good use of our broadcasting rights for signing commercial contracts.

Chess education programs for youngsters, competitions and awards for veterans, free seminars for the most talented players who were taught by the most prominent experts - all these reached their height during pre-COVID times, and we managed to maintain it this year.

Online era caught us unarmed. That is in a large way due to a highly questionable contract signed by the previous FIDE management that gave away all the rights for the official FIDE online platform to a private owner whose unscrupulous actions brought a lot of damage to FIDE. And in this regard I ask the FIDE GA to support the resolution allowing the Council to untie our hands, renegotiating or quitting this unfair agreement. While tackling this matter, we started working with major platforms, and also started to devise sets of regulations for online (including hybrid) competitions. With your permission, the FIDE Council will get the authority to approve these rules so that we can use this legal framework for the official FIDE activities starting from January.

We showed our ability to adjust and to find new ways to work. To stick firmly to our principles and vision but at the same time to become a reliable partner for various stakeholders.

The very image of FIDE has drastically improved, and that allows us to conduct proper work. One of the striking examples of our public transformation has been a massive project to bring chess fans from all over the world together in the time of pandemic - "Checkmate Coronavirus". It brought together FIDE, national federations and all major online platforms which allowed us to make people feel united around one idea. 120 000 participants from more than 100 countries took part in this project.

Crisis is also an opportunity - and we saw this year how huge a potential of chess is. First, the major online boom, and then the success of "Queen's Gambit" showed it clearly - chess is still widely seen as a symbol of human intellectual abilities - and thanks to its nature it can also engage younger generations. We just have to find the best ways to promote our beloved game, and to make it affordable to all.

Next year we expect a real breakthrough - and the World Championship Match we plan to stage in November 2021 will help us to take chess to a level of popularity and engagement we haven't seen for decades. The plan is not only to focus on the battle of two great players, but to have every country in the world, every national federation benefiting and taking immediate part in this grand event.

This year was difficult for many. It also required a massive effort from FIDE, and our entire team worked around the clock to ensure smooth functioning. Next year shall be easier.

However, whatever happens, I promise we will keep working as diligently and remain as approachable as it was, and as it should be.

FIDE Honorary Vice President Mr. I. Wilkinson of Jamaica thanked the FIDE President for the report and congratulated him and the FIDE Council for various initiatives introduced during the

pandemics and wished good luck. He welcomed his fellow countryman P. Meyers as a new President and delegate of Jamaica. He said Mr. Meyers is an influential man and he has been involved in chess management of Jamaica longer than himself.

The delegate for Barbados Mr. A. Herbert joined Mr. Wilkinson in welcoming Mr. Meyers. He asked about the President's mention of the contract with the FIDE Online Arena. He asked whether there is any interest from a private partner about holding online events, so we avoid being in violation of this contract.

President said in his report he mentioned we are not satisfied with the quality of the FIDE Online Arena, its tournaments, titles and ratings. And today we will propose to approve a special resolution giving rights to the FIDE Council to deal with this in the near future. We do have a waiver from the owners of FIDE Online Arena to conduct FIDE competitions using other platforms but we need a permanent solution and we are working on it since a waiver is just a temporary step.

The delegate for Pakistan Mr. M. Amin said he appreciated efforts to promote chess in Pakistan. He asked if there are any plans to support such countries as Pakistan.

The President said that at the Zonal Council there was a detailed discussion regarding support to weaker Federations, and he asked Pakistan to be in touch with PDC which will be formulating a clear request from Federations in the next few weeks. There was a very active approach from Africa and Americas, not that active from Asia, and in Europe not many are eligible. The President said we are open and we have funds, we have a normal budget position, and we are committed to support.

FIDE Deputy President Mr. B. Kouatly of France said it is a great thing in the President's report to show the work in the last two years in a meticulous way. He said he had attended Commissions' meetings and saw many dedicated people who raised FIDE to another level helping bring more visibility, transparency and sponsorship. He said we have done great things and it is important that the things that were mentioned in Mr. Dvorkovich's presidential program were implemented, e.g., the new FIDE Charter. Mr. Kouatly thanked the President and all people who helped FIDE to move on even during this crisis.

President said we did it together with you as a team.

The delegate for Bangladesh Mr. Udin thanked the President and the team for good activities in crucial moments and during this pandemic.

The General Assembly approved the President's report.

2. Obituaries

The President proposed to have a minute of silence to remember our friends and to see the photos of those friends and members of FIDE who have passed away since the previous General Assembly. It was a tough year and a long list.

3. Roll-call

The roll-call has established that 97 delegates are present but there are delegates in the waiting room. There is a half of the delegates and President urged the Secretariat to allow all join quickly. After the remaining delegates joined the meeting, it was determined that 140 delegates were present.

4. Appointment of Scrutineers

The President proposed to have no scrutineers as the system will present its comprehensive results after the end of the General Assembly, therefore there is no need.

The General Assembly approved.

Section 1- Report of FIDE President

Section 2 - Financial matters

2.1 Report of the FIDE Treasurer.

Treasurer Zhu presented her report and made a presentation.

She started with Financial Statement for the year 2019 and the Auditors' opinion. She highlighted the most important moments. Ms. Zhu informed the delegates that FIDE's cash balance is currently just below 3 million Euros, and she expects it to be a bit over 4 million Euros by the end of the year thanks to some advance payments that are expected in the next weeks related to next year's World Championship Match and the FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss. She said a lot of efforts were put in upgrading our financial management system.

The budget took a serious blow, but FIDE's good situation allowed for even further reductions in several fees: in particular, the ones applied to titles and transfers. These new reductions are added to the ones already established in previous budgets, following the strategic plan announced by the FIDE President during his electoral campaign.

She said as can be seen from the Notes to the accounts, we managed to solve an issue with our bank account. She recalled that when the new team was elected FIDE had no bank account and it was a very cumbersome and expensive situation. Ms. Zhu shared the news that FIDE has now opened a Swiss bank account, which means that the organization is now ready to accept credit card payments, something crucial in order to organize activities like seminars, et cetera. She also said that this is the first year when the FIDE audits were fully confirmed by its auditors Ernst & Young. She said literally every transaction was scrutinized. The audit also included the check of internal procedures. She is pleased that the auditors were fully satisfied with the

internal procedures. Ms. Zhu mentioned the loss of 300,000 Euro, most due to the loss of the Women's Grand-Prix stage which took place at the very end of the year 2019. There was also a larger than expected expenditure on the Men's Grand-Prix.

She explained the Development fund distribution which is many times higher than in previous years, and the exact numbers spent on Continents, Federations and social projects. She underlined the transparency of the FIDE's financial situation.

