



FIDE ZONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

Date: 3 August 2022

Location: Leela Palace, Chennai

Time: 3.00 p.m. IST

Welcome Remarks and Report

Arkady Dvorkovich, President

President welcomes members of the Zonal Council in Chennai and thanks the All India Chess Federation (AICF) for the hospitality and the Zonal Council members for their active participation. In his introductory message President:

- Stresses that the Development Agenda was the biggest part of the FIDE activities in the last two years.
- Adds that the main directions of the support are the assistance to National Federations, Zones and Continents as well as various social activities.
- Highly evaluates the support of the Development Fund to chess in schools, women's chess and online events and projects due to the Covid-19 circumstances.
- Expresses satisfaction that co-funding of continental events has been successful and Continents expressed their wish to continue this practice.
- Praises the focus on the pillars of social activities, where with Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola coordinating those activities, FIDE is able to have many important events.
- Specifies that a big part of the social programme of FIDE this year belongs to Women in Chess, reducing gender gap in all respects and providing special training to female players, arbiters, trainers and organisers on all levels.
- Informs that there is a bigger representation of women in the FIDE management and FIDE Commissions, including some recent appointments, as well as the appointment of women in chess coordinators in National Federations.
- Confirms that Chess for people with disabilities is also a substantial part of the FIDE social programme and the Olympiad for the players with disabilities shall be held this year.
- Confirms that a special pilot project - Chess for people with autistic spectrum disorder (Infinite Chess) is being continued under supervision of A. Sorokina.
- Encourages the Federations to participate in the Intercontinental Chess Championship for prisoners, to reach the number of 64 participating Federations, with 30 countries having participated in the last year's event.

- Confirms that traditional support for veterans is continued.
- Draws the attention to a new project – Chess for Refugees – which has been started in several countries and there is a great demand and need for assistance. One part of the project is Chess in Slums – where there is a great support from communities around the world. This project helps to improve our societies which is another role of FIDE besides organising tournaments.
- Underlines the importance of having right partners, including Government level, and sponsors on all levels, in each country, zone and continent, in order to provide adequate assistance to all the needs and co-fund all Social program projects on a sustainable basis.
- Hopes that whoever is elected will continue working hard and provide assistance in the Development Fund.

3.15 pm Report of the FIDE Managing Director

Dana Reizniece-Ozola FIDE MD

Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola addresses the Zonal Council members as the key stakeholders of the FIDE Structure and makes a presentation of instruments which are useful in the daily chess activities in the Federations, Zones and Continents, along the lines mentioned in the President's opening remarks.

In her report Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola:

- Presents that FIDE approved Corporate Social responsibility Guidelines and new development KPI(s) in 2021 and explains the reasons and consequences of them.
- Mentions introduction of a new format - Continental meetings at the instance of the PDC and reports that following the meetings, FIDE has achieved a much clearer idea of the needs of its members and Zones. Federations' training has also been carried out at these meetings.
- Welcomes ideas and feedback for further meetings, states that new programmes for federation capacity building and new programs are to be launched.
- Outlines the new FIDE budget lines designated to development, as the budget is the main financial document. This includes all FIDE projects and also zonal initiatives, clearly aligned with FIDE priority policies. The sum is much higher this year.
- Introduces a draft budget 2023 with 3.8 mln euros for the Development Fund and explains proposed allocations on all the directions, mentioned in the President's introduction, including lifelong learning, from pre-school training to veterans' support.
- Points out that more than 1.8 mln euros have been provided as travel support for the federations to travel to the 2022 Chess Olympiad.
- Informs that more than 500,000 euros have been allocated to 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.

- 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. This is a good start and the work will be continued also in following years. Mentions that one of the goals is to have women's teams of all Federations in Chess Olympiads.
- Explains the consultations process in coordination with PDC and Continental bodies and various platforms held to consult on regional priorities.
 - 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.
- Stresses that situation with Zones is far from ideal and proposes various ways to integrate zonal activities in the Continents' activities. However, to date no zonal initiatives have been received.
- Stresses that the FIDE's priority is to invest in development, not to save on it and demonstrates the funds provided for supra national spending in 2022.
- Expresses confidence that there are plenty of initiatives and ideas which could be transformed into the projects presented from the Continents for the Development Funding.
- Underlines 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: international tournament in every federation, female training and federation capacity building programmes.

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 joint work will be done on all levels and new goals will be reached in the future.

Mr. Kouatly thanks Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola for the presentation and stresses that it is very important for the future to bring more funds for the projects and encourages all Zonal Presidents to support these initiatives. He opines that chess is not only a game, but also a tool to be used for the social benefit, and it is not that expensive. He asks everybody to follow and go for these projects and stresses that this is where the development is. This is the beginning of the growth of chess to bring FIDE much further.

