

FIDE General Assembly

14 December 2025

MINUTES

A. FIDE President's address

Mr. Dvorkovich starts the meeting and welcomes all the General Assembly participants. He says that FIDE has been seeing activities increasing all around the world, and this is thanks to Federations' active involvement, their active initiatives and participation, collaboration between each other, inside the continents, in the regions, in the zones, and across the world. He adds that FIDE is attracting new partners. President thanks each of the delegates personally for their contributions. He proceeds with some explanations regarding the online procedures and invites all delegates to be active, but concise in their interventions on the Agenda items.

B. Obituaries

Mr. Dvorkovich says that it is also FIDE tradition to remember those who made great contributions to the world of chess, to chess community over the past years, in some cases, almost one century. He adds that there will be a short video devoted to friends, our colleagues, people who worked for FIDE and for national federations or played chess for a long time. He distinguishes a few persons who made an amazing contribution to FIDE and chess community.

He had an honor to be the guest at the anniversary of Friedrich Olafsson, who was the FIDE President back in the 70s, and who was doing his best to unite the chess world around the common values, while political uncertainties were very high. He points out that he learned a lot from him. He continues to say that Mr. Olafsson was an outstanding person, great chess player, international Grandmaster, who has left a huge legacy and his passing is a huge loss for the chess world but FIDE should remember Mr. Olafsson's great contributions to the chess world. Mr. Dvorkovich says that one of Mr. Olafsson's great achievements was the organisation of a famous match between GM R. Fischer and GM B. Spassky. He adds that Messrs. Olafsson and Spassky passed away the same year.

Mr. Dvorkovich tells he was present at Mr. Spassky's funeral in Moscow. It was a very sad moment as Mr. Spassky was a great chess champion who left a huge legacy of chess games and the way he helped to teach the new generation of chess players around the world.

Mr. Dvorkovich mentions other important losses for the chess world, among them - Prof. K. Jungwirth, the founder of the European Chess Union. All of people across the world would remember how big his contribution to the European chess was.

Mr. Dvorkovich regrets that there is another great loss with Mr. Casto Abundo, Toti as he was called by friends, passing away in the United Arab Emirates only few days ago. Mr. Dvorkovich recalls their personal meeting few days earlier where they discussed development of chess. Mr. Abundo had many plans, so his passing away was completely unexpected. Mr. Dvorkovich adds that his smile will always be with us.

Mr. Dvorkovich remembers Mr. S. Reuben, who was one of the Chairmen of the English Chess Federation, a great chess organizer, whose experience includes the World Championships, as well as a former Chairman of the FIDE Commission who contributed a lot to the development of chess in England, Europe, and across the world.

Mr. Dvorkovich pays special tribute to GM Daniel Narodnitsky, one of the youngest stars of the chess world, a chess educator, chess Grandmaster and the person who was able to promote chess in the modern digital world, especially for a younger generation. He adds that the loss was completely unexpected which reminded us about how careful and attentive we should be to people who are around us, especially in a brutal online environment where sometimes it's difficult to prevent the things that create negative consequences.

The video with obituaries is played.

C. Report of FIDE President

In his annual report, Mr. Dvorkovich outlines several important points of the FIDE activities in 2025:

- Two major missions of FIDE: one is to run professional chess, in particular World Championships, Chess Olympiads, as well as maintaining the systems of ratings and titles. Second mission which has become quite visible recently is a social one where chess is a tool to improve social aspects which allows FIDE to reach out to various communities, to collaborate with official and non-official institutions, governments and to bring chess to wider circles.
- FIDE Calendar, which has been completed successfully in 2025, with three more FIDE events in December 2025: Global Chess League in Mumbai, the World Youth Rapid and Blitz Championships 2025 in Antalya and 2025 World Rapid and Blitz Championships in Doha. He adds that FIDE continues attracting new partners, and also reinforcing FIDE previous partnerships is on the Agenda as well as diversification of activities all over the world. He opines that vast geography of the FIDE events: Singapore, New York, London, China, Batumi, Goa, and other regions is a proof of this.
- Very stable financial situation. He mentions that the number of bidders for FIDE major events grows more, and the funds received from the organisation of these events are used to finance FIDE development and social activities.
- Communication with international organisations, in particular the IOC, including some financial help, but importantly sharing best practices with them. He underlines constant communication with the IOC that is aware of FIDE's ambition to bring chess to multi-sport competitions. IOC has been supportive to the inclusion of chess into regional competitions. He reminds that Mr. Bologan is in charge of the respective FIDE Committee. President adds that FIDE is in consultations with IOC regarding the participation of chess in e-sports competitions as it was included into the E-sport World Cup with the help of chess.com, as a private project. He points out that FIDE is in a good relationship with the International Paralympic Committee and the 2nd Olympiad for the players with the disabilities was held in Astana in October 2025. The 3rd edition is planned to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, nearly during the same dates as the 2026 FIDE Chess Olympiad.
- Gratitude to all FIDE Commissions, adding that some of Commission officials carry out a full-time job which means FIDE is becoming more professional. He

expresses his amazement and respect to all those who work voluntarily, as their contribution is very important.

Mr. Sutovsky adds to the President's report in respect of the FIDE events and highlights the following points:

- Successful organisation of the FIDE major events with the participation of top players.
- Increase of the prize funds for several FIDE events which allows FIDE to implement all other programmes and projects.
- Establishment of some new FIDE tournaments.
- 2026 FIDE Candidates Tournament, scheduled to be held in March-April in Cyprus, which is going to be a new level in terms of organisation and especially in terms of financial revenues for FIDE. He thanks the Cyprus Chess Federation for the cooperation and promises a great event in terms of broadcast as well.
- 2026 FIDE World Championship match which will be held as usual in November-December, for which purpose preliminary discussions are in place. He assures that the event will be held on a very high level and a surplus of financial contribution to FIDE is expected.
- 2025 World Chess Cups, which were successful events. He informs of the entire system which would both create opportunities for players but also provide chances for countries which previously have not been able to qualify the players into the World Cup. He adds that to that effect FIDE has prepared the adjustment and expanding of a format which would allow more players from each continent to qualify to the World Cup and once again to expand the participation as it has been graded it today to 206 participants. He adds that FIDE is going to expand it once again furthermore which would require additional investment but thanks to strong partners FIDE is ready for that and at this moment is finalizing the format issue for that and the details will be published in due course.
- 2026 FIDE Chess Olympiad which is another FIDE flagship event as he looks forward to meeting all chess family in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- A number of new activities for 2026 where the goal is to raise the bar even higher in terms of organisation and financial revenues.
- Gratitude to everyone for their support.