Ms. Zhu said that at the close of 2020, she received many questions about how the pandemic affected FIDE finances, so she spent some time analyzing how the pandemic has impacted FIDE's budget, compared to what was originally approved in February. She thanked the President for doing a fantastic job in bringing sponsorship to FIDE during the year when most companies cut on such. The President made three companies to commit and this helped FIDE to survive the COVID crisis even in the situation when over-the-board events were cancelled.

We are in a very small group of International Federations that have managed to deal with the crisis on our own, without applying for support from the IOC or public funds. We must be proud of this achievement, she added.

Ms. Zhu said that we are grateful to Federations who are trying to settle their debts even knowing that they face challenges. However, not all Federations do that. We are aware of the problems experienced by National Federations and we will not tolerate non-cooperative behaviour. On April 1st the list of Federations in arrears will be published. FIDE is actively working with each Federation in arrears and we are trying to find mutually acceptable solutions including restructuring the agreements. She asked to contact her if a Federation in arrears needs to discuss this matter.

She said we have Commission stipends for those who work a lot, not for all members. Many do daily work. The President also said we do have this system.

The Treasurer also said we do have a PayPal account, but we cannot receive large amounts; we had two accounts but PayPal closed one. It is important to have this account.

The delegate of Grenada Mr. Fergusson said that this was the first meeting for his country since they became FIDE members last February. He asked about the terms of payments, a formula to calculate, when they are due, what is the deadline for paying.

Ms. Zhu replied that for new members normally we have two payments, one in January and one in July, we will inform accordingly.

The delegate for Pakistan Mr. Amin asked again about weak Federations. He said there are technical problems. He said we are facing problems with dues because of politics. He asked for their dues to be waived and they won't seek any help.

The President said that our policy is to conclude an agreement with you to have a schedule of payment, we cannot waive the arrears. The schedule will be mutually beneficial and will extend

for several years. Once you start repaying arrears, then you can ask for funding. It is crucial to know for how many years.

The delegate for Canada Mr. Bond congratulated Ms. Zhu on an excellent report and the opinion of the auditors; it makes the score 2-0 in your favour. He asked about a tax status, is FIDE tax exempt.

Financial Adviser Mr. A. Volzhin said we are indeed exempt from taxes in Switzerland but we are not exempt in other jurisdictions. In Russia for sponsorship we might need to pay taxes.

Mr. Rogerio da Silva from Angola welcomed all and said it is great to organize the FIDE Congress in the new technological conditions. He asked about the amount of the support from the IOC, whether it is aimed at special programs of FIDE or is it an amount FIDE can use as they want.

The President said the IOC keeps funding low for recognized sports and keeps more money for Olympic sports. But we are making our connection with the IOC stronger.

Mr. Da Silva said he would send his suggestions as he was the President of the Angolan NOC and there are programs where FIDE might benefit.

The delegate for Malaysia Mr. Sanusi thanked for the assistance for Asian Federations. As for the arrears, he said they are in a difficult situation, and grateful for FIDE's assistance and kindness. With regards to the plan to publish names of federations in arrears, he said for those who succeeded to resolve the problem and made an effort, it would be good that acknowledgement is made of this effort.

Mr. Volzhin thanked for this reasonable suggestion and said they will think of how to acknowledge such Federations who made an extra effort.

Ms. Zhu said that we received a pretty small amount from the IOC, about 30, 000 Euros.

The delegate for Maldives Mr. Shiyan Hussein thanked Ms. Zhu for her remarkable presentation and the President for his report. He asked what are the opportunities for such countries as Maldives, whether we want to host events in Maldives, and if there is any initial support from FIDE - since there will be much international support and interest to organize.

The President said let's try to explore these opportunities. He said it was not very easy to start big tournaments but we can try to see what tournaments we can organize in such countries, where tourism is blooming, e.g. in Maldives. He said let's discuss it in the next few days.

The Online General Assembly approved the Treasurer's report.

2.2 Verification Commission report.

2.2.1 Letter from Greek Chess Federation

The Chairman of the Verification Commission Mr. L. Mazouz said the Verification Commission was coordinating its work with the Management and the financial administration in a very positive way and he thinks that FIDE is trying to do its best to go in a good direction to manage its finances. He asked Mr. Priest to comment on the report.

The Secretary of the Verification Commission Mr. A. Priest said the older version is being presented and the report has been updated after the Commission meeting held on December 2nd. So there are a few changes in the report being on display. He explained the changes. He said the pandemic was a challenge as they had to examine all necessary documents and he thanked the Management for its help. The Commission was able to meet with the Swiss auditors Ernst & Young and this is a very important step. He said we do have a plan to meet with the auditors when they will be auditing 2021 so they could address the items they want to be addressed. It is important for the Verification Commission to assist the audit process. He said we received all financial statements and it is important to read the footnote where all the numbers are explained, this has to always be addressed. He said that the auditors use the terms “unqualified opinion” – “clean opinion” – the auditor did not find anything in the financial statement that could be considered misleading. Because of the FIDE size, there is a system of internal control; this is not unusual as FIDE is small. The internal control system is present, and the auditors checked it. No concerns about the Management; the auditors received all documentation they asked for. There was some struggle because of the pandemic, we spent a lot of time on the report since November as remote audit might be in place.

As the Treasurer mentioned, the audit was performed and it was a full audit, as prior audits were not as extensive concerning the nature of audit. And it was worth the expense. We did not know several things, and last year we raised an issue of delinquent accounts and the work is being done about it. And then they found out an account in FIDE name but belonging to the Americas Continent and it was still on FIDE financial statement but now it is off and it is good. He said we noticed the contribution to sponsorship which resulted in the reduction of the development budget, but we noted that the PDC has funded everything they needed to find because the activities were not as extensive as it was planned. There were reserves set up in 2018 that caused some amounts spent in 2018, e.g. reserves for the extraordinary General Assembly, so excess reserves have been reserved and it makes the book loss in 2019 smaller than before. He also gave other explanations about the provisions of this report, e.g. some things might look problematic especially if received in individual accounts. He said the Commission made recommendations and we have made a few small changes as we took three of them out and we will submit those by a letter to the President as they are not directly financial. We cut the list to eight recommendations. Mr. Priest gave details of each one.

Mr. Priest said they spent some time looking at PDC requirements and documentation requirements and he advised to visit their Web site where PDC has a significant amount of information and the Verification Commission appreciated that. He said the Verification Commission thinks that FIDE should post the grant information on their Web site rather than the PDC site.

The Commission thanked Mr. Volzhin, the office team, Mr. Iclicki, Ms. Stoisavljevic, Treasurer Zhu Chen for their assistance and the information. He thanked all members of the Verification Commission and said they spent a lot of time this year to work. He appreciated the help from the President who took a direct role and ensured the support from the Management team.