Mr. Jankovic thanks President and Managing Director and agrees that this is very important. He shares the experience in his Zone 1.2, and the existing challenges.

3.30 pm Summary of PDC Activities, Procedures and Processes Sonja Johnson, PDC Chair

Ms. Johnson presents her report and the work of PDC in 2022 and orientation programs, as well as institutional alignment.

In her presentation Ms. Johnson:

- Reports on the PDC meetings in various Continents, their Agendas and goals for each Continents as each Continent is unique.

- States that the meetings were hugely popular and largely attended and created general interest, with many FIDE officials and some Commissions Chairs in attendance also with positive feedback.
- Shares that the Continental meetings were productive as the delegates gave ideas on how to develop the continent in the short-medium term. They also provided insights to the various chess activities in their respective countries. Mutual cooperation between countries and regions was the consensus of the majority.
- Describes that the meetings also play an important role to stimulate the exchange of experience among the participating federations, effectively increasing the levels of cooperation cohesion and engagement and participants really were engaged by the Sponsorship Template which was created by the Mr. Verdoia, FIDE Marketing Director.
- Underlines that meetings were an excellent opportunity to publicize FIDE's growth strategy, because of the communication face to face. Example: it presented an ideal platform to promote Women in Chess Development and ideas for new initiatives such as an Orientation Program for Federations also emerged from the meetings.
- Explains the objectives and key elements of an orientation programme to allow National Federations to easily access and leverage available resources to facilitate more effective operation of their federations
- Presents the schedule of the Orientation meetings and explains day by day programmes.
- Underlines that the institutional alignment is most instrumental for getting maximum result, on all levels.
- Opines that zonal structure needs to be discussed and puts several questions to the Zonal Presidents.
- Stresses that the objectives of such meetings were met and delegates expressed need for FIDE to ensure there is proper onboarding of federations and new administrations so they can perform more effectively.
- Recommends that such meetings be held on a more regular basis and should be complemented by final version of Federation Management Handbook.
- Presents other PDC initiatives including zonal structure for zones to organize their operations and structures in a way to promote enhanced efficiency and effectiveness and provide additional support to complement their national priorities, with focus to be geared towards optimization of collective resources to ensure that federations obtain the maximum benefit.

Ms. Johnson expressed the readiness of PDC Team to continue its engagement to facilitate the transition to this structure.

Mr. Wanjala from Kenya thanks Ms. Johnson and shares his concern regarding the transition in a Zone after a new President is elected. He expresses hope that in Africa new teams will be proactive and commends the work of PDC in African continent.

Ms. Johnson thanks Mr. Wanjala and replies that the transition should be taken up during the orientation programmes.

Mr. Dvorkovich agrees that it is crucial for new Presidents and officials from national Federations especially those who are participating in Development programs, to get mentoring from the FIDE officials and PDC team.

4.00 Development Levels Model

Sonja Johnson, PDC Chair

Ms. Johnson presents the PDC proposal regarding a new model for Federations' development level. She mentions Mr. Tsorbatzoglou who has taken the initiative to start this model.

In her presentation Ms. Johnson:

- Presents Federations' KPI development as we must contemplate mass development in chess and explains each KPI and criterion of the model.
- Analyses chess development levels and their current criteria and presents a new proposed system and indicators. A wider span of indicators will help PDC in their work and will be included in the development scope and long-term plan.
- Proposes smart goals system as well as various motivations and awards.
- Replies to various questions in respect of the proposed Development Levels Model.
- Reiterates that this is a baseline model and there will be qualifying factors involved and this model will not be used in isolation.

Mr. Dvorkovich asks if this system does not require a few development levels. He asks about threshold calculation and explanation for some "jumps" that occur.

Ms. Johnson replies that the plan was to have five levels, but then there were some challenges and now there is a need to revisit the issue. The difference is that there are still baseline data, and it needs to be seen again, how the scores should be set. She suggests that here is the start of a discussion.

Mr. Dongre from India opines that in many countries Federations first contact is the respective Sports Ministries and advises that FIDE should prepare programs accordingly to be presented at once to other Ministries for better funding.

Ms. Johnson says this is a very good point.

Mr. Ameku from Ghana, Zone 4.2, asks if further to the new Charter, there is an opportunity for zonal reports. He has prepared his report. Also Mr. Ameku concurs with Mr. Wanjala and stresses that there should be assistance for Zonal Presidents and if it is possible to have zonal offices, where this could become a meeting point, to facilitate activities in the region. He also proposes Regional Games as one of the possibilities, and this could get more participation. Mr. Ameku also proposes that there should be an approach and a roadmap to fill the gap between female and male chess in some countries and zones. He is happy to hear that not only Ministries of Sports should be targeted.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks Mr. Ameku for the proposals, which are not only for PDC but for the FIDE Council and a more general Agenda.

