

## **FIDE General Assembly**

**21-22 September 2024**

### **MINUTES**

#### **A. FIDE President's address**

Mr. Dvorkovich welcomes the delegates to Budapest and the FIDE General Assembly. He underlines a fighting spirit at the 45<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad and invites everyone to fruitful peaceful respectful deliberations of the General Assembly Agenda, to reassure FIDE unity and values. He thanks the Hungarian authorities and the Chess Federation for the hospitality and arranging necessary conditions for teams and the delegates. He also thanks the FIDE team, FIDE Commissions for the contribution to the smooth functioning of the FIDE Congress.

#### **B. Obituaries**

General Assembly observed a minute of silence and paid its tribute in memoriam of those who FIDE lost in the previous year. FIDE will remember its legacy and new generation will continue bringing chess forward.

#### **C. Report of the Chairman of the Constitutional Commission**

Mr. Rivello presents his report. He announces that 2024 is an electoral year for the Commissions and that the Commission has provided a lot of advisory opinions on various items on the Agenda and reminds them to the delegates that these opinions were in respect and gives the relevant explanations:

- Proposal of the Cyprus Chess Federation and the Chess Federation of Russia in respect of the proposed changes for the Ethics and Disciplinary Code.
- Proposal of the Kyrgyz Chess Union to restore full membership rights of the Chess Federation of Russia and Belarus Chess Federation.
- Proposals and appeal by the Chess Federation of Russia regarding the FIDE Council decision of 2022.
- Request of the Serbia Chess Federation to suspend or expel the Kosovo\* Chess Federation.
- Request of the Kosovo\* Chess Federation to remove the asterisk in accordance with the UN decision.
- Request of the Algerian Chess Federation to include the request of the Saharawi Chess Federation into the General Assembly Agenda, to become an Affiliated Organisation of FIDE.

He also reminds about the EDC decision where it has requested the Council to draft a text about rules applicable in occupied territories. He calls the matter very complicated and a challenge in the international law. It was very difficult to do this in three months, but chess activities were less complicated, and the Commission will do its best and the next membership of the Commission will do it if the Council gives them this task.

He refers to the request about the legitimacy of some internal Statutes of some Member Federations and reminds that it is mandatory for all Member Federations of FIDE to submit

updated versions of the respective Statutes to the FIDE Office and the Council might decide to analyse the Statutes. He also replies that online chess is included into the definition of chess activities according to the FIDE Charter.

At the end Mr. Rivello says the mandate of the Constitutional Commission lasted since 2018 and thanks all members of the Commission and that it was a privilege and honour to serve FIDE and help with many important issues including the adoption of the new Charter.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks Mr. Rivello for his report as it creates the basis for further discussion.

#### **D. Elections of the 3 Scrutineers**

Test voting took place and explanations were provided.

**General Assembly approves Paris Klerides (CYP), Enrique Celi (URU), Paul Spiller (NZL) as scrutineers and Susan Namangale (MAW) as a substitute scrutineer.**

#### **E. Report of the Electoral Commission**

Mr. Klerides presents the Electoral Commission's report and the preliminary work done by them. He thanks the FIDE Office and the Constitutional Commission and Mr. Rivello for providing efficient and timely assistance in all cases. He draws the attention that the e-vote will be handled by a Hungarian company which is in the market for 30 years and has all necessary certificates.

**General Assembly approves the Electoral Commission's report.**

#### **F. Roll-call**

The quorum for the GA was established and the GA was declared fully legitimate.

### **Section 1- Report of FIDE President**

Mr. Dvorkovich presents his annual report. In his report he highlights the following matters and the activities carried out by FIDE and the FIDE Council as well as the Management Board, since the time of the previous General Assembly which was held online:

- Names three main pillars of work: top chess players and professional chess competitions (World Championship cycle, qualification to the World Championships and team events including Chess Olympiad); a whole range of social activities; administrative part supporting National, Zonal and Continental Chess Federations, to ensure proper functioning of the whole FIDE system.
- Thanks the organisers of all the official FIDE events that took place (apart from those that are still to be organised before the end of the year). Informs that the Candidates Tournament in Toronto (Canada) was held for the first time simultaneously among men and women.
- Announces that the World Championship matches will be held, for men in Singapore and for women in 2025 in China. Next world championship cycle has started, for men – competitions that define the qualifiers for the World Cup, including the qualifiers from the Olympiad and the FIDE Circuit which produces qualifiers. Women's GP event (1<sup>st</sup> leg) was held in Tbilisi and thanks to the Georgian Chess Federation for that. First time six WGP events will be held to identify qualifiers for the Candidates Tournament. This system gives more space for women to participate in top events and achieve career goals.

- Thanks to the whole team who put a lot of effort into organising the FIDE Chess Olympiad in Budapest. Informs of a record 186 countries that were able to bring their teams. Unfortunately, there were Schengen visas problems, and some countries could not come to the Olympiad and apologises for this. This is a lesson for FIDE to draw certain conclusions, including locations for future Olympiads. Organiser of the Olympiads 2026 and 2028, Uzbekistan and the UAE will have no visa issues. FIDE team is on hands with daily efforts to deal with any problems arising in Budapest.
- Lauds the GSC work who work hard to organise events properly. There are a lot of challenges but based on their efficiency FIDE earned sufficient amounts and FIDE's financial situation is stable. He thanks Mr. Sutovsky, the team and the National Federations where FIDE Events are organised.
- Commends the FIDE Events Commission which works with the Organisers of the world events under their umbrella to ensure the adherence of the Organisers to the new bidding criteria and the FIDE level. Almost every month at least two events from their list are held. He tries his best to visit a lot of events and observes that the quality of the events is going up. He informs that only two or three FIDE events need organisers to be confirmed, but the 95% of the events have their hosts.
- Praises social activities which are coordinated and led by Mrs. Reizniece-Ozola and thanks her for the organisation, especially of the whole range of the FIDE100 activities and celebrations around the globe, including tournaments, simuls, exhibitions and torch relays, as well as seminars, master-classes. The events will continue until the end of 2024. These activities increase the awareness about chess in various parts of the world and connect our Member Federations with their authorities and NOCs in their countries. Thanks Messrs. Short, Bologan and Turlej for their efforts to improve the relations between the authorities and National Federations in various parts of the world.
- Informs that during the IOC General Assembly he could see that people from NOCs and International Sports Federations know more about chess and what FIDE is doing. He mentions a new IOC project – Olympic e-games, where a contract has been signed between the IOC and Saudi Arabia, to host the e-sport Olympics, starting from 2025 and FIDE hopes that chess will become part of this huge project.
- Reports that FIDE is working hard to join regional and Continental multi-sports competitions and thanks the Multi-Sports Committee for their contribution.
- Refers to meetings with governments and regional authorities regarding various FIDE projects. The biggest project is Chess for Freedom, where the number of countries involved is increasing annually. The target is 64 countries, and FIDE IS approaching it. It is a challenge and the system of prisons around the world is very restrictive, but step by step the authorities realise that it brings positive results in behavioural patterns of those inmates who play chess regularly, so it ultimately improves our society. FIDE also follows suit of the IOC regarding Chess for Refugees project which was a priority and FIDE worked mostly in Kenya but also in other countries.
- Describes FIDE's efforts to bring the refugee team to Budapest and it proved to be a very difficult task, as they did not have passports. But the very fact that FIDE managed to put a team together and train them is a very positive development.
- Hopes FIDE will achieve bigger progress in upcoming months. Huge amount of work is being done regarding chess for people with various disabilities as well as autism spectrum disorder and a big number of countries participate in this project. FIDE is looking for a venue for the next Paralympiad and he hopes that the most important thing is to share best

practices, train the instructors and allocate resources appropriately. He praises the project Chessmoms at the initiative of the Chess for Women Commission for women who can travel to the competitions with their babies. He informs that the proposals regarding social aspect will be presented to the General Assembly on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- Refers to the assistance to National, Zonal and Continental Federations to develop their projects. Many requests for funding have been received but there are still funds available for more projects. Zonal Council discussed it, noting positive aspects and what needs to be improved. He thanks Continental organisations and their four Presidents for their contributions and their support.
- Expresses gratitude to all Commissions for their intensive work and that the Commissions leadership works almost full time for FIDE success in all kinds of matters. Invites everyone to provide names for the FIDE Commissions to help make the situation even better.
- Thanks the FIDE Council, FIDE management Board colleagues for the very productive work, for the daily communication. He invites delegates that any proposal can be sent every day, and the Council will address everything every day. FIDE works constantly. He thanks delegates for their contribution for day-to-day functioning of FIDE.

Mr. Bruce from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thanks FIDE President for the work across the globe and asks what will happen to Chess Olympiad if chess becomes an Olympic sport.

Mr. Dvorkovich underlines that FIDE will not abandon Chess Olympiad as this is its main competition open for all countries for participation. FIDE's hope for the Olympic Games is having a small rapid and blitz individual competition and this is still for a very distant future.

Mr. Bruce also comments that smaller Federations are struggling even how to access the FIDE Development Fund and there should be a PDC and Continental support for such federations in this respect, in order to make these Federations thrive.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks Mr. Bruce for the comments and assures that the full report from the PDC Chairman will be made available and will be followed up at the Management Board and the FIDE Council.

Mr. Maiga from Mali opines that the translation into various languages should be done not only at the FIDE General Assemblies but also at the Continental and other levels. He also thanks Mr. Dvorkovich for all the efforts and success and notes that the chess has improved a lot on an international level as he is able to witness the progress for many years starting from Olympiad in 1980. He invites Mr. Dvorkovich to visit African countries and eye-witness that the Federations are poor and there is no support from the Governments or sponsors, or the African Chess Federation. Therefore, it is a cry for financial assistance from FIDE from that part of the world. Mr. Maiga also stresses that his teams were unable to participate due to the absence of visas and that it is a very serious problem and is sorry that no solution was found to bring those teams to play in Budapest. He once again invites Mr. Dvorkovich to give a thought how to solve the problems and improve the chess situation in Africa where chess is not on a very advanced level. He refers to the words of World Champion Ms. Xie Jun that maybe the future World Champion will be from Africa and calls for more attention for chess development in Africa.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks Mr. Maiga and replies that regarding the translation into various languages, this will be discussed with various FIDE Affiliated organisations, on how to improve the situation. He also adds that both he and other FIDE officials have been trying to visit as many FIDE Member Federations as possible every year and promises to visit more African countries in

the near future. He also underlines that together with the African Chess Federation FIDE will work hard on increasing the efficiency of FIDE support to smaller Federations and that he had discussions with some of them, including norms, titles and tournaments, level of zonal events, to organise open or round-robin events in Africa. He opines that solutions will be found and coaches, arbiters and organisers from African countries will be further trained by sending professional trainers there. He calls the situation very diverse, and sees both progress and regress in African teams.

