

EXTRAORDINARY FIDE COUNCIL MEETING



Time: 27 February 2022

Location: Online

PROTOCOL

CONTEXT: geopolitical situation/warfare: Russia vs Ukraine. FIDE condemns the action and needs to react. FIDE Council has already taken a decision on cancelling all the official FIDE competitions and events in Russia.

GOAL: express the position of FIDE regarding the geopolitical events; take practical decisions that would ensure sustainability of the organization and its values.

DECISIONS:

1. Participants and rollcall
2. President's opening remarks
3. The FIDE Council's position on geopolitical situation [Reports: A.Dvorkovich]
 - 3.1. General Position of FIDE Council

Decision:

FIDE expresses its grave concern about the military action started by Russia in Ukraine. FIDE stands united against wars as well as condemns any use of military means to resolve political conflicts. FIDE will take any necessary action to ensure the security of chess players and other members of the chess community. No official FIDE chess competitions and events will be held in Russia and Belarus.

- 3.2. IOC recommendations (incl. relocation of events and use of flags) [Reports: D.Reizniece-Ozola]

Decision:

The FIDE Council supports the call of IOC and:

- a) *FIDE relocates/cancels its official competitions and events currently planned in Russia.*
- b) *No Russian or Belarusian national flag be displayed and no Russian or Belarusian anthem be played*

in all FIDE rated international chess events. Instead – the national chess federation’s flag or other official symbol/logo shall be used.

- c) FIDE would provide an opportunity to play/be represented under the FIDE flag for any chess players (or arbiters, trainers, organizers) who would have a notable justification within the current geopolitical situation. A simplified procedure for the transfer shall be used.*

3.3. Review of the letters and statements addressed to FIDE by member federations (Chess Federation of Ukraine, United States Chess Federation) and reaction to actual position of chess players [Reports: E.Sutovsky, A.Martynov]

Decision:

- a) The FIDE Council acknowledges receipt of a letter from the Ukrainian Chess Federation regarding, among other things, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and published comments attributed to chess grandmasters Sergey Karjakin and Sergey Shipov.*
- b) The FIDE Council refers the matters to its appropriate organ - the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission.*
- c) The FIDE Council states categorically that it condemns any public statement from any member of the chess community which has the potential of bringing chess and FIDE in disrepute, particularly any statement supporting unjustified military action by any state against another.*

4. FIDE sponsorship/financial resources and bank accounts [Reports: A.Dvorkovich, A.Volzhin]

Decision:

- a) In order to safeguard FIDE from reputational, financial and any other possible risks, FIDE terminates all existing sponsorship agreements with any Belarusian and Russian sanctioned and/or state-controlled companies and will not enter into new sponsorship agreements with any such companies.*
- b) Mandate the FIDE Financial Department to evaluate the risks of FIDE having its accounts in Sberbank and Gazprombank. If there are any possible risks to FIDE, these accounts shall be closed.*

5. FIDE’s office in Russia [Reports: A.Dvorkovich]

Decision:

Review the contractual agreements with the employees of the FIDE Office in Russia, transferring them to Lausanne, Switzerland.

6. FIDE Congress [Reports: A.Dvorkovich]

Decision:

- a) *Regardless of the organization of the Chess Olympiad 2022, FIDE organizes the annual FIDE Congress during the previously planned dates – from 27.07.2022. till 02.08.2022. with the election date on 01.08.2022. The preference is to combine the FIDE Congress with the Chess Olympiad 2022.*
- b) *The FIDE Council suggests consultations with the potential organizers of the Chess Olympiad 2022 and allows adjustment of the FIDE Congress dates if it does not imply a notable delay of elections.*
- c) *The FIDE Council confirms that the continental elections shall be organized within their constitutional terms.*

7. Status of the FIDE Calendar events and Development Fund [Reports: E.Sutovsky, D.Reizniece-Ozola]

7.1. FIDE Official Events in Russia and Belarus

7.1.1. 2022 World Chess Olympiad – new venue and dates.

Decision:

The FIDE Council welcomes the bid from AICF and provides 10 days (not later than 10 March 2022) for any other applications/bids regarding the Chess Olympiad 2022.

