



CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION

SAMARKAND – 20 SEPTEMBER 2026

REPORT

The Constitutional Commission (hereafter, the CC), whose members are Ivy Claire Amoko, Marouane Tabti, Ian Wilkinson, and its Chairman Roberto Rivello, held a meeting in Samarkand on 20 September 2026 to discuss the following agenda items:

- Examination of the proposed amendments to the FIDE Charter and other FIDE rules included under items 5.1 et seq. in the agenda of the General Assembly.
- Examination of the cases received, advisory opinions requested by the Council, clarification of the respective competences of the Constitutional Commission, the Electoral Commission, and the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission.
- Internal Rules of the Constitutional Commission.
- Any other business.
- Summary of the decisions.

During the first part, organised as an open session, the meeting was also attended by the following participants: J. O'Connor, L. Mazouz, G. Wastell, N. Short, E. Guipi Bopala, A. Priest, M. Carlton, P. van Hoolandt, R. Kairbekov, A. Raghunauth, TanyaW Clemont, A. Schuering, A. Shulman, R. Katende, A. Herbert, C. Zhu, P. Harthe, P. Berkenveld, D.D. Ciprian, A. Samzu, K. Bonham, M. Fierro, A. Martynov.

All decisions were taken in the second part of the meeting, in a session restricted to the members of the Commission.

After a detailed and comprehensive discussion of all the above-mentioned issues, the CC decided to express its opinions in the following terms.

1) Proposal to amend Art. 11 of the FIDE Charter

The Council proposes the following amendment to Article 11 of the FIDE Charter:

a new Article 11 s) as follows “ensure that all directors and officers of the Member Federation, and all other persons holding any other executive management position(s) within the Member Federation, shall be registered with FIDE such that their nationality or territory stipulated within their individual FIDE ID corresponds to the nation or territory of that Member Federation.

The Council indicates that the purpose of the proposed new Article 11(s) is to uphold and strengthen the important principle that national federations should be run by nationals, or residents, of that country. It seeks to prevent the infiltration and exploitation of national federations for political, or pecuniary purposes, by foreign actors. Furthermore, given that FIDE IDs are often used to determine membership, and therefore voting rights, in smaller federations, this proposed amendment also seeks to end the not uncommon, but potentially dangerous and undemocratic practice of using foreign rating officers.

The CC observes that, given the current wording of this proposal, there is a risk that this new “obligation” for Member Federations could, on the one hand, go beyond the Council’s intentions (for example, the appointment of a GM from another national federation as Technical Director or Head of Trainers would become prohibited), and could also be in conflict with certain national or international legal systems (for example, the legal order of the European Union). The Council or the General Assembly may wish to consider different wording.

[After the meeting, the Council delegated Mr. Nigel Short and Mr. A. Martynov to redraft the proposal, in accordance with the CC indications: a new text was proposed, as follows:

“11(s): ensure that all directors and officers of the Member Federation to be listed in the FIDE Directory, including rating officers, shall be registered with FIDE such that their nationality or territory stipulated within their individual FIDE ID corresponds to the nation or territory of that Member Federation”.

About this new proposal, the CC has no observations].

2) Proposals to amend the FIDE Charter – Arts. 18/23

The Council proposes the following amendments to Articles 18/23 of the FIDE Charter (hereafter indicated in **bold**, as reconstructed by the CC).

Art. 18 The President

18.1 The President represents FIDE officially.

18.2 The President shall aim to foster a positive image of FIDE and to ensure that FIDE'S mission, strategic direction, policies and values, as defined by the General Assembly and by the Council, are protected and advanced.

18.3 The President shall seek to maintain and develop good relations between and among FIDE Member Federations, Affiliated Members, International Olympic Committee, other International Sports Federations, political bodies and international organisations.

18.4 The President is the only one who can sign documents and contracts and assume obligations for FIDE (**unless otherwise provided in this Charter**). However, he (**the President**) can delegate other members of the Council or of the Management Board to sign on his behalf, especially regarding everyday payments, minor contracts and obligations, in accordance with Management Board Internal Rules (~~in accordance with Management Board Internal Rules~~). The President can also delegate other specific tasks to the Deputy President, to the Treasurer, or to other members of the Council or of the Management Board.

18.5 The President chairs the meetings of the General Assembly -except in case of Presidential elections, when the electoral phase of the meeting is chaired in accordance with Electoral Rules- and of the Zonal Council, without voting rights.