Mr. Herbert from Barbados congratulates Mr. Dvorkovich on the efforts with the IOC, especially the opportunity to enter via e-sports. He opines that FIDE Council should try its best and push as hard as possible to convince the IOC to accept chess in its Olympic Games and thanks the FIDE Council for the hard work and looks forward to positive results of this General Assembly.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks Mr. Herbert and opines that when the Olympic Games are organised in a country where chess is part of culture, e.g. India, then FIDE will succeed in its quest.

Mr. Qureshi from Pakistan thanks Mr. Dvorkovich, members of the FIDE Council and Management Board as well as Sheikh Sultan for coming to Pakistan and launching a very big chess in education initiative, alongside the Prime-Minister of Pakistan.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks Mr. Qureshi and adds that many countries became more active in chess thanks to the Educational project which FIDE is trying to introduce and thanks the FIDE Chess Education Commission. He mentions that sometimes Governments become enthusiastic when they hear about chess education, and this is FIDE priority.

Mr. Bongo Akanga Ndjila from Gabon concurs with Mr. Maiga. He recalls joining FIDE in 2008 and being a witness of all the progress made in regard to the development of chess. However, regarding his country and Zone 4.3, eight countries of the zone made a declaration to attract the attention of FIDE to their poor financial situation, but unfortunately, such Federations are dragging FIDE back by our low level not because our countries wish to do so, but because of external circumstances. He opines that FIDE should start financial assistance from such countries, and this will help the eventual progress and will be a good story to sell to the media. He implores FIDE to do more to help such Federations as the Government in his country does nothing, to help them move forward.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks Mr. Bongo Akanga Ndjila and adds that his last phrase is important as unfortunately, if the Government of a country does not do anything, it is very hard for FIDE to help besides its small efforts and trying to persuade the Governments of such countries start helping Chess Federations as without this link in a respective country, any assistance from FIDE will not be effective. He also stresses that there is always some positive experience to learn from, and in Africa there is a number of Federations which can provide such expertise and advice to others. It is a pity that not many FIDE Zones sent their requests to support zonal activities as through them some issues could be addressed.

Mr. Dhafer from Iraq draws the attention to the problem with issuance of visas to his teams and refers to the previous problems in Olympiad in Tromso.

Mr. Dvorkovich reminds that FIDE is one family and FIDE is not to set more barriers as FIDE is trying to remove all barriers. Unfortunately, there are so many conflicts in the world that if one starts making barriers, then the family will be completely divided, and it will be hard to stop. He says that visa is an unfortunate consequence of the lack of trust between the countries and FIDE

did its best, but it was not enough to get visas for everyone. It is not about threats, it is about daily work to resolve such situations and FIDE was working with the Foreign Ministry of Hungary on these issues and unfortunately, dozens of players could not come and FIDE learnt its lesson and next time the process of applying for visas will start earlier as it is very important to start the whole process on time. In some cases it is difficult to apply on time, but FIDE and all Member Federations should do their best to start the visa process early enough.

Ms. Richards from St. Lucia commends and thanks the Management Board for great support for women's chess. Ms. Richards is a Councillor in the FIDE Women's Chess Commission. She highlights the current stats where in the 2024 Chess Olympiad there are 181 registered female teams, in comparison to 2022 which had 169 female teams registered. She points out the increase of 19 teams in a span of two years, thanks to special assistance for countries which would send their female teams for the first time. She invites all delegates to the Conference on Women in Chess at 3 pm that afternoon.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks Ms. Richards for the success story and tells that this is not the end of it as next time FIDE will be looking forward to even bigger increase of the female teams' number. He also agrees that the Conference will be a very good chance to listen to the speakers on this subject.

Mr. Nguema Ebile from the Equatorial Guinea comments that while he appreciates the work of the FIDE management in the development of chess, he thinks that it is not correct to leave this job only for them, as there are all kinds of countries in FIDE, developed, developing and poor also. He asks the developed countries, what they do to support chess development in the world, in the spirit of Gens Una Sumus. He says poor Federations need godfathers as developed Federations. He welcomes the developed Federations to assist in any possible way the developing countries.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks Mr. Nguema Ebile and replies that developed Federations do their bit to FIDE, they pay the highest fees and they organise events from which FIDE gets funding which is used for less developed Federations. He agrees that this is not enough and that more can be done to provide coaching and materials and this can be facilitated. He promises to follow up. He also suggests that some developed Federations should be approached and asked for assistance, in some cases.

Mr. Wilkinson from Jamaica congratulates Ms. Richards for her wonderful job and also congratulates the FIDE Council for the work. He agrees that the criticisms regarding the current Olympiad are justified but it takes a lot of work to organise such an event and there are a lot of positive comments which can be made about the Olympiad in Budapest. He urges the FIDE Council to push for more programs regarding the education for girls in primary institutions and opines that this will be a good impetus for the progress. He also mentioned his attendance of the African continental meeting where some concerns were expressed about the numbers of women playing chess in various African countries. He also asks if there is any intention to hold a survey regarding possible abuse.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks Mr. Wilkinson and informs about the Women's Chess Commission's initiatives and some projects as well as a couple of cases in the Ethics and Disciplinary Commissions that ended in favour of women. He informs of the FIDE Council's special guidelines on this subject and urges everyone to follow them.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks everyone for the questions and stresses again that the matter of languages has been taken up at the FIDE Council meetings and it is important for certain categories of FIDE

Officials, e.g. International Arbiters, to speak several languages but there should be a certain competence in English to serve at the international events. The Council will reconsider the matter together with the other matters, e.g., fair play as FIDE is aware of certain problems and a discussion between Arbiters' and Fair Play Commissions is required. He underlines that Fair Play Commission officers are not policemen and players are not criminals, and the Fair Play specialists serve the chess community by providing services that make our game fair and this is the approach FIDE should take up and this requires a change in psychology and procedures.

He thanks all the delegates for their support.

## **Section 2 - Financial matters**

### **2.1 Report of the FIDE Treasurer**

Mrs. Zhu presents her report. In her report she gives the update on the FIDE financial performance for 2023 based on the annual audit. She mentions FIDE revenue for the year reached 18.6 closely aligned with the budgeted figure of 17.5 million euros and that other key financial numbers were also in line with the projections although there was a decrease in sponsorship which was the offset by the success of FIDE major International chess event including the Men's and the Women's Championship matches, the World Rapid and Blitz Championship, World Chess Cup, Grand Swiss, Women Grand Prix series and the Tech Mahindra Global chess league. She adds that in summary, 2023 was a strong year for FIDE, both financially and in terms of event execution the Development Fund expanded for the year and the amount is one million and 386 thousands. Although this was less than the budgeted two million but most importantly FIDE provided the funding for nearly all projects that National Chess federations and the Continentals applied for. She also mentions that as of the December 31 2023 FIDE Reserve Fund totalled to 2.3 million EUR reflecting the organization's stable financial position. She invites the delegates to read the audit report and the Verification Commission report which offer a comprehensive breakdown of the numbers.

Ms. Zhu takes this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to Verification Commission for their due diligence and the responsible work over the past six years where the Commission has provided the FIDE financial team with annual recommendations which have helped continually improve FIDE financial management. She is proud to say that nearly 60 improvements have been implemented during this period underscoring FIDE commitment to achieving greater Financial Health and transparency as there will be the re-election of the Verification Commission she extends her deepest thanks to the members of the 2018 to 2024 Verification Commission. She also thanks Mr. Dvorkovich and the Council members, National Chess Federations, FIDE sponsors, commissions and FIDE Management Team for their continued support for FIDE financial effort, together FIDE has demonstrated and shared the commitment for the growth and the sustainability of FIDE finances. Mr. Dvorkovich reminds the delegates that voting will be held for all Section 2 after all reports are presented.

Mr. Qureshi of Pakistan comments and asks if there is a chance that the FIDE budget will reach once 50 million euro and also if the FIDE Council approves the FIDE budget, will it report to the General Assembly about its approval.

Ms. Zhu replies that she believes that since 2018 the financial situation of FIDE has become much healthier and even in the circumstances of the pandemic and geopolitical difficulties FIDE is doing

its utmost to keep the cash balance on a high level and everybody should work and cooperate with each other. She agrees with Mr. Dvorkovich that the Federations from levels 3 to 5 can contact FIDE directly and request assistance.

Mr. Mangan from Zimbabwe acknowledges the support FIDE is providing for Federations and hopes that this support will continue as this shows a positive bank balance which can be demonstrated to local sponsors for more assistance.

President of Liberia thanks the Treasurer for the report and comments that he has one concern regarding the state of Federations after the Chess Olympiad as the Federations of level five will have serious financial complications upon their return. Unfortunately, there is no financial assistance to them from FIDE which they were expecting to receive in Budapest in the form of monetary aid, but were notified via WhatsApp that such things no longer exist. He requests that such information about financial things should have been done via official emails in writing before they had left for Budapest and requests an official letter which could be presented to the authorities back home to seek financial assistance in order to reconcile the expenses in respect of visas and other matters.

Mr. Dvorkovich replies that necessary letters will be prepared for the federations to make sure that there are no issues with local governments. He informs that the FIDE Council will summarize all issues in respect of this Olympiad and will consider what can be done.

Mr. Herbert from Barbados asks the Treasurer why the actual budget for sponsorships and donations was way below the budgeted figures and asks about the planned steps, whether there were mitigating circumstances as this is a key part of the budget.

Mr. Dvorkovich replies that on some occasions, the expected sponsorship is received just as money for the event and agrees that FIDE needs to work more on sponsorship.

President of Chess Federation of Liberia comments and thanks Mr. Dvorkovich and Ms. Zhu for their reports and asks the reason why the five and four level Federations are not getting the support if the report informs that there is a big surplus in the budget.

Ms. Zhu replies that for the African game FIDE made a big effort to help to find the sponsor and also partially sponsored the tournament so she opines that African Continental is always one of the very important events. She adds that FIDE also tried to support the African Continental Championship.

Mr. Dvorkovich adds that he believes FIDE is now on a healthy level financially but the minimum healthy not the maximum one so FIDE is not worried about its current financial affairs but has to work hard to keep this way every year.

Ms. Zhu adds that this year FIDE is really balancing the support for the continental and the national federations as well as for social activities, but that there is always a room for improvements.

Mr. Celi from Uruguay comments that sometimes it takes quite a long time between the moments a request for the financial support is placed and the assistance from Planning and Development Commission is received.