A video about FIDE social programmes is played.

Ms. Reizniece adds to the President's report about Social programmes dedicated to the 2025 Social Year in FIDE.

She outlines the following activities to demonstrate how chess connects people, supports communities and opens doors to education and belonging:

- January. World Social Chess Initiatives Marathon bringing together organizations from every region to share their experience and bold cooperation.
- February research and conferences helped lay long-term foundations for understanding the social impact of chess.
- March focused on elderly chess month through the Chess for longevity Roadshow with activities and stories shared across continents.
- April highlighted infinite chess and autism inclusion as families, teachers and players work together to create supportive learning environments.
- May the Chess for Freedom Workshop in Mexico united federations and correctional programs with inmates from around the world competing in the continental championships.

- June highlighted chess for protection with events in refugee communities including Kakuma refugees camp.
- July the Chess for Recovery sessions explored how chess can help rebuild focus and confidence. International Chess Day was celebrated with the 24-hour online tournaments where more than 20,000 players made over 5.5 million moves showing how chess can unite people everywhere.
- August the Women's Chess Marathon sparked a month of global connection.
- September centered on Chess in Education.
- October promoted inclusion and health including the Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities and the Intercontinental Championship for Prisoners.
- November the Social Chess Storytelling Challenge concluded by sharing powerful real-world impact.
- December FIDE recognizes that the Year of Social Chess is not a conclusion it's a foundation it will continue to build on together.
- The coming year 2026 is announced the Year of Chess in Education.

Ms. Reizniece adds that the Social Year was able to demonstrate that chess is more than competition and is really a tool for inclusion, dignity and social impact. She emphasizes that showing the life changing power of chess FIDE broadens users and followers base far beyond the purely chess players and the chess world. She opines that FIDE attracted interest of general public, officials, research community, major media and also international organizations (e.g., the next day, the FIDE Refugees Project will be presented at United Nations Global Refugees Forum). This is the way how through socials and educational initiatives we bring FIDE and chess to the international community. She thanks National Federation and Continents for active engagement and support. She reminds the delegates to initiate new projects for the FIDE Development Fund aimed not only at hosting chess competitions, but also on various social and educational initiatives.

The coming year 2026 the Year of Chess in Education with conferences, Education Summit, research activities, pilot projects, new materials produced, trainings organized and World School Teams Championship tournaments planned as the attached detailed Action Plan explains.

Mr. Fofana from Guinea addresses the General Assembly and informs it is a pleasure to join FIDE and thanks for the opportunity to be a member of FIDE. He informs that since 1982 the Federation exists but was more associated with draughts and outlines chess. In the country they have train more than 500 children in schools. He adds that their main goal is to promote chess in Guinea by teaching chess in schools, organising competitions and representing chess at the tournaments in other countries. He also expresses special thanks to Mr. Short for his visit and assistance in setting up a chess Federation.

General Assembly notes the FIDE President's report.

D. Report of the Chairman of the Constitutional Commission

Mr. Roberto Rivello presents the Constitutional Commission's report. He starts by adding his condolences about the passing away of his predecessor Mr. C. Abundo.

Given that there are quite a few new delegates, Mr. Roberto Rivello briefly reminds competences of the Constitutional Commission. The Commission acts fully independently,

applying the FIDE Charter and the FIDE Electoral Rules. Among these competences, there is the approval of the list of Federations and delegates who have a right to vote, and the list of suspended Federations. For this meeting of the General Assembly, some requests for change of delegates were sent and received after the established deadline. Unfortunately, they could not be accepted. He underlines the importance and the rationale of respecting the deadlines stated in the FIDE Charter and Electoral Rules.

Mr. Rivello also reminds the obligation for all Federations to provide their Statutes to the FIDE Office, but he specifies that it is not up to the Commission to analyze or check violations of the obligations of the Member Federation: this is a competence of the FIDE Council, the Constitutional Commission can just provide an advisory opinion, if requested.

Then, Mr. Rivello provides details about the proposals of expulsion of the Burkina Faso Chess Federation and of new Memberships. About the Burkina Faso Chess Federation, he explains that the Verification Commission submitted a report regarding their arrears, the Federation resulted also inactive, for these reasons it was suspended by the FIDE Council. He underlines that the final decision is with the General Assembly, which is competent to take all decisions regarding expulsion and admission of Member Federations.

Regarding other issues on the agenda, Mr. Rivello mentions that the Commission, at the request of the FIDE Council, delivered some advisory opinions and drafted the text of some new rules, how detailed in the submitted report.

Mr. O'Connor from Ireland asks whether all the Federations have submitted their Statutes.

Mr. Rivello replies that the members of FIDE have to submit their latest Statutes versions to FIDE, this is an obligation for all Federations. However, he supposes that not all Federations respected this obligation.

Mr. Dvorkovich replies that this subject is considered regularly, and less than 10 Federations have not submitted their Statutes. The situation will be reviewed at the next FIDE Council meeting and the remaining Federations are being chased to provide their respective Statutes.

Mr. O'Connor believes that those Federations who did not submit their Statutes are not eligible for vote at the General Assembly 2025.

Mr. Rivello replies that this is a violation by a member Federation but if, however, the member Federation is not suspended by the Council, it does not lose its right to vote. He reiterates that the Commission has no competence to decide on that matter.

Mr. Dvorkovich proposes to stop the discussion on this matter and to continue with the Agenda. President adjusts updates that there are only three Federations who did not submit their Statutes. He thanks Mr. O'Connor for bringing this to the General Assembly's attention.

Mr. Herbert from Barbados says that his comment is not related to the Constitutional Commission's competence but expresses caution in case when one member Federation is expelled and one member Federation is admitted, for the same country, it is always an issue of who is responsible for the arrears. He hopes this aspect has been taken into consideration.

Mr. Dvorkovich replies that the new Federation in Burkina Faso will clearly take the full responsibility for the financial issues.

The representative of the Lumi company takes the floor and explains the details of the voting to the delegates followed by a test-vote.

The report of the Constitutional Commission has been approved. In favour 98. Against 6. Abstentions 13. Total valid votes 104.