18.6 The President presents an annual report to the General Assembly.

18.7 The President presides over meetings of the Council, he shall have one vote in the Council. In the event of a tie in voting, the President decides.

18.8 The President presides over meetings of the Management Board. Decisions of the Management Board should be taken by consensus. If there is no consensus, the President's vote shall be deciding. (~~The President presides over meetings of the Management Board. Decisions of the Management Board should be taken by consensus. If there is no consensus, the President's vote shall be deciding~~ / The President attends meetings of the Management Board and participates in discussions and deliberations on matters considered by the Management Board.)

18.9 In accordance with the Internal Rules of the Council and with the Financial Rules, the contracts signed by the President and the decisions taken by the President or by the Management Board shall be subject, in some cases, to prior approval or subsequent ratification by the Council or just communicated to the Council. When approval or ratification is requested, it may not be denied by the Council without due reasons and evidence confirming either lack of good faith or FIDE benefit.

18.10 The President (**or if mandated, Chair of Management Board,**) decides the structure and the composition of FIDE Offices, hires and dismisses FIDE employees, appoints Directors and terminates their powers, appoints other officials in the manner prescribed by the Charter.

18.11 The President's decisions are immediately applicable and mandatory, they may be appealed to the Council - when established by the Internal Rules of the Council- and to the General Assembly.

Art. 19 The Deputy President

19.1 The Deputy President is the principal assistant of the President and shall perform any function the President may assign to him or her.

19.2 If the President is temporarily prevented from performing official functions, the Deputy President shall assume the powers and responsibilities of the President.

19.3 If the President is permanently incapacitated or has been temporarily substituted for a period longer than 6 months, the Council must convene new elections in the General Assembly that has to be organised in the year of next Chess Olympiad, and the mandate of all members of the Council is concluded after them.

Art. 20 The Council

20.1 The Council is the strategic and oversight body of FIDE, it has executive and legislative functions and exercises the powers listed below.

20.2 The Council: a) approves and modifies, by a two-thirds majority of votes, Procedural Rules of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission, of the Fair Play Commission and of the Arbiters' Disciplinary Committee; b) approves and modifies, by a two-thirds majority of votes, Regulations concerning general rules about tournaments, titles and ratings; c) approves and modifies other Regulations and Recommendations; d) defines FIDE's mission, strategic direction and policies, in particular with regard to the organisation and development of chess at worldwide level and all related matters; e) approves the draft of the FIDE budget and can propose amendments; f) in accordance with its Internal Rules, approves President's proposals about the composition of the Management Board; g) in accordance with its Internal Rules, approves or ratifies all FIDE contracts worth more than 150.000,00 euros; h) in accordance with its Internal Rules, in some other specific cases approves, ratifies or is just informed about the decisions taken by the President and the Management Board; i) supervises the activities of non-elected Commissions, which must submit to the Council their reports, twice per year. j) resolves on all matters not otherwise and explicitly reserved to another body by this Charter

*20.3. The Council is composed of: a) the President; b) the Deputy President; c) the Treasurer; d) the Secretary of the Council (~~d) the Secretary of the Council;~~) e) 7 (~~7~~ 8) Vice Presidents; f) the 4 Presidents of FIDE Continents; **(g) up to 5 Honorary Vice-Presidents.)***

20.4 The Council may invite current FIDE World Champion and Women's World Champion to its meetings with the right to an advisory vote, in accordance with its Internal Rules.

(20.4.1. Upon the proposal of the FIDE President, the Council may appoint up to 5 Honorary vice-presidents who participate in the work of the Council with all the rights of the Council members, except for the right to vote. A principle of the gender balance has to be observed when appointing the Honorary Vice-Presidents, i.e., at least one representative of each gender has to be appointed if the overall number of the Honorary Vice-Presidents exceed 2 (two).)

20.5 During their term of office, members of the Council who, in addition, represent their Member Federation and/or their Continent or Zone in the General Assembly, must clearly distinguish their different functions when they express their opinions during the meetings and must always be guided by the best general interest of FIDE. Fiduciary duties to FIDE by members of the Council include the duty of care and the duty of loyalty.

20.6 No more than one representative from the same Member Federation may serve on the Council simultaneously. This rule does not apply for Presidents of FIDE Continents.