Mr. Dvorkovich replies that he knows that sometimes there are delays and late answers and adds that he already instructed colleagues in the commissions especially PDC to make sure that the reaction time is minimized, not all requests can be satisfied not by financial reasons but also sometimes the quality of request is not sufficient and it requires proper working process between the commission and National Federations. He assures that FIDE will improve regarding the overall amount of support.

Mr. Dvorkovich once again thanks Ms. Zhu for her report.

### **General Assembly approves the report of the FIDE Treasurer.**

#### **2.2 Verification Commission's report**

Mr. A. Priest presents the report. In the report he covers several high points. He recognises work of the Commission members and presents all of them to the General Assembly.

Mr. Priest in his report thanks the Commission and the FIDE Financial Team for all the years of close cooperation and also thanks the External Auditors who provide their recommendations on a yearly basis. He informs the General Assembly that a new accounting system was introduced, which is QuickBooks.

In reference to the responsibilities of the Commission to review the debts of various federations, he lauds the steps undertaken by the FIDE management team to reduce the number of federations that were in arrears from 21 to four. He expresses a slight concern for the 2025 budget where sponsorship money has to be found because the FIDE finances are set up with a structural deficit, and FIDE cannot afford cutting the Development Fund. He is glad that FIDE recognises that it must raise funds to support the budget and the Development Fund.

Mr. Priest presents the rest of the Commission's recommendations and provides his comments on each of them and underlines that the aim of the FIDE financial team and the Verification Commission is to ensure the financial health of the organization. He expresses hope that Commission will be able to continue the working relationship that it has had with the FIDE Management Team and praises the responsible relationship with the Treasurer, from the Financial Consultant and the President. He thanks everyone for the trust in the Commission and thanks FIDE Management Board and Finance Team for their help in our work over the last six years.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks Mr. Priest for a deep detailed, constructive and forward-looking approach and agrees with him regarding the points on the details and things.

Mr. Gonzalez from the Dominica Chess Federation says he is also a chartered accountant and asks what it means if you are falling short on your income it will impact the Development Fund.

Mr. Priest replies it is not the job of the Verification Commission to decide on the financial priorities of FIDE however the concern that Commission has is that the staff payments are set contractually. It is very hard to change that quickly. Commission is looking forward, looking over

the next couple of years, and if the budget to revenue is not recognized the most flexible place that can be cut in the budget is the Development Fund and that would be a disaster.

Mr. Dvorkovich comments that partially it's FIDE responsibility to respond to this question. He explains that normally it goes in the following way of like priorities. First, if FIDE has a temporary reduction in its income FIDE use to a certain degree reserves that FIDE has to make sure that the Development Fund stays at the level which is budgeted. Second, FIDE does think about cutting administrative expenses and FIDE has cut two positions in its Administration this year already to make the situation more stable as well. FIDE also increases its efforts to raise more funds to keep the Development Fund at least stable, and of course FIDE is monitoring the requests from National federations and from the continents to understand the timing of the spending FIDE will have in the future to make sure there are no shortfalls and not going into red with our finances.

Mr. Gonzalez adds that he noticed that the actual spending on the Development Fund was almost 50% and that they were told in the PDC meeting that it's because a number of federations did not apply so he was concerned whether it was actually a reduction in the Development Fund. He calls this a major concern because this will kill the Chess Federation especially for the small island chess Federations.

Mr. Priest replies that Commission shares his concern however what was reported at the PDC commission was actually accurate there has been a reduction in applications. There also is an issue that there are a number of federations who previously got development grants, who have not finished the reporting process and until they finish the reporting process, they're not eligible to apply again. He encouraged those federations who have received PDC grants but have failed to get the reporting done.

Mr. Drkulec from Canada comments that the numbers seem to have grown from 2018 to 2023. It's five times the budget that it was in 2018 so there are going to be some problems in growth sponsorship which is always difficult to obtain and very easy to lose.

Mr. Priest replies that part of the problem with the reduction in development expenditures in 2023 was people still getting reports in from 2022 grants that hadn't been satisfied yet. He is sure that the development commission was doing a series of regional seminars to help people understand how to do the reporting and how to do the applications. He adds that Mr. Freyd and his team are perfectly willing to help Federations to figure out how to use that system.

Ms. Zhu reminds that Mr. Dvorkovich stated that the sponsorship fees reduced but as in the report many numbers were offset from the events and this can be seen from the chart that from 2022 that FIDE is organizing events by itself. She explains that is why the total number is increased, the total incomes are increase and also the total expenses are increased as well. She also adds that FIDE expenses are very high as for this year FIDE is celebrating its 100 years anniversary and it is also very important for chess. She underlines that FIDE always tries to balance the income and the expenses.

## **General Assembly approves the Verification Commission's report**

### **2.3 Discharge of the Treasurer**

The General Assembly is requested to discharge the Treasurer from the responsibilities for the financial year 2023.

**General Assembly discharged the Treasurer from the responsibilities for the financial year 2023.**

### **2.4 Budget 2025-2026**

Mandate of the FIDE Council to adopt the Budget 2025-2026

Mr. Dvorkovich reminds the Assembly that usually the General Assembly delegates to the FIDE Council the authority to adopt the budget for the upcoming years. This year FIDE will receive the income from the forthcoming 2024 FIDE World Championship match and FIDE will know this numbers in about one and a half months, so he proposes to continue the previous practice and delegate the FIDE Council the authority to adopt the budget, sending the budget to all national federations before publishing it. He underlines that the important thing is that FIDE will also take into account the recommendations from the Verification Commission while putting together this budget and will get advice from the new members of Verification Commission.

Ms. Zhu points out that Hungary got Olympiad 2024 during the pandemic and that at time it was the only bid and that was one of the reasons that FIDE did not get the best possible contract.. She opines that still it is great achievement that FIDE succeeded in securing the highest number of participant teams in this Olympiad. She looks forward to the support from the delegates and adds that there's always room to improve.

**General Assembly mandates the FIDE Council to adopt the FIDE Budget 2025-2026**

### **2.5 Reappointment of the External Auditor for annual audit of FIDE accounts for 2024**

**General Assembly re-appoints Ernst & Young as External Auditor for annual audit of FIDE accounts for 2024.**

### **2.6 Update of the Financial Rules**

**The General Assembly is invited to approve the update of the Financial Rules.\***

Mr. Dvorkovich comments that the proposal consists of two parts. First part is related to the Article 2.5 and the situations when FIDE has some internal disagreements within federations bodies on some particular contracts or financial documents. He adds that it is basically just a clarification of existing rules and the legal addition is that the FIDE Council should have the final word if there is a disagreement for instance between the President and Treasurer. He underlines that it happens very rare. He adds that the second part is regarding the right of the FIDE Council to amend the fees specified in the Appendix 2 of the Financial Rules or to approve the new relevant fees and such decision is subject to confirmation by the next General Assembly. He says it is a normal practice that FIDE sends these proposals to the National federations so that everyone can comment on that before the Council takes the decision. He stresses that all Federations will be involved in the decision - making process and any way General Assembly will have the right to ratify or amend the decisions by the Council afterwards.

**General Assembly approves the update of the Financial Rules regarding the FIDE Council's right to amend the fees specified in the Appendix 2 or to approve the new relevant fees and the right to resolve possible disputes**

### **Section 3- Elections**

#### **3.1 Elections of the Chairmen of the Constitutional Commission, Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and Verification Commission**

Mr. Rivello and Mr. Priest present themselves. Ms. Persaud, Mr. Florea and Mr. Tolbaev present themselves. It is noted that Mr. Sigeman withdrew his candidacy for the position as chairman of the Ethics & Disciplinary Commission (EDC) two days ago.

Mr. Jaling from Sweden underlines the importance of the independence of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and that the members should be independent and with large integrity. Mr. Dvorkovich fully agrees.

Mr. Dvorkovich invites the General Assembly to vote by acclamation for Chairs of the Constitutional and Verification Commissions, considering that there is only one candidate for each position, and in this case the FIDE Charter allows election in the form of acclamation.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili agrees and adds that he thinks that for the elections of the Chair of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission, the candidates might have to reply to some questions from the delegates.

**General Assembly elects Mr. Roberto Rivello (ITA) as Chairman of the FIDE Constitutional Commission.**

**General Assembly elects Mr. Allen Priest (USA) as Chairman of the FIDE Verification Commission.**

Mr. Makropoulos from Greece votes against this candidacy.

Due to the fact that Mr. Dvorkovich temporarily left the meeting to participate in the opening ceremony of the Olympiad round alongside with high-level Hungarian officials, Mr. Anand is acting as chairman. At the instance of Mr. Anand, Mr. Rivello will chair the Elections of the Chairmen of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and the Members of the Constitutional Commission, Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and Verification Commission.

He thanks the delegates for the confidence and re-election as Chair of the Constitutional Commission and provides more explanations regarding electronic vote and secret ballot. Mr. Rivello adds that there is no provision for asking the Chair candidates questions before the elections as this is not in the Rules and also no questions were asked for the Chair candidates for the Verification and Constitutional Commissions, although Mr. Jaling from Sweden insists.

Mrs. Lauterbach from Germany supports Mr. Jaling and tells that the CVs of the candidates were distributed very late the previous nights and there was not enough time to read them. She requests that the questions could be asked. Mr. Rivello concurs that it was a problem that the CVs were received late, but the electoral procedure was approved two years ago.

Mr. Pein from England comments that the rules are one thing and tradition is another thing and the position of Chair of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission is very important and that is not

good for FIDE if delegates cannot ask questions to the candidates, particularly if they received the CVs less than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili fully concurs with Mr. Pein.

Mr. Rivello agrees that FIDE needs a fully independent person to be Chair of this Commission. He refers to the presidential elections where a lot of time was lost to determine how much each candidate should be given and how the discussion should be held. However, electoral rules were approved two years ago. He understands that in this specific occasion many delegates think that this is something different. He is sure that the majority of delegates have a clear idea what it means to be fully independent, but he does not think FIDE can overrule the procedural rules.

Mr. Jankovic and Mr. Azmaiparashvili draw the attention of Mr. Rivello that some people are taking photos of their iPads while voting. Mr. Rivello calls this a clear violation of the process.

Mr. Bonham from Australia comments that he works in the system of Australian elections and that electronic vote is extremely unsafe and asks FIDE never to use electronic vote again under no circumstances.

Following the technical issues with the e-vote system and the requests of the delegates, the scrutineers after checking the result of the electronic device and noting that the result of the electronic vote is different from the number of those who have voted (175 registered voters and 220 received votes), have resolved to move on with traditional vote by person with ballot papers and organise the election.

Candidates for the position of the Chair of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and the Presidents of the Continents have been invited to nominate observers. Mr. D. Florea decided to not nominate an observer. Mr. B. Tolbaev nominated Mr. H. Turdialiev. Ms. Y. Persaud nominated Mr. B. Harle.