1.1 Expulsion

1.1.1 The Burkina Faso Chess Federation.

1.1.1.1 The expulsion of the current Burkina Faso Chess Federation.

The current Burkina Faso Chess Federation has been permanently expelled from FIDE.
In favour 72. Against 14. Abstentions 21. Total valid votes 86.

Mr. Lovik Lasse from Norway asks about the voting method.

Mr. Dvorkovich replies the decision was taken according to FIDE Council's suggestion. He mentions that all matters are voted by an open vote. If there will be a request to have a secret vote, the delegates will first vote whether it will be a secret or an open vote and then will vote on the subject if there is a request to do so.

E. Roll-call

Section 1 - Membership issues

Mr. Dvorkovich informs the General Assembly about all potential members of FIDE.

Representatives of the three new Federations make their respective presentations.

Mr. Carbonell from Burkina Faso addresses the General Assembly and presents the vision, the achievements and the strategic direction of Burkina Faso Chess Federation, created in June, 2024 and then recognized by the Ministry of Sports in October, 2024. He informs that they have launched a lot of things from the nearly zero point and are investing heavily in capacity building. He adds that there are many chess humanitarian projects, including refugees, and they have also created a big program of educational chess.

He adds that the Burkina Faso Chess Federation have trained school instructors so now they have two senior lead instructors. They also help other countries as they can train in English, in French or in Spanish. They have organized the first national inter-school championship, mobilizing schools, families and youth all across the country. It was a very big success with high participation. He adds that they are a young federation and thanks FIDE for the trust and support.

Mr. Arguiti from the Marshall Islands addresses the General Assembly and informs that they are very excited to be part of the global chess family and look forward to endorsement from FIDE. He says that as an organization they are literally in their infancy stage, just formalized this year, although chess has been in the islands for many years. It is the first time that they are

being integrated to the international stage with the backing of their government. This Pacific nation is only 60,000 people, they cover an area of more than 2.5 kilometers of ocean territory and have five chess clubs in schools and in the community. There is a desire and goal to grow this number, therefore federation would gladly engage if FIDE would offer them capacity building or opportunities to grow.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks the representatives for their ambitions and their wish to join FIDE.

1.2 Admission

1.2.1 The Burkina Faso Chess Federation.

1.2.1.1 The Burkina Faso Chess Federation applied to become a Member of FIDE.

1.2.1.2 The FIDE Council' recommendation about the Burkina Faso Chess Federation' application Annex.

The Burkina Faso Chess Federation has been approved as a member of FIDE. In favour 110. Against 2. Abstentions 6. Total valid votes 112.

1.2.2 The Guinea Chess Federation.

1.2.2.1 The Guinea Chess Federation applied to become a Member of FIDE.

1.2.2.2 The FIDE Council' recommendation about the Guinea Chess Federation' application.

The Guinea Chess Federation has been approved as a member of FIDE. In favour 107. Against 1. Abstentions 3 Total valid votes 108.

1.2.3 The Marshall Islands Chess Federation.

1.2.3.1 The Marshall Islands Chess Federation applied to become a Member of FIDE.

1.2.3.2 The FIDE Council' recommendation about the Marshall Islands Chess Federation' application.

The Marshall Islands Chess Federation has been approved as a member of FIDE. In favour 101. Against 2. Abstentions 8. Total valid votes 103.

1.2.4 The Kiribati Chess Federation.

1.2.4.1 The Kiribati Chess Federation applied to become a Member of FIDE.

1.2.4.2 The FIDE Council' recommendation about the Kiribati Chess Federation's application.

The Kiribati Chess Federation has been approved as a member of FIDE.

In favour 100. Against 2. Abstentions 8. Total valid votes 102.

All new members received a round of applause. Mr. Dvorkovich points out that all delegates of newly accepted Chess Federations have now a right to vote on all the subjects of the General Assembly Agenda.

Mr. Dvorkovich proposes to start from Section 3 due to time difference, to enable all delegates to vote.

Section 3 - Federation issues

3.1 Limitations regarding Russian Chess Federation and Belarussian Chess Federation

Mr. Dvorkovich reminds that by default all voting procedures are open vote procedures. If there is a request on any of the subject from an interested party for a secret ballot, then the delegates first vote if the ballot is secret or not, and then the vote is taken according to the decision of the General Assembly. He underlines that he will not express his own position but will just state the facts and give the delegates the overview of how the consideration was done.

Mr. Dvorkovich presents the General Assembly with facts and considerations regarding the issue. He underlines that starting with the decision at the General Assembly in Budapest 2024 that mandated the FIDE Council to follow policies of the IOC, FIDE has been in line with decisions of the IOC on all issues, including admission of youth teams, players with disabilities and women's teams. All competitions have been held with no single objections from the IOC. IOC had indicated that it was the prerogative of the International Sports Federation to decide on admission rules of athletes to the best interest of the entire Federation's community. He further informs that the latest Council's Resolution has been taken in alignment of the IOC Resolution taken on the same day, 11 December 2025, and outlines the highlights of the IOC Resolution. Regarding participation of the adult teams from Russia and Belarus, he informs that the IOC has maintained its previous position, judging from their announcements, letters and responses to various International Sports Federations. President provides examples of competitions and participation of Russian and Belarus teams, including competing directly against Ukrainian teams, in various sports, including judo, rowing, sambo, etc. He adds that water polo, which is a clear team sport, the International Federation accepted teams from Russia and Belarus for the competitions in 2026. He underlines that even without the request from the Federations of Russia and Belarus, the Council would consider this subject based on the new guidelines from the IOC and Paralympic Committee. He opines that there is a clear signal that all other decisions on admission rules are completely in the hands of the International Federation, and FIDE is legally allowed to take decisions whether and under which conditions the teams can participate in competitions. Accordingly, the FIDE Council proposes a certain Resolution which has been distributed to delegates.

Mr. Dvorkovich presents the FIDE Council Resolution and suggests that the General Assembly might delegate the FIDE Council to decide on possible admission rules in the future. He invites all the potential GA speakers to follow the time frame.

Mr. D Oleinikov from the Russian Federation reads the letter of the Chess Federation of Russia and calls for keeping the FIDE motto and putting aside political differences. He underlines that there have been no conflicts so far in any of the sports competitions with the participation of Russian teams and refers to Article 4.4 of the FIDE Charter. He also asks the General Assembly to hold a secret ballot on this question because of the matter's sensitivity.

Mr. Prokopets from the Chess Federation of Russia, a founding partner of the law company Sila in Russia says that he is involved in all legal matters about all Russian sports since 2022.