20.7 The Council, if not otherwise provided, makes its decisions by simple majority. The quorum shall be 50% of the voting members. These quorum requirements apply also

to absentee voting. If Charter requires a two-thirds majority, the said majority shall be calculated from the quorum specified in this paragraph.

20.8 The Council should meet at least once every four months. In addition, the President may at any time convene the Council for consultation in person or tele or online conference.

20.9 The agenda of the meetings, as well as the relevant documents, shall reach members at least one week before the meeting. Any other item may be excluded from discussion. Commissions' reports must be received two weeks before the meetings, twice per year. The final minutes shall be distributed to members of the Council no later than one month after a meeting is closed. FIDE will publish the agenda and decisions on the FIDE web site, together with Commissions' reports.

20.10 The Chairman (~~Chairman~~/ Chairperson) of the Verification Commission and the Chairman (~~Chairman~~ / Chairperson) of the Constitutional Commission shall be invited to the Council meetings to assist the Council, in their respective competences, giving advisory opinions. They will also have the duty to report to their Commissions on alleged violations of the existing regulations, if any.

20.11 The members of the Council will not receive any fees for their participation in the meetings and for their voluntary activities for FIDE, they will just be reimbursed of their expenses.

Art. 21 The Treasurer

21.1 The Treasurer is responsible for the financial resources of FIDE, for the good financial standing of FIDE, to safeguard FIDE's finances, acting always in accordance with Financial Rules.

21.2 FIDE financial resources accrue from membership fees, entry fees for participation in FIDE's competitions or tournaments, contributions for services rendered or rights granted by FIDE to members or to third parties, sponsorships, charitable donations and other contributions.

21.3 In strict co-operation with the Council, the Management Board and with designated staff competent on financial matters, the Treasurer ensures that appropriate financial systems and controls are in place, that record-keeping and accounts meet the conditions of Financial Rules and relevant national and international legislation, oversees budgets, accounts and financial statements. The Treasurer co-operates with the Verification Commission and can be invited to participate in their meetings. The Treasurer can be delegated by the President to sign contracts and make payments.

21.4 The Treasurer reports to the General Assembly and to the Council on the status of FIDE's finances and on the budget, acts as an advisor on financial matters for the President and for the Council, clarifying financial impacts of proposals, to ensure checks and balances.

Art. 22 The Secretary of the Council (~~The Secretary of the Council,~~) The Vice Presidents and the Continental Presidents

22.1 The Secretary of the Council aids the President and the Council in the accomplishment of their tasks (~~22.1 The Secretary of the Council aids the President and the Council in the accomplishment of their tasks.~~)

22.2 The Secretary of the Council is responsible for the contacts with the Management Board, co-operating with the Management Board in the maintenance of the FIDE Calendar, in the organisation of the meetings both of the Council and of the General Assembly, and in the recording of the minutes (~~22.2 The Secretary of the Council is responsible for the contacts with the Management Board, co-operating with the Management Board in the maintenance of the FIDE Calendar, in the organisation of the meetings both of the Council and of the General Assembly, and in the recording of the minutes.~~)

22.1 (ex 22.3) The Vice President who received the most votes in the election chairs the Council, in case of absence of the President and of the Deputy President.

22.2 (ex 22.4) The Vice Presidents, following a proposal of the President, confirmed by the Council, are in charge of specific tasks, mainly related to the supervision of Non-Elected Commissions, regularly liaising with their Chairmen (~~Chairmen~~ / Chairpersons), analysing and presenting their reports and proposals to the Council.

22.3 (ex 22.5) The Continental Presidents liaise with Continents and Zones, updating the Council about their activities and initiatives.

Art. 23 The Management Board

23.1 The Management Board is the executive, operational and administrative body that assists the President in the day-to-day management of FIDE activities (~~assists the President in the day-to-day management of FIDE activities~~ / oversees the day-to-day management of FIDE activities) and implements specific mandates (according to the Charter and additionally) given by the President and the Council.

23.2 The Management Board is composed of: a) the President (~~the President~~ / the Chairperson of the Management Board); b) a minimum of two other members of the Council (~~a minimum two other members of the Council~~ / other FIDE officials and directors); c) other FIDE officials, directors or employees (~~e) other FIDE officials, directors or employees.~~)

23.3 The composition of the Management Board, (and the appointment of its members / appointment and dismissal of Chairperson of the Management Board and members) are approved by (the Council / the qualified majority of the FIDE Council), following President's proposals. (Members of the Council may also be appointed as Members of the Management Board if such appointment is justified by qualification of the member and does not create a conflict of interests.)

