



Association
Internationale
Des Echecs
Francophones

2022 General Assembly of AIDEF

August 4, 2022 – The Leela Palace Chennai (India)

1. Minutes

The members of the Francophone Chess Association (AIDEF) met in an ordinary general assembly on August 4, 2022 in Chennai. Thirty members were present.

The members of the Steering Committee who were unable to make the trip attended the meeting via the Zoom platform.

Justin Brou (Ivory Coast) agreed to be the session chair and Ahmed Taleb (Mauritania) secretary.

Justin Brou opened the session at 3:15 p.m. and asked that a minute of silence be observed in memory of Ousmane AW and Gilles Miralles who died prematurely during this exercise.

According to the agenda and the debates,

- The minutes of the 2020 General Assembly were approved unanimously.
- President Patrick Van Hoolandt made his activity report and presented his results for the 2020/2022 financial year. (See below)
- At the request of Noël Fumey (Togo), the candidacy of the president of AIDEF for the vice-presidency of FIDE was mentioned. He was asked to present his program to the members of the assembly who underlined the importance of having a French-speaking representative on the FIDE Council. It was collectively decided to support him.
- The accounts of the closed financial year were presented as well as the report of the treasurer Roland Akhrass. The financial situation of AIDEF has improved in recent years. The accounts and the financial report were approved unanimously.
- All the members present, after having debated it, asked the president to pursue the legal action in progress while not excluding an amicable settlement.
- Majlinda Pilinci (Albania), Justin Brou (Ivory Coast), Ahmed Taleb (Mauritania), Pierre Dénomée (Quebec), Yves Rakotomaharo (Madagascar), Damir Levacic (Monaco), Guy Esungi

(R.D.Congo), Philippe Victor Chatelain (Haiti) all members of the Steering Committee then spoke in turn.

- The six new members of the Association were unanimously confirmed by the general assembly. We welcome the Seychelles, Niger, Equatorial Guinea, Croatia, Benin and the French association "Mat ton Handicap".
- Two new people have joined the Steering Committee, Yassin Souleiman Hassan (Djibouti) and Eric Bopala (Quebec) who replaces his predecessor Bernard Labadie.

The composition of the Steering Committee is therefore as follows:

- President: Patrick Van Hoolandt (Monaco)
- Vice-president: Mohamed Zouaoui (Tunisia)
- Vice-president: Yves Rakotomaharo (Madagascar)
- Vice-president: Ahmed Taleb Mohamed (Mauritania)
- Vice-president: Guy Botetsi, Esungi (D.R.Congo)
- Treasurer: Roland Akhrass (Lebanon)
- General Secretary: Philippe Victor Chatelain (Haiti)
- Youth development advisor: Eric Bopala (Quebec)
- Legal adviser: Justin Brou (Ivory Coast)
- International relations: Ibrahima Cisse (Senegal)
- Translations: Pierre Dénomée (Quebec)
- Pedagogical development: Kim Lequang (Belgium)
- Member: Majlinda Pilinci (Albania)
- Member: Damir LEVACIC (Monaco)
- Member: Yassin Souleiman Hassan (Djibouti)

• The admission of players who are not members of AIDF to our competitions was also mentioned. A large majority of those present opposed it, but given the late hour, several delegates had already left the meeting, the president proposed to organize a referendum by email by the end of August so that all members can express and then make a decision, which was accepted.

• Ivory Coast and Togo have applied for the organization of the Rencontres Internationales des Echecs Francophones 2023, Quebec and Djibouti for those of 2024. The president welcomed the fact that it is therefore certain that an edition can finally take place in sub-Saharan Africa in 2023.

No point having been raised in the miscellaneous, Justin Brou closed the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Ahmed Taleb Mohamed, Recording Secretary.

2. **Chairman's report for the 2020/2022 year**

Dear friends,

I would like to thank you all for your presence here in Chennai during our biannual general assembly, which shows your interest in our association.

Due to the pandemic, the last Olympiads and a GA were canceled, so the team (you can specify whom exactly HERE) made all of the arrangements to hold the next GA online in December 2020 during the FIDE Congress.