He opines that it is clear that athletes cannot stop any geopolitical conflicts, and the IOC has changed its politics and Russian sports is on the way to return back to the sports family. He opines that isolation and ban is not the way out and could destroy athletes' careers. Mr. Prokopets comments that the position of IOC speaks for itself. He calls the exclusion of men's team a discrimination even concerning their own compatriots, as women's team of Russia is now allowed to participate in FIDE events. He also gives an example of the CAS decision about the European Table Tennis Federation, the President of which who hails from the UK, calls the non-participation of the Russian and Belarus teams a discrimination.

Mr. A. Kamyshin from Ukraine speaks and supports the decision of 34 countries and the EU as of September 2025. He insists that FIDE should stay within the IOC recommendations on the participation of Russian and Belarus athletes. He is happy that Mr. Dvorkovich mentions six sports as an example, but he also opines that these six sports out of 108 sports members of the IOC, is not a high number. In this context, any consideration of lifting existing restrictions would not only be profoundly inappropriate, but would also send a deeply troubling political signal and it might compromise the moral integrity of FIDE, undermine its commitment to human rights and fair playing and disregard the suffering inflicted upon Ukrainian people every single day. He suggests to reject the proposed voting and stick to the initial FIDE resolution of February 2022. He says that the FIDE President had promised to remain neutral, but this year he has become an interested party and is taking a side while one of the GA Agenda Annexes had been prepared by the Swiss legal firm connected to Mr. Dvorkovich. Mr. Kamyshin calls all delegates to vote as they believe is right.

Mr. Tolbaev from Kyrgyzstan comments that chess is about peace, and he wishes FIDE to become the first Federation to bring peace to our sports. He adds that he has always adhered to the principle that chess should stay away from politics, and that unfortunately there are always some conflicts in the world. He hopes this issue will not be raised again at the 2026 FIDE General Assembly and asks to remove all this discrimination, which FIDE has, unfortunately, as even the International Olympic Committee is already doing that step-by-step. He opines that FIDE needs to do the right thing and lift all the restrictions from all chess players from all countries and for the future, FIDE should never get involved in such restrictions. He says it's an opportunity for FIDE and responsibility to do the right thing. He requests all the delegates to vote to cancel all the limitations, since there were and will always be conflicts, but this is the sole case where FIDE had unfortunately taken such restrictive decisions.

Mr. Lovik from Norway asks to have an open and non-anonymous vote. He also raises a serious concern how the information was communicated regarding the matter. He recommends the General Assembly to vote on the motion proposed by Mr. Pein and the English Chess Federation against removing sanctions.

Mr. Pein from England comments that the President's report highlights the importance of the developing relationship with the IOC and it is important to understand that last Thursday the IOC updates their guidance on Russia and Belarus. He mentions that some part of the IOC resolution was left out from the attention of the General Assembly, i.e., IOC's recommended conditions for participation for International Federations and international sport event organizers of the 28th of March 2023 should remain in place for senior competitions, which rules out the possibility of participation of Russian and Belarus teams in the 2026 Chess Olympiad. He opines it is scandalous that FIDE is sending out a note using a lawyer who is a lawyer of the Russian Olympic Committee. He thinks FIDE General Assembly should be independent and it needs to vote in the interest of FIDE and its Member Federations and that

this vote must be open as all must see how people have voted on this issue. He opines that it is potentially dangerous if FIDE goes against the position of the IOC clearly expressed the last Thursday. He requests to reject the draft FIDE Council Resolution in 3.1. of the FIDE General Assembly Agenda and asks to consider the vote on the counter-resolution presented by himself. He invites to keep in line with the IOC and says that delegates should be in no doubt what the IOC's view is while the position may be found on the IOC website issued last Thursday.

Mr. Dvorkovich underlines that he does not express his personal view but gives factual position and replies that no part from the IOC Resolution was omitted. He explains that IOC's public recommendations should be considered in combination with IOC's letters sent to FIDE and other Federations during this and previous year.

Mr. Wanjala from Kenya welcomes the decision of the IOC to allow children participate in the youth competitions with their symbols and opines children should not be punished. He thinks that the proposal of the Council does not mean that FIDE is lifting the entire sanctions. FIDE is aware of the IOC recommendations, and if FIDE would further restrict the teams, also the children in teams competitions would suffer. He says the sanctions for senior teams should remain, but asks to consider a situation, where some of the teams comprise the youth who may qualify to be part of this team. He asks to support the recommendation from the Council.

Mr. Mamedov from Azerbaijan says all FIDE previous decisions were correct and timely and reflected the realities that existed at that time, and now they are in line with the IOC recommendations. He adds that reality is changing for better and the IOC is responding to these changes; the world is close to peace so FIDE should stand in solidarity with the IOC recommendations. He asks the delegates for the support of the FIDE Council Resolution.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili points out that chess is an individual sport, so no Russian or Belarus player was ever discriminated. He adds that FIDE has undertaken all possible measures to secure their participation in FIDE events and disagrees with the Sila representative on this point. As for teams' events, he opines that it is important not to give right to the countries to use sport as a political tool. He says that FIDE welcomes the new decision of the IOC Executive Board regarding cancelling restrictions for children from Russia and Belarus and maintaining the previous position about senior teams. He stresses that this is the position of the ECU Board.

Mr. Anand comments that FIDE has been consulting with IOC and adhering to the IOC recommendations for last several years, all the communication is available to the delegates. He asks to support the FIDE Council Resolution.

Mr. O'Connor from Ireland expresses serious concerns about the composition of the teams playing under the FIDE flag while historically such teams had been composed of players from various countries, not only one country. He opines that it is a slap in the face of the General Assembly. He stresses that these decisions are not symbolic, they are binding. He calls on the FIDE leadership to explain how such situation with FIDE team represented of players from one country occurred and asks to make sure in the future this does not happen again. He opines that FIDE flag teams' composition should comply with the General Assembly decisions.

Mr. Dvorkovich replies that based on the discussion at the General Assembly 2024 in Budapest it was clear that for youth teams under a neutral flag a team of players from one country was

meant and that the IOC had completely the same understanding. As it was mentioned before, the same understanding is there also for other sports. He adds that he had been explaining decisions that FIDE had taken before, and that those decisions had been taken in close consultation with the IOC, and that there is no contradiction.