23.4 The Management Board: a) manages ordinary activities and resources; b) coordinates current activities of officials, Commission, offices and employees; c) implements decisions and reaches objectives set by the President and the Council; d) monitors and supervises the implementation of decisions and progresses towards objectives set by the President and the Council; e) provides drafts budget for the Council and recommendations on budget amendments if required; f) supervises implementation of the budget, determines reasons for overspending and for any other deviation from approved estimates; g) resolves labour conflicts; h) approves contracts in accordance with Internal Rules; (i) organizes and conducts all official FIDE events.)

(23.4.1. The Chairperson of the Management Board shall oversee the aforesaid activities of the Management Board, which include the power to sign contracts, supervision of event organisation, negotiation on behalf of FIDE, and the official representation of FIDE as per the mandate provided by the Council.)

23.5 (The President and the Management Board can appoint experts and advisors to advise and assist them in fulfilling their duties. / The Management Board can appoint experts and advisors to advise and assist them in fulfilling their duties.)

23.6 Management Board's decisions may be appealed to the Council and to the General Assembly.

The CC recalls that, only a few years ago, the abolition of “Honorary Vice Presidents” was one of the main tasks included in the mandate assigned to the Commission charged with drafting the new FIDE Charter, and for good reasons. The proposed reintroduction of up to five Honorary Vice Presidents seems clearly contrary to the *rationale* of the structure of the Council introduced by the current FIDE Charter. It does not appear to be motivated by real needs and could be regarded, at least, as being motivated by political or electoral reasons. It would entail significant additional costs without improving the efficiency of the FIDE Council, and would weaken the relevance of the Vice Presidents who does not represent the “majority” that expressed the Presidential ticket, whereas the *rationale* of the system for electing Vice Presidents introduced by the FIDE Charter was to ensure a balance among different positions.

The proposed changes concerning the Management Board also raise doubts. Some of them could be included in the Management Board’s Internal Rules, without amending the Charter, while the most relevant ones seem to indicate not only that non-elected persons may exercise a major role in a “new” Management Board, as is already the case and is fully reasonable, but also that they may exercise a more significant role than elected persons and that, in practice, the Management Board would have a large part of the functions which, under the current structure of the Charter, fall within the competence of the Council. In the proposed new composition, the Council would be too large to be the body effectively entrusted with “executive powers” in FIDE. The abolition of the Secretary of the Council seems to move in the same direction: if the problem was the title, or the fact that in recent years the Secretary was not in practice recognised as having the very important role assigned by the Charter, a better solution could be to change the title (for instance, to “Secretary General” or “Executive Vice President”, or something similar) and to specify the functions more clearly.

The proposed changes replacing “chairman” with “chairperson” are fully correct.

3) Proposal to amend Art. 3.6 of the FIDE Electoral Rules

The Council proposes the following amendment to Article 3.6 of the FIDE Electoral Rules, adding the following paragraph:

“Sixty (60) days before the opening date of the General Assembly, each Member Federation may communicate to the FIDE Office, at office@fide.com, the name of its FIDE Delegate’s counsellor. After the sixty (60)-day deadline, a Member Federation that

has not communicated the name of a FIDE Delegate's counsellor may not nominate a FIDE Delegate's counsellor. Until thirty (30) days before the opening date of the General Assembly, a Member Federation that has previously communicated the name of its FIDE Delegate's counsellor may communicate the name of a different counsellor, replacing the previously nominated FIDE Delegate's counsellor. Communications received after the applicable deadlines will not be taken into account".

The CC fully agrees with this proposal.

4) Proposals to amend Arts. 5.6 or 5.7 of the FIDE Charter

The Francophone Chess Association – AIDEF made an initial proposal for a "New Article 5.6 – Institutional designation of FIDE In FIDE's official institutional presentations, whenever the full name of FIDE is displayed together with the acronym FIDE, its seal, flag or emblem, the English and French designations shall be used jointly in the following form: International Chess Federation / Fédération Internationale des Échecs. This bilingual presentation shall apply in particular to:– the official FIDE website;– official letterhead and document templates;– institutional email signatures and electronic correspondence templates;– annual reports, brochures and institutional publications;– documents, invitations and presentations relating to FIDE Congresses and General Assemblies;– official presentations, press kits and media materials;– banners, backdrops and signage used at official FIDE events;– FIDE's institutional presentation pages on digital platforms and social media"

The Council recommended that the General Assembly reject this proposal.