African Continent nominated Mr. Brou, American Continent nominated Ms. Williams, European Continent nominated Mr. Tsorbatzoglou and Asian Continent nominated no one.

Scrutineers have asked to prepare ballot papers, and they decided to not insert a specific box for abstention but to consider abstention when a vote is not expressed in any way.

The ballot paper will be signed at least by one scrutineer and the Observers agreed.

In the first round of the election for FIDE EDC chairman, Yolander Persaud (Guyana) had 77 votes, while Daniel Florea (Romania) got 59 votes. Babur Tolbaev (Kyrgyzstan) was eliminated after coming in third (with 27 votes).

In the second round, of the 161 delegates who voted, the results were:

Yolander Persaud (Guyana) – 86 votes Daniel Florea (Romania) – 75 votes

**General Assembly elects Ms. Yolander Persaud (GUY) as Chairman of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Commission after the 2nd round.**

### **3.2 Elections of the Members of the Constitutional Commission, Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and Verification Commission**

Presentation of the candidates for the Constitutional and Verification Commissions was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> September while elections took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

In the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, Mr. Dvorkovich personally apologises to the delegates for the problems with the electronic system and thanks them for their patience.

For the position of the FIDE Constitutional Commission members (four places), the following were elected based on the votes of 161 delegates who took part in the voting. The results, in order of votes received, were:

Erald Dervishi (Albania) - 78 votes;

Ian Wilkinson (Jamaica) - 75 votes;

Marouane Tabti (Algeria) –74 votes

Jorge Arias Bouzada (Uruguay) –73 votes

Ivy Claire Amoko (Uganda) –70 votes

Yanori Morera Campos (Costa Rica) –60 votes

To assure gender balance inside FIDE elected Commissions, FIDE regulations force that both genders must be represented among elected members of these Commissions, meaning that "if all the most voted candidates are of the same gender, the less voted of them will not be elected, and the most voted candidate of the other gender will be elected" (art. 24.10. of the FIDE Electoral Rules).

Based on this provision, Ivy Claire Amoko from Uganda was elected as the fourth member instead of Jorge Arias Bouzada from Uruguay.

**General Assembly elects the following members of the FIDE Constitutional Commission: Erald Dervishi (ALB), Ian Wilkinson (JAM), Marouane Tabti (ALG), Ivy Claire Amoko (UGA).**

In the elections for the members of the Verification Commission (four places), 161 delegates voted and the results were:

Gulmira Dauletova (Kazakhstan) – 85 votes

Eric Bopala (Canada) –77 votes

Malcolm Powell (Cayman Islands) – 76 votes

Panu Laine (Finland) –68 votes

Alexander von Gleich (Germany) –60 votes

Rajai Al Susi (Palestine) – 58 votes

Ken Koort (Estonia) – 49 votes

**General Assembly elects the following members of the FIDE Verification Commission: Gulmira Dauletova (KAZ), Eric Bopala (CAN), Malcolm Powell (CAY), Panu Laine (FIN).**

**General Assembly elects the following members of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Commission: Khaled Arfa (TUN), David Hater (USA), Olga Baskakova (KAZ), Ravindra Dongre (IND), Alan Borda (BOL), Ali Nihat Yazici (TUR).**

## **Section 4- Federation and Membership issues**

### **4.1 Admission of a new Affiliated Member of FIDE**

4.1.1 The Greenlandic Chess Federation applied to become an Affiliated Member of FIDE

4.1.1.1 The FIDE Council' recommendation about the Greenlandic Chess Federation' application.

Mr. Bjornsson from Iceland presents the application on behalf of the Greenlandic Chess Federation and notes deep historic facts proving existence of chess at the territory of Greenland.

The Chess Federation extends its gratitude to GM N. Short for his assistance, President of the local chess club, and Mr. R. Lagerman who has visited Greenland 64 times. The players from Greenland are looking forward to playing at the Olympiad 2026.

**General Assembly approves the admission of the Greenlandic Chess Federation as an Affiliated Member of FIDE**

### **4.2 Admission of a new Affiliated Organisation of FIDE**

4.2.1 The Sahrawi Chess Federation applied to become an Affiliated Organisation of FIDE

4.2.1.1 The FIDE Council' recommendation about the Saharawi Chess Federation' application.

Mr. Dvorkovich informs that the matter was raised by the Algeria Chess Federation, and it was redirected to the Constitutional Commission which has no formal objection regarding the application. FIDE received a letter from the Morocco Chess Federation which strongly objects the application. Based on the FIDE understanding of the status of this territory in the UN that is still under consideration and after meetings with both sides, Mr. Dvorkovich concludes that there are strong arguments in both submissions, pro et contra the application and that chess is the first sport where Saharawi sports authorities are seeking to enter the activities. He says that the Council proposes not to consider this application at this meeting while looking for the way to develop chess in this territory, including chess for refugees. The Council thinks this matter may break the unity both in the region and in FIDE in general. He opines that it may open doors to many other similar applications, and it is a big risk for FIDE family.

Dr Djelul from Algeria comments that this question was asked two years ago but somebody in the Board forgot to register it. Since the Constitutional Commission studied the question and saw that there is no problem for this organisation, as they are asking for minimum of the minimum. He opines that FIDE should support this young association to be with FIDE family and he does not think that there is a big problem. If there is pressure, there is another way, but he is not sure there is another pressure. He adds that since 2018 this Federation is a member of the African Chess Federation, the minutes are signed by the former ACC President L. Ncube and Mr. Fume from Togo, and he is surprised that Ms. Lopang wrote to the Morocco Chess Federation that the Saharawi Chess Federation is not a member nor associate of the African Chess Federation.

Mr. Dvorkovich replies that the letter from the ACC was one of the reasons that the Council resolved not to recommend the application. He reiterates that there will be support in developing chess as there is a request from people living there.

Mrs. Kadiri from Morocco comments that this is a very important matter, not only for Morocco but also for the chess community. She expresses a strong disagreement with the application of the Saharawi Chess Federation as this region is not recognised either by the UN or the IOC. The matter about this territory is being currently considered by the UN. She expresses her assurance that FIDE will take a decision in the interest of the organisation and its members.

**General Assembly approves not to vote the question about the admission of the Sahrawi Chess Federation as an Affiliated Organisation of FIDE.**

4.2.2 The "Turkic World Chess Union" applied to become an Affiliated Organisation of FIDE

4.2.2.1 The FIDE Council' recommendation about the Turkic World Chess Union' application.

Ms. Kadimova from Azerbaijan makes the presentation. She announces founding members of the organisation and explains that this will be a unique opportunity with shared linguistic and cultural ties; it is also about mission – one that aligns closely with FIDE values of inclusivity and collaboration of chess, which is a vehicle of diplomacy and cultural exchange. She says that this Association will open the doors for increased collaboration for tournaments and underlines that FIDE has always been committed to fostering cooperation between countries and each region has something to contribute to chess family even more when together.

Mr. Dvorkovich reminds that there are several affiliated organisations, based on common language, which is important in promoting chess in relevant countries and might result in boost in training. He fully supports the initiative.

**General Assembly approves the admission of the Turkic-speaking Countries' Chess Association as an Affiliated Organisation of FIDE. The Affiliated Organisation is required to adjust its regulatory documents accordingly.**

4.2.2.2 Additional materials

4.2.3 The International School Chess Association applied to become an Affiliated Organisation of FIDE

4.2.3.1 The FIDE Council' recommendation about the International School Chess Association' application.

Mr. Turlov from Kazakhstan presents the proposal and informs that his company Freedom Finance has started its collaboration with FIDE in order to popularise chess in Kazakhstan. He calls chess a huge community with a lot of room for growth and development. He announces the initiative about the creation of the new organization with the goal to develop and improve children's critical thinking and better understanding of their minds, to keep concentration and to compete and become better educated. He also suggests that it is named International School Chess Federation (not Association as it was considered before). He believes that this initiative is not only for professional chess players, but for all the children who will achieve better goals and will become great experts in different fields. Chess in Schools can be mutually beneficial for most of stakeholders in our life. The mission is to support the integration of chess into school curricula. The association will try to provide financing and project management, share the experience in developing chess in schools in Kazakhstan and better organise key events and competitions between schools. This will serve to unite all people who are enthusiasts in various parts of the



world, by creating platforms for them, by exchanging of a lot of teaching materials as well as mobile and IT solutions.

Mr. Turlov explains that in the beginning it will be a private entity, but then the goal will be to make this Federation a real Federation by working closely with continents and national Federations, to create community of sponsors, management, and advisory board to include leaders of this initiative in different regions of the world. He names five core activities as advisory support, workshops and training, tournament organisation in local and global level with financial and organisation support, a platform for research sharing, networking, conference, facilitating government relations. The Federation will work closely with FIDE, and he is sure that there are lots of people who need this organisation. This is a long-term partnership committed to this Federation, especially based on a several years of financial support for FIDE events, e.g. World Corporate Championship, World Championship in Rapid and Blitz. He invites the delegates to support the initiative.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks Mr. Turlov for his presentation.

Mr. Qureshi from Pakistan reiterates that recently they started the largest project in chess education in the world. He lauds Mr. Turlov and the Kazakhstan Chess Federation for their work and sponsorship for chess in schools and fully supports this initiative.

Mr. Borg from Malta advises to change the name to International Chess Schools Foundation, which is clearly non-profit as the word “Federation” has to be used very carefully.

Mr. Dvorkovich replies that the idea is to make it member-based organisation making it a Federation, not a Foundation, it is not a private institution. He adds that in the future the FIDE Council can work further on legal and technical details in due course.

Mr. Turlov replies that the idea is to build a community and work with a lot of different Chess in Schools associations, and FIDE Chess Education Commission and not to have any conflicts with FIDE but to be closely associated with FIDE. He highlights that they do not want to be a Foundation; they want to have members who will participate in any decision-making process for this body.

Mr. Makropoulos from Greece comments that Mr. Turlov does not need the approval of the General Assembly just to create such an organisation, but he comes to seek the cooperation with FIDE and its members. The idea of any Foundation or a charity organisation is of political gravity. Mr. Turlov could do the organisation from the very beginning, independently, but the delegates should decide of cooperating and going together and he is in favour of approving this organisation. He concurs with Mr. Dvorkovich that details can be figured out in due course.

Mr. Maung Lwin from Myanmar comments that in his country there is a private School Sports Association since 2016 and the Association of chess is being created and the tournaments for private schools from 2025. He adds that all private and international schools in Myanmar should have two sports in their curricula, and most schools choose chess as one of them, as this does not require much space and much equipment. He says that more and more kids in Myanmar come to international events and there are lot of kids’ tournaments in Myanmar. He supports the initiative and looks forward to the cooperation.