Mr. Geeraets from the Netherlands expresses concern about the proposal and the process. He emphasizes that the proposal was sent very short time before the General Assembly 2025, and that there are serious doubts on what the IOC is actually saying. He proposes to suspend the vote on this issue to the next General Assembly following a serious investigation. He opines that the war has not stopped but intensified, and that the Russian representatives have little self-reflection when speaking about discrimination.

Mr. Rivera from Cuba comments that he does not agree with the sanctions against chess players from Russia.

Mr. Luxman from Sri Lanka comments that he is worried as the political reasons divided the countries of the ex-Soviet Union. He does not understand why top GMs from Russia are punished when politicians do war, as he thinks all chess players should be allowed to play chess.

Mr. Munoz from Columbia comments that their Federation does not agree with the sanctions and they are not talking about only Russia and Belarus, but in general. In Columbia they had the chance to organise the FIDE World Youth Chess Olympiad U-16, and it was a pity that children could not raise their national flag and listen to the national anthem at the podium. He says all athletes have the right to use their symbols as sport should be kept apart from politics. He supports the FIDE Council Resolution.

Mr. Jalling from Sweden comments that Mr. Dvorkovich mentions six sports and all of them are in the Olympic Games while chess is not. He agrees with the ambitions of Mr. Dvorkovich to get closer to the Olympic movement, and in that way then FIDE should be handling this case with high care and be very patient. He opines nothing has changed in the world and nothing has changed between Ukraine and Russia. He asks the General Assembly to reject the Draft FIDE Council Resolution and to have sanctions not lifted. He adds he is in favour of an open vote supporting the delegates from Norway and England.

Mrs. Lauterbach from Germany says that at the General Assembly 2024 in Budapest it was agreed that vulnerable groups are reconsidered in respect of the restrictions, regarding their participation all FIDE events. Now it seems that women are also vulnerable group and in her opinion it is not appropriate. She also reminds that at the General Assembly 2024, she provided the statement of the ARISF – IOC recognised organisation, where FIDE is a member, where it was clearly stated that IOC resolutions should be followed. She opines that FIDE should make sure that the IOC recommendations are not violated and calls to support the counter-resolution.

Ms. Paridar from Iran comments that chess is not in politics. She says Israel attacked Iran and killed thousands of their people and there are no sanctions against them.

Mr. Dvorkovich asks Ms. Paridar to keep to the subject.

Mr. Qureshi from Pakistan comments that all see the revival of chess. He does not categorise this as a political problem and thinks all human suffering is a tragedy, and questions to what

extent we can go to sanction players, who are FIDE family. He adds that if for junior and women competitions sanctions are lifted, why senior competitions should not be allowed to include players from Russia and Belarus with all the symbols. He opines FIDE should try to steer away from all the conflicts with the aim of including everyone in all types of competitions.

Mr. Herbert from Barbados says that he is long enough in FIDE, and sees similar things to reappear. He recalls several prior problems in FIDE, e.g. an apartheid in the South Africa. He calls to follow the IOC guidelines.

Mr. Carbonnell from Burkina Faso comments that FIDE is sovereign and can change previous decisions and FIDE does not need to follow the decisions taken previously by other bodies. He adds that FIDE should not have a political point of view regarding Ukrainians and not having a point regarding Palestinians and supports the FIDE Council Resolution.

Mr. Celi from Uruguay comments on behalf of Mr. Carillo that for him it is important to point out that the IOC is changing its stands for reasons. He opines that any Federation regardless of discipline it represents, should not mix politics and sports, but unfortunately, invasions and conflicts can happen in this world any moment, and sportsmen should not be penalised.

Mr. Narang from India says that last year at the General Assembly he supported the provision of the IOC, and he is glad that now there is no fear that the FIDE decision can jeopardise the relations with the IOC, as now the IOC came forward with a proposal regarding youth participation. Mr. Narang replies to Mr. Pein on the stand of the IOC regarding senior competitions and says that the neutral flag mechanism exists precisely to preserve sport participation. He supports that senior teams should be allowed to participate under neutral symbols, as this does not contain state representation and recommends supporting the FIDE Council resolution.

Mr. Makropoulos from Greece comments that he fully concurs with Mr. Narang and reminds that for those who have been in FIDE with him for many years, his position has not changed for the last 40 years, that sport should not be mixed with politics, without prejudice where military conflicts were taking place. He says that he hails from the country with the history of 2500 years where the main principle is that when the sports competitions are held, the wars should stop. He opines that sport is the last frontier to develop friendship, solidarity and peace and thinks that the IOC shares this ancient principle and works for peace, but made a mistake when sport has been included into the sanctions against Russia. He stresses that FIDE should not lose this instrument to keep alive relations between people and agrees with Mr. Pein that FIDE is an independent organisation responsible for its actions and should be in line with the IOC decisions. He underlines that the IOC permits FIDE to make its own decisions in the situations, so it is completely wrong if a Federation might be afraid that they might lose the recognition of their NOC. He adds that he has been in discussions with the IOC for 40 years and he understands FIDE will not fight, but will be in harmony with them, to have chess for peace. He believes that there is an element of discrimination when teams cannot participate and achieve good results and gives an example of the Uzbekistan team who received a lot of material things after having won the Olympiad. He calls to stop playing with words as if FIDE understands that sports is important for peace, and continue working for this and bring the sportsmen back. He opines that the last decision of the IOC surprised everyone and backs the FIDE Council Resolution.

Mr. Dvorkovich sums up that this was a long but insightful discussion, and all the main points have been clearly expressed.

He says that as the Chess Federation of Russia asks for the secret ballot in respect of this point, first the delegates will vote whether the vote will be secret or open as suggested by other Federations.

The General Assembly votes that the votes on limitations regarding Russian and Belarussian Chess Federation shall be conducted by secret ballot. In favour 65. Against 48. Abstentions 9. Total valid votes 113.

Mr. Dvorkovich presents draft resolutions which will be voted:

1. The Russian Chess Federation's Resolution.
2. The FIDE Council Resolution.

He adds that if the decision is not taken in the first two ballots, then FIDE will turn to alternative resolutions. He adds that short notice of some proposals was related to the fact that FIDE has been trying to align with recommendations of the IOC.

The General Assembly approved to lift all the current restrictions related to the chess federations of Russia and Belarus. To allow players from the aforementioned countries to participate in all FIDE events, both individual and team, using all national symbols. In favour 61. Against 51. Abstentions 14. Total valid votes 112.