The President thanked the Verification Commission and noted the letter from the Greek Chess Federation meaning that some of the recommendations went beyond the scope of the Commission's authority. He quoted the letter's last paragraph about the rights and regulations of all Commissions.

The President said he agreed with this and he said we need to be careful and to see what we are authorized to do and of course we can all make suggestions through all kinds of channels for attention of the FIDE Council, the Zonal Council or the General Assembly.

Mr. Bond said the President is a truly inspiring leader. He said he would like to invite him to Canada for the 2022 season. He said the Verification Commission's report was informative and his opinions are different from Mr. Makropoulos and he said there is an appetite for more interest. The most painful part was the amount set aside for Extraordinary General Assembly and if we knew we would have gone and organized it by the end of 2019. He said it was not the whole story. He said this should have been the centre of the Treasurer's report. He said there was an investment in personnel, but the comments are not made about human resources, they are withheld and we cannot appreciate to see the great work is being done in the time of crisis. He said he hoped that the future looks positive.

Mr. Volzhin said our accounting is fully compliant with the Swiss code and all Swiss laws, it is completely allowed to shift profits from one year to another. Swiss law is biased to protect the creditors and if a company has more reserves than shown, it is ok. If e.g. one year we have a large gain, and the other a large loss, after two years we will be in the same position, but second year we would pay 70-80 thousand in tax which we do not want to do, and all companies do this, and we wanted to minimize the tax burden.

Mr. Priest agreed about the reserve issues – nothing there was not compliant with accounting standards. He said there should be no implication that there was. The only point is reversing the year. But Mr. Volzhin is exactly right and when FIDE was taxable in Switzerland it was about it.

The President thanked Mr. Bond for the invitation to Canada.

FIDE Vice President M. Fierro asked a question to the Verification Commission, how much was the contribution for sponsorship.

Mr. Priest said that Mr. Vega asked this question; the revised report includes an answer and the amount is 120,000 euro. He said the Verification Commission wanted to make sure that it did not expose FIDE to any tax liability and Mr. Volzhin studied it at length prior to it happening. He said it is included in the final report. It is not a tiny contract.

The Delegate for Greece Mr. G. Makropoulos thanked the President for agreeing with the essence of the Greek Federation's letter. The delegate made clear that he is not judging the quality of the Verification Commission's proposals; some of them are very correct but the Verification Commission's report is not the place where these recommendations should be, there are direct channels to bring these recommendations. We should make sure that the Commissions work within the scope of their mandates and they do not try to extend their authority. Everything is connected to finances; it does not mean that Verification Commission shall criticize people and tell them what to do and how to work, which means that eventually they would try to teach the President. The worst is the language they used and the way they presented the report; there was no reason to insult the people. He said he had been a political opponent in the previous election but he would have never tried to insult them in the way the Verification Commission is trying to insult them. For instance, Executive Director V. Bologan, Ms. Zhu and Ms. Al-Mudahka, they should not be insulted like this. He said that in the voting system the report is not presented for vote, which would mean that we automatically accept this report but we shall note this report and vote for the Treasurer's report. Points 4-11 should be out of the Verification Commission's report and of course we will support some of the proposals but we can authorize the Council to decide on these recommendations.

Ms. Murphy, member of the Verification Commission, the Delegate for the U.S. Virgin Islands apologized to Executive Director V. Bologan and Treasurer Zhu and said she appreciated all the work and she apologized for the language.

The Online General Assembly noted the Verification Commission report for the year 2019.

2.3 Discharge of the Treasurer.

The General Assembly discharged the Treasurer from her responsibilities for the financial year 2019.

2.4 Budget 2021.

The General Assembly is invited to approve the 2021 Budget.

Treasurer Zhu presented the draft budget.

This is the third budget that I propose to you as the FIDE Treasurer, and this one was by far the most difficult to develop. The difficulty comes from the unprecedented amount of uncertainty that we are now experiencing. We don't know how long the pandemic will last; we don't know how fast the return to normalcy will be; and most importantly, we don't know what the life will look like after the pandemic is over. Will the life after the pandemic be kind of similar to what we had before? Or will it be some sort of new normal? We don't know, and actually, nobody knows.

With this uncertainty in mind, we believe that our first task is to ensure financial security of our organization. That's why I am presenting a conservative budget that assumes that the pandemic will be prevalent for the most time of the year – and you probably already noticed that the next year's budget is very similar to this year's revised budget that we just discussed

a few minutes ago. As you can see from the Income from Federations and Income from Events sections of the budget, we assume that the level of chess activities will be subdued, and the number of tournaments will be small. That said, we assume that we will be able to stage several top-level tournaments, such as the World Championship Match, the Candidates, the Grand Swiss, and one tournament of Women's Grand Prix series. There is a big question mark regarding a possibility to stage the Olympiad and knockout World Cup events. On the expenses side, the main difference is that we are increasing Commissions' budget by 100,000 Euros. As you know, in 2020 Commissions' expenses were pretty much only stipends; we hope that in 2021 Commissions will be able to undertake various projects and to organize in-person meetings when necessary.

Now, a few of you asked me a question why we are planning a budget surplus, and not allocating additional 750 thousand for expenses. The reason is very simple. As you can see, income from the World Championship Match is a very significant part of the budget, and it can happen that due to prolonged pandemic we will have to re-schedule it to 2022. This is not our main case scenario but still a possibility. Shall the Match be postponed, our budget suddenly plunges into deficit, and we will need to raise more sponsorship in order to balance the budget. As such, given this uncertainty, we cannot plan larger expenses – at least, until the situation with the World Championship Match is clarified.

One more important point to keep in mind is that there is a very significant probability that over the course of the year we would need to review the budget. Shall the situation with the pandemic improve markedly and our assumptions prove to be too conservative (we will have more revenue), or the World Championship Match is confirmed to the better, we will definitely consider spending increase in the areas that are our priorities – first of all, support for national federations and continental associations from the FIDE Development Fund. However, as of today, the uncertainties are too high, and we have to be prudent in our assumptions in order to ensure financial sustainability of our organization. As I already told you in my previous presentation, I am as confident as I can be that with this approach we will definitely go through the crisis successfully.

The Delegate for Malta Mr. G. Borg asked about the events supposed to be organized in 2020. The World Cup and the Women's World Cup, what are the plans to organize these events.

The President said the Women's Grand Swiss is a new tournament which we were trying to bring in for some time, it is an open tournament in Isle of Man. Regarding World Cups, we have a proposal from the Chess Federation of Russia supported by the Government, to have both of them in summer in Russia.

Mr. Borg asked if this will be in the budget.

The President said it is extraordinary to substitute another organizer for Belarus; they do not have extra funds and written commitments for fees to FIDE, but we are working on it.