Mr. Ameku from Ghana commends Mr. Turlov for the great job being done in Kazakhstan. He asks about membership in the proposed Association and subscription fees.

Mr. Turlov replies that the main goal is to discuss with National Federations about chess in schools organisations and they do not want to deal directly with schools. He adds that it is not expected any subscription for membership and there will be financial support from Freedom Holding in the first years of the Organisation.

### **General Assembly approves the admission of the International School Chess Federation as an Affiliated Organisation of FIDE**

#### 4.2.3.2 Additional materials

### **4.3 Federations issues**

#### 4.3.1 Federation proposals regarding Russia and Belarus restrictions:

##### 4.3.1.1 Letter from Kyrgyz Chess Union

##### 4.3.1.2 Letter from Chess Federation of Russia

##### 4.3.1.3 The FIDE Council's position on inclusion of the item on GA agenda and draft position proposals.

##### 4.3.1.4 Additional materials

Mr. Dvorkovich recuses himself from chairing the meeting during the consideration of this matter and Mr. Anand resumes chairing the meeting for this matter.

Mr. Anand gives the floor to the delegates of Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus to present their positions.

Mr. Yanovsky from Russia addresses the delegates and says that he could start with great chess traditions and achievements of the Russian chess school and remind great champions, or remind of great number of top-level tournaments, but the delegates know this very well. He reminds the FIDE Charter as the main document for FIDE to be guided by and its Article 4 is about FIDE principles, equal rights and internationally recognised rights. Article 4.4. is about rejection any kind of discrimination. He says that over two years ago the FIDE Council adopted sanctions against chess players of Russia and Belarus which in violation of Article 4.4. as these sanctions deprive chess players from Russia and Belarus from participation in over two years, in team competitions and individual competitions where they can participate under FIDE flags. FIDE prohibits organisation of FIDE tournaments in Russia or Belarus. He calls this discrimination on the basis of country of origin. He continues by saying that we live in difficult times, and there are 55 military conflicts over the world, but the sanctions affected only chess players from Russia and Belarus. He draws the attention of the delegates to this unprecedented decision by the FIDE Council without consultation with the FIDE General Assembly. The Chess Federation of Russia considers this decision to be unfair and contradictory to the FIDE Charter. The motto of FIDE is We are one family and chess should unite people, not separate them, and in the year of the FIDE 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary the request is addressed to the FIDE Council for the restrictions regarding chess players of Russia and Belarus. Mr. Yanovsky recalls the decision of the 2022 FIDE General Assembly in respect of this matter but the FIDE Council did not take any decision in two years. It seems strange that the FIDE Council takes a decision, and the decision of the General Assembly is only advisory. For this reason the Chess Federation of Russia is requesting the 2024 General Assembly to take a decision.

Mr. Yanovsky further comments that due to his chess background and position as the coach of the Russian youth team he met here in Budapest a lot of old friends who in private talks with him mentioned that they are under a lot of political pressure as their vote in favour of lifting sanctions would be considered as a support of Russian politics. He opines that chess should be out of politics.

Mr. Tolbaev from Kyrgyzstan presents his proposal and comments that he believes we live in free world and has a right to express his independent opinion. He confirms that he is fully independent and another proof of his independence is his initiative to lodge this proposal and he is sure he is not the only one in the hall. He adds that values of FIDE should be followed and respects each other and it is a matter of principle. He asks if the General Assembly has a right to decide about expulsions and admissions and the FIDE Council and the President report to the General Assembly. He calls on the delegates to take the decision.

Mr. Tolbaev also mentions that at the gala dinner dedicated to the FIDE 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary the contribution of the Soviet and Russian chess schools was not appreciated, some long-serving Presidents, e.g. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, were not mentioned even once. He underlines that Mr. Ilyumzhinov has been a role model motivating chess development.

He opines that there are several strong reasons why Russia and Belarus should be returned to the FIDE family. He said that FIDE should not cut off its fingers, it is important to keep everyone in the family, everyone is different, and everyone should have a right to express their opinion but do the right things. He says there should not be double standards either and nobody should be sanctioned for political reasons. Chess players should not suffer because of their governments. Third reason, Russia has done so much to chess and Chess Olympiads. Without Russia the chess Olympiad is not a true strong competition. Russia used to be a great sponsor, FIDE should continue doing it, Russia is a great chess nation, and it will not make it worse. Fifth reason – two years ago in Chennai, Mr. Dvorkovich was supported by 157 delegates as FIDE President, it is 90%, and he is a Russian citizen. Delegates should imagine that FIDE President who got such support in the chess world representing one of the biggest chess nations, and his country is not participating. He says FIDE President does not deserve this and the General Assembly has a supreme authority and decides and restores Russia and Belarus. He also calls for a secret ballot for this matter.

Mr. Sychuk from Belarus addresses the delegates and comments that first of all Belarus is a sovereign country, with its language, anthem, and rich traditions. He opines that in the ECU they are the only nation which is not participating in the tournaments and they do not understand what the reason for the ECU and FIDE decisions is. Belarus always shows very high results thanks to the efforts of the Chess Federation and the government. There are people from Belarus in the FIDE various positions and Belarus chess players are also diligent and very honest people. Chess Federation tries to pay on time their dues, and to follow the motto “We are one family”.

Mr. Sychuk reminds the delegates that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War every third person in Belarus died, was killed or tortured. They realise what is war and remember this. His grandfather died to liberate Poland. He hopes that the General Assembly will lift the unreasonable sanctions against Russian and Belarus chess players or will give a firm reason and reference to specific legislations serving as a basis for this. He refers to the words of GM M. Carlsen and says he is not sure that Mr. Carlsen knows exactly what if any, is the reason for sanctioning Belarus and where Belarus is situated. He recommends Mr. Carlsen to evaluate the matters which are well known by him as Mr. Sychuk

himself cannot evaluate the level of the financial crisis in Norway, e.g. He further says that the current geopolitical situation is very complicated and therefore people should analyse situations and make correct balanced conclusions. Sportsmen from Belarus received high awards at the Paris Olympics 2024, their chess players are not involved in politics and Belarus Federation is a public organisation, fully financed by the Government and they are not seeking any financial help from FIDE. He says that chess is a mass sport, but doesn't not gather full stadiums, however we also respect those who do not like chess, and we do not delete them from our lives. He looks forward to a just decision and requests respect to the Belarus chess players and the people of Belarus. He calls the nations of Russia and Ukraine as their brothers. Mr. Lukashenko calls for cease-fire. He says they are against the hostilities as a means of settling the conflicts and Belarus is for peace and adds that they are in favour of developing chess in Belarus and the whole world.

Mr. Kapustin from Ukraine addresses the delegates and comments that the position of the Ukrainian Federation was expressed in their letters and declarations sent to all chess Federations in the world. He reads the declaration of the Ukrainian Chess Federation which is categorically against lifting of the restrictions imposed on the Russian and Belorussian Federations, following the recommendation of the IOC in 2022. He says they believe that the memory of 34 Ukrainian chess players and coaches and functionaries, who were killed by Russians, is a sufficient reason to keep these restrictions. They suggest not returning to this issue until the IOC issues any other recommendations in this respect.

Mr. Kapustin further comments that it is ridiculous to hear the delegate of Russia speaking about human rights, and Russian chess authorities at the time when the Supervisory Board of the Chess Federation of Russia is full of war criminals whose hands are full of blood of Ukrainians, it is ridiculous to hear these arguments when every day and night Russian bombs and missiles turn Ukrainian cities into ruins, it is ridiculous that they want to put on one level the aggressor and the victim of the aggression. He is sure that most of the delegates understand that, and he applies for common sense, to pragmatic position and justice, to keep the situation as it is and not to make any changes in the FIDE position regarding this case. He recommends voting for their propositions to keep all restrictions and to turn only to this question only after the new recommendations of the IOC. He personally thinks that new restrictions should be imposed due to the position of the Chess Federation of Russia which fully supports the politics of the Russian Government and does not split chess from politics, considering that the overwhelming majority of Russian chess players and Russian functionaries support the Russian invasion. He is sure that the common sense will win.

Mr. Anand proceeds and reads the Statement of the FIDE Council in respect of the matter.

Mr. Mammedov from Azerbaijan comments that no radical decisions should be taken and asks to think for the FIDE renome. He agrees with the FIDE Council's proposal and supports the vulnerable categories and asks not to impose additional risks on FIDE.

Mr. Kapustin from Ukraine disagrees with the FIDE Council Statement and reiterates the position of the Ukrainian Chess Federation to keep the restrictions as they are. There is no reason to lift or soften any restrictions and in this Ukrainian Federation will be obliged to make a very difficult decision not to participate in these tournaments.

Mr. Pein from England comments that the most important point to be recognised is the risk for our Organisation in the relationship with the IOC. He disagrees with the FIDE Council Statement and the IOC position has not changed and the delegates had a chance to see the position of the IOC Head of Ethics and Compliance which made it clear what IOC is expecting from FIDE.

Nothing has changed, war continues, and 34 Ukrainian chess persons have been killed and the number can increase the next day. He adds that we are risking FIDE's future and the relations with the IOC and all good things which FIDE Council and Management Board have been doing in progress the FIDE status with the IOC. He opines that there is absolutely no reason to do that.

Mr. Pein comments on the words of the Russian delegate about equal rights and opines that the most fundamental right is not to have your country invaded. It is not discrimination on the national grounds; he calls the restrictions punishment for Russian Government's behaviour. He agrees that politics should be separated from chess but asks than why the former Minister of Russian Defence and many other politicians are on the Board of the Chess Federation of Russia. He calls for the delegates not to risk FIDE future and opines that Option 3 makes most sense, to protect the future and integrity of FIDE.

Mr. Qureshi from Pakistan comments that this is a very delicate question and respects deeply the opinion of everyone. He says that we call FIDE as one family, and there are a lot of cases with injustice in the whole history of humanity and the question is these people are responsible for the injustices, the players are FIDE family and these people sitting here they are not responsible for this. If we start analysing every conflict, FIDE will not be able to work. FIDE should not be political at all. He understands the position of the IOC and the position of FIDE Council and Constitutional Commission on that but requests to think about FIDE family.