The General Assembly approved the FIDE Council's resolution regarding the restrictions related to the Federations of Russia and Belarus. In favour 69. Against 40. Abstentions 15. Total valid votes 109.

Mr. Press from Papua New Guinea refers to the FIDE Charter regarding secret ballot. He asks if there is a requirement for these ballots to be open.

Mr. Rivello, answering about which resolution must be considered as approved, firstly reminds that, on the basis of the FIDE Charter, on these issues the General Assembly has only the competence "to express general guidance on FIDE activities", it means to express a general political address. Then, he opines that the vote that received the highest number of votes is approved. So, in this case, the FIDE Council Resolution seems to be considered as the resolution approved by the General Assembly.

Mr. Dvorkovich replies that the General Assembly has the right to decide depending on the subject.

Mr. Tolbaev comments that he is confused that the General Assembly voted for the first proposal and he thought that the FIDE Council Resolution was an addition to that. He thought the question was closed after the first vote. He thinks these are two decisions made by the General Assembly and both in legal power.

Mr. Mamedov fully agrees with Mr. Rivello that the FIDE Council Resolution has a preferential meaning and it received more votes.

Mr. Pein comments that there are 141 delegates and not even 50% took part in voting and the resolutions are contradictory, so the vote to whether this is a secret vote or not, is not legal, for the record.

Mr. Dvorkovich responds that percentages are taken from the votes cast not registered. Mr. Hater from the USA comments that the motions are contradictory and agrees with Mr. Rivello that the second motion supporting the FIDE Council Resolution should be the General Assembly decision. He calls both motions contradictory.

Mr. Makropoulos asks how many delegates voted in the last vote.

Mr. Dvorkovich replies, 109 votes.

Mr. Makropoulos says then 69 is a majority.

Mr. Celi thinks that the FIDE Resolution shows different options, and these options are not contradictory.

Mr. Dvorkovich announces that it is clear that the FIDE Council Resolution received more in favour than the other. So the decision of the Assembly is to support the Resolution.

Mr. Sidi from Mauritania comments that these options are not contradictory and the votes were cast correctly.

Mr. Paridar comments that politics should not be mixed with sports. She proposes to have another vote between the two options.

Mr. Dvorkovich replies that it is up to the General Assembly whether to take a vote on this comparison or to accept the decision.

(Note: The discussion on Section 3 continued after sections 2 and 4 of the General Assembly Agenda.)

Mr. Dvorkovich informs that after due consultations there are two suggestions:
Option 1 is to consider the FIDE Council Resolution approved, as it has received more votes than the other resolution;
Option 2: Hold a second vote between the two resolutions.

Mr. Dvorkovich informs that the Council will have to take into account the vote of the General Assembly, in consultation with the IOC.

Mr. Makropoulos opines that even if the vote is on Option 2 and the FIDE Council Resolution gets majority, it should take into consideration that the proposal of Russia has been approved. Mr. Gaeraeets opines that when the proposals were voted, it was not clear and a lot of people got confused. He suggests to vote for three proposals together and see which one would get an absolute majority.

Mr. Tolbaev comments that maybe without two steps it is better to have two options and points out that it is getting very late in Asia.

Mr. Dvorkovich replies that the order was different and he is not sure if FIDE can come to the third option.

Mr. Fergusson from Grenada comments that both resolutions were independent ones and voted by the General Assembly. He proposes to amend the FIDE Council Resolution to make it consistent with the first resolution.

Mr. Dvorkovich calls it quite a wise approach.

Mr. Celi agrees with Mr. Fergusson.

Mr. Pein highlights that even the most popular resolution receives only 69 votes and the whole process is a total chaos. He questions if it is not constitutional and claims that he and his colleagues would not vote on the next options.

Mr. Silveringah from Macao says it is 3.18 am Macao, and suggests that both resolutions are approved. He proposes that the FIDE Council should decide on contradicting matters between the two resolutions according to their mandate.

Mr. Zoran from North Macedonia proposes when FIDE has two solutions together on the same matter, the newest decision should be valid.

Mr. Dvorkovich admits that these two proposals should have been put together on the screen together.

Mr. Dvorkovich suggests to consider that both votings were completely legal and valid, and two different decisions have been taken by the majority. He suggests the FIDE Council would take further decisions on the events in consultation with the IOC that will be carried out as soon as possible. While there is a clear decision on youth admission, such Council's decision will concern only adults.

Mr. Makropoulos agrees that this is the only solution for the moment. He opines FIDE should not open a war with the IOC.

3.2 Other matters

Section 2 - Financial matters

2.1 Report of the FIDE Treasurer

Ms. Zhu presents her annual report.

She says that in line with FIDE long-standing commitment to transparency, the financial statement for year 2024 have once again been independently audited by Ernst & Young. FIDE financial team has consistently adhered to principles outlined in the FIDE Handbook, managing FIDE finances in a conservative manner to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of organization.

The year 2024 has been a period of exceptional achievement for chess worldwide. A series of landmark events have not only enlarged our global community, but also showcased the dynamic growth of our sport including Chess Olympiad in Hungary, the World Championship match in Singapore, Candidates tournament in Canada, World Rapid and Blitz team championship in Astana, Kazakhstan, and World Rapid and Blitz Championship in New York. FIDE 100 Anniversary was held as global celebrations worldwide, there were also World Senior Championship in Portugal, World Cadet Championships in Kazakhstan and Italy, World Junior Championship in India and so on. These events collectively generated a total income of 12.5 million euros, with associated total event operational cost of 10 million euros. These figures increase the global appearance and the commercial value of chess as well as our efficient and professional operational capabilities in organization major events, providing strong future of chess development guided by the principle of conservative financial management.

Ms. Zhu also outlines several challenges. FIDE is pleased to note that most of 2024 actual financial figures were largely in line with budget projections. However, we concluded the year with a shortage of 700 000 euros against the initial projected surplus. One of the reasons is that sponsorship income fell short of expectations. We were in advanced negotiations to establish a regional office in China, anticipating the local sponsorship of three million euros per year. Although this partnership did not materialize, FIDE Development Fund supported various programs for about 1.35 million euros, reflecting FIDE commitment to the global growth of chess.

Ms. Zhu made remarks about FIDE 2025 budget performance. She says it is balanced, and the current forecast indicates that the final result will be closely aligned with the planned financial targets. FIDE expected to conclude the year with a cash balance exceeding 5 million euros, while our reserve fund or net asset is projected to remain at a solid level of about 1.5 million euros. This marks the financial position as we emerge from the difficult year. Looking ahead, FIDE will continue to adhere to the conservative approach guided by the Handbook and enter the 2026 and 2027 cycle with renewed confidence and clear strategy.

