

MINUTES OF
FIDE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Date: 28 December 2021

Place: Warsaw/hybrid

1. FIDE President's address

President welcomes FIDE delegates and attendees to the 2021 FIDE General Assembly meeting present in Warsaw and online. He thanks Mr. Turlej and the Polish and Warsaw authorities for the hospitality and support and praises Poland for their ability to organise the 2021 World Rapid and Blitz Championships at a very short notice.

Prime-Minister of Poland, H.E. Mateusz Morawiecki welcomes all the attendees in his video address. He underlines that this is a very important and marvellous period in Poland, organising the World Rapid and Blitz Championships after the European Rapid Chess Championship. He expresses his gratitude to FIDE Council and President for this opportunity to host the most talented chess players in Poland. He calls this a great privilege and assures that everything will be done for the smooth holding of the event as Poland is a country with long-standing chess tradition, with a huge number of chess players. He says he hopes GM Duda and the rest of the players will show their best abilities during this Championship.

President thanks Prime-Minister Morawiecki for his welcome.

2. Obituaries

President says today we are remembering our friends and colleagues who regrettably passed away during 2021 with a minute of silence. A dedicated commemorative video was broadcast.

3. Roll-call

The quorum has been established with 124 delegates present.

4. Constitutional Commission's report

Mr. Rivello presents his report. He points out that in non-electoral years the Commission is tasked with checking the full regularity of the General Assembly, in connection with Article 4 of the General Assembly Regulations. Mr. Rivello opines that there is no necessity to use a secret ballot as there are no elections and suggests that there is no need for scrutineers for this General Assembly.

He singles out the second task of the Commission - to check the list of delegates and confirm voting rights to all delegates. He reports that it was not possible to give full voting rights to all delegates, so for the Ivory Coast Chess, Morocco and Pakistan Chess Federations, there are no legitimate delegates for this General Assembly.

Mr. Rivello also describes the state of play in Peru and US Virgin Islands, which do not concern the voting rights at this General Assembly.

Mr. Rivello anticipates that there will be a positive judgement about drafts of Electoral Rules, Ethics and Disciplinary Code and Internal Rules of the General Assembly. He was charged with the task of drafting of the FIDE Electoral Rules and looks forward to the approval of these important documents in the direction of more developed rules of FIDE.

He comments on a request to change the FIDE Charter by the Papua and New Guinea Chess Federation, stating that it would be difficult to approve the proposed change. Mr. Rivello welcomes questions in respect of the Constitutional Commission's report.

The General Assembly notes the Constitutional Commission report.

5. Appointment of the 3 Scrutineers *

President suggests General Assembly should support the proposal of Mr. Rivello not to have three scrutineers for this General Assembly.

The General Assembly approves the proposal of Mr. Rivello not to elect the Scrutineers.

Section 1- Report of FIDE President

President thanks all delegates for all projects and activities on all levels in this difficult year, where all worked hard despite the limitations for chess activities, and underlines that overall it has been a successful year.

The report includes description and evaluation of main activities carried out over the last year, as well as information on the planned projects. In his report President:

- Appreciates that all events of the World Championship cycle, including the completion of the 2021 FIDE Candidates' tournament and the FIDE World Championship Dubai 2021 have been organised.
- Highly evaluates the FIDE World Championship Dubai 2021 organisation and thanks all concerned for it.
- Expresses gratitude to the authorities in Riga and Latvia for the successful organisation of the FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss, and the Government of Poland and Warsaw for the organisation of the FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championships 2021 at such a short notice.
- Reiterates that the 2021 World Women's Team Championship held in Sitges (Spain) can be regarded as a kick-off event for the 2022 Women in Chess year that will come with higher prize funds and many exciting events for female chess players.
- Expresses satisfaction with a successful organisation of the 2nd edition of the World