Mr. Borg from Malta comments that as a former FIDE CEO for 12 years and a CEO of IMSA, with nine international Federations, FIDE's restrictions are not the strongest, other international sports Federations banned completely Russia and Belarus from their competitions. He commends Mr. Dvorkovich for a very balanced handling of the situation allowing Russian and Belarus players play under the FIDE flag. Therefore, when it is proposed for 12 year-olds to allow them to play, it is not something new as the Russians already can play under FIDE flags, e.g. GM Nepomniachtchi who has been playing for all these years. He agrees that restrictions should not be lifted as any action taken today strongly affects the FIDE relationship with the IOC and ARISF. FIDE has to respect these relationships. In 2023 the Russian NOC took the IOC to CAS and they lost the case, they appealed and they lost again. He stresses that the international sports community is clear and advised not to work in isolation as we all work with each other and love each other. He says that we need to respect the IOC, FIDE Charter. He respects the decision of the FIDE Council.

Mr. Anand underlines that the Statement of the FIDE Council provides that all the FIDE actions will be in close consultations with the IOC and Paralympic Committee in alignment with their principles.

Mr. Dorival from Dominica opines that the FIDE Council should have first seek the IOC recommendations before coming up with the Statement as the decision will have an impact on all members of FIDE.

Mr. Anand replies that the FIDE Council request the authorisation to explore with the IOC.

Mr. Lputian from Armenia comments that chess is all his life, he works for chess and tries to develop chess. He also loves chess family, and he is sure that every member of our family wants to be useful. He recalls his speech in Chennai 2022 where he also spoke that it is not very correct if members of the same family are treated in a different way. He opines that war is the worst thing but there are other military conflicts, not only between Russia and Ukraine, and such conflicts will

always exist, but FIDE is not speaking about other conflicts, and if we ask the FIDE leadership why nothing is said about the conflict between certain other countries, I will not get a reply. He did not know that FIDE's leadership is the IOC and that IOC has to resolve what we think. He is sure that any chess player and whoever loves chess and wants to develop chess, has to think before doing something and he invites everyone to think, as chess is justice and joy, and he wishes FIDE to be a united and just family and we should preserve and we should keep it preserved.

Mr. Sanusi from Malaysia comments that in 2022 Malaysia also took a stand against sanctions. He applauds the FIDE Council for their decision. FIDE is moving forward and teaching our kids that engagement has to be there when their generation takes over and chess should be a solution to conflict, not part of it.

Mr. Tanko from Cameroon comments that the situation is very difficult and calls on everyone to keep ethics in mind while taking decisions.

Mr. Maiga from Mali concurs that this is a very complex situation and recalls what he said the previous day that the reason he came to chess was Karpov-Kasparov match and everything they know there is thanks to the Soviet/Russian chess school. He recalls his first Olympiad in 1988 in Thessaloniki where he had a chance to speak to these and other great players and that it is important to come to the Olympiads and be able to do so. For him participation in the team events is not a political thing and should be allowed for all countries and from all his heart he says that the game should be preserved and everything should be done for it to be progressing and moving forward.

Ms. Vestby from Norway comments that the Nordic countries support Mr. Pein's comment and no restrictions should be lifted until the war in Ukraine is over. Russian and Belarus players currently are not allowed to play in Norway and she also refers to the statement of Mr. Carlsen.

Mr Pryor from the USA comments that they appreciate the comment of Mr. Pein and also Mr. Dorival and encourage FIDE to speak to the IOC. They believe that this activity should have happened before the meeting of the General Assembly and they stand with Ukraine and believe that no alleviation of sanctions should take place.

Mr. Adly from Egypt thanks FIDE for the organisation of the Congress and recalls that in his capacity as Chair of the FIDE Athletes' Commission, he attended an IOC meeting where it was clear that the IOC cares for sportsmen and does not want to get involved in the politics. He thinks that the FIDE Council Statement is clear that there will be discussions with the IOC. He sums up the previous speakers' positions regarding the concern that any decision taken by FIDE may harm the relationship with the IOC and refers to the comment of Mr. Kapustin that only when the IOC makes another recommendation, then it will be possible to discuss further actions in respect of the situation. He underlines that the IOC decision is of prime importance.

Mr. Makropoulos from Greece comments that he is coming from the country where all the principles of the Olympic Games are taught in preliminary schools, and the idea of the Olympic truce is known since childhood. Unfortunately, this year nobody was listening to the IOC announcement and unfortunately sports are losing its values. He keeps believing that sports should be used for strengthening ties and relations between nations and love for peace. He also agrees with those who says that we belong to an organisation and Olympic movement. The IOC makes recommendations which are not laws, but strong recommendations which FIDE should follow. Sports should not be used to escalate tension by no means. In the dialogue if FIDE thinks the IOC

is wrong, they should be told, otherwise the IOC recommendations should be followed. He comments that the recommendation of the FIDE Council does say no changes to the previous restrictions, until the IOC changes its position. He agrees with this. He does not understand why some people want to reject the proposal of the Council and suggests that the General Assembly should accept the proposal and then FIDE will speak with the IOC and if there is any change, this will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. The principle of peace and solidarity is the most important and this Statement protects FIDE.

Mr. Anand presents the options for voting.

Mr. Makropoulos opines that option one is the most important and the other options are not very clear for the Assembly.

Mr. Anand provides explanations regarding the options.

Mrs. Lauterbach from Germany expresses her concerns that there will be confusion about the voting as it is not clear which option expresses her opinion.

Mr. Habib from Lebanon comments that he agrees with Mr. Makropoulos and further informs that the 16 members of their Federation participating in the Chess Olympiad whose tickets were cancelled due to the war with Israel which is happening right now. He calls for the General Assembly to respect the IOC to avoid mess.

Mr. Mwaka from Uganda raises a point of information regarding point 4.4. of the FIDE Statutes. He opines that FIDE is autonomous and cannot wait for the IOC decision and it is not acceptable, and the misinformation should be taken from the Minutes and FIDE should proceed in an autonomous nature.

Mr. Khodarkovsky from the United States comments that he supports the well-spelled proposal by Mr. Makropoulos with modifications by the German delegate, and suggests that the decision of the Council should be supported by anonymity.

Mr. Narang from India opines that option one takes care of the concerns of everyone in the General Assembly. It mentions only consultations, nothing else.

Mr. Geeraets from the Netherlands asked if the option to win needs an absolute majority.

The answer was in the affirmative.

Mr. Silveirinha opines that the voting rules mean secret voting.

Mr. Dvorkovich explains that according to the FIDE Charter, all matters besides elections are taken by an open vote.

Mr. Djelul from Algeria opines that there is no need in voting as the decision of the FIDE Council is well supported and option one will pass, and this will be a democratic decision.

Mr. Chernov from Lithuania asks what will happen if options one and two get some votes together and option three which is to lift the restrictions will get an absolute number of votes.

Mr. Mwaka from Uganda asks if there is option four to abstain. The reply is in the affirmative.

Mr. Dervishi from Albania comments that he is in favour of option one but without the last sentence as he does not agree with the wording of it, which he thinks, is political.

Mr. Dvorkovich replies that in case General Assembly agrees, the wording can be adjusted to simplify the text.

**General Assembly approves the FIDE Council's proposal regarding current limitations to the Russian and Belarussian Chess Federations. \*\***

4.3.2 Letter from Kosovo\* Chess Federation

4.3.2.1 The FIDE Council's proposal regarding the Kosovo\* Chess Federation's request.

4.3.2.2 Additional material

Mr. Makropoulos presents the proposal of the FIDE Council regarding this matter. He comments that it is not advisable to start another disagreement at this meeting. He mentions that about 100 countries do not recognise Kosovo. He recalls that there was his personal effort in order to recognise the Kosovo\* Chess Federation in FIDE. There are countries not supporting this proposal, and Greece is one of them. He invites the delegates to approve the proposal of the FIDE Council and see also the results of the Investigation Chamber regarding the complaint of the Serbia Chess Federation.

Mr. Pein from England disagrees with the FIDE Council's proposal and would like FIDE to be aligned with the IOC, where Kosovo\* does not have an asterisk. He also says he is suspicious with the allegations of the Serbia Chess Federation and opines that at some stage soon FIDE has to take up the matter.

Mr. Dervishi from Albania comments that he does not understand why FIDE is mentioning some kind of political connotation to this matter as it is a technical issue that should be solved in less than two minutes. FIDE was one of the first international organisations which recognised Kosovo\* 15 years ago and at that time the decision to keep the asterisk was understandable. Meanwhile now all international sports organisations and the IOC recognised Kosovo\* without the asterisk and if FIDE wants to be in line with the international sports organisations and the IOC this request of Kosovo\* should have been approved by the General Assembly just with an applause. He does not see any connection with Serbia either.

Mr. Dvorkovich replies that he understands the position of Albania fully but reminds that there are 200 member-Federations in FIDE, and FIDE is trying to conduct events all over the world. It was his personal difficult experience in Chennai, with making sure that Kosovo\* could participate in the Olympiad, as India, China and many other countries do not recognise it. So they could participate only because of the status quo. FIDE is trying to separate politics from technical and legal matters, but sometimes it is not just possible in practice, since countries where FIDE organises events in various countries which require following their laws. If FIDE does not follow the laws of the country, a lot of bids would have been rejected.

He opines that before taking a decision, there is a need to analyse the consequences and how to deal with them to avoid major disturbance to the activities of FIDE, in order to have all the answers ex ante, not ex post.

Mr. Dervishi asks again why chess should be different from all the other sports that also organise events in India or China.



Mr. Dvorkovich replies that it is not impossible but first everything has to be analysed properly. He proposes to give time to the FIDE experts, including the Constitutional Commission, on the matter before the vote in the General Assembly. He is aware that there is no almost split in the European Chess Union on the matter and in the General Assembly it would be more difficult during the vote.

Mr. Lazic from Serbia comments that the floor should be given to the Federations which made proposals and then to others.

Mr. Dvorkovich comments that there was no intention to open the discussions at all.

Mr. Lazic further says that sport should be above politics and because of that FIDE gave rights to the Kosovo\* Chess Federation to participate in competitions outside of Serbia Chess Federation and they fulfilled all their rights to participate. All the points including the asterisk are only fully political issues. He suggests that the delegates leave political issues to politicians and says that in the EU Kosovo\* has asterisk for all European institutions, as well as the UN. Kosovo\* does not have a seat in the European Union and asterisk would only mean that final status of Kosovo\* is not defined. Mr. Lazic opines that the asterisk in no way deprives the chess players from Kosovo\* from playing chess and participating in the tournaments. He calls on the delegates to leave political decisions to politicians to decide on the status of Kosovo\*.

Regarding the complaint of the Serbia Chess Federation about the conditions for Serbian chess players who live in the territory of so-called Kosovo\* Republic, Mr. Lazic refers to the comment by Mr. Pein that Serbia is trying to make confusion, it is not true. He suggests that Messrs. Pein and Dervishi join the Investigation Chamber as the only interest of the Serbia Chess Federation is to find out the truth and after that to make further steps. However, the picture of conditions under which the chess players of Serbian nationality live in Kosovo\* is very hard. They are allegedly treated badly by local police which threatens them and forces them to register under the Kosovo\* rules and regulations otherwise they would be forbidden to play chess.