Ms. Zhu extends gratitude to the FIDE President, all FIDE Council members, the Verification Commission and the colleagues in the Management Board for their continuous support and invaluable cooperation over the past year. She welcomes questions from the audience.

Mr. O'Connor asks about the explanation of why from the budgeted 3 mln euros in sponsorship there were only 166, 000 for 2024.

Ms. Zhu explains that this was due to the expected opening of the FIDE office in China which is still under the discussion, and this is the reason the budget was amended at the end of last year.

The General Assembly notes the Treasurer's report.

2.2 Verification Commission's report

Mr. Priest presents the Verification Commission's report.

He thanks Ms. Zhu and the FIDE office staff and the bookkeeping team, which have been very open with the Commission. He reminds that the delegates have elected the Commission to provide an independent oversight for FIDE finances, and three out of five Commission's members are new. The meeting of the Commission was held in Lausanne to see where FIDE operates from.

He adds that the Commission provides the guidance to the Auditors, and shares the concerns asking the auditors to look deeper in certain details. He is pleased to report that the Auditors team of Ernst & Young was unchanged but there will be a new team leader for 2025 financial year audit.

He addresses that the audit opinion issued by Ernst and Young is a clean opinion, it means they did not find anything that was materially different from the requirements of the Swiss law. This is the type of the opinion any organization wants their auditors to provide. The Auditors made some comments and concerns about the accounting system and accounts like they do every year. The Auditors found a few things that shall be adjusted, and those changes increased the 2024 income by 113,000 euros. Mr. Priest noted that the final version of FIDE 2024 financial statements has no uncorrected errors – meaning that all changes recommended by the Auditors have been accepted and relevant corrections have been made.

Mr. Priest noted several significant improvements implemented by FIDE financial team, first of all transition to a standard accounting system, which does not require special audit - therefore Ernst & Young is reducing their fee for 2025 as the amount of work decreased.

The Commission expresses concerns about documentation of criteria for employee bonuses. Some progress has been made over the last years, and some bonuses are well-stated, some are less so, so it is important to get those criteria in writing ahead of the year. Significant bonuses are paid to Events team for securing the events, and those are well-documented and are essentially commission-like rewards. Mr. Priest refers that Mr. Dvorkovich is in agreement with the Commission that getting key performance indicators in place would be a good thing, and he has also highlighted the difficulty of creating an objective system. The Commission recognizes the challenges but would still continue to encourage the FIDE management to do that.

Mr. Priest outlines another responsibility of the Verification Commission – namely, to make recommendations to the Council regarding suspension of member federations for non-performance of their financial obligations. Two federations were suspended last year, and one of them was re-admitted as a new body. The FIDE team made strong efforts to collect overdue fees from federations and early in 2026 the Commission will look at debtor federations and will see if any Federation should be recommended for suspension by the FIDE Council.

The general sponsorship line has not been achieved and has declined sharply from 2021 to 2024 as the emphasis has shifted to securing sponsorship for events rather than general donations. The concern is the significant amount which is put in the budget for sponsorship. The budget 2026-2027 has a reduced amount for general sponsorship and there are contracts in place to provide the substantial amount of this. The Verification Commission is aware that the easiest thing to cut is the Development Fund, as it was reduced in 2024 because there were insufficient funds, and this is a matter of concern for the Commission. The Commission would like to have it fully funded. The Commission is also concerned with growth of staff and recommends to do the staff review whether all positions are justified and it matches the financial capacity.

Mr. Priest reviewed some of the recommendations made by the Verification Commission last year, as well as FIDE management response to those recommendations. One of

recommendations was about proper recording of employees vacation days, as well as insuring that all employee-related taxes are duly paid in all jurisdictions. FIDE employees are scattered in many countries, where the laws, employment contracts and social security obligation are different. Vacation entitlements are also different in different countries. Ensuring compliance is hard to do but nonetheless necessary to eliminate tax and other risks for FIDE.

Mr. Priest said that one of the next items of General Assembly agenda is appointment of Ernst & Young as External Auditors, and the Verification Commission encourages delegates to vote in favour of this matter. The Auditors responsiveness has greatly improved over last few years. They are willing to work with FIDE and the Commission.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks Mr. Priest and agrees with the points described by him in the recommendations. Mr. Dvorkovich assures General Assembly that FIDE management will follow up on those recommendations and will work with the Verification Commission constructively. Regarding the concern of the sustainability of the financial model, Mr. Dvorkovich agrees that FIDE business model has indeed undergone significant changes. Currently the bulk of revenues is linked to the events in contrast with previous period about 10 years back when major revenues were coming from federations' fees. Given the popularity of FIDE events, FIDE is confident that the level of revenues will be the same or even higher in the next years. FIDE is also working on raising general-purpose donations but it is more difficult to attract such.

Mr. Priest adds that the Commission recognizes that it is difficult, but they insist that the budget should be more conservative and include only certain or extremely likely revenue items. Mr. Dvorkovich remarks that this approach was already followed during preparation of FIDE 2026-2027 budget.

The General Assembly approves the Verification Commission's report. In favour 101. Against 2. Abstentions 5. Total valid votes 103.

2.3 Discharge of the Treasurer

The General Assembly is requested to discharge the Treasurer from the responsibilities for the financial year 2024.

The General Assembly discharged the Treasurer from the responsibilities for the financial year 2024. In favour 95. Against 3. abstentions 4. Total valid votes 98.

2.4 Budget 2026-2027

The General Assembly is invited to approve the FIDE budget for the year 2026 and provisional FIDE budget for the year 2027.

Ms. Zhu presents the FIDE budget for 2026-2027.

Mr. Dvorkovich reiterates that more resources are produced by cooperation with the FIDE team and the local and the resources are spent on Development and social programmes.

Mr. Priest comments that this budget is more realistic in some ways, closer to reality. The drop in another income lines represents a projection in 2026. He explains that the two-year budget was made in accordance to the recommendations of the Verification Commission. He also mentions that the goal is to maintain net assets on the level of 2.5 mln euros.

The General Assembly approves the FIDE budget for the year 2026 and provisional FIDE budget for the year 2027. In favour 96. Against 4. Abstentions 2. Total valid votes 100.