- Online Olympiad, with participation of almost 160 countries and hopes that in the future online Olympiads should be held in odd years in between the OTB Olympiads, as many Federations liked this format and will be happy to participate.
- Points out that that the 2022 World Chess Olympiads shall be held in two cities : Khanty-Mansiysk and Moscow.
 - Invites all the delegates to the 2022 FIDE Congress in Moscow starting 27th July 2022, and underlines it is an election year so the preparations for this event shall be very thorough.
 - Praises all activities devoted to all professional training, for arbiters, trainers, Federations officials, especially with the assistance of the FIDE development fund.
 - Underlines a successful financial situation, following the opportunities created by the World Chess Championship match Dubai 2021 and additional sponsorship which helped to make FIDE's financial situation even better.
 - Announces the opening/extension of a bidding procedure for the 2022 FIDE Women's Grand-Prix and other events.
 - Informs that the FIDE human resources shall be increased in marketing, IT, PR and in all other levels, including Commissions and other bodies where it is necessary to perform better.

President also emphasizes the increasing role of the FIDE's social agenda:

- Enumerates educational chess, and projects for inmates, refugees, people with autistic spectrum disorder (including collaboration with the ECU and other associations), as well as for veterans.
- Thanks Mr. Iashvili and Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola for their participation and coordination of all activities in the social sphere.
- Reiterates that the substantial, visible, dynamic social projects shall be expanded and further developed.

The report is followed by a video about FIDE social projects.

Section 2 - Financial matters

2.1 Report of the FIDE Treasurer

Ms. Zhu thanks the Polish government, the Polish Chess Federation and sponsors for support in organizing the World Rapid & Blitz Championships 2021 at such a short notice and hosting the FIDE Congress.

Ms. Zhu underlines her very conservative view at the budget preparation. Since April, there were strict measures, reduction of payments, administrative expenses and salaries. She is grateful to the Council for the support.

She highly evaluates the fact that each of very important events have been organised, as mentioned by President in his report, despite it being an extremely difficult task for all involved. She is proud of her colleagues and thanks President, Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola, Mr. Bologan, Mr. Sutovsky, Mr. Turlej, Ms. Stoisavljevic, Mr. Martynov, Ms. Goryaeva, Mr. Zhuravlev, Mr. Korshunov inter alia, for great job.

Ms. Zhu informs the delegates that the total amount in all FIDE accounts is more than 6 mln euros at the end of the year – creating a safety for FIDE. She underlines a particularly important commercial potential of major chess tournaments, the income from which is higher than ever from any FIDE major events.

Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola comments on the development part of the 2021 financial statement and says that the overall allocation was 1 mln euro for this year, with two major parts of 400,000 euros for four continents and the rest was aimed for National Federations that were very active approaching Management with their requests, mainly for the events implementation in the countries that have lifted strong Covid-19 restrictions. She encourages FIDE stakeholders to come up with some other, more creative initiatives. In 2022, there will be an additional 500,000 euros planned for various social initiatives from Federations, Zones and Continents. She mentions important social projects and confirms that FIDE is willing to support such initiatives, for example, as was the case with the Infinite FIDE project led by Ms. Sorokina. For the continents, as it was discussed in the Zonal Council, we would like to see that the Continents would fully utilise their allocations of 100,000 euros from the Development Fund including by investing in their social projects.

The General Assembly approves the report of the Treasurer.

2.2 Verification Commission's report

Mr. Mazouz points that the Ernst & Young are in the whole satisfied with our financial statement. Their report was late, and therefore the Commission's report was delayed. A decrease of the fees from Federations and efforts by FIDE to get as much payments as possible have been noted as well as a major change in the income make-up compared to 2016. FIDE should continue to look for new resources and carry out its ambitions for worldwide chess activities.

Mr. Mazouz mentions that the Development Fund in 2020 was affected and declined by almost 38%, but nevertheless the expenses represent almost 37% of all expenses whereas in the past, they did not represent that much.

He refers to the Commission's recommendations of last year which were put in practice or on the way to do so. There are new recommendations for 2020 budget, but the Commission is satisfied with the FIDE financial situation, and FIDE financial management team was cooperating fully with the Commission.

