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CHESS FEDERATION

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To The FIDE Offices

Dear Mesdames, dear Sirs,

Acting on behalf of Armenian Chess Federation, I respectfully request that the following matter be included in the agenda of the FIDE General Assembly.

On 10 June 2026, the FIDE Council recognised the membership of the Chess Federation of Russia (CFR) as temporarily suspended following its review of the implementation of the award rendered in CAS 2024/A/10911. Under Article 26.10 of the FIDE Charter, that temporary exclusion remains subject to the final vote of the General Assembly.

Our Federation fully respects the authority of the Court of Arbitration for Sport and does not invite the General Assembly to reopen the findings made in the Award. The question now before the FIDE membership is a different one: whether the broad institutional consequences of temporary exclusion should be confirmed, in light of their practical effect upon chess and the developments that have occurred since the Award was rendered.

The conduct addressed by the CAS Award concerns a defined territorial and regulatory issue. The consequences of suspension, however, extend far beyond that issue. They remove the CFR's membership rights, exclude its officials and national teams from FIDE activities, and create a special status for a very large community of players, arbiters, trainers and organisers whose daily chess activity has no connection with the matter decided by CAS.

The preservation of individual participation is welcome, but it does not eliminate the collective impact. Chess is not practised only by isolated individuals. National teams, youth delegations, coaches, arbiters and federation officials are part of the sporting structure through which players reach international competition. To remove that structure while attempting to preserve selected individual pathways produces uncertainty and unequal treatment rather than a stable solution.

FIDE's mission is to develop chess among all nations, strengthen the unity of national federations and promote harmony and peace. These objectives are best served when chess remains a meeting place between people, including at moments when relations between states are difficult. Exclusion from the chess community does not resolve an armed conflict, determine a territorial dispute or improve the position of any person affected by it. It merely transfers political division into sport.

The experience of FIDE itself shows that participation can be organised without compromising the orderly conduct of competitions. The wider sporting context has also materially changed. On 7 July 2026, the International Olympic Committee provisionally lifted the suspension of the Russian Olympic Committee.

These developments do not mechanically determine FIDE's decision. They do, however, remove the principal external sporting policy on which restrictions of this nature had previously been justified. FIDE is therefore entitled - and, in our view, obliged - to make its own assessment in accordance with the interests of chess, the equality of its members and the present sporting circumstances.

In that assessment, a continued requirement that adult players or teams compete under a neutral or FIDE identity would preserve a visible form of unequal treatment after the underlying international recommendations have ceased to apply. It would also create an unnecessary distinction between youth and adult players representing the same federation.

For these reasons, our Federation proposes:

1. The General Assembly declines to confirm the temporary exclusion from membership of the Chess Federation of Russia recognised by the FIDE Council on 10 June 2026, and the suspension shall cease upon the adoption of this decision.
2. The Chess Federation of Russia shall be fully restored in all rights of a Member Federation under Article 10 of the FIDE Charter.
3. Russian players and teams shall be admitted to FIDE competitions on the same terms as players and teams of other Member Federations, subject only to the rules of general application governing the relevant event.


Serzh Sargsyan
 President
 Armenian Chess Federation