2020 was an election year for our association so we organized online elections. The president of the FIDE Constitutional Commission, Mr. Roberto Rivello, was responsible for collecting the votes and announcing the results.

Unanimously, with 36 votes out of 36 in favor, you newly demonstrated your confidence in my position for the next four-year term. The fact that I received such definite support with no opposition from all of you makes me feel gratitude and acceptance.

First, here is a chronological summary of the activities carried out by the AIDEF and myself during this 2020/2022 financial year

- **11 to 24 January 2021: Translation of FIDE's Online Chess Regulations.**

Pierre Dénomée and the president of AIDEF translated from English to French the new FIDE rules to be applied to official online chess competitions.

It can be downloaded from our website via the page:

<https://aidef.fide.com/spip.php?article544>

The original text in English:

<https://handbook.fide.com/files/handbook/OnlineChessRegulations.pdf>

- **February 14, 2021: Creation of a working group to prepare for the 9th Jeux de La Francophonie**

Following our request and the preparatory meetings that I had in Paris with the General Director of the "Jeux de La Francophonie", Mrs. Zeina Mina, the International Committee for the Jeux de La Francophonie agreed to organize chess activities on a promotional basis within peripheral sports during the next one in Kinshasa (R.D.Congo).

Initially scheduled for 2021 and then 2022, the 9th Jeux de La Francophonie is finally scheduled in a period from July 28 to August 6, 2023.

In collaboration with FIDE and the African Chess Confederation, we have set up a working group whose mission is to prepare the program and organize these activities, in close collaboration with the branch of the International Committee of the Jeux de La Francophonie, currently present in

Kinshasa.

Here is the department staff:

Ilaha KADIMOVA - Member of the FIDE Events Commission - technical support - coordination - international relations.

Bachar KOUATLY - President-Delegate of FIDE.

Guy Esungi BOTETSI - President of the Congolese Chess Federation, Vice-President of AIDEF.

Amadou Lamine CISSE - Official representative of the African Chess Confederation, President of the Senegalese Chess Federation, responsible for international relations within AIDEF.

Patrick VAN HOOLANDT - President of the Francophone Chess Association.

- **20 March 2021 : La Francophonies' 24-hour blitz**

International Francophonie Day is celebrated every year on March 20. The same date was chosen to celebrate the anniversary of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT), which was created on March 20, 1970, in Niamey, Niger. This agency made the first step toward French-speaking cooperation, and later became the International Organization of La Francophonie.

To honor International Francophonie Day, AIDEF ran and administrated an online chess competition on March 20 that became an annual event.

The 24-hour blitz of La Francophonie is a marathon of 24-hour games at the rate of 3 min + 2 sec, that take place online on the game platform "Lichess", where the participation is free and open to all. The first edition, which brought together 156 participants, began on March 20, 2021, at noon. CET and ended the next day at the same time, with participants having the possibility of leaving and joining the tournament at any time.

The winner of this first edition, the one who has totaled the most points during these 24 hours, is the French IM Olivier Touzane who received by postal mail the album "CHESS IN ART" - [- https://chessinart.com/#section-book](https://chessinart.com/#section-book)

- **15 & 16 May 2021: « Francophone Online Team Chess Cup »**

In its wish to participate in the development of the newly emerged world of online chess, AIDEF has planned two new team competitions with specifically created for them websites.

The first one, "Francophone Online Team Chess Cup", was reserved for teams of amateur players selected by their federation to participate. Participating teams had to be affiliated with AIDEF; be composed of at least one female, one player with -2000 ELO, and three players with -1800 ELO.

Eleven rounds at a rate of 15 min + 5 sec were played in 2 days via the "Tornelo" platform under the supervision of Laurent FREYD (IA France), assisted by Zoheir SLAMI (IA Morocco), Pierre DENOMMEE (IA Canada), Mario KPAN (FI Ivory Coast) and Timothé SCAILLET (NA Belgium).

30 teams from 4 continents participated in the tournament, which in itself is a great success! The

Albania team won the Cup with 18 points, followed by Moldova with 17 points and Canada with 16 points.

Sylvain Ravot FM provided a live broadcast on YouTube.