President thanks the Verification Commission for their work and the analysis of the FIDE financial situation as FIDE is consistent in keeping up with their promises from 2018, and we expect some increase in income regarding the Federations' fees from 2022 but rates are down substantially. One of our key purposes is to continue to get more partners globally.

Mr. Priest gives some details of the Verification Commission recommendations, starting with the ones for 2019 Financial statement:

- FIDE financial statement shall be prepared according to the Swiss accounting standards as it is very important for the FIDE credibility.
- The cash flow statement has been provided as recommended.

- FIDE will move to another accounting software by 2023.
- The financial documentation has been reviewed as recommended.
- All information is easily available on the FIDE website as recommended.
- A robust website for Planning and Development Commission with all information is available as recommended.
- FIDE has adopted policy of not accepting certain grants as recommended.

Mr. Priest also outlines recommendations based on 2020 Financial statements:

- No change of auditors for the year 2021 is supported by the Verification Commission.
- It is recommended to have all the contracts of FIDE in English or dual language version.
- “FIDE Guidelines for avoidance of the conflict of interest in employment and appointments” is in line with the Commission’s recommendation.
- The issue with PayPal has been solved as recommended.
- Registration of FIDE as a non-profit tax resident in Switzerland is in the process as recommended.
- More specific contracts regarding general donations are necessary.

President thanks Mr. Priest for extensive and very useful practical explanation.

The General Assembly approves the Verification Commission’s report.

2.3 Discharge of the Treasurer

The General Assembly discharges the Treasurer from the responsibilities for the financial year 2020.

2.4 Budget 2022

Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola presents the budget draft and outlines its major points. The budget is balanced, the form has changed and now income and expenditure have increased substantially mainly in the events section. Principle of budget has been changed, it has been prepared based on gross income and expenditure, not net. Three major factors for that:

- FIDE is supposed to register as a VAT payer in Switzerland;
- a change in the business model of operations of FIDE – with the new management team FIDE does not outsource, but organizes its major events in-house. Thus, the risks are changing and for the sake of transparency we should see both gross figures;
- we follow the best practices of other international federations.

She points out that next year, the Covid-19 situation is still going to be unclear, but all top-level tournaments will be staged, and this is reflected in the budget. The major event is the World Chess Olympiad 2022 and the 2022 FIDE Congress to be held in Moscow. Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola confirms the financial support for travelling of far distance, low development level federation participants to the World Chess Olympiad. She further explains that the balance is not with surplus, but also because we increased the development fund to 2 mln euros, including such initiatives as women in chess events, as this will be the Women in Chess

year.

Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola also mentions a few other major changes as the decrease in administration costs while increasing allocations for marketing and events positions, where under the great leadership of Mr. Sutovsky we have managed to bring even a higher level of sponsorship and organise all events. Their capacity has to be increased, allowing FIDE to even better capitalize on our major events. We also see the need to improve our IT infrastructure and expand its capacity.

She adds that Treasurer's report says our reserve fund is quite high with 3 mln euros. But due to the high level of potential risks of Covid, we want to be on the safe side and keep sustainability of organisation strong. This is our approach, and even if had drafted the budget with net positions as earlier, our expenditure would be 6 mln euros, which is the highest rate, while being able to provide a proper income part.

Mr. Wilkinson asks in relation to staff salaries, what accounts for a huge jump to over the 1 mln USD. He also comments that, in the opposite direction, general office expenses went down, and says it is not usual to see expenses going down. His third question refers to the plans for the difference from the income and expenses from the World Chess Olympiad 2022, of 300,000 euros. He also inquires what guarantees will be in place for provisions for countries in terms of support, airfare, expenses in respect of entry visas for the World Chess Olympiad.

Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola refers to what was presented before - we have increased allocations for PR, marketing and events management positions, which is very crucial for us. While FIDE now organize our major events ourselves, there is a need for improvement and therefore we need additional resources. Also, there is a need for the increase of the IT department to provide quality services for FIDE's everyday operations and events. We have reduced the general office expenses shifting the funding to areas where it is needed most, including IT. As for the Olympiad, in the FIDE draft budget only the basic costs we envisage within the support programs for Federations for both World Chess Olympiad and Olympiad for people with disabilities are included. We will repeat the earlier practice and we will be assisting the Federations in need and the ones which are remote with travelling costs. We want to have a wide representation at the World Chess Olympiad.

President comments that the Olympiad is an ongoing process and figures will be changing to reflect an actual situation with expenses and income. He promises that everyone will be receiving timely updates.

General Assembly approved the 2022 Budget.

2.5 Appointment of External Auditor for annual audit of FIDE accounts for 2021

Mr. Volzhin informs the General Assembly about the proposal to reappoint Ernst & Young as an External Auditor for the financial year for 2021.

President refers to suggestions that were presented by the Verification Commission.

Mr. Priest says the Verification Commission does not object to keeping Ernst & Young as an External Auditor.

The General Assembly appoints Ernst & Young as External Auditor for an annual audit of FIDE accounts for 2021.

Section 3- Federation and Membership issues

3.1 Admission of new member Federations of FIDE

President informs that four applications for FIDE membership have been submitted during the last couple of months. The applications were discussed at the FIDE Council meetings and the Council finds that except for Belize, we have proper applications and sufficient grounds for the three Federations to become new members.

President draws the attention of the delegates that in the FIDE Electoral Rules due to be voted for later, there is a limit of electoral rights of new members, so they will not be able to participate in the elections next year, they will get electoral rights only after that, while they will be able to exercise all other rights and they will also have to fulfil their responsibilities. The new members will be able to play under their national flags at the Olympiads in Russia in 2022.

Mr. Wilkinson comments that he is particularly pleased to see these proposals and encourages to support these applications. He expresses his gratitude to President, the FIDE Council and in particular, Mr. Short, who embarked on this tour in the English-speaking Caribbean some years ago and brought new Federations and territories to the FIDE family.

3.1.1 The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Chess Federation applied to become a member federation of FIDE

The General Assembly approves the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Chess Federation as a new member-federation of FIDE.

3.1.2 The Niger Chess Federation applied to become a member federation of FIDE

The General Assembly approves the Niger Chess Federation as a new member-federation of FIDE.

3.1.3 The Belize Chess Federation applied to become a member federation of FIDE

The General Assembly approves the Niger Chess Federation as a new member-federation of FIDE.

3.1.4 The Dominica Chess Federation applied to become a member federation of FIDE

The General Assembly approves the Dominica Chess Federation as a new member-federation of FIDE.

3.2 Federation issues

3.2.1. Letter from the Ukrainian Chess Federation

Mr. Short comments that the issue raised by the Ukrainian Chess Federation is about two players who we believe have been involved in a case of rating manipulation. We have in FIDE the authority not to rate certain events if we have doubts about them. The resolution of the FIDE Council of the day before is represented in Annex 3.2.1c and it is fairly clear about the proposed course of action. Ratings of these players will be restored, but the series of tournaments will not be rated.

President confirms that the FIDE Council took this decision and asks the General Assembly to support it.

The General Assembly notes the letter of the Ukrainian Chess Federation regarding rapid & blitz ratings of Mr. Ihor Kobylanskyi (FIDE ID 14106329) and Mr. Iuri Shkuro (FIDE ID 14108836) and supports FIDE Council decision regarding this matter dated December 27 2021.

3.3 Other matters

Section 4- Administrative matters

4.1 Changes in the FIDE Handbook

4.1.1 The Papua New Guinea Chess Federation's proposals

Delegate of Malta Mr. Borg comments that in the report of the Constitutional Commission, it is recommended that these proposals should not be approved. He agrees that this is presented without any motivation and advises that in accordance with the Internal Rules for General Assembly, Federations should present a motivation.

President advises that the Constitutional Commission and FIDE Council recommend that the proposals of the Papua New Guinea Chess Federations be rejected and discussions on these matters be continued.

