

MINUTES OF
ZONAL COUNCIL MEETING



Time: 26 December 2021
Location: Warsaw/hybrid

Welcome Remarks and Report

Arkady Dvorkovich, President

President welcomes members of the Zonal Council to the annual meeting. In his introductory message President:

- Underlines there are a lot of aspects and reasons to move chess forward.
- Adds that FIDE management is learning, we are able to improve our framework and develop chess around the world.
- Highly evaluates the support of the Development Fund to competitions, both OTB and online, including open tournaments.
- Praises the focus on social activities, where with Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola coordinating those activities, FIDE is able to have many important events.
- Underlines feedback from Federations, especially in social projects, e.g., Chess for Refugees and Chess for Freedom (chess in prisons) where he participated in the opening of the competition in Chicago and was happy to see many teams and many participants.
- Specifies that a big part of the social programme of FIDE belongs to Chess for Disabled, where online competitions and seminars have been held.
- Reminds that the next year there will be the World Chess Olympiad for Disabled in Khanty-Mansiysk.
- Draws the attention to a new project - Chess for people with autistic spectrum disorder (Infinite Chess).
- Confirms that traditional support for veterans is continued.
- Stresses that the next year is declared as the Year of Women in Chess.
- Points out that FIDE will dedicate a substantial part of its Development Fund to zonal activities, and that it is important to coordinate zonal and continental level activities.
- Encourages FIDE zones to send proposals to be discussed on continental level for inclusion of these proposals into the continental plans.
- Adds that the core element of the activities will be coordination between continents, zones and federations.
- Hopes to visit all continents and meet many Federations to discuss their proposals and feedback, regarding sponsorship, marketing and media.
- Underlines the importance of a better dialogue on the level of the FIDE management with all FIDE stakeholders.
- Calls on all Commissions to coordinate their activities and have a constant dialogue with zones and Federations.
- Informs of the increase of Development Fund from 1 mln euro to 2 mln euro for the year 2022.
- Looks forward to welcoming everyone to Moscow in July, starting 26 July at the

opening of the Chess Olympiad and FIDE Congress.

Report of the FIDE Managing Director

Dana Reizniece-Ozola

Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola thanks President for his encouraging and explicit speech, announces that today's Agenda is based on the interests and priorities expressed at various FIDE forums.

In her report Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola:

- Presents the Development Fund allocations 2019-2021 to Federations, Continents and other development projects.
- Expresses satisfaction that due to good coordination with zones and Continents, already from March 2021 the Funds have been acquired for distribution.
- Looks forward to the same level of cooperation in 2022 and hopes that at the meeting with the Continents the proposals regarding the Development Fund allocations will be presented.
- Presents draft budget 2022 with 2 mln euros for the Development Fund and explains proposed allocations on all the directions, mentioned in the President's introduction.
- Points out that more than 500,000 euros have been budgeted for various social projects associated by or in coordination with FIDE Commissions.
- Underlines that FIDE is much more stable regarding its budget and it gives more possibilities to carry out planned activities, also considering that the Covid restrictions are not that strict.
- Encourages Federations to be active as this increases potential for funding through joint projects with Zones, Continents, and to be more creative when requesting allocations, not limiting themselves only to tournaments.
- Describes the spending of the Development Fund allocations per Continent, finding it surprising that Continents do not acquire all the funds allocated (with Africa being very active, Americas using only half of the allocated funding and Asia using around 80% of the funds).
- Invites Continents to be more active and to present more projects in order to make full use of the allocated amounts. Women chess and empowerment projects are particularly encouraged.
- Confirms that funding will still be allocated in case projects of the Continents are not feasible during these difficult times as the Planning and Development Commission and Management team are always ready to provide "hands-on" assistance.
- Stresses that the FIDE's priority is to invest in development, not to save on it.
- Expresses confidence that there are plenty of initiatives and idea which could be transformed into the projects presented from the Continents for the Development Funding.
- Outlines the activities of the Affiliated Organisations and the FIDE Funding provided to them during the period of 2019-2021, where 2020 was the most difficult year and also, 2021 being a tough year where some events were postponed.
- Underlines that FIDE is happy that the Affiliated Organisations still manage to organise events and will be glad to provide assistance to them in 2022 as well.
- Reiterates President's idea that all actions should be streamlined and consistently

coordinated.