The Delegate for Croatia Mr. Jankovic asked about income about the IOC and IOC events, what this means.

Mr. Volzhin said the IOC in the income section is the money grant given to recognized federations and unfortunately, this money is small – 30,000 Euros. It was used for women's chess.

Mr. Herbert asked about developing federations he did not see in the audited reports – where are they, or just mentioned under country break in the development under PDC, but they should be specified more under the budget where total and rebates. When FIDE does a good job it has to be recognized.

Mr. Volzhin said he cannot respond on this technical issue and he will send Mr. Herbert an email the next day.

Ms. Namangali said you mentioned the combination of the hybrid events, she asked if there is an idea of how many tournaments, and which events will be online for 2021.

The President said we are working on the hybrid events now and we had requests from some Zones about the possibility of having official hybrid competitions. It will be taken under Section 4. The closest is the World Corporate Championship, but we are looking for some Zonal events in January to be conducted in hybrid format.

The President said there is some unallocated reserve which will be discussed regarding allocations in the next few days.

The Online General Assembly approved the 2021 Budget.

2.5 Appointment of External Auditor for annual audit of FIDE accounts for 2020

The Online General Assembly appointed Ernst &Young as FIDE External Auditor for financial year 2020.

2.6 New Financial Regulations

Mr. Volzhin presented the new Financial Regulations. He said of course it is a long document and it is difficult to present it quickly. He said we received a lot of feedback from Federations, and stakeholders and he assured that all of proposals were reviewed and incorporated. This is the document that is built on present financial regulations and clarifies many items and makes financial management of FIDE more institutionalized. He also mentioned that a lot of feedback was received about trainers' fees and that there are a few people who want to ask questions. The Trainers' Commission had their thoughts but generally a lot of Federations raised concern and we decided that this will stay unchanged for the time being.

The President thanked all for the feedback; these matters were discussed thoroughly already. We left the two things on transfer and trainers' fees for the future Council decision since there were contradictory opinions.

The Secretary of the Education Commission Mr. K. O'Connell spoke about one minor detail. In the section on License fees, point 3.3, some changes are not reflected. He asked what is the best way to tackle them, about chess and education license fees, which were to be withdrawn. He asked if the Commission should make a contact with Mr. Volzhin to tell the background story.

Mr. Volzhin said yes, let's correct as soon as possible as it will go to voting very soon. If there are no objections, this amendment will be incorporated into the document.

The Delegate for Sri Lanka Mr. L. Wijesuriya thanked all the team for not including the changes to trainers' fees.

Mr. Bond asked if there is going to be an impact on revenues from Federations.

Mr. Volzhin said it is nearly impossible to predict the impact given the environment now. If it were a normal year, it would be around 100,000 reduction, but it is difficult to predict, as the Treasurer said we do not know how quickly life will return to normal.

Mr. Priest said one of the regulations gives us a concern. It is more difficult in to transact in Euros in the USA as the US dollar has more circulation in Americas, he hopes that even if the Euro is the operating currency the US dollar is maintained also.

Mr. Volzhin said if you look at the Web site, your comment has been incorporated, we did not mean to prohibit transfers in other currencies. FIDE will keep accounts in other currencies, there is no intention to restrict this.

The President said regarding fees in the areas where we did not have a consensus, we did change the fees, but it does not mean we will not be able to do it in the nearest future, and we might have a decision in the next six months.

The Online General Assembly approved the new Financial Regulations.

Section 3- Federation and Membership issues

3.1 Admission of a new affiliated organization.

The Isle of Man Chess Association applied to become an Affiliated Organisation of FIDE.

The President said the Isle of Man will have two huge events next year as part of the World Championship cycle and it is the best sign that they deserve being admitted as an Affiliated Organization so that they could take part in a number of events; the FIDE Council will decide which events in particular.

The Online General Assembly admitted the Isle of Man Chess Association as an Affiliated FIDE Organization.

3.1.1. The President informed the Assembly that we have an additional request regarding GA Agenda regarding Red Sea Association, it is highly controversial and some Federations sent negative opinions and some insisted on including into Agenda, so we need two thirds of the votes to include it. He invited comments from Dr. Elgendy and others. He said any initiative is a good one, but if there is are huge contradictions, we need to discuss it.

The Delegate for Egypt Dr. H. Elgendy thanked the President for efforts in chess in the last two years, especially in 2020. About the Red Sea Association he said that it was established in February, six out of eight Federations were there in Abu Dhabi and the Statutes were approved and everything was submitted with the support letter from the Egyptian Government and the Ministry of Youth and Sport. If other Federations changed their mind, this could be discussed within this organization, we can also accept new countries as we have a good intention to promote chess and to spread chess into the Red Sea region and the FIDE Council made its approval.

Mr. Ncube said that, unfortunately, he personally received a message against coming from the Sudan Chess Federation that is unable to speak at the GA. Mr. Dvorkovich also received two objections from Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

The President asked Dr. Elgendy how many Federations are there in the new Association

Dr. Elgendy said that on 29th February there were six countries there, and already three Presidents of Federations and two proxies, total six out of eight, the organization is established legally. It may not stop the affiliation as it is already established, and it is in accordance with the FIDE Charter. We do not know why Sudan wants to change their mind, but it is an internal issue.

Mr. Ncube said according to the message from Sudan, that six out of eight responded in refusal to be included. And Dr. Elgendy says the other way around.

The President said there are clear positions, two different positions and delegates will take the decision which to support. We should not proceed with discussion on this item.

The Chairman of the Constitutional Commission Mr. R. Rivello confirmed that we need two third majority to support the inclusion of the Red Sea Association into the Agenda.

The issue of adding the agenda the Red Sea Association item was put to the vote of the delegates, but it did not get the necessary 2/3 of the votes of the delegates, so the agenda remained unchanged.

Dr. Elgendy thanked as he said before the Red Sea Association was discussed and he could not imagine how it was not included into the Agenda. He repeated his reasons why this Association is not in the Agenda, He said it was not helping regional organisations. He also asked whether a tournament organized by the Association would be rated.

The President also said if it is created, it can start working and if you present actual interesting proposals, we can support them and if you have majority of the countries in your region

participating, we will fully support. Let's be positive about real work, we can do a lot without formal recognition. The President said we should have a meeting with the QC to find a solution.

The following was not approved as they failed to obtain the 2/3 majority required as per the FIDE Charter:

The addition to the Online General Agenda regarding the Red Sea and Aden Gulf Chess Association.