Delegate of Monaco Mr. van Hoolandt comments that he also supports Mr. Borg to reject these proposals as otherwise this would exclude countries like Jersey, Scotland and other from the FIDE membership, and this would damage FIDE. It would have been already voted against two years ago and it is against the FIDE Motto "We are one family". We are trying to have as many countries as possible, and for the future this should be our goal.

Delegate of England Mr. Pein agrees with Mr. van Hoolandt and emphasises that when he counted the member Federations these proposals would affect, it comes to 19 federations.

Delegate of Scotland Mr. Howie reiterates the opinion of Mr. Pein and is glad that the common sense seems to prevail. He thanks for the support.

Delegate of Barbados Mr. Herbert concurs with the sentiments of the previous speakers. He mentions that IOC membership is omitted from the criteria, and he proposes that this should be addressed.

President agrees that we have to be very careful about membership issues and repeats the

Council's opinion that these proposals should be declined.

Delegate of Guatemala Mr. Vega comments that since long time ago FIDE has struggled to add more Federations and now we are around 200 members. This proposal would deprive many of their membership and he is against this proposal.

General Assembly resolves not to approve Papua New Guinea Chess Federation's proposals regarding Associate Member Federations and regarding FIDE Charter amendment (Article 9.4).

4.1.2 FIDE Electoral Rules

Mr. Rivello presents the document and mentions that in the past we had a very short version, while now it is a comprehensive document with all necessary rules. We tried to adhere how to organize campaigns, and sanctions in case of not legitimate activities of the candidates. The first draft was disseminated to all parties and following the receipt of all comments, they were addressed.

English Chess Federation has assisted in the correction of the English language and asked questions about the interpretation. There was a number of other questions to the distributed draft which have been addressed.

Delegate of Greece Mr. Makropoulos congratulates the working group as this is a great step in the right way, and a lot of problems will be solved if this document is applied. He proposes to support the Electoral Rules.

General Assembly approves the FIDE Electoral Rules.

4.1.3 Ethics and Disciplinary Code

Mr. Strydom presents the document. He says it is a privilege to work on this document and calls it historic date in FIDE as the previous version which was only two-page long, was approved in 1989. Now the proposed draft is 40 pages long and it is in line with the other International Federations and the IOC.

This is initiative of the President and FIDE Council for the general update of all documents in the FIDE Handbook that follows the approval of the FIDE Charter in February 2020 in Abu-Dhabi. The document consists of two parts, Ethics Code and Disciplinary Code.

Mr. Strydom further comments that the Sub-Committee worked on it and then put it forward for consideration of Constitutional and Fair Play Commissions, Federations, FIDE Council and Management Board. He is thankful to all for the respective input. The latest version of the Code was approved by the FIDE Council and is recommended for the General Assembly's approval.

Mr. Strydom adds that we will promote the highest ethics values and ensure that sportsmanship will always prevail. It also represents the best thinking among international sports Federations and conforms with the IOC requirements. It is a technical document, proposed guide on how to submit a complaint, or how to defend oneself, and it will be in a simple language, published on the FIDE website.

President thanks Mr. Strydom on behalf of FIDE Council and confirms that the Council supports the document.

Mr. Pein congratulates the team for producing the document. He comments that the English Chess Federation considered the draft and sent their response. They liked nearly all about it as it is a serious upgrade. He however mentions that his Federation is uncomfortable with section 9, and the idea that we should delete the entire history of someone found cheating. We have history of chess which is to be shared and studied for the history. The idea to delete does not appeal to us. We should not create non-existent persons; this should be reconsidered. He gives an example of Article 9.2-9.4 referring to banning a player with a fast-track system, which is a massive change. They could accept if the regulation would apply only to the online chess, but not for both online and offline. They fully accept we need to do something, but it seems very drastic, and it comes in tandem with kind of approach, what Mr. Pein calls a “chess.com approach”, like we are worried about your play, but we do not say you are cheating. He calls the proposed change radical and says they can accept this very document, but possibly sending back section 9 for some more work.