The General Assembly approves the update of the Financial Rules regarding the maximum amount of rating fees paid by one federation and amend Article 1.6. Accordingly. In favour 86. Against 8. Abstentions 5. Total valid votes 94.

2.5 Appointment of the External Auditor for annual audit of FIDE accounts for 2025

The General Assembly approves the appointment of Ernst & Young as External Auditor for the annual audit of FIDE accounts for 2025. In favour 92. Against 3. Abstentions 5. Total valid votes 95.

Section 4 - Administrative matters

4.1 Changes in the FIDE Handbook

Mr. Martynov presents the proposal regarding Federation's Presidents and delegates. He explains that the current version of the Charter allows Presidents and delegates to be neither citizens nor residents of the respective Federation, provided they have at least one year of experience as an office holder of that Federation. The proposal is to remove this exception. The recommendation of the FIDE Council is to approve this proposal.

He also presents a second proposal in respect of a few technical amendments to the Electoral Rules.

Mr. Rivello presents the proposed By-Laws under art. 7.4 of FIDE Charter, regarding clarification of the interpretation of art. 13.7 of the Charter.

Mr. Carbonnell asks why the amendment regarding the new Federation should be introduced.

Mr. Rivello provides the explanations.

Mr. Priest adds that if this change is not made, the Burkina Faso Federation won't be eligible to vote in 2026, if it is made, the Federation will be eligible to vote in 2026.

Ms. Barnes from the British Virgin Islands asks what is the advisory opinion about the appointing of the reverse delegate.

Mr. Rivello replies.

4.1.1 The FIDE Council's proposal regarding the FIDE Charter.

To amend Art 17.6 of the FIDE Charter providing stricter requirements for presidents and Delegates of Member Federations. In favour 88. Against 8. Abstentions 6. Total valid votes 96.

4.1.2 The FIDE Council's proposal regarding the FIDE Electoral Rules.

To amend art 3.2. of the FIDE Electoral Rules on voting rights of new Member Federations. In favour 86. Against 10. Abstentions 4. Total valid votes 96.

To amend Art.3.7. and 3.8. of the FIDE Electoral Rules on admission of election complaints. In favour 92. Against 4. Abstentions 5. Total valid votes 96.

To amend Art 27.1. of the FIDE Electoral Rules on holding early Continental Elections. In favour 89. Against 8. Abstentions 5. Total valid votes 97.

4.1.3 The FIDE Council's proposal regarding By-laws under art. 7.4 of FIDE Charter, regarding clarification of the interpretation of art. 13.7 of the Charter.

To approve By-laws regarding clarification of the interpretation of art. 13.7 of the FIDE Charter as suggested by the FIDE Constitutional Commission. In favour 91. Against 2. Abstentions 8. Total valid votes 93.

Section 5 - FIDE Calendar

5.1 FIDE tournaments 2025/2029

Mr. Dvorkovich presents the FIDE Calendar 2026-2027 and calls on National Federations, zones, and Continents to have an intensive dialogue with FIDE in order to avoid overlapping of the dates with the Continental tournaments especially, as it is very critical to FIDE work. He informs of a potential agreement with Freestyle Company, regarding Fischer Random Championship, as there is a dialogue right now, and adds that another second very important activity is the launch of the World School Team Championship, together with the International School Chess Championship led by Mr. Turlov, so next year there will be first continental events, then a final Championship, which is a key event in the Year of the Education of Chess.

Section 6 - Continental Associations

6.1 Report of Continental Association for Europe

Mr. Azmaiparashvili informs that he believes that the ECU will have very good year of 2026, and they are planning to have an announcement about the sponsors who will bring chess in Europe on a different level.

6.2 Report of Continental Association for Americas

In the absence of Mr. Carillo, Mr. E. Celi informs that much work has been done in the Americas in various areas. In the year of social chess, the Continent has supported many projects through an initiative that has brought a very positive initiative in several countries of the continent. He informs that at least 25 projects were supported through our diversity commissions.

They have also participated in the online championship for incarcerated individuals and have encouraged other countries to participate. Looking ahead to the next year designated by the FIDE for chess education, we are participating with FIDE in global projects and have also supported EISCF initiative for 2025. We have continued to support major promoters and educational chess in the Federations of the Continent.

He adds that the Preparation of Teachers seminars have also been very active on the continent generating new lecturers and significant and the tournament calendar has been completed in its entirety. He also reports they have had a great deal of participation, especially in Peru after the Pan-American games, as well as the respective continental games in Mexico and Brazil and also there had been a great deal of participation in our regionals and category tournaments. The Continent has hosted a world tournament with a great deal of responsibility and regional support and demonstrated that they can organize this tournament for FIDE and for this president and his team should be praised.

6.3 Report of Continental Association for Asia

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks Sheikh Sultan for his leadership in Asia, the whole team, as well as all continental presidents.

But again, we'll know how much work has been done by Mr. Casto Abundo, both in FIDE and Asian chess federation in particular during the last years.

And I think it's an appropriate moment before we close General Assembly to see the video prepared for the memory of Mr. Abundo. The video about Mr. Abundo is played.

6.4 Report of Continental Association for Africa

Ms. Lopang informs that the Continental Calendar for 2025 has been successfully fulfilled and they will integrate the 2026 Calendar to avoid clashes with the FIDE Calendar.

Mr. Dvorkovich thanks all Continental Presidents for their work.

Section 7 - Miscellaneous

7.1 FIDE Awards

The General Assembly approves the FIDE Awards. In favour 93. Against 2. Abstentions 3. Total valid votes 95.

7.2 Year 2026 the Year of Chess in Education

Ms. Reizniece outlines the activities for 2026 and says the Year of Chess in Education 2026 is a natural and strategic step towards the FIDE goal to double the number of children and teachers engaged in school chess.

The results of the 2021 Global Survey showed that more than 25 million children and more than 300 000 teachers are engaged in school chess. Chess is already appreciated as a modern tool of contemporary education.

So the purpose of 2026 is to expand the reach, scale the impact, improve the quality of and strengthen institutional recognition in close cooperation with federations, zones, continents and other partners like the International School Chess Federation as FIDE's new and strong partner in this mission.

7.3 Other matters

Closure

Mr. Dvorkovich announces that the Agenda has been exhausted. He says it was not an easy General Assembly and even more work lays ahead. He wishes everybody a happy festive season and best regards to families and let's enjoy chess going forward. He thanks the FIDE Office for the organisation of the meeting.