- Reports that the KPIs of the Planning and Development Commission have been reviewed and a social aspect notably increased.
- Informs that under the guidance of Ms. Zhu, FIDE has adopted the Corporate Social Responsibility Guidelines, to demonstrate the world that FIDE is transparent and dedicated organization and to practically improve the work on the management level.
- Presents various aspects of the CSR's positive impact in opening new markets and attracting sponsors, making a world a better place, bringing positive public attention, and having engaged collaborators and loyal customers, which will be demonstrated in practice by FIDE's actions and the way of action.
- Analyses KPI FIDE Structure where each initiative presented to FIDE will be analysed according to the criteria and standards: core, social priorities, promotional activities and partnerships.
- Explains the cooperation between the Planning and Development Commission with various FIDE Commissions and funding for certain projects of these Commissions.
- Stresses that there are various projects where the FIDE Commissions cooperate with Federations for FIDE funding.
- Reminds that 2022 is declared as the Year of Women in Chess and calls on all Federations to inform FIDE of any initiative carried out in this framework.

A short video about the social projects of FIDE has been shown.

Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola warmly thanks everyone for their activity, as well as her FIDE colleagues for initiating and working hard on the projects and expresses hope that the next year again the joint work will be done on all levels and new goals will be reached.

Summary of Planning and Development Commission Activities, Procedures and Processes
Sonja Johnson, Planning and Development Commission Chair

Ms. Johnson presents her report and actual day to day work interacting with Federations, Commissions and Continents and delivering the assistance on all levels.

In her presentation Ms. Johnson:

- Informs that the Planning and Development Commission website has all the information related to the funding, on all levels, Federations, Continents, Affiliated Organisations and Commissions.
- Goes through the details of an application process of a Federation for funding and a set of required documents which will be analysed by the Planning and Development Commission and approved by the Managing Director and the Treasurer.
- Explains the difference between the Funding Package for a Federation and Continent.
- Presents details of the application for a funding by the FIDE Commission, starting from 2021 and stresses that the Commissions' projects are usually for a set period of time.
- Describes the funding of the projects, mainly tournaments, from the Affiliated Organisations and the process of applying for it.

- Underlines that the Planning and Development Commission is always ready to provide assistance at all stages of applying for funding, at all levels.
- Reminds of the Planning and Development Commission Resource Library with the Management Handbook, Planning Tools, Governance and Social Media Management tools, which can be found on the Planning and Development Commission website.
- Lays out the objectives of having Fed Forum, regarding objectives, needs and feedback and possible areas of optimisation, mostly at the Zone level.
- Presents the schedule of the Fed Forum meetings and concluding remarks regarding participation of the Federations under the Covid restrictions.
- Suggests the way how to increase collaboration on all levels.
- Presents an institutional alignment and FIDE vision, mission, goals and priorities in this context.
- Introduces important dates for the submission of reports and opening of the Funding.
- Announces a Capacity Building Programme, its goals, organisational details and target audience.
- Outlines the concepts of the Capacity Building seminars: management in the areas of communication, decision-making, management of environment, resources and activities.
- Informs of the results of the Building Capacity Survey.
- Shares other Planning and Development Commission initiatives and the stages of their realisation.

Mr. Ncube asks about a situation when a Continent is unable to provide a full funding for its Commission, whether the Planning and Development Commission could provide supplementary funding for such Commission. He adds that the African Continent is most likely to present several requests from Continental Commissions, but maybe Continental funding will not be enough.

Ms. Johnson replies that such situations shall be considered on a case-by-case basis, but there is a possibility for a supplementary funding for the Continental Commissions.

Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola comments that in such cases the initiatives should be aligned with FIDE priorities, well-thought and fully supported by the respective FIDE Commission.

Mr. Wilkinson thanks all the speakers and asks how the fact that Americas did not utilise the whole amount allocated to it juxtaposes with the Planning and Development Commission remit and how it is possible to bridge that gap considering that the funding they are getting in Jamaica is limited.

Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola proposes that Continents will be asked to provide their plans at a very early stage and each Federation in a Continent should follow the respective plans after they are published on the Planning and Development Commission webpage and probably approach Continents if they have suggestions how to improve those plans. She adds that it would be great if such coordination could be done before the plans are published, but if it is not feasible then post factum everything should be seen and adjusted accordingly, moreover in the continents which are underperforming.

Ms. Johnson refers to the Institutional Alignment and confirms that it will be preferable to have such discussions beforehand, which seems to be more efficient. She says these lines of communication should be kept open.

Mr. Wilkinson further comments that he would be interested to know how much of the money allocation is spent in a certain period of a year, e.g., semi-annually.

Ms. Johnson adds that the Planning and Development Commission reports to the FIDE Council on a quarterly basis and the report contains exact information on how much money the Continent has used by that date. She underlines that FIDE encourages closer cooperation of the Continents and Zones with the Planning and Development Commission.

Ms. Johnson presents her concluding remarks, saying that the Commission is glad to see more Federations apply for funding in 2021 and it will continue to pursue its new initiatives while continuing the Fed Forum and other projects.