3.2 Federation issues

3.2.1 English Chess Federation's motion

3.2.1.1 Mr.Kambouzia's letter

3.2.1.2 Letters from Iran Chess Federation

3.2.1.3 Letter from NOC of the Islamic Republic of Iran

It has been noted that the English Chess Federation has withdrawn its motion in favour of the latest text of the President's motion which has been sent to all delegates. And the vote will be regarding this motion.

The President said now after hard work he presented his motion which is sent to everyone and he noted that we had cases both from Iranian players and officials which were in contradiction with the Olympic Charter and we have to stand firm to protect our principles, and this relates to all Federations and he underlined that in his draft we give a clear signal to the Iranian Chess Federation that we will not tolerate boycotts and discrimination, and he asked for the room to resolve this issue in a diplomatic way; we need to give the authority to the FIDE to impose some sanctions. He said we asked the Iranian Chess Federation to give a clear signal to them and to the players to follow strictly the principles and that the General Assembly should send this strong signal.

FIDE Honorary Vice President Mr. M. Kambuzia from Iran thanked for the motion about this case. He said that it was decided at the FIDE Council meeting in September that the matter would be resolved in a diplomatic manner. Nothing negative has happened since then and again the issue has been included into the Agenda and there were no problems. He said the suspension will not resolve the problem, but the diplomatic way can resolve them. He hopes we will all cooperate under the FIDE flag, all countries try and spend money and other resources for chess. To suspend a Federation is not a solution and players, trainers and arbiters will be big losers. Mr. Kambuzia said why Mr. Short asked for suspension, and most of them can be resolved in a diplomatic way. He said we all want to resolve the problem.

The President said the latest version is balanced and he respected what the Iranian Chess Federation did for the development of chess and he hoped we will be able to find a diplomatic solution.

The Delegate for England Mr. M. Pein said it is not a new issue, and it is scandalous when players boycott some other players and it happens in other sports. And even in 2019 ECU passed a resolution on this issue. Boycott violates many articles (4.4 of the FIDE Charter). Mr. Pein cited the article. He said these things have to stop. He refuted the notion that there were no problems after the September meeting, as the letter from the English Chess Federation states the continuation of the violations. He thanked the President for his intervention. He said it is a yellow card, not a red card. He said on behalf of Mr. Short they supported the President's motion and withdrew their resolution, but the background material remains.

The President of the Iranian Chess Federation Mr. Farhad thanked the FIDE President and the Board for the continuing support for chess, including during the pandemic, and for the support for developing chess. The Iranian Chess Federation has taken extensive measures to develop chess in Iran. This year they had more than one thousand rated tournaments and it showed popularity of chess in Iran. In response to FIDE letters the response was sent and we said we never violated the Olympic Charter and we try our best to develop chess during the pandemic. We also answered the letter to FIDE about the subject which is on the Agenda of the FIDE General Assembly. He said we did not have anything new and why again GM N. Short again put in the Agenda. The Iranian Chess Federation asks the English and Canadian Chess Federations to respect other Federations and not to interfere in other countries; England and Canada are not members of NOCs in their own countries so why are they worried about the Olympic Committee's opinion. Chess is not even recognized as a sport in England and Canada. We invite FIDE to hold a meeting of the FIDE Council in Iran and invite all members to Iran so that they see how chess is popular in Iran. We are one family and we ask FIDE to maintain that we are all one family.

The Delegate for Algeria Mr. Djelloul said the situation in the world changes our way of life and our habits and we hope we will find our way out. He said it is important to note that he searched for complaints from the Israeli federation about the Iranian players' refusal to play. And he could not find anything but only the situation regarding Israeli players and the championship in Saudi Arabia.

The President asked to abstain from personal remarks and to comment on the motion presented for vote.

Mr. Djelloul said it is better to play in their natural zone and EDC should study and investigate and propose. We cannot politicize the thing more than it is now. We do not need bad publicity with the IOC and our responsibility is to protect 40, 000 players in Iran. He supported the the President's motion.

Mr. Makropoulos said he reminded all our friends that if you go to the UEFA site you can see restrictions for drawing, e.g. Ukraine and Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, etc. and there are problems, and the recommendation includes correctly all countries, very correct. The suspension of the Federation is the last measure and we should not go there. He agreed with the way the motion is put. He advised the President to lead a delegation to Iran, to explore diplomatic efforts and to try all of them before we come to this solution.

Mr. Ramirez from Mexico said they supported the wording of the President's motion. He congratulated the President for his motion.

FIDE Vice President Mr. N. Short said there had been many submissions from the Iranian Chess Federation and the NOC, many of these things are totally false and can be disproved by the information at the Iranian Chess Federation Web site, so we cannot say nothing had happened, the page of the Iranian Chess Federation was attacking France, USA, Europe, and other countries. He said Mr. Farhad had said many false things and he can turn them to shreds. The President had prepared an excellent motion here and we have had questions about defaults of Saudi Arabia, and this motion applies to them, and that is why we support this motion, because it is a matter of principle. As for the President of Iran Chess Federation, you claim that Mr. Dvorkovich's letter in June was answered, but there was no answer to the principal question, so I am asking you now, are you prepared to play against Israelis, yes, or no. Please reply.

Mr. Farhad answered to Mr. Short about two subjects, first of all we say that under the Olympic Charter, we accept all rules of Olympic Committee. As for politics on our Web site, the English Chess Federation has published a caricature of the Iranian leader and it was a completely political matter so we do many political motions and in TV and we tell you when you make a caricature of our leader this is exactly politics. We warn you to respect all leaders in all countries. We asked if this is political or not, maybe first you should answer this question.

The President asked not to continue this line of discussion, the most important is to have a clear position of the General Assembly, and if the General Assembly supports his motion, this will be the best way forward.

Mr. Wilkinson said he supports the motion personally, and mentioned a couple of quick points – we must remember our motto, Gens una sumus. We have to ensure that our Charter, rules and regulations are obeyed, this applies to everyone, not only Iran, and if we do not follow our Charter and ensure it is followed, we will lose respect of our members and international bodies, so it is an important message for FIDE to send, the time has come and we need to avoid all kinds of discrimination.

Mr. Sanusi of Malaysia noted great efforts of President to make it more palatable. He said we fully support the spirit of the President's motion, however, he could not agree that the motion is pointing specifically to Iran. He would be rather more supportive – if it would say Motion against discrimination. And give Iran as an example. Then it would apply to all of us.

Mr. Kouatly said we should avoid any kind of political discussion within our organization. As some people including Mr. Makropoulos mentioned, there are many disputes, unfortunately, and he was not sure FIDE is able to solve all that, we try to bring chess further. He said he understood the previous speaker, which is very interesting as well because it is about all kind of discrimination, we remain firm on that. We must keep emotions and politics away, and he trusts the President to find the best solution to get out of this.