Mr. Borg from Malta comments that the FIDE Council has to determine upon receiving the documents from Federations and other parties, whether this is for the scope of the General Assembly, and which is for other Commissions. He opines that this matter is not for the General Assembly, for the Ethics Commission and he thinks there are several things on the General Assembly Agenda which should not be in the Agenda.

Mr. Ermeni from Kosovo\* comments that the asterisk (footnote) should have been removed long time ago and in the request addressed to the FIDE Council, a list of international sports organisations where Kosovo\* is a member and where it is present without the asterisk (footnote) is included. So the question is why FIDE is the only Federation keeping the asterisk.

Regarding the letter mentioned by the President of the Serbia Chess Federation about the mistreatment of chess players of Serbian origin, Mr. Ermeni says it is all politically motivated and the Kosovo\* Chess Federation is very interested to know what had happened there as these players were offered to integrate and become part of the Kosovo\* teams, as they would have strengthened their teams a lot, but they do not join as they are under a lot of political pressure from the Serbia Chess Federation and the Serbian government and they do not want to integrate. He also mentions that the Serbia Chess Federation organised more than a dozen tournaments in their territory and the Kosovo\* Chess Federation did not complain to FIDE that there is a violation of the FIDE Charter as their priority is chess and it is good that people play chess. The letter mentions one tournament in the south of Serbia where they went to play, where the Kosovo\* arbiters made one mistake and now the Serbian Chess Federation is asking for suspension of the Kosovo\* Chess

Federation. He opines that the vote should be taken which will mean that the matter will be again on the FIDE General Assembly Agenda.

Mr. Makropoulos from Greece comments that this is a political matter. He mentions that he is a good friend of Mr. Dervishi, and this is a rare matter where they disagree. He also agrees with Mr. Borg that the FIDE Council should not have included this matter into the General Assembly Agenda but Mr. Dvorkovich is very democratic, and it is included. He agrees that political discussion should stop and the Assembly should authorise the Council to continue activities regarding this matter. He also supports the proposal of Mr. Lazic to include Messrs. Dervishi and Pein into the Investigation Chamber.

Mr. Dvorkovich comments that this discussion shows how sensitive the situation is and how divisive the matter can be and invites the delegates to approve the proposal of the FIDE Council.

Seven delegates voted against.

**General Assembly approves not to vote at the 2024 GA the question about asterisk (footnote) placed at the name of the Kosovo\* Chess Federation. To confirm the FIDE Council' authority for this matter.**

4.3.3 Letter from Chess Federation of Serbia

4.3.3.1 The FIDE Council's decision regarding the Chess Federation's of Serbia request.

4.3.3.2 Additional material

**4.4 Other matters**

## **Section 5- Administrative matters**

**5.1 Changes in the FIDE Handbook**

5.1.1 Ethics and Disciplinary Commission's competences.

The General Assembly is invited to approve the update of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission's competences.

Annex 5.1.1 specified the proposed amendment to the FIDE Charter required with reference to the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission competences, and was sent to all the Federations in advance.

The GA proceeds proceeded with the voting through the open vote system. As a result of the voting the General Assembly approves to amend the FIDE Charter.

**General Assembly approves the amendments to the FIDE Charter regarding the jurisdiction of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Commission. \*\*\***

5.1.2 Ethics and Disciplinary Code

5.1.2.1 Letter from Cyprus Chess Federation

5.1.2.2 Letter from Chess Federation of Russia

### 5.1.2.3 The General Assembly is invited to approve the update of the Ethics and Disciplinary Code.

Mr. Rivello presents the changes and reiterates his explanations given during the first day of the General Assembly regarding the proposal of the Cyprus Chess federation to modify the Code of Ethics because they were sanctioned by the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and there was a discussion if this was possible or not. During the preparation of the FIDE Charter his idea was that the Ethics Commission has competence on people, but not legal entities. However, some years after at the approval of the Charter, also Code of Ethics was approved, which included that legal entity could be sanctioned, including temporary exclusion from membership and not many people paid attention to such penalty, against the Cyprus Chess Federation, which fortunately followed the request of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission, and avoided temporary exclusion but it is relevantly important that a sanction was made against a legal entity. He adds that Mr. Strydom could confirm that there was another case where EDC sanctioned a legal entity. He says that finally a very sensitive case against the Chess Federation of Russia brought the attention of many to the discrepancy between the FIDE Charter and the Code of Ethics. Mr. Rivello further says that the FIDE Council decided to look into the situation and draft a wider reform for both Charter and the Code of Ethics.

In the opinion of the Council, there are minor cases which can be decided by a single member or a special procedure, introduced by the Code of Ethics, to be directly in charge of some minor case and the Council gave the Constitutional Commission the mandate to draft a proposal. In case regarding the FIDE Charter, the Council accepts to clarify that the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission has a competence also on Federations. With this clarification, what happens regarding suspension – the Council tries to find a balance between these two opposite ideas. So they differ the decision on the responsibility and decision on sanctions. If a Federation violates the Code of Ethics, the decision is final, but about the sanctions of temporary exclusion of a Federation or an Affiliated Organisation, this decision can be overruled by the General Assembly, that can ask the EDC to decide a minor punishment. He calls this compromise and there was a consensus with the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission, which accepted the changes. The same more or less is in the Code of Ethics concerning this and in addition, there are possibilities for a single member of EDC to take some decisions with the competences introduced for minor cases. There was also a little reform about the amount for appeal submission, which has been included.

Mr. Rivello concludes that in Article 13.1.e of the Ethics and Disciplinary Code there are new sanctions, with the idea that there is already a temporary exclusion which is a harsh punishment. Exclusion from participation in the next General Assembly is a new proposed sanction, at the proposal of the FIDE Council. The Constitutional Commission report includes all explanations of all proposed sanctions and these are less serious punishments for Federations. He says that in 2022 a new Ethics and Disciplinary Code introduced new punishments.

Mr. Dvorkovich sums it up and calls this a very challenging balance which Messrs. Rivello and Strydom managed to preserve. He opines that the changes cover the concerns of the Chess Federations of Cyprus and Russia. He proposes to approve the changes and have a better balance of functions and authorities in the FIDE system.

Mr. Biagioli in his capacity as Mitropa Chess Association President comments that they are not a voting member, but as an Affiliated member he asks for the floor to opine that the Ethics and

Disciplinary Commission should be confirmed in their right to be able to judge independently, and if the Commission believes in the penalty, it should not be left for the decision of the General Assembly. FIDE should have an independent judiciary organ and the penalties should be independent, and whoever is not happy with the decision should be able to apply to the appeals chamber and CAS but the competence of judiciary and political bodies should be divided.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks for the expert opinion and comments that the choice was between having the Federations just in the hands of the General Assembly and splitting the responsibility between these two. He adds that the Member Federations apply to the whole General Assembly and FIDE is trying to make matters symmetric, rather than having them completely asymmetrical.

Mr. Tsorbatzoglou in his capacity as ECU General Secretary comments that for two days the delegates were hearing that the General Assembly has no possibility to decide on certain issues and now, that the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission's decisions will be sent to the political organs, not the second level of judiciary system, to the FIDE Council and General Assembly. He asks Mr. Rivello whether he is aware of such things existing in other international sports Federations. He opines that maybe it is better to delete the authority of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission to give sanctions as penalty, as it might take a lot of time before a real penalty is carried out as it might take months and years for the decision to go via the Council and the General Assembly. He does not think this is something logical.

Mr. Dvorkovich replies that he does think this is very logical because this is about the most severe penalty – suspension of a Federation. He predicts that the majority of National Federations would not be willing to risk their status even for minor things because of a decision taken by one person. He adds that the Council does not have a full authority, just limited authority. In the case with the Egypt Chess Federation, the decision had to be ratified by the General Assembly. FIDE was trying to find a solution to protect rights of all National Federations, e.g. in case of Cyprus it was about a private tournament, where the Federation had nothing to do with the organisers. FIDE wanted to have a better protection from such situations.

Mr. Qureshi from Pakistan fully agrees with Mr. Dvorkovich and adds that General Assembly is a place for exclusion and acceptance as the highest authority. He trusts fellow-delegates' expertise. He supports the motion.

There were 4 objections.

**General Assembly approves the amendments to the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code.\*\*\*\***

## **Section 6- FIDE Calendar**

### **6.1 FIDE tournaments 2024/2028**

General Assembly notes the presentation of the Abu Dhabi Chess Olympiad 2028 and the speech of Mr. H. Al Khouri, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Chess Club. He says they are very excited to host the Olympiad after the 1986 Chess Olympiad in Dubai and assures that everybody will enjoy the event in 2028.

Mr. Basleib makes a presentation which received a round of applause.

Mr. Howie from Scotland asks about the assurances for the accommodation for players under 18 to be accommodated with their accompanying persons, e.g. parents, in Abu Dhabi. Mr. Basleib replies in the affirmative.

Mr. Wilkinson comments that the African countries experience difficulties in getting funds to get to Chess Olympiads which is challenging even with travel subsidy from FIDE. He asks about the financial participation of the Abu Dhabi organisers towards this end, particularly if they want to reach the record participation.

Mr. Basleib replies that they are committed to reach the record participation and they will be taking case by case individually and will try to help in each case for those who cannot afford travels. This is one of the commitments included in the Abu Dhabi bid.

Mr. Anand thanks the Abu Dhabi Organisers for their wonderful presentation and is sure that the event in 2028 will be great for the whole chess community.

Mr. Dvorkovich informs that the preparation for the 2026 Chess Olympiad in Uzbekistan is going very well and in Tashkent they are building an Olympic village for the Asian Youth Games in 2025 and it will be ready for our event. Second option is Samarkand, the venue of the World Rapid and Blitz Championships 2023 and comparison should be made regarding hotel capacity and the playing venues. Therefore, the formal decision regarding the exact city is to be taken shortly.

Mr. Dvorkovich outlines the FIDE Calendar and informs of a discussion in the FIDE Council regarding the structure of the World Championship cycle and time control for it. He invites the Federations to send their ideas and proposals to the Global Strategy Commission led by FIDE CEO E. Sutovsky. He also says that there are a couple of FIDE events where the venues are to be finalised and the bidding process for 2026 will be opened very soon on the FIDE website.

The situation regarding providing funds for the FIDE event is stable and FIDE will make sure no issues will appear.