Mr. Rojas from Costa Rica says the indicators are important but we need to think deeper in order to achieve the set goals. He opines that this model might give doubtful signs that if you succeed and do well, you will be receiving less support.

Mr. Dvorkovich remarks that one of the ways to structure development investment is to have the minimum amount of support on a permanent basis to the Federation unless the Federation has some serious violations and complies with the low-level threshold according to initial data and on top of that – additional motivational support for the performance.

Ms. Johnson responds indicating that there is an alignment with the opinion. There is a development level model and there is a KPI structure, but they are not all in all the same. Development levels do contemplate KPIs but they are not only KPIs, and vice versa - not all indicators are in the development level now. She presents examples from 2021 funding. She reiterates that it is a good moment to revise the development level model now.

Mr. Wajnala asks for clarity in the definition of the registered players – FIDE IDs vis-à-vis actual participants in the tournaments and expresses his reservations about this based on the experience in Kenya. He also opines that because FIDE is the custodian of the data, some of the data should be generated by FIDE to avoid manipulation.

Ms. Johnson replies that everything which resides on the FIDE server is referred to by the PDC. She agrees that FIDE does have a lot of data at its disposal, and we want to have dashboards for a better access. She addresses the comment about registered players, by saying that it is important to have one repository of information.

Mr. Mwaka from Uganda comments that we should recognize that the development level models have improved and KPI structure has also improved. He also says that within the framework of efforts to join the Olympic movement, there should be some steps regarding innovation in revenues, alignment in virtual sports etc. He also mentions rezoning in Africa as an example of a good alignment. Mr. Mwaka also mentions sustainability as a sine qua non and quotes the UN resolution of 2019 mentioning chess as a game in the forefronts. He stresses that correct alignment and following the international bodies Agendas will help to safeguard chess and strengthen its role in the society.

Mr. Dvorkovich agrees to the statements of Mr. Mwaka. He comments that all the ideas expressed here will be collected by the PDC and FIDE Council. The updated proposal will be sent again to all Federations.

4.20 FIDE Infinity Project

Anastasia Sorokina, Vice President

Ms. Sorokina thanks FIDE and FIDE President for huge support in establishing social projects during the previous years. She describes the project FIDE Infinity as the project to help people with autistic spectrum disorder and shares a personal story behind this project.

A short video was shown to the Zonal Council members.

In her presentation Ms. Sorokina:

- States that the number of people with ASD increases on an annual basis.
- Informs that the project started in 2018 in Minsk, Belarus with special equipment bought for a class of 4 kids each.
- Describes the 1st educational seminar Learn and Teach for ASD children was organized by FIDE in 2021 as a pilot project, with 130 participants who joined online.

- Announces that FIDE has made an application to the IOC and developed a joint program, which has been translated in four languages with more translations to come.
- Pays attention to the 2nd 2-day seminar where people were able to express their readiness to join a pilot programme 2021.
- Presents partners – several Federations.
- Underlines the importance of the programme which has been continued by the Erasmus programme application, where the result is awaited.
- Thanks all the partners, Social and PDC Commissions, and their Chairs, P.Klerides and G.Neisheim and Ms. S.Johnson and her team, expresses special thanks to the Supervisor of the project Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola, and demonstrates a video prepared by the Turkish Chess Federation.
- Invites everyone to contact her for more information and plan further steps. Infinite chess project with the support of IOC is expanding to Asia, and American and more African Federations are encouraged to join

Mr. Dvorkovich comments that he thinks this project is very important and welcomes everybody who is willing to participate to join.

4.40 pm Financial Management of FIDE Aleksandr Volzhin, FIDE Financial Director

Mr. Volzhin makes his presentation about Financial Management of FIDE trying to cover all basic questions about FIDE finances.

In his presentation Mr. Volzhin:

- Presents an overview of FIDE Finances and the finance function of the Rulebooks (FIIDE Charter, FIDE Financial Rules and FIDE budget), Elected Bodies (Treasurer, Verification Commission) and Management (Financial Department).
- Analyses the FIDE annual budget, its constituents and legality as well as the two-year basis to match the FIDE Calendar.
- Provides details of the FIDE budget income: Organisers' contribution, broadcasting and sponsorship as well as other sources of income: royalties and FIDE online platform.
- Explains a multi-year budgeting and states that a very robust system has been created allowing this planning.
- Presents details on how FIDE makes money from events.

4.55 pm Summary of session and closing remarks Arkady Dvorkovich, President

President thanks all the participants and speakers for the fruitful deliberations and active participation in the Commission meetings and networking.

Notes:

-Minutes of 2021 Zonal Council meeting have been approved in written procedure on 23 February 2022.

-Since there were in total less than 50% of the ZC members present, no binding resolutions have been approved at the meeting (art. 4.7. of the Zonal Council Internal Rules).