The President suggested that we stop the discussion as we have heard all opinions. He said he respected others who requested to speak and we are not in the same room unfortunately. But we need to respect time constraints, and we have a request from Asian colleagues to put all items for voting now, all in the Agenda.

The Online General Assembly adopted a motion regarding the Chess Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed by the FIDE President.

Mr. Kambuzia thanked delegates for voting and he said he hopes for full cooperation in the future.

Section 4- Administrative matters

4.1 Changes in the FIDE Handbook

4.1.1 Laws of Chess (amendment regarding Online chess)

The President noted that the situation in the world requires that the game of chess online has a clear legal regulation, and the proposed amendments allow the FIDE Council to approve such rules, at the same time, all rights to change the Laws of Chess in relation to OTB chess remain within the Assembly competence. FIDE draft online regulations will be published in next weeks. The level of readiness is very high.

4.1.2 General Assembly Internal Rules

The General Assembly is invited to approve the General Assembly Internal Rules.

4.1.3 Zonal Council Rules

The General Assembly is invited to approve the Zonal Council Rules.

The President said this is repetition of what is included in the FIDE Charter. We will have new versions of these two documents ready by the next General Assembly. He thanked Mr. Rivello for his contribution.

Mr. Ncube opined that item 2.1.g – should read FIDE Deputy President – not Vice President. The President will double-check.

The Delegate for Tunisia Mr. Arfa said the new rules are very good. He reminded that drafting must be updated according to the motion of the English Chess Federation under 17.6 – it is a good thing that we have vote for two motions at the same time.

The Online General Assembly adopted an amendment to the Laws of Chess regarding Online Chess.

The Online General Assembly approved the General Assembly Internal Rules.

The Online General Assembly approved Zonal Council Rules.

4.1.4 English Chess Federation's motions

Mr. Short said the point of the first resolution is something which has been discussed in Abu Dhabi and is not in a slightest controversy because several people, Mr. G. Makropoulos, and the former delegate of Nauru spoke in favour of this. There are countries, territories, members of the IOC but not of the UN and there is a clear consensus on this particular issue but we can see that there are people who are opposing it.

The second resolution is more complicated. He said there had been an issue in the past elections where people voted for countries where they have no proper connection, it is a matter of representation. And Federations should be represented by those who have clear connection with that country, and we abolished proxy voting, and having a foreign delegate is also a proxy by another means. And after the discussion there was a suggestion to improve the wording, so it is a slightly different motion from the one sent originally. The advantage is that it will ensure that in future Federations are represented by people who live there or have citizenship. At the same time thanks to Mr. Rivello and covering some loopholes, it will mean that some who have had a long association with a particular association and go under that flag, but Ms. Jarecki is one of them, e.g., Mr. Shaun Press who was born in Papua New Guinea, will continue to represent them, it protects existing rights and draws a line and shows a better future. With a lot of input from Mr. Rivello and Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Martynov who helped with the drafting.

The President said the first one is reasonable. Some colleagues object that the IOC recognizes NOCs not countries.

Mr. Al-Mudahka from Qatar said the point is that the IOC recognizes NOCs not countries, so the wording in the FIDE Charter, the UN and the IOC, sounds better that, the UN or the IOC. Regarding 17.6 we have already changed the Charter in Abu Dhabi and I had looked at other international federations, he gave examples from their Statutes. He said what we adapted in our Charter is good enough and no amendments needed

Mr. Borg from Malta said he commented about this in Abu Dhabi, this is the first resolution, no international sports Federation refers to the UN, for the precise reasons, Mr. Short has mentioned. Mr. Short has mentioned. He understands the motive for the 'or' but we should focus primarily on the NOCs and we should eliminate the UN from our listing. He said he copied the FIDE Office with four statutes of various federations, and said their version is a much cleaner version that we have now. And something like that could satisfy but it is not on the table right now. But after Abu Dhabi it has not been amended. He proposed that instead of the first resolution, an existing one from FIFA or FIBA should be copied, it is much cleaner solution.

The second resolution: there is a bit of grey area in the old 17.6, firstly Presidents and delegates may represent one Federation – a grey area. Spirit in all the statutes, in every constitution is in terms of Congress. The political role is for one member Federation, nothing to do with the FIDE ID. The second point is that there is no definition or policy clarification of what is an "office holder" – which shall be whoever is elected to a position in a Federation. Regarding the second version of the second resolution, the only major objection is that we are rushing to change

without understanding the implications. I have an issue with it, we are not close to the wording used by other international sports Federations, only to the IFVA (volleyball). Mr. Borg asked why they need to be listed as players, or FIDE ID under that Federation, so the word “as players” is wrong. Again Ms. Jarecki has been used as an example. He seconded Mr. Al-Mudahka’s opinion that we should not rush and we can present next year and a team of the people should be assigned to work on this for a proper work.

Mr. Makropoulos said for the second resolution, a proposal was covered by the long speech of Mr. Borg. For the first resolution, based on my long experience, we reached this definition, we need and we should stick to the IOC as priority.

Mr. Arfa of Tunisia said it is a good motion, widening access to the FIDE membership but article 9.4 is connected to article 9.5 of the Charter which consider countries only in conformity with the Olympic Charter, so it is a problem if a country is recognized by the UN but not recognized by the Olympic Charter, then the country will not have access to FIDE. We must unite 9.4 and 9.5 together as they are connected.

Mr. Herbert said whatever we do as Mr. Makropoulos said what he wanted to say, we cannot end up in a situation that by our Charter we can deny a membership to a country which has a NOC, which has no sense. We should not create this possibility. And in Americas we do have territories which are yet to be members of FIDE that might be affected by this article.

The President said your point is covered by the change with “or” as this gives all countries where NOCs are recognized by the IOC a right to be FIDE members. We will check the legal component.

Mr. Rivello underlined that the vote is open and many delegates have voted, so we cannot change anything. Personally he agreed that the first resolution is aimed at federations that are not members of FIDE now but whose NOCs were the IOC members in the past. Now they admit only new members recognized by the UN, so in the future, if there are still some Federations members of the IOC not states, this can help, so no objection from me, we are not to admit some territories that are not new members of the IOC and not states at the same time. He fully agreed with Mr. Makropoulos about that. He said in the original wording of the Charter we understand “office holder” is ambiguous, in some part, but as a delegate, you can represent one federation only, this is clear. For this meeting, the Constitutional Commission report had four cases, and it was a bit a compromise, FIDE is aware of similar cases and when the English Chess Federation made a proposal, we found a compromise, the idea was exactly what Mr. Short explained. He said the problem of ID, that it is less clear. For players we have rules, as to change a flag you need certain rules. If we use the word “player” the same rules will be used. For arbiters and others, the rules might be a bit different, or organisers, it might be possible to change the flag, without respecting the rules created for players. So all rules are a bit of compromise. He said let’s vote now, and in the future it can be improved or changed.