## **Section 7 - Continental Associations**

### **7.1 Report of Continental Association for Europe**

### **7.2 Report of Continental Association for Americas**

### **7.3 Report of Continental Association for Asia**

### **7.4 Report of Continental Association for Africa**

General Assembly notes the Continental Reports and thanks them for hard work.

## **Section 8 - Miscellaneous**

### **8.1 FIDE Awards**

Mr. Dvorkovich presents the awards and says that this year it was a year of multiple awards in general. He announces the awards for people, according to the proposal of the Historical Committee:

Mr. Allan Herbert (Barbados) - FIDE Honorary Member

Friends of FIDE

Mr. Jalal Shahin (Libya) - author of the documentary on Arab Chess History

Eric de Winter (Netherlands) - the oldest FIDE employee currently

Mr. Dvorkovich presents the diplomas of honour to Mr. P. Nikolopoulos (Greece), Mrs. Z. Veroci (Hungary), Mr. W. Iclicki (Belgium), Mrs. N. Alexandria (Georgia), Mr. H. Hamers (Netherlands), Mr. K. Jungwirth (Austria), Mr. L. Portisch (HUN), Mr. L. Garcia (Spain).

Mr. Dvorkovich presents a special Medal of Merit to the former Chair of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Commission Mr. F. Strydom (South Africa).

## **General Assembly approves FIDE Awards**

### **8.2 FIDE 100 Years Anniversary**

### **8.3 FIDE Social projects**

Mr. Dvorkovich announces the year 2025 as the Year of Social Chess for chess and signs a memorandum with four Presidents of Continental Associations.

Mr. Voigtlin informs the General Assembly of the initiatives of the Social Commission for rehabilitation and inclusion. He calls this a great opportunity for the world to acknowledge chess as a social tool for different social groups. He recalls his visits to Kakuma, prisons and autistic clinics in various countries and eye-witnessed that these projects are real help, and he requests all members of FIDE to be more actively engaged in all social projects. He thanks the FIDE management for making this possible.

### **8.4 Other matters**

Mr. Dvorkovich informs the Assembly that a memorandum was signed with the UAE Chess Federation regarding the support of schools in Africa and calls it a good charity project.

## **Closure**

Mr. Dvorkovich concludes the General Assembly with a special video dedicated to the FIDE 100 anniversary. He also congratulates the winners of the 2024 FIDE Chess Olympiad – two Indian teams and the All India Chess Federation.

\* - To read art. 2.5. as follows : 2.5 All documents that contain potential financial obligations by FIDE (including but not limited to employment contracts, contracts with contractors, service providers and other vendors, contracts for FIDE events, tournament regulations, and other documents that contain potential financial obligations by FIDE) must be approved by the Treasurer prior to signing the contracts and / or publication of such documents on FIDE website. In case of disagreement between the FIDE Treasurer and other FIDE bodies on the financial matters, the issue shall be escalated to the FIDE Council, which shall make a final binding decision, while the Treasurer is not responsible for the relevant decision.

- To add to Appendix 2 the following preamble: The FIDE Council shall have the right to amend the fees specified in the Appendix 2 or to approve the new relevant fees (for example, for new titles or events, etc.). The FIDE Council decision on fees amendment is subject to confirmation by the next General Assembly but shall enter in force immediately from the moment of its approval by the FIDE Council.

\*\* After careful consideration, the majority of the FIDE Council members have concluded that the current circumstances do not provide sufficient grounds to support the motions from the Kyrgyz Chess Union.

General Assembly requests the FIDE Council to conduct consultations with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), regarding a possibility of a partial reconsideration of the restrictions, allowing vulnerable groups — such as players with disabilities and children under 12 in all FIDE events.

\*\*\* FIDE Charter

26.8 The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission shall have jurisdiction over the conduct of officials, players, players' agents, match agents, arbiters, trainers, organisers, representatives of chess associations, leagues and clubs, who are associated to FIDE Member Federations or Affiliated Organisations or FIDE Continents, or who participate in or organise FIDE events, tournaments and congresses, except when their conduct is limited to a national sphere, as in the case of national events not rated by FIDE.

26.9 The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission shall also have jurisdiction over FIDE Member Federations and Affiliated Organisations, as legal entities, in relation to acts or omissions, by their organs and representatives, that constitute ethical violations or disciplinary offences.

26.10 If the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission decides, in its discretion, to impose the sanction of the temporary exclusion from membership of a FIDE Member Federation or a FIDE Affiliated Organisation, such sanction is not immediately effective, and, at the end of the proceedings in front of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission, any appeal included, it is subject to confirmation by the Council. After the confirmation by the Council, the temporary exclusion is immediately effective but, in any case, the decision of the Council on the temporary exclusion must be submitted to the vote of the General Assembly, at its first useful session. The decision of the General Assembly is final. In the case of a non-confirmation, by the Council or by the General Assembly, of the decision to sanction a FIDE Member Federation or a FIDE Affiliated Organisation with a temporary exclusion from membership, the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission can decide to impose another, less severe, sanction, different from the exclusion from membership and from the exclusion to participate in a session of the General Assembly.

[The numbering of current 26.9 – 26.14 has then to be modified to 26.11 – 26.16 respectively].

To supplement the PART VI (INTERIM TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) by the art. IV.2 as follows:

IV.2 Provisions of Art. 26.10 of this Charter with respect to confirmation of the temporary exclusion from membership of a FIDE Member Federation or a FIDE Affiliated Organisation by the Council and subsequent voting by the General Assembly, as well as with respect to consequences of non-confirmation of the said 1 Annex 5.1.1 sanction, are applicable to any decision of FIDE body or independent arbitral tribunal imposing the said sanction if such decision is pronounced after Art. 26.10 of this Charter enters into force.



\*\*\*\* Ethics and Disciplinary Code

10.2 Serious infringements of the Ethics Code will be subject to Disciplinary Action as provided for in the Disciplinary Code by a duly nominated EDC First Instance Chamber, subject to a right of appeal to a duly nominated EDC Appeal Chamber. **The decision on the merits of minor and simpler cases, following a discretionary evaluation of the Chairman of the EDC, can be assigned to a single member of the EDC, which may be the Chairman of the EDC him/herself.**

10.3 Other infringements of the Ethics Code considered to be of a less serious nature will be subject to Remedial Action by the FIDE President or a single member of the EDC. This is an administrative proceeding, following an alternative, more informal and expedient process, and is not subject to a right of appeal.

10.4 In addition to his/her powers under Article 18.10 of the Charter, the FIDE President is given the authority to use Remedial Action in the instance of such less serious infringements of the Ethics Code by the members of the FIDE family. ~~referred to in sub-articles (f), (g), (i), (s) of Article 4 hereof in all cases, as well as (t) and (u) but only to the extent that the person's conduct relates to the governance or administration of chess as a sport.~~

10.5 In the instance of less serious infringements of the Ethics Code by any member of the FIDE family ~~other than the classes of members which fall under the authority of the FIDE President, also~~ a single member of the EDC nominated by the Chairman of the EDC ~~shall decide the Remedial Action, provided that if it concerns the conduct of the members of the FIDE family referred to in sub-articles (a), (b) or (c) of Article 4.2 hereof,~~ or the Chairman of the EDC him/herself shall decide the Remedial Action.

10.6 The following Remedial Actions are available to the FIDE President and the single member of the EDC (for violation of the Ethics Code other than the Fair Play Rules) and may be applied against any of the persons, federations and organizations covered by the Ethics Code:

- a) Corrective counselling resulting in an exoneration;
- b) Corrective counselling resulting in a warning;
- c) Corrective counselling resulting in a reprimand.

....

10.11 In all matters concerning an alleged violation of the Ethics Code other than the Fair Play Rules, it is the duty of the Chairman of the EDC to make a prima facie evaluation of the contents of a complaint and in his/her sole discretion decide whether the alleged infringement of the Ethics Code shall be referred to the EDC to be dealt with by way of Disciplinary Action under the General Rules of procedure of the EDC, as set out under the Disciplinary Code and the EDC Procedural Rules, or if the matter shall be referred to the FIDE President or a single member of the EDC for Remedial Action.

**In the case of a complaint or a report specifically addressed to his/her attention, the FIDE President can directly decide to deal with the Remedial Action but must first inform the Chairman of the EDC of the received complaint or report, and the Chairman of the EDC can, with a motivated decision, refer the case to the EDC for a Disciplinary Action.**

### 13.1 Common Sanctions

a) **Warning:** A warning is a written notice issued in respect of a minor infringement of any rule. In the event of further infringements, a heavier sanction may be imposed and the EDC may take into account the fact that the person in question has previously received a warning.

b) **Reprimand:** A reprimand is a formal severe disapproval, pronounced against an offender. In the event of further infringements, a heavier sanction may be imposed and the EDC may take into account the fact that the person in question has previously received a reprimand.

c) **Fine:** A fine up to a maximum of 50,000 may be issued in Euros (€). It must be paid in said currency within the time limit and according to the methods specified by the EDC.

d) **Ban:** A ban is the removal of the right to taking part, in a chess competition, or any chess-related activity, as a player, arbiter, organizer, or representative of a chess federation; A ban will ordinarily be for a period between a minimum of one month and a maximum of 15 years, but in exceptional cases upon the occurrence of a recurring offence, and depending on the circumstances or the gravity of the case, a lifetime ban from all chess activities may be imposed by the EDC.

e) **Exclusion from a participation in the next FIDE General Assembly.** Exclusion of a Member Federation or of an Affiliated Organisation to participate in the next session of the FIDE General Assembly. **This sanction may be imposed only by a consensus decision of all members of the First Instance Panel.**

f) **Temporarily exclusion from membership:** Exclusion from membership is the removal of the right of a national federation or any other affiliated organization to participate in the activities, functions, and FIDE events in which all other members do participate by virtue of the Charter for a period up to a maximum of five years. **This sanction may be imposed only by a consensus decision of all members of the First Instance Panel.**

g) **Exclusion from office** is the immediate suspension of an official from the exercise of certain chess activities including his administrative and executive functions.

**17.6 Except for what is provided by art. 26.10 of the Charter regarding the execution of the sanction of the temporary exclusion from membership of a FIDE Member Federation or a FIDE Affiliated Organisation, and by art. 13.1 of the Code regarding the exclusion from participation in the next General Assembly, all decisions taken by the EDC First Instance Chamber shall remain in effect while under appeal unless the EDC Appeal Chamber directs otherwise.**

**17.7 Except for what is provided by art. 26.10 of the Charter regarding the execution of the sanction of the temporary exclusion from membership of a FIDE Member Federation or a FIDE Affiliated Organisation, and by art. 13.1 of the Code regarding the exclusion from participation in the next General Assembly, all decisions taken by the EDC Appeal Chamber shall remain in effect while under appeal unless CAS directs otherwise**