WOM

Eva Repkova, WOM Chair

Ms. Repkova makes her presentation about Year 2022: Women in Chess

In her presentation Ms. Repkova:

- Expresses gratitude to President, FIDE Council and Management for declaring Year 2022 as year of Women in chess and for the support to make this year outstanding for women.
- Underlines that this will allow encouraging women's participation in all events.
- Encourages women's engagement in the initiatives of the Commission.
- Invites all parties to closely cooperate with the Commission and to add at least one special initiative for women on all levels.
- Introduces a proposed Network for women around the world with the idea that each National Federation, Zone and Continent should have a Commission on Women's Chess or at least one designated person in charge of this aspect.
- Appeals to National Federations to support the Women's Chess Commission with regard to establishing a Network for women in chess around the world.
- Shares a plan of the Commission for 2022, subject to amendments and changes and the ideas of its implementation.
- Highlights the Manifesto which contains the proposed plan of actions as well as top events, such as, Queen Festival, Year of Women in Chess Corner at the World Chess Olympiad 2022, Worldwide webinars. The Manifesto will be published on the FIDE website.
- Adds that the Commission for Women's Chess will be enlarging and improving its social media profile and it is not an easy task. There is a plan to launch a Global Women's Network to allow women exchange their information and share ideas and experience, including abuse issues.
- Looks forward to a wider cooperation with other FIDE Commissions.
- Announces monthly podcasts, with the first one to be published in January 2022. The first person to start it is WGM Jana Krivec (SLO), who has a PhD in psychology. She will speak about psychological and mental well-being as it is felt that this topic is important, especially during covid-19 times.
- Thanks all FIDE colleagues for constant support and help.

Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola adds that Ms. Repkova will be also approaching Continents and individual Federations to agree on the best activities during the Year of Women in Chess. She underlines that this should be a two-way process and encourages any initiative to be shared with the Commission for Women's Chess for better promotion and enhancement, including the ones from the organisers of already existing traditional tournaments.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili thanks all the speakers and informs that this year a women's team participated for the first time in the Small Nations Team Championship. He adds that it has been decided that with the FIDE and ECU support a Small Nations Women's Championship shall be started. He expresses hope that this tournament shall be a success and will be part of the FIDE and ECU calendar starting from the year of Women in Chess.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili further announces that on February 26 there will be a celebration of European Women's Chess event in Monaco, where Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola as well as several other FIDE Commissions Chairpersons are invited. This event will allow the inclusion of the Women's chess topic into the future Agenda of the European Chess Union.

Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola comments that she is happy that despite not being able to organise the Golden Pawn, ECU is lauded for transforming it into a quality women's event to celebrate the power and beauty of chess players. Regarding the introduction of a Small Nations Women's Championship, she opines that it is a very good example of what FIDE is expecting. She adds that Mr. Borg has already approached the Planning and Development Commission with an extensive plan of training for young girls from countries which do not have Olympic teams in place, with an ambitious goal of using the time before the World Chess Olympiad 2022 in Moscow to encourage these countries and form Olympiad teams. She calls this an amazing initiative, concrete, specific and encouraging, which FIDE will be happy to support as it does make a difference.

Ms. Repkova thanks Mr. Azmaiparashvili for the support and good news. She adds that Mitropa Association also provides support for women among its members and included "gender equality" into their Statutes.

Mr. Pisk informs that the ECU is planning to have a Women's conference during the European Women's Championship in Prague in August 2022, and further information will be available in January.

Mr. Wilkinson thanks Ms. Repkova for her report and says that he is a big supporter of women's chess and during his tenure as President of the Jamaican Chess Federation he used to encourage girls and women to play chess. In his opinion, in FIDE for many years little has been done for women's chess and it is time to stop talking and start working and he is happy that next year will be the Year for Women in Chess. He calls on all members of the Zonal Council to encourage women in chess and to implement some proposals with the help of the FIDE marketing team and Commission of Women's Chess. He refers to the success of "Queen's Gambit" series and opines FIDE should use this on all levels and presents several other ideas which he will also send to Ms. Repkova. He gives an example of his Federation where 50% of participants of a recent tournament were females. He also mentions a proposal of Mr. Myers, President of the Jamaica Chess Federation in this regard.

Ms. Repkova thanks Mr. Wilkinson for his ideas and concurs that it is true there is much to be done. However, she reminds that since the very beginning the FIDE President has been giving his support for women's chess and this resulted in increased prizes in women's top competitions. Ms. Repkova comments that this is an on-going process and there is no recipe for an overnight success, but Commission on Women's Chess are on a right way, and it shows that now the society and not only FIDE is ready for this development. She is confident that the year 2022 will bring real progress in this direction.