Mr. Strydom replies that Mr. Pein refers to article 13.2 sub d, which allows Ethics and Disciplinary Commission to remove player’s historical data. He confirms that the opinion of the English Chess Federation is noted but explains that the proposed Article is only in the case of a life-time ban, which is an extraordinary case, and this situation would be happening. We believe that there may be circumstances in the future which might need to exercise this right, but this will be a very rare case with a very small chance of taking place. He also stresses that the Ethics and Disciplinary Panel will take into account all the considerations when deciding on each case.

President says he is in favour of keeping this data in some archives and hopes no decisions like this will be taken at least at next General Assembly.

Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola asks to confirm the Code as it is, on behalf of the Fair Play Commission. She considers a right balance has to be found between the necessity to fight against cheating and preserve the human rights. This document is a balanced document, and the right wording is also in place, not to unnecessarily harm the reputation of the players who have broken the fair play rules. She opines that 99% percent of the fast track cases will be applied for the online cases, however the regulations should be the same both for online and offline. The fast track will be applied only to the high-level FIDE events with a designated Fair Play Panel. Thus professionals will take well-reasoned decisions during events where the fair play principle is to be followed the strongest.

Mr. Strydom adds that article 9.7 provides an explanation to the question by the English Chess Federation. It mentions the Fair Play Commission rules where cheating which is the highest offence will be distinguished from some minor offence or an online situation where a camera is switched off. So, the procedure will be a fast track and will be dealt quickly for the minor breach of regulations.

President thanks Mr. Strydom again.

General Assembly approved the Ethics and Disciplinary Code.

4.1.4 General Assembly Internal Rules

Mr. Rivello presents the document. He says there are some additional rules to the ones approved last year and those are mainly in place due to the newly approved Electoral Rules.

General Assembly approves the General Assembly Internal Rules.

Section 5- FIDE Calendar

5.1 Chess Olympiad 2022

5.2 FIDE Grand Prix Series 2022

5.3 FIDE Candidates Tournament 2022

5.4 FIDE World Team Championship 2022

Mr. Sutovsky presents his report, which describes the fulfilled activities and outlines the plans for the future. In his report he:

- Highly appreciates the FIDE World Championship Dubai 2021 organisation. Expresses gratitude to Expo Dubai 2020 and all those involved in the organisation of the FIDE World Championship Dubai 2021.
- Points out that FIDE World Championship Dubai 2021 has brought a significant income to FIDE.
- Stresses that FIDE has very well secured partnerships with several serious companies and also that FIDE expands geography of its sponsors. He also underlines that the sponsors have trust in FIDE.
- Points out that the marketing group needs to be expanded in order to continue the successful organisation of the future events.
- Informs that the Candidates Tournament 2022 shall be organised in Madrid, Spain, June-July 2022 and the funding is in place.
- Informs that the World Teams Championship 2022 shall be organised in Jerusalem, Israel, in April 2022.
- Reiterates that there is a sustainable income from the contracts concluded in 2020 and 2021.
- Draws the attention that a venue still has to be found for the Women's Candidates Tournament 2022.

President thanks Mr. Sutovsky for his work and excellent results.

Section 6- Online Chess

6.1 Online tournament projects

President informs the delegates that the budget is 100,000 euros for online events and adds

that we can support some online events from the Development fund if this is in social dimension.

Mr. Sutovsky says we are in talks for a major online event for 2022, and soon an update will be coming. He believes that our perception guarantees growth in this direction as well.

Section 7- Continental Associations

7.1 Report of Continental Association for Europe.

Mr. Tsorbatzoglou starts with a comment in respect of the proposals of the Papua New Guinea Chess Federation. ECU is in favor that the rights to participate in continental and world championships belong to national federations and thus the participation should be approved by the National Federation.

He congratulates President and the FIDE team for all the activities and success in marketing.

President thanks ECU and the entire team for the collaboration and great work and expresses hopes that mutual projects and cooperation will be continued.

General Assembly notes the ECU report.