All participating teams received an official commemorative diploma, and each player of the winning team a copy of the album "Chess in Art" and the Albanian federation commemorative trophy awarded to them in person during the RIDEF 2022 in Casablanca.

- **23 May 2021: Benin Individual Online Chess Championship**

The newly formed "Benin Chess Federation" is in process of being approved by FIDE. Its membership in the AIDEF was unanimously voted and confirmed by the members of our Steering Committee on May 14, 2021.

Its active and efficient president, Mr. Mohamed SALAMI, asked us to take charge of the "Individual Online Chess Championship of Benin 2021" organization via the game platform Lichess.org, which we carried out smoothly.

40 Beninese participants took part, which in itself is a great success for a federation that has just been set up.

Josias ATTADE won the tournament in extremis by totaling 62 points, against his opponent with only 2 points away.

The first four players of this tournament were qualified to be part of the Benin national team, which took part in the "Francophone Online Team Chess Championships" the following weekend.

- **3 to 12 April 2021 Paris - Lyon**

In the first place, I attended the elective general assembly of the French Chess Federation in Paris, and then I traveled to Lyon to meet our local partners for the 7th Rapid Chess Championship of La Francophonie, which was to take place there at the end of October but which finally took place in March 2022.

- **29 & 30 May 2021: « Francophone Online Team Chess Championship »**

The organization of the online championship and its participation requirements were the same as for the cup, except that there was no ELO ranking limit for the structure of the teams.

We also had thirty teams from 4 continents taking part in the tournament, not necessarily the same countries as for the cup. The 69 titled players, including 7 GMs, 19 MIs, and 26 FMs considerably raised the level of difficulty.

WIM Andreea Novrotescu provided the streaming on her Twitch channel.

Unfortunately, during the 9th round, the team had to deal with a computer bug on the Torneo platform, totally beyond our control. Because of this event, eleven games had to be replayed on Saturday, June 5th.

The Quebec team won the title with 20 points, ahead of France with 19 points, and Monaco with 17 points, which completed the podium.

All participating teams were awarded an official diploma, and each player of the winning team received an invitation to the 8th RIDEF. During the award ceremony of the 8th Rencontres Internationales des Echecs Francophones in Casablanca last month, Eric Bopala, president of the Quebec federation, was awarded a commemorative trophy by the FIDE president.

This tournament will now appear on the annual calendar of competitions organized by AIDEF.

- **October 3, 2021 – In memoriam Ousmane AW**

On a Saturday, September 18, 2021, we were notified of the premature death at the age of 65, of our friend Ousmane AW, vice-president of the Senegalese Chess Federation and ardent follower of La Francophonie. We assimilated this notice with much sadness and dismay.

Ousmane AW, actively invested in the development of chess in Senegal, was a FIDE Arbiter, and a FIDE Instructor. He was a Senegal champion in 2017 and has devoted a good part of his life to chess, for which we are all eternally grateful.

AIDEF had the pleasure of welcoming and introducing him as a member of the Senegalese delegation to the 7th Rencontres Internationales des Echecs Francophones, in Paris in 2019

To pay tribute to him, the Francophone Chess Association collaborated with the Senegalese Chess Federation and organized a large online blitz tournament via the Lichess.org platform on which the participants were free to leave a message in the "chat".

- **October 15, 2021 – ZOOM meeting of our Steering Committee**

On Friday, October 15, 2021, the members of our Steering Committee met via ZOOM videoconference, and, confirmed the dates of the next "Rencontres Internationales des Echecs Francophones" in Casablanca with the start day December 25, 2021, ending on January 3, 2022.

The onset will be done in partnership with the Moroccan NGO "Fondation des Cultures du Monde" with whom we already had the opportunity to collaborate during the organization of the International Chess Festival of Mohamed University VI to Bengérir in 2019.

The "Fondation des Cultures du Monde" is a Moroccan association with both national and international vocations, which aims to promote knowledge and advocacy of Moroccan culture. This promotion includes highlighting Moroccan values based on dialogue and respect for others through the interactions between the cultures.

