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FIDE Offices

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Annex 1.1.1.4

Managua, July 22, 2026

Ref.: Current situation of the Chess Federation of Russia – proposal for inclusion on the Agenda of the General Assembly.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with Art. 17.11 of the FIDE Charter, I hereby respectfully request that the following matter be included for debate and decision by the FIDE General Assembly, scheduled for September 26 and 27, 2026.

As you all know, on June 10, 2026, the FIDE Council adopted a decision regarding the execution of CAS Award 10911, which sanctioned the Chess Federation of Russia (CFR) with a three-year suspension, provided that the CFR continues to "fail to comply" with the FIDE Charter and Regulations. However, this sanction remains subject to the decision of the General Assembly.

While nothing expressed in this letter should be interpreted as an objection to the authority of the CAS to resolve chess-related matters in strict accordance with the FIDE Charter, I would like to draw your attention to the circumstances set forth below.

In our opinion, these circumstances should justify not only the General Assembly's decision not to accept the suspension, but also a general modification of the regulatory framework regarding the sanctions that may be imposed on national chess federations.

First of all, although tragic, some parts of the world are always in a state of armed conflict. Nevertheless, the main task of those dedicated to sport, and to chess in particular, is to promote chess and its values.

To achieve this goal, I believe that all players, coaches, and other individuals must be admitted to competitions without unjustified restrictions and must not be held responsible, even indirectly, for the actions of their governments.

Restrictions, on the other hand, do not promote chess. They only increase tensions among members of the FIDE family and do not contribute in any way to reaching a peace agreement or any other solution to armed conflicts between States.

I am also concerned that the application of such sports sanctions may be unfairly selective. As I have noted, armed conflicts are extremely tragic events, yet constant in the world. Even now, at this very moment, there are many of them: in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

If we punish—let us put it clearly: whatever name the regulations give them, whether "sports sanctions," "restrictions," or "protective measures," these are punishments against a specific

group of people and organizations by reason of their nationality—we are following a perception of events conditioned by States and politics. I am by no means certain that this complies with the requirement of political neutrality established in the FIDE Charter and the Olympic Charter.

Secondly, recent events in the sports world itself have reinforced my conviction that restrictions related to a specific national federation do not align with Olympic values.

In particular, on July 7, 2026, the International Olympic Committee decided to provisionally lift the suspension of the Russian Olympic Committee and noted that "its recommended conditions of participation for International Federations (IFs) and international sports event organizers of February 28, 2022, and March 28, 2023, insofar as they relate to Russian athletes and teams, including protective measures, have ceased to be applicable."

This notable shift in the IOC's position confirms that "full" participation of Russian teams and athletes, including the use of national symbols, is possible.

Furthermore, I observe that shortly after the aforementioned IOC decision, the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) admitted Russian teams and athletes with full status, which was evidently done with due regard to the IOC's position.

In light of the above, and with all due respect to the CAS Award and the decision of the FIDE Council, I believe both should be reviewed by the General Assembly.

If the honorable Assembly continues to consider that the Chess Federation of Russia committed infractions, this should not result in a loss of rights for the federation, but should instead be translated into a fine.

Moreover, in my view, the very concept of "suspension" is unnecessary to maintain proper order in chess.

Therefore, I respectfully request that this letter be considered a proposal to include on the agenda of the General Assembly the debate of the issues raised and the adoption of the following decisions:

1. The decision of the FIDE Council of June 10, 2026, regarding the suspension of the Chess Federation of Russia, is annulled.
2. The sanction imposed on the Chess Federation of Russia (if any) is replaced by a fine payable within the corresponding timeframe.
3. The General Assembly shall decide whether the sanction consisting of the "suspension of a Member Federation" should be maintained in the FIDE Regulations.

With nothing further to add, warm regards.

Arq. Erick Josué Canales

President, Nicaraguan Chess Federation