

## FIDE Zonal Council 2024

### Minutes of the Council

20 September 2024, 9.00-13.00

Present: FIDE Zonal Council members, observers.

Council's Lead: FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich.

President Arkady Dvorkovich greeted the Zonal Council members, mentioning that there were Commissions' meetings and FIDE 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary Gala dinner. He informed the participants that there will be 7 presentations mostly related to the FIDE development programs, as well as social development programs.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> presenter: Andre Voegtlin, FIDE Social Commission Chair.**

Mr. Voegtlin announced 2025 as Year of Social Chess in FIDE. He mentioned that after he stepped in as a Chair of the Social Commission in 2023, he realized that his federation has been focusing on the professional chess and no energy / time was spent on social projects. Mr. President invited Zonal Presidents to think of the better marketing name of the Year of social chess of 2025.

Mr. Voegtlin has mentioned the FIDE Programs such as: Chess for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (over 25 countries), Chess in Freedom (more than 50 countries), Chess for refugees (he mentioned his visit to Kakuma). Our motto Chess for All will be developed and spread during the next year of social chess.

Alzheimer, dementia, drug addicted, other diseases that Mr. Voegtlin mentioned that could be treated with the help of chess. The potential of chess is huge and the Chair has invited all Zonal Council members to join the programs thru the zones or federations of their zones.

Answering one of the questions from 4.1 Zonal President Tabti Maurane, how to join the program Chess for Refugees, to organize the event for the refugees, Mr. President answered that one of the steps is to cooperate and start working with United Nations. He invited to send the proposal to the Commission and Commission will contact/collaborate with United Nations. Mr. Voegtlin also added that the events regarding refugees, the Commission is in a good cooperation with UNHCR, where FIDE is one of 20 sports organizations in UNHCR which collaborates in this regard.

Zone 4.5 President Susan Namangale proposed to have a conference including FIDE and UNHCR which have the big projects like FIDE has, where FIDE can present what chess can add value at advancing the social impact. Mr. Voegtlin underlined that this is a very good idea and Mr. President requested the Zonal President to come back with this proposal to the Commission.

Mr. Cristobal Blanco wants to present his work in Science and Documentary work: Brain chain in the structure of a chess player. Mr. President asked Mr. Jose Carillo Pujol to be in touch with Mr. Blanco to see how the collaboration can work.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> presenters: FIDE Vice President Aulin-Jansson, Joran and FIDE General Secretary Lukasz Turlej**

Mr. Turlej informed the ZC that the second edition of the FIDE Corporate Championship took place this year. There were two stages: an online and finals onsite.

Mr. Aulin-Jansson shared with ZC members that the idea of the championship is to combine the values of FIDE and corporates. There are many common things that should bring us together.

Mr. Turlej added to this that thanks to the FIDE President and FIDE CEO Emil Sutovsky, FIDE could manage to organize the championships' finals in New York with the financial help of the main sponsor Freedom Finance. 350 corporates, 50 countries (small and big business companies) took part in both online and onsite finals.

Mr. Aulin-Jansson mentioned that the culture in companies were improved thanks to the participation, the company likes to be announced/known as a smart company, thanks to playing chess. The idea to have the title the smartest company is also liked by the companies. FIDE addresses the federations and Zonal presidents that they can spread the message to start being in contact with the companies to have the good win-win collaboration: the companies play business chess and federations gain more sponsors and partners to organize bigger chess projects with their help.

Mrs. Namangale proposed to choose the big corporates in each Continents to FIDE and which value we can have when having the collaboration with those companies. FIDE could have a business chess conference to present the chess value in their business, and federations can have the advantage to engage big companies in chess.

Mr. President encouraged Zonal presidents to engage companies, corporates to the chess movement.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> presenter: FIDE PDC Chair, Laurent Freyd**

PDC Chair has informed the ZC about the funding project which is available for the zones and federations. Mr. Freyd informed that this year FIDE has received only few requested from Zones for their projects.

Mr. Freyd also reminded ZC that there are few FIDE support projects, like tickets to the federations, national women team projects, veteran projects.

The Chair asked the Zonal presidents if they have an idea of why there have been less project funding requests from Zones. Mr. Presidents expressed an idea that the Olympic year has distracted the focus from other projects than the support to the teams to participate in the Olympiad. Continents also requested the funds, but Zones probably were not very active.

Mrs. Namangale wonders and asks the commission's opinion, why the consumptions were very low. She thinks many social projects require the financial support but FIDE has not received many.

Mr. Freyd said that FIDE PDC wants to have 360 degrees view what resources were used for the particular projects. Since in 2024 only 2 Zonal requests to organize the zonal championships were received thru continents. He also talked about the quality of the requests' presentation: clear KPIs, clear objectives, total budget, etc. He mentioned on the pitch meetings PDC holds to understand the details of the projects, which helps to evaluate the project and approve the funding.