Ms. Sorokina thanks President for the support to all social projects implemented in 2021 and to the Planning and Development Commission for the support of their ideas regarding the "Infinite Chess" and "Chess for Protection" projects. She also thanks Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola who always actively supports and provides bright ideas regarding how to improve the implementation of the projects. She pays attention to the project mentioned by Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola "Chess for Protection", where one of the project directions is Girls' club. During last four months trainers WGM A. Karlovich and IM S. Melia have given lessons to 180 girls in the Kenya camp. She says this project is also very important for the girls facing difficult life conditions, such as refugees. During next year more work will be done in all refugee camps, it is about socialising and what additional possibilities and chances chess can provide.

Dr. Tabti also concurs that it is great that next year is the year of Women in Chess. He informs the Zonal Council of a situation in a very big refugee camp in Algeria where people from the Western Sahara are situated and many of them are chess players from this area. He adds that the President of this local Federation is a woman and most of the players are women, 70% at least. He requests advice and assistance to organise some activities as in Jordan and Kenya. He also says that according to his information, part of these chess players are not in Algeria, but in some territory not recognised by the UN and the IOC. He underlines that these chess players organise some activities, last year on the 8th of March they had an important event, and they want to organise a tournament with Mauritania and Algeria in 2022 and therefore they approached him and asked his assistance in his capacity as a Zone President.

Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola shares the experience from the Kakuma camp where it has been easier as there was strong assistance from the UNHCR, which is managing the camp. It is important to have a local partner, who takes care of the camp onboard, and a local Federation on the other side. Facilitators have been trained and there is a local facilitator in the Kakuma camp who was organising the lessons of the trainers. FIDE equipped the trainers in the camp with materials and methodology and now they are spreading out and making network. They approached the local schools and teaching kids, together with three boarding schools and combining online and offline education. She suggests that someone should facilitate a first meeting with representatives of those who takes care of the camp, then FIDE could take from there on.

Dr. Tabti replies that it will be very easy to contact with them. It was agreed that it will be done and Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola will be contacted.

Capacity Building

Sponsorship Toolkit

Marco Verdoia, Marketing Director

Mr. Verdoia presents a sponsorship toolkit for National Chess Federation, explains the philosophy behind it, its objective and structure and:

- Points out the objectives as giving a Federation tool to be able to independently engage with sponsors and to be credible and in the long run, allow self-sustainability of a Federation and to give recommendations on their use.
- Outlines guidelines regarding sponsorship and management proposal covering 5 key steps.
- Explains the toolkit structure giving examples and a sample sponsorship proposal.
- Highlights managing side of the toolkit.
- Informs that the toolkit is in the final stage and the distribution shall be done in coordination with the Planning and Development Commission.

Ms. Johnson thanks Mr. Verdoia and adds that it will be a dynamic professional tool which will allow each Federation to utilise it as a professional institution.

How to prepare a chess project for funding

Jesper Hall, ECU

Mr. Hall speaks about additional opportunities for funding and:

- Introduces the participants of the project.
- Defines the word “project”.
- Describes why this the model of a project is so important.
- Explains background of a project, set-up, timeline and conclusions.
- Outlines key-factors for success of the project.
- Gives an example of such a project “Let’s play together” and its background and how it was growing and implemented.
- Provides suggestions for FIDE and ECU.

Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola thanks Mr. Hall for echoing the same ideas and messages that have been shared today and a very useful presentation. Many of the suggestions are very important not only for Federations and Continents, but also for FIDE.

Summary of session and closing remarks

Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola in her concluding remark:

- Expresses satisfaction that the Agenda has been very interesting and includes various topics Some important dates have been heard and some practicalities are reminded of how to approach the Planning and Development Commission.
- Highly evaluates presentations of the Planning and Development Commission and Commission for Women’s Chess.
- Hopes that next year new initiatives will come forward at all levels.

- Thanks President for his great leadership.
- Extends her gratitude to Ms. Johnson and the entire Planning and Development Commission team for the work during the whole year and for preparing the contents of this meeting.
- Expresses thanks to Ms. Stoisavljevic and the administrative team for organising the technical part of the work.

President in his closing remark:

- Reiterates that the next year FIDE will back to its full-scale activities OTB.
- Looks forward to daily collaboration with National Federations, Zonal Associations and Continents.
- Underlines that it is planned to hold Continental development meetings.
- Informs that the best educational practices which have been accumulated in the last few months will be shared.
- Points out that following elections in National Federations, new officials appear who should be informed regarding new approaches and current situation in respect of existing projects and development possibilities.
- Urges all members of the Zonal Council to be as active as possible, while most have been doing great jobs on their own or with the help from FIDE. However, there are some Federations and Zones which are not active because of the Covid restrictions.
- Confirms that the conclusions from this meeting will be shared at the meetings of the FIDE Council and General Assembly.
- Concludes by thanking everyone and saying he looks forward to meeting all on various occasions, including General Assembly in Moscow.