- **October 22, 2021 - Tribute to Daniel DARDHA**

I traveled to Belgium to attend the reception organized by the city of Antwerp in honor of Daniel Dardha. The president of the Royal Belgian Chess Federation, Geert Bailleul, as well as many

friends, had also traveled from all over Belgium to attend.

Daniel Dardha, who had participated in the 2018 RIDEFs in Tirana and the ones in Paris in 2019, became the youngest Grand Master in the history of chess in Belgium at the age of 16, after winning his second Belgian championship and achieving his fourth norm.

The "Go for Grandmaster" association, created by Walter Tonoli and Joël Schols in 2010, and later joined by Marcel Roofthoofd, helped many young people to progress through training courses and competitions. It had promised a bonus of 25,000 euros to the first young Belgian player who obtains the title of Chess Grandmaster before the age of 18. That has been done!

We can only congratulate him and wish this great Belgian player to continue his dazzling progress to find himself among the top players in the world in a few years.

- **26 to 29 October 2021 - Preparations for the 8° RIDEF in Casablanca**

I went to Casablanca to meet our partners and prepare for the eighth edition of the Rencontres Internationales des Echecs Francophones, which initially was scheduled to start on December 25.

The variety of the scheduled meetings allowed me to visit different hotels and playing halls, and compare different offers. My trip allowed me to meet people who were going to collaborate for the success of the upcoming event. The business agenda included the formation of the organizing committee, the assignation of the main referee, and the drafting of the budget, the timetable, and the price list.

The visit showed that the initially planned playing hall at the private university Mundiapolis was not suitable because of its' far location from the city center. Taking this feature into account, the transfer of the participants would be problematic and subject to delays due to daily traffic.

The next days the ONOMO City Center Casablanca hotel was chosen, for which we received very advantageous pricing conditions granted by its' director.

Then Fabrice Bouty «Xpert84», produced in France the poster, which I find very successful, Zoubida Benmessaoud and Zakaria Diya from Mundiapolis University of Casablanca, designed and developed in Morocco the 8° RIDEF website www.ridef.ma. I would like to thank them all for the excellent work done.

Unfortunately, the Moroccan authorities decided on December 9 to extend the suspension of all flights to and from the country, which forced us to decide to postpone the event to more favorable dates.

- **December 10-12, 2021 - School Teacher Preparation Course**

With the help of Pierre Dénommée, I translated into French all of the basics of chess teaching materials for teachers of children of different age groups. These materials are also intended to prepare speakers who will lead the online seminars for former teachers.

Thanks to these materials, the FIDE "Chess in Education" Commission and the Francophone Chess Association organized the first course for schoolteachers in French via the ZOOM platform.

This 15-hour training spread over 3 days was meant for teachers who already have some experience working with children of different age groups, and have some knowledge of the basics of chess.

It allowed participants to develop their knowledge and skills in educational chess, and to discover new digital tools for online learning. This type of learning allowed people to understand the application, and to get to know pedagogical approaches in the Chess basics teaching process.

16 candidates from six countries (France, Benin, Belgium, Senegal, Djibouti, and Niger) participated in the training provided by Denis LEMOUTON, the FIDE school instructor. He is also an animator at the French Federation and a schoolteacher at the Lycée Français Louis Pasteur from Lagos - Nigeria, whom I assisted during these 3 days.

The last hour of class was devoted to an exam with a passing mark of 65%, 15 of the 16 candidates passed and obtained the FIDE title of "School Instructor".

Based on these strongly positive results, we have planned to organize a second session from September 16 to 18. I invite all those who are interested in this online training to contact me for registration details.

- **January 28, 2022 – Gilles Miralles has left us**

We collapsed when we learned about the sudden death, at the age of 55, of our faithful friend Gilles Miralles. Gilles has devoted his whole life to chess! International grandmaster since 1997, he was crowned French champion in 1986 and 1989 and subsequently held the position of National Technical Director of the French Chess Federation. He won the title of Veteran champion of La Francophonie during the 2017 RIDEFs in Tunisia and those of 2018 in Albania.

For many years, he played for the Monaco team, was a chair at Geneva Chess Federation, and headed the Geneva Chess School.