7.2 Report of Continental Association for Americas.

Mr. Vega informs the delegates that he has been working very hard to include chess in Caribbean Games, and now it is a 90% probability that chess will be included into this event. Mr. Vega is also working to guarantee chess is still included in the Central American Games.

Mr. Vega appreciates very much a support of FIDE, especially by President and Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola.

President thanks Mr. Vega for his activities.

General Assembly notes the Americas report.

7.3 Report of Continental Association for Asia.

Mr. Abundo emphasises that chess is in the programme of all regional Olympic Games, and now the Asian Chess Federation is coordinating for future Asian Games with the Asian Olympic Council. He thanks President and FIDE for the success of FIDE World Championship Dubai 2021 in Asia.

President thanks the Asian Chess Federation for their work.

General Assembly notes the Asian Chess Federation report.

7.4 Report of Continental Association for Africa.

Mr. Ncube informs the delegates that there have been three over-the-board events and the

fourth one starts the next day in Liberia. He calls it a success year for Africa, and reports that a number of seminars and workshops has been organised for the Federations of the Continent. Chess will be part of African Games, starting with 2023 and registration for this event was completed early December. The African Continental Assembly is scheduled to be held on the 29th January and they will try to address issues coming from the 2021 FIDE Congress. He also draws attention to some outstanding issues, the Morocco dispute about the past elections as well as the disputes in Ivory Coast and South Africa.

President thanks Mr. Ncube for his activities.

General Assembly notes the African Chess Federation's report.

FIDE President thanks all Continents to their contribution to development of chess and all their activities.

Section 8- Miscellaneous

8.1 FIDE Awards

President informs the General Assembly that the previous day the FIDE Council approved the proposal of the President to award Mr. Andrei Filatov, President of the Chess Federation of Russia, with the title of the FIDE Honorary Member. This award has been granted for his great contribution to the development of chess and organisation of all major FIDE events in Russia, including the World Championship matches, Chess Olympiad, Grand-Prix series, Candidates tournament. He adds that Mr. Filatov's work deserves appreciation.

General Assembly approves the following FIDE Award: the title of the FIDE Honorary Member to Mr. Andrei Filatov, President of the Chess Federation of Russia.

8.2 92nd FIDE Congress 2022

The General Assembly notes the information that the event will be held in Moscow, from 27 July till 2 August, 2022. President informs the delegates that it is proposed to have some Commissions, especially the Commission for the Disabled, meetings in Khanty-Mansiysk, thus extending the length of the Congress by a couple of days.

President looks forward to welcoming all delegates in Russia.

8.3 Other matters

8.3.1. Proposal of the Rules Commission.

The Assembly notes that this proposal is related to the fact that all changes are about the use of electronic scoresheets. President stresses the need to clarify all provisions to use them for official purposes, with changes to come in effect in August 2022. He comments that if there are any issues, based on practices, we will be able to correct the mistake and vote accordingly at the next General Assembly.

President thanks the Technical and Rules Commissions as well as the Working Group for their

work.

Mr. Biagioli asks about the use of the electronic scoresheets and refers to the point in the Laws of chess that this is the property of the organiser. He asks what will happen if a player brings an electronic scoresheet which belongs to him to the tournament.

Mr. Bologan replies that the regulations state that this device should be in full responsibility of the organiser in order to avoid any kind of cheating. It was recommended that it should be provided by the organisers, so the device will also stay with the organiser. The text of the game will be stored in the computer of the organiser, and this is the evidence for further use. This is the replacement of the procedure of physically holding a paper scoresheet, and this is a mandatory moment if approved. The electronic scoresheet is not the property of the player, but of the organiser.

General Assembly approves amendments to the Laws of Chess regarding electronic scoresheets (effective from August 1, 2022). To grant the right to the FIDE Council to approve the necessary clarifications on this issue based on suggestions of the Rules Commission.

Closure

President thanks everyone for the participation in the 2021 General Assembly and wishes good health, joy, and the best celebration of the New Year for the participants of the meeting and their families.