The AIDEF then modified its proposal as follows:

"Article 5.7 – Institutional designation of FIDE. Whenever FIDE displays its full institutional name in a visual identity block together with the acronym FIDE, its seal, flag or emblem, the English and French designations shall be used jointly in the following form: International Chess Federation / Fédération Internationale des Échecs".

The AIDEF specified that this provision would concern exclusively the display of FIDE's institutional name. It would not amend the status of English established under Article 6.1 and would not create any obligation to translate into French the content of FIDE documents, webpages, regulations, decisions, minutes, contracts, correspondence, publications or other communications. Existing materials may continue to be used until they are replaced or updated as part of the ordinary renewal of FIDE's institutional materials.

Within these new limits, in the opinion of the CC, the proposal is not in conflict with other FIDE rules.

5) Other proposals to amend the FIDE Handbook

The German, Icelandic, Norwegian and Faroe Islands Chess Federations, together with the Irish Chess Union, made a proposal regarding the introduction of the Chess960 FIDE rating.

The Icelandic Chess Federation made a proposal regarding Fast Standard time limits.

These proposals concern technical matters; the CC has no observations.

The Netherlands Chess Federation submitted a proposal regarding the inclusion of the gender designation “X” in the FIDE Rating Database.

The CC observes that different Member Federations have taken different decisions on this issue, and merely recalls the existence of significant differences among binding national laws on this subject matter.

Proposals regarding the FIDE Transfer Regulations and Rules of Eligibility for Players were submitted by the Monaco and Syrian Chess Federations.

The CC observes that the individual rights of players must be respected and that transfers must not be made practically impossible; any other solution or regulation remains possible.

6) Clarification of the respective competences of the Constitutional Commission, the Electoral Commission, and the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission

The CC recalls recent reports of the EDC and illustrated to the participants in the meeting the different competences of these FIDE Commissions, both in electoral years and in non-electoral years.

7) The cases of the Seychelles Chess Federation, the Central African Chess Federation and the Ecuador Chess Federation

The CC notes that, in these three cases (with regard to the first one, the Council requested a CC advisory opinion; with regard to the other two cases, the Electoral Commission, in one of its reports, mentioned the existence of a conflict among different persons or associations presenting themselves as the legitimate representatives), there are still conflicting documents and allegations that require a deeper investigation. The CC therefore advises the Council to appoint a neutral and independent person, assigning him or her a fact-finding mandate, recommending that this person be in direct contact with the CC and report to the CC.

8) Internal Rules of the Constitutional Commission

In accordance with the Charter, each FIDE body may approve Internal Rules concerning its functioning.

However, given the relevance of the competences and functions attributed to the Constitutional Commission, especially in close co-operation with and assistance to the Council, it seems appropriate, if not necessary, to request the Council’s and General Assembly’s preliminary *consensus* on the following points.

In its Internal Rules, the CC would intend to include:

- A more precise indication about bodies and persons entitled to request CC advisory opinions / decisions, and their legitimization;
- The new provision of a “Secretary” of the CC, acting also as Secretary of the Electoral Commission in electoral years, a person with juridical and organisational background who can help the activities of the CC;

- Specific rules regarding the registration of the requests and cases;
- Procedural rules applicable in the different cases, regarding the different competences;
- Specific rules regarding the organisation of online meetings: time limits for the answers by the Components of the Commission; consensus in case of no answer;
- Reporting. Possibility of dissenting or individual opinions
- The co-operation with FIDE Offices regarding FIDE Handbook
- The definition of “inactive for a period of 6 months or longer” of a member of the Commission.
- Substitution in case of temporary inability of the Chairperson.

9) Publication on the FIDE website of the Member Federation Statutes and their English translation

As discussed during the meeting, following a proposal by some participants, the CC strongly recommends making public, on the FIDE website, the Member Federations’ Statutes and their translations in English. FIDE Offices could first ask all Member Federations whether there are any obstacles to such publication in their national legal systems, and, if so, what those obstacles are; in the absence of a reply or of justified reasons, the Statutes and translations should be made public.

Samarkand, 20 September 2026

The Constitutional Commission