In 2018, he expressed his wish to be part of our Management Committee, and we welcomed him warmly. Our collaboration made possible several events in Switzerland and France. Certainly, French-speaking chess has lost a man of great skill and great value.

As a native of Grasse, his burial took place at the cemetery of this city on February 7th. To pay him a last tribute, Jean-Michel Rapaire, the president of the Monegasque federation, and I went there. Jean-Michel Rapaire used to have a very close relationship with Gilles. His family and some chess players also wanted to go along with us.

May he rest in peace!

- **February 18, 2022 – Geneva**

The Geneva Chess Federation organized an evening in memory of Gilles Miralles, at the initiative of its president Patrice Delpin.

Geneva Chess Club is located on the shores of Lake Geneva in the Parc de la Grange - the place where Gilles used to live.

His family, relatives, friends and all those who knew and appreciated him had come.

Damir Levacic joined me to make the honors and represent AIDEF.

I presented my tribute text with a lot of emotions and grief. Consequently, I made the discourses for Jean-Michel Rapaire and for Justin Brou, the president of the Ivorian federation, who did not have the opportunity to attend.

A special article devoted to Gilles was published in the March 1 issue of the magazine Europe-Echecs.

- **March 2 to 6, 2022 – Yasmine Hammamet - Tunis - Bizerte - Hammam Lif**

A very interesting trip consisted of a few days in Tunisia following a busy program.

The vice-president of AIDEF Mohamed Zouaoui and I attended two meetings organized by the general manager of the Medina of Yasmine Hammamet, Mr. Ali Miaoui, and his collaborators. The meetings allowed establishing guidelines for collaboration between AIDEF and Medina. These guidelines served to organize the next edition of RIDEF at the end of this year in Tunisia and to manage future chess events.

I also went to the MARAM ASSOCIATION in Tunis, where Mohamed regularly organizes chess activities for young children with cancer. The "Maram Solidarité" association, created by Mrs. Gharbi Manel, aims to help and support child victims of cancer. They and their families are housed there and financially supported. What a joy to see that the game of chess is likely to bring them a little joy and comfort and help them overcome the life trials they are facing!

Another working session took place in Yasmine Hammamet with the vice-president of the Tunisian Federation, Mr. Jalel Gdhira. President Nabil Doghri was excused for health reasons.

We have always maintained a solid and friendly relationship mixed with multifaceted cooperation, based on shared values and mutual trust. The purpose of my visit was to pursue and strengthen these privileged ties. The exchanges were cordial and constructive, and AIDEF made several proposals to contribute to the improvement of chess development in Tunisia.

Two months later the results could be appreciated: Tunisian Chess Federation and AIDEF signed an agreement of reciprocal commitments, which would facilitate the organization of the 9th RIDEF at the end of this year, under the aegis of the Tunisian federation.

The next event was in Bizerte, the north of the country, where I was invited by my friend Mohamed Ali Baktache, who officiated as a referee during the 3rd RIDEF in Quebec and during the 5th RIDEF in Tunisia.

The fourth and last day of my visit was devoted to the visit of the chess club "Le Cyclamen Pensant" in Hammam Lif, where about forty young players were waiting for me for simulms.

After the traditional photo shoot, I was headed to Tunis airport for the return flight to Nice.

- **March 10, 2022 – FIDE ID for Benin players**

The process of creating the Benin Chess Federation is underway.

FIDE will be able to accept this new federation as a member when all of the official documents from Beninese authorities are gathered, but this takes time.

In order to allow Beninese players to participate in existing tournaments and obtain an ELO rating, AIDEF asked FIDE to assign them with a temporarily FIDE ID.

The proposal was accepted and a list of 33 players was included to play under FIDE's flag while waiting for the creation of the Benin FIDE code.

- **March 18 to 21, 2022 – Lyon - 7th Francophone Rapid Chess Championship**

We got there; it was laborious but it was worth it!

The 7th Francophone Rapid Chess Championship was postponed three times, in 2020, in 2021, and at the beginning of 2022 due to the measures imposed to combat the Covid19 epidemic. This championship finally took place in the magnificent premises of the Region's headquarters thanks to the collaboration of three parties: Lyon Olympique Echecs, the Francophone Chess Association, and the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region.