7.1.2. 2022 World Chess Olympiad for impaired people – new venue and dates.

7.2. Other events

7.2.1. 2022 World Team Championship – venue and dates.

Decision:

The FIDE Council will take further decisions after 1 March 2022 when the composition of the participating teams is clear.

7.2.2. Other events – venue and dates.

8. Development Fund

Decision:

FIDE will provide a continuous and unbiased Development Fund support to national federations, zones, continents and affiliated organizations.

9. Other issues, including federation initiatives [Reports: A.Dvorkovich]

9.1. Application of A.Sorokina

Decision:

Referring to A.Sorokina's application as of 27.02.2022., provide her with the rights to be represented under the FIDE flag.

9.2. FIDE interaction with sanctioned individuals

Decision:

- a) Mr.Khodarkovsky proposes to take an immediate decision in regards to the individuals included in the EU, UK, US sanctions lists. In particular, Anatoly Karpov as FIDE Ambassador for Life, as well as Members of the Board of Trustees and the Oversight Board of the Russian and Belarus Chess Federations.*
- b) The FIDE Special Projects Director Mr.Iclicki drew the Council's attention to the fact that according to the Article 15 of the Charter, the right to make decisions regarding FIDE Ambassadors belongs exclusively to the FIDE General Assembly, not the Council.*
- c) The FIDE Council by the majority of votes decides to refrain from inviting any of sanctioned persons to any official FIDE events and requests the Chairman of the Constitutional Commission, Mr. Rivello, to study the need for other legal actions and suggest the competent authority within FIDE that has the right to approve them.*
- d) Mr. Khodarkovsky votes against the delay of the decision and asks for the Council's clear position on his initial proposal as described in the paragraph 9.2.a).*
- e) The FIDE Council accepts Mr.Khodarkovsky's objection and refers the matter to be expedited by Mr.Rivello within 24-48 hours.*

10. Adjournment

9.2. FIDE interaction with sanctioned individuals CONTINUED on 01.03.2022.

Mr.Rivello has provided the following position for the attention of the FIDE Council:

“(..)there are 2 possibilities:

- art. 20.2.j gives to the Council the power to "resolve on all matters not otherwise and explicitly reserved to another body by this Charter"; it could be used to revoke the title of FIDE Ambassador;
- art. 15 could be interpreted in a way to impose the opposite procedure previewed to award the title: this way the Council could decide to propose to revoke the title.”

f) *After receiving Mr.Rivello’ s opinion, Mr.Azmaiparashvili suggests the following decision to be taken by the FIDE Council:*

“The FIDE Council decides to suspend the title of the FIDE Ambassador for Life for Anatoly Karpov and asks the General Assembly to take a decision on the matter.”

g) *Alternatively, Mr.Khodarkovksy suggests the following decision:*

“The FIDE Council decides to revoke Anatoly Karpov’s title of the FIDE Ambassador for Life effective immediately.”

He also urges the Council’s decisions be presented in chronological order and included in the protocol of the Council’s decisions.

h) *Mr.Battikh suggest the FIDE Council postpones the decision and entrusts the matter to the General Assembly.*

i) *The FIDE Council by the majority of votes supports the proposal of Mr.Azmaiparashvili as described in the paragraph 9.2.f).*

The division of votes is as follows:

9 Members of the FIDE Council vote for the suggestion of Mr.Azmaiparashvili as described in the paragraph 9.2.f);

1 Member of the FIDE Council votes for the modified suggestion of Mr.Azmaiparashvili as described in the paragraph 9.2.f), additionally urging GA to support the Council’s decision;

3 Members of the FIDE Council vote for the suggestion of Mr.Battikh as described in the paragraph 9.2.h);

1 Member of the FIDE Council votes for the suggestion of Mr.Khodarkovsky as described in the paragraph 9.2.g);

1 Member of the FIDE Council abstains.

j) *The FIDE Council supports Mr.Khodarkovsky’s suggestion that sanctioned persons would be denied to hold any honorary or official positions in FIDE and would not be invited to any official FIDE events.*