Mr. Freyd asked the Zonal Presidents to encourage the federations within their zones to improve the quality of the requests in order to speed up and help to further approve. As a part of the process, PDC also requests the reporting after the project was accomplished.

SWAT analyses were presented as well, was not significantly changed since 2023. In 2025 the plan is to find enough IT resources to build the working flow to comfort both federations and FIDE. Through the internal tool PDC is working with now, it was not still a perfect process, since not only one actor is working in the process. Also Mr. Freyd requested to send the requests not very close to the event itself not to be stressed.

**4<sup>th</sup> presenter: FIDE PDC Secretary Kermen Goryaeva on FIDE PDC Capacity Building series.**

Mrs. Goryaeva reminded on the Capacity building series FIDE has started a year ago to address chess leaders and administrators to reinforce the skills in the areas of chess management, a mix of practical and theoretical topics. There have been 7 series made which gathered from 40 to 60 federations' officials, handled by some experts in the following fields:

1. Project planning, concept of the planning, approach to the planning, tools of pragmatic approach, some cases were also considered
2. Budgeting, how to monitor, control budget, evaluating and reporting, case study.
3. Rating officer: regulations and registration, FIDE policies in this field
4. Event planning: planning, budgeting, implementing, controlling, reporting of an event.
5. Strategic planning: vision and value of planning, difference between strategic and actual implementation were touched upon.
6. Sources of funding: how to attract the funds to implement the chess project.
7. Olympiad preparations: most number of participating federations, the insights from Budapest were given, the FIDE supporting projects were touched upon. Media coverage of the federations' activities was also discussed.

Mrs. Goryaeva requested the Zones to be back to PDC with the topics of the Capacity building series which would be interesting for the federations and zones.

Mr. Freyd thanked all the experts who took part in the series who spent time and energy to present the important needful information to the federation. Mr. President also asked if those series were recorded. Mr. Freyd answered that all series were recorded (except for the Strategic planning due to the technical issue), and all could be found on PDC website.

Mr. Freyd also expressed the wish of PDC to be better connected with the federations. Another idea is to have on a very long term to support the administrators in the federations by defining the matrix of duties in the federations and to make the pilot module of the best practice federation. At the end it will be a full curriculum for the chess federations. The federation relations management system Mr. Freyd thinks that the system is wider than PDC. Mr. Freyd also informed ZC that the mapping was discussed with Social Commission that would help later on to structure the work. Mr. Voegtlin also proposed that the landing page of PDC can be launched where federations can find the needful information. Also the landing page for the clubs can be a help when it comes to the tournament organization. Communication is the most important according to Mr. Freyd.

Mrs. Tshepiso Lopang things that we are lacking the communication. PDC contacts the President, but they might be busy and she proposes that PDC communicates and shares the info to the secretaries, rating officers and other officials of the federations.

**5<sup>th</sup> presenter: FIDE PDC Councilor Carolina Munoz on FIDE Development level new calculations proposal.**

The project to change the development levels' criteria started in 2019 in order to define the level of the federation. The ranking is used for subsidies, for the fees waiving, etc. Now its calculated as per the top 10 players to define the ranking.

Now the aim is to find better calculations of the levels. PDC and FIDE wants to change the system, coz the top 10 is not enough to reflect the level of the federation.

The federations were requested to submit to FIDE various factors they consider important when calculating the levels. The questionnaire was sent to the federations. Without these inputs it's difficult to have a better understanding on the needs and find the best way.

43 federations have sent the answers to this survey, from 3-4-5 levels, which is good news. We need to communicate better on this project to finalize the calculations' process.

Mrs. Munoz requested to be more active in this area to help FIDE and PDC understand how to best calculate the levels to help the federations in need.

Mr. Priest, a member of Verification Commission, said that expanding the definition of development levels, to make the Capacity Building series helps a lot the administration and management of the federations, the idea the Verification commission raised some years back and Mr. Priest wanted to thank that this was implemented.

Mr. Nigel Short has also expressed the idea that the existing development levels don't fit for purpose, giving an example of Qatar for instance. FIDE has been having the discussions about the levels for many years. Mr. Short wanted to encourage to move forward with the finding the calculations, to spend money in an efficient way.

Mrs. Lopang continued one important issue about governance and said that 43 federations out of 201 federations' reply could speak that federations don't comply to the government bodies request, that they are hiding data, they don't want to share with FIDE, coz they feel that this might jeopardize their PDC application fund requests. She expressed the need to do something with that. From another side, FIDE needs to move forward as well.

Mr. Pujol agreed with Nigel and Tshepiso's comments, mentioning Cuba from Americas where also it is not within 3-5 levels.

Mrs. Sachkia Barnes at the end requested the federations and Zones to share the reports which will be also used to showcase the results and success of the federations worldwide.

Mr. Freyd again thanked the members of PDC for their hard work.

FIDE Zonal Council took note of all proposals and suggestions provided during the Zonal council in Budapest.