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Attn.: FIDE General Assembly

Dear Members of the FIDE General Assembly,

As you are certainly aware, restrictive measures imposed by the FIDE Council with reference to participation of players from Russia and Belarus have been in force for more than three years already. The matter was already discussed at the 2024 General Assembly, where a majority of members expressed the view that FIDE should follow the approach of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

We understand the position and would like to emphasize that, as repeatedly underlined by the IOC, **the issues of fair participation and proportionate eligibility measures fall within the competence of each international federation**. At the same time, the IOC focused on the safety of the competition and the absence of any incidents and risks in this regard.

Russian players have continued to compete individually in almost all major FIDE events, such as World Cup, Grand Swiss, World Rapid and Blitz Championships etc. Over the past three years, **no incidents related to the competitions have been recorded**, which confirms that the IOC criteria have been met.

We further recall that international sports regulations, as interpreted by CAS and other bodies, provide no basis for collective or nationality-based sanctions. Any disciplinary measures, if necessary, should be individual and targeted, applied in accordance with due process.

At the same time, it is very important to note that over the past year, significant progress in full accordance with the IOC position has been made in terms of participation of Russian athletes.

FIDE allowed Russian and Belarussian players from the vulnerable groups to participate in the team events (see <https://www.fide.com/fide-statement-on-participation-of-neutral-athletes-from-vulnerable-groups-in-team-events/>).

Accordingly junior players from both countries took part in the World Youth Chess Olympiad in Colombia (see <https://www.fide.com/world-youth-chess-olympiad-u-16-concludes-in-barranquilla-colombia/>) and in the World School Team Championship in Washington (<https://www.fide.com/velammal-mhs-school-india-takes-gold-at-2025-world-schools-team-championship/>).

No incidents were recorded as well.

At July 2025 the decision regarding women players' participation in World Women Teams Championship was approved by the FIDE Council (<https://www.fide.com/fide-council-meeting-held-in-batumi-georgia/>).

These steps have been positively received and are fully consistent with recent IOC recommendations and were formally supported by the IOC (non-objection letters) in both cases.

We would like to draw the delegates' special attention to the International Paralympic Committee decision adopted by the IPC' General Assembly. **This decision has lifted restrictions**



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of any kind (see <https://www.paralympic.org/news/ipc-members-vote-not-maintain-npc-belarus-and-npc-russia-s-partial-suspensions>).

At the same time, there are many positive examples of various sports federations allowing participation of athletes from Russia and Belarus in team competitions. Among such federations are:

- Water sports (World Aquatics). Starting from 18 November 2024 athletes from Russia and Belarus can join team events.

(<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1150173/world-aquatics-lifts-ban-russia-athletes>)

- Fencing. It is allowed to participate in team competitions at FIE tournaments (World Cup, World Championships) for Russian and Belarusian athletes.

(<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1153269/russian-fencers-return-as-neutral-team>)

- Judo. The International Judo Federation has allowed athletes from Russia and Belarus to participate in team competitions. Russian athletes (under neutral flag) participated in the 2025 World Judo Championship

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_World_Judo_Championships_%E2%80%93_Mixed_team)

- Rowing (World Rowing). World Rowing allowed Russians and Belarussians to participate in crews with 2 and 4 participants (<https://worldrowing.com/2025/03/11/participation-of-neutral-athletes-holding-russian-and-belarusian-passports-at-2025-world-rowing-events/>).

- Canoe. The International Canoe Federation has allowed Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete in team competitions

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2024_ICF_Canoe_Sprint_World_Championships)

Given this progress, the Chess Federation of Russia believes it would be appropriate for the General Assembly to review the current situation and provide, in accordance with the art. 17.2 (h) of the FIDE Charter, the updated guidance in connection to the current situation.

We would suggest the following draft decision for the General Assembly approval:

- The General Assembly reaffirms its support for the approach taken by the FIDE Council in implementing IOC recommendations and previous Assembly decisions.
- The General Assembly instructs the FIDE Council to ensure full participation of national teams representing the Chess Federations of Russia and Belarus in all FIDE competitions, starting from the 2026 competition cycle, including the 2026 Chess Olympiad.
- The General Assembly instructs the FIDE Council to restore the use of national symbols (flag, anthem, etc.) of the both federations in line with the current IPC approach.

With respectful regards,

Andrey Filatov
CFR President