Mr. Wilkinson said about the resolution he sent an email to Mr. Short with a suggestion to improve to say that if there are any dispute as to as someone has satisfied the continuous residence, it will be sent and resolved by CON. Because there might be times when someone

might leave for work into another country, and it is discovered later, and some opponent knowing this might present an objection to his status of delegate, especially in an election year. If any dispute arises, CON should be the body to resolve. He proposed to insert these words. But we just try to improve.

Mr. Kouatly said it is not easy to have these online voting systems. In France they introduced a system that allows to revert the vote, for the future we can think about this.

The President said there are important changes to allow us to have official online and hybrid competitions and also some changes in our Charter.

The following received a simple majority of votes, but were not approved as they failed to obtain the 2/3 majority required as per the FIDE Charter:

The first resolution proposed by the English Chess Federation (FIDE Charter Amendment Article 9.4)

The second resolution proposed by the English Chess Federation (FIDE Charter Amendment Article 17.6).

Section 5- FIDE Calendar

5.1 World Championship match 2021

5.2 Women's World Cup 2021 and World Cup 2021

Mr. Sutovsky briefed the delegates and first and foremost informed about the World Chess Championship Match which will take place in November 2021. The Agreement is being finalized with the Organisers of the Expo-2020 in Dubai, we have not stopped our dialogue during this period and found the most suitable dates and venue and we are to sign the agreement in next two months.

He outlined the organization of the event which he had started discussing in August 2019 and said that it will be more as it will be not only the match but include a huge number of side events as they included in the program a tournament where every Federation will send a player, we apply for a lot of workshops, open air studios in the major cities of the world. All indicates a unique event. We have full understanding. He said the pandemic had impact on the organisers as well as we requested a lot of facilities and we are basically there and hopefully the next week we can announce it properly. The issue about the match has been raised by Mr. Sutovsky immediately from 2018 as a top priority. FIDE unfortunately could not capitalize on the most valuable match for many years and he thanked his colleagues in GSC as we devised certain ideas and then cooperated on marketing and PR.

He said that the 1.5 mln Euro figure is already high and it is a conservative estimate, we could manage better than that. Our preliminary talks and existing agreements show that we firmly look at something very meaningful in terms of income.

He said the restrictions because of COVID-19 do not allow us to evaluate the amount properly, but all our estimates clearly indicate its success and in a couple of months we will be able to deliver a serious contract and we will share it with you.

Mr. Sutovsky said he would like to thank the Isle of Man once again and as for Women's chess and the World Cups – many know that we have expanded the format and more countries will participate, and almost every country will have its participant. We are planning to expand also the Women's World Cup and it is going to be a game-changer, and will bring a lot of attention, media, and maybe local sponsors.

He also spoke about sponsorship which is an important topic – for a long time FIDE has relied on non-corporate sponsorship, and now we changed it and this year has been unfriendly but we kept in touch and he has his belief that next year we will be back and get more funds, not only for top events, the money will go to social programs, to PDC and developing countries, to support veterans, and it is interrelated, and next year the match will bring the income and I hope my estimates will be correct.

Mr. Vega said he appreciates very much Mr. Sutovsky's work and the arrangements regarding the World Championship Match. He is worried about the cycle in Americas as due to the pandemic there are no qualifying events in America and if there is no Continental Championship, how the Continent will manage.

Mr. Vega said that Mr. Sutovsky is always open for discussion and he should keep in mind as we have no Zonal or Continental tournament so far. He said in the Americas because of the main sponsor – no government will invest a penny in any sport event but shall try to survive, then in this case FIDE and PDC have to be very open to help our continent and try to solve the situation. He said he will write to Mr. Sutovsky and he is sure the solution will be found but it is his duty to warn delegates about what is happening.

Mr. Sutovsky said the question raised is very important and we fully realise that in many countries the Continental or Zonal events will not take place. So we found a way which is still to be approved by the FIDE Council, to select players and countries that would be eligible to nominate their players for the World Cup in case there are no Zonal tournaments or Continentals. He said it is a basic problem. We will have a formal proposal next week, and Mr. Vega will be welcome to comment.

Mr. Mwaka from Uganda said the year is challenging and we look at the year as mainly survival, now it is best we see how we can improve in a phased manner. As the work of several years could be wiped out, we need to be very open and we take stock of what we have now and see how we develop a resilient chain.

5.3 Chess Olympiads

5.3.1 Chess Olympiad 2021

5.3.2 Chess Olympiad 2022

The President said that given that the Republic of Belarus and its government have decided that they cannot hold the Olympiad. We have tried to find a solution, another host for the 2022 Olympiad and the World Cups but we couldn't find an alternative. If you add the pandemic to the picture, we have been left with no other choice than to have just one Olympiad during this period. We have received a kind proposal from the Russian government to host the two World Cups simultaneously next year, 2021, and to have the Olympiad in Russia in 2022.

The FIDE President clarified that, as long as the circumstances allow it, Khanty-Mansiysk will still host the FIDE Olympiad for Players with Disabilities and the FIDE Congress during the summer of 2021.

For World Cups, we will publish qualification regulations; since we have more players than before we will need clear qualification rules.

5.3.3 Chess Olympiad 2024

Following the bidding procedure which ended on May 1st, 2020 the following valid bid has been received:

- Budapest, Hungary

The Hungarian Delegation has made the presentation.

The tournament is scheduled to run from September 10 to 23 at the renovated Hungexpo Exhibition and Conference Centre, with a total budget of 16,6 million Euros. Political authorities, chess legends, and prominent members of the Hungarian Olympic movement and the sports administration have expressed their unconditional support to the event.

The President said they can count on his personal support; an inspection was held; many of us visited Budapest many times; Hungary is a reliable partner and fully capable of hosting this event in 2024.

The ECU General Secretary T. Tsorbatzoglou said that we had a preliminary presentation at the ECU and we were impressed by the preparations and the ECU fully supports this fantastic project and bid and they asked all delegates to support it, not only Europeans.

Mr. Balgabaev of Kazakhstan said it is a wonderful presentation and asked if the delegates will be provided with travel subsidy as organizers did previously.

Hungarian Chess Federation General Secretary Mr. Kapas said there is a plan in the budget.

Mr. Van Hoolandt of Monaco said he was several times in Budapest to play tournaments, starting from 1983. Hungary is a beautiful country and he is happy that 2024 Olympiad will be organized there and Monaco will vote for sure and he invited everyone to vote in favour.

Mr. Turlej said he was happy with the presentation and as a lot of events were organized in Hungary, he is sure that this will be a success.

Mr. Herbert asked the Hungarian delegation on behalf of team and delegation members, about the playing hall and mentioned that they would like to see the city as in some venues people did not see much.

Mr. Kapas said the Ministry informed him that the place is huge, and there will be a chance to see everything and there will be 4G technology also used. And Budapest is a beautiful tourist destination.

Mr. Makropoulos said Hungary is a great chess historic place and Budapest is a great place and all the people are good and he would like to congratulate Dr. Font and Mr. Zsabo for this presentation and he is sure the Olympiad will be good.

The President urged all delegates to support the Hungarian bid.

The Online General Assembly awarded the right to organise the 2024 Chess Olympiad and 95th FIDE Congress to Budapest, Hungary.

Section 6- Online Chess

6.1 Online tournament projects and FIDE Laws of Online Chess

6.2 Online FIDE activities

The President asked to show the proposed resolution and requested General Assembly to vote in favour of it.

FIDE Vice President Mr. M. Khodarkovsky said he would like to pay attention that we all live in the peculiar and difficult times and all of a sudden we realise that chess became one of the hottest topics as we do all things online, we teach, play online and even Netflix had the blockbuster – The Queen’s Gambit. The most popular gift this season is a chess set. Right now FIDE is way behind to capitalize on these trends because a previously signed contract could not envision that we will have the pandemic and an online chess boom. We need to revise it and to be available for the chess community and provide services as the top chess sites are doing. He fully supported the resolution brought in by the President, it was discussed a bit in the Council meetings. We will depend on others, and be beggars, if we do not discuss and not adopt it.

The President thanked Mr. Khodarkovsky for his support. He said we will provide everyone with all information, with all lists and plans and let’s assume that it is going to be a huge part of our activities.

The Online General Assembly approved the Resolution regarding FIDE Online activities.

Section 7- Continental Associations

7.1 Report of Continental Association for Europe.

Mr. Tsorbatzoglou said that Mr. Azmaiparashvili is absent due to a family issue. He said that this year was unique and special and we had to adapt ourselves to a new situation quite fast and to be efficient. The ECU had organized 50 new events, Webinars, tournaments, seminars, different types, even COVID meetings, we are satisfied with our work and what we delivered and we presented here. He pointed out that we had a very good cooperation with FIDE around mostly the development program, raised together with very important initiatives and one part is supported by the development and it is managed quite well and we hope that we will continue. We have some activities in December and we are in a good financial situation. We also cut costs and tried to have initiatives and we have some additional income and almost with the same level of reserves.

The President said the ECU is doing a huge job and we are doing a lot of projects together.

7.2 Report of Continental Association for Americas.

Mr. Vega said the written report has been submitted. He thanked the President and the Management Board for the support the continent has been given. He said his report resumes the situation in Americas.

7.3 Report of Continental Association for Asia.

The report has been noted.

7.4 Report of Continental Association for Africa.

Mr. Ncube said basically the report has been submitted, we have been affected by COVID-19. After only holding one Zone 4.2 event, we confirmed nine continental commissions in parallel with FIDE commissions, a few of them started working, but most will start working next year. We also had two continental events and four seminars in four languages, online.

Mr Arfa expressed an opinion that the new zone distribution does not help and said they asked to review.

The President said the request was received but the Council needs time to consider.

The Online General Assembly noted the Continental reports.

Section 8- Miscellaneous

8.1 FIDE Awards

The President said we have a proposal for the awards at this General Assembly: Mr. Boris Spassky who gained his World Champion title in 1969 and lost it in 1972. We propose to present this award to Mr. Spassky and make him FIDE Honorary Member to commend his contribution.

Born in Leningrad, the great Spassky caught the attention of Mikhail Botvinnik very early when he managed to defeat him in a simultaneous exhibition at just ten years old. He played a total of three world championship matches: he lost to Tigran Petrosian in 1966 and defeated him in a second attempt in 1969 to become World Champion. Then he famously lost the crown to Bobby Fischer, in the match in Reykjavík that became a global sensation. Spassky is the oldest living former world champion, and also one of the most charismatic ones because of his sportsmanship and congeniality.

Second is Brian Callaghan, founder of the Gibraltar International Chess Festival – FIDE life member as a recognition for his important and continued contribution to chess. The festival started in 2003 when Mr. Callaghan organized a junior chess Festival. Thousands of players took part in Gibraltar events he organizes since 2003, with a special emphasis on promoting female chess players. Even though the Gibraltar Chess Open 2021 had to be canceled, Brian managed to keep the tradition alive by hosting the fourth and final leg of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix, from January 17-29.

Mr. Wilkinson expressed full support to both proposals.

The Online General Assembly awarded the title of the FIDE Honorary Member to Mr. Boris Spassky, the tenth World Champion.

The Online General Assembly awarded the title of the FIDE Life Member to Mr. Brian Callaghan, the Founder of the Gibraltar International Chess Festival.

8.2 91st FIDE Congress 2021.

The event will be held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia

8.3 Other matters

8.3.1 Jamaica Chess Federation's proposal

The President said this proposal was about Olympic creed and ways of Olympism.

Mr. Pein said this goes nicely with the resolution on Iran.

The FIDE President thanked the President of the Jamaica Chess Federation.

The Online General Assembly approved the proposal of the Jamaica Chess Federation to adopt the Olympic Creed and the Values of Olympism.

Mr. Kouatly said he supported President's words regarding the activities of the Red Sea Association.

Mr. Yazici from Turkey said he is one of the most active organizers in the last twenty years; he said because of this reason, he was given the high title of Honorary FIDE member. He said today the word “discrimination” was mentioned, and it can apply to anything and anybody and he faced such discrimination when the Events Commission Chairman refused to allow him to attend a meeting, but in FIDE there is a tradition when anyone entering the meeting is welcome, Ironically he was refused by the Events Commission Chairman Mr. Solakoglu and honestly he was very surprised not to be allowed in. My only interest was to see what is going to happen. He hopes to talk to the President to seek resolution of the matter.

The President said we will discuss this with all Commission Chairpersons. Those kinds of issues should be resolved internally, we will have a discussion the next week.

Mr. Sanusi thanked for the organization and efforts to organize this online General Assembly. He finds the efforts to organize events online are very important and he said they are grateful to FIDE and we found significant challenges in setting hybrid games as there is a significant shift in the country, and in Malaysia it is a bit slow, because of the COVID pandemic. They would like to repeat that the shift in resources is significant and shift in less-well off areas is even more important.

Closure

The President thanked everyone who worked to promote chess, to organize this General Assembly, all FIDE Council members, the Management Board, the delegates. There were technical issues, and it is a pity that we could not see all delegates simultaneously, but if we need to do it online second time, we will do it much better.