Indeed the dates chosen for this event were not selected at random. On March 20, the International Day of Francophonie is celebrated around the world.

Anatoly Karpov, a six-time world champion, had agreed to sponsor the event. He was expected in Lyon, but the sanctions imposed on Russia following the invasion of Ukraine and the outbreak of war deprived us of his presence.

The weekend program was no less busy: press conference, giant simuls, partners' cocktail, dinner for officials and organizers, and a tournament in 13 rounds at the rate of 15 min + 10 sec.

The procedure was different this year: after the first 10 rounds, the top eight finalists played quarterfinals, then knockout semi-finals, and then a title final, while people continued to compete in three rounds for the 9th place and below.

The last final was played between Pierre Laurent-Paoli and Maxime Lagarde in the hemicycle of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region. In the end, the latter won the title of Francophone Champion of rapid Chess, a second victory after Cannes in 2018.

The tournament brought together 169 participants from 13 countries, including 8 Grandmasters, 11 International Masters, and 8 FIDE Masters. This resulted in a participation record in the tournament and demonstrated an exceptionally high level.

The guaranteed prize of 6000 euros had attracted many people!

Christophe LEROY and his team managed the tournament, while Laurent FREYD was refereeing. The vice-president of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region Philippe Meunier, the deputy-president of FIDE Bachar Kouatly, and the president of Lyon Olympique Echecs Xavier Popeler honored the official ceremonies with their presence.

The overall ranking of the 8 finalists is as follows:

1. GM Maxime Lagarde (France)
2. IM Pierre Laurent-Paoli (France)
3. GM Christian Bauer (France)
4. GM Alexandre Dgebuadze (Belgium)
5. MI Yohan Benitah (France)
6. MI Nderim Saraci (Kosovo)
7. GM Gabriel Flom (France)
8. MI Anatole Vlachos (Greece)

- **20 March 2022: La Francophonie's 24-hour blitz**

On the occasion of the "International Francophonie Day," this second edition took place following the same procedure as that of the previous year. Still, it must be noted that we have suffered a significant drop in participation from one year to the other.

This year only 73 players were part of the event compared to 156 in 2021. Indeed, the return of face-to-face tournaments made online chess less famous.

Therefore, it will be necessary to rethink the conditions for next year and make the tournament more attractive by offering more appealing prizes.

- **March 28 to April 5, 2022 - Andreaa NAVROTESCU wins the title of Woman Grand Master**

As part of International Women's Day, which is celebrated on March 8, the Belgrade Chess Association every year organizes a closed tournament with Woman Grandmaster standards that have been up for 53 years!

This year, as an exception, the tournament had to be postponed due to the outbreak of war in Ukraine, which prevented several initially registered participants from traveling to Serbia.

Thanks to Damir Levacic, we obtained an invitation and we gave it to the player of the French team Andreaa NAVROTESCU.

With 7 points out of 9, she not only wins the tournament but also gets her 3rd norm, synonymous with the title of Woman Chess Grandmaster.

A big congratulation to Andreaa who provided a live broadcast in June for the Francophonie Online Team Championships on her Twitch channel.

- **May 25 to June 9 – Paris**

I had drawn up a whole program during this two-week trip to Paris. I also took an opportunity to play in the French Open rapids and blitz on the weekend of May 28 & 29 in Port-Marly.

I was able to meet and talk to:

Bachar Kouatly, deputy-president of FIDE and a candidate for the presidency of FIDE.

Thomas Lemoine, president of the Ile de France League, replaced André Rasneur, whom I had not yet had the opportunity to meet.

Joël Gautier, president of the club Barreau de Paris Echecs, with whom we plan to organize a women's closed tournament at the WGM standard at the end of this year.

Tahar Battikh, vice-president of FIDE and director of the Maison de la Tunisie was our partner during the 7th RIDEF in 2019 in Paris.

Arkady Dvorkovich, the president of FIDE, whom I had the opportunity to meet and talk to in Paris, where he stopped during his trip. The main subject of our discussions was the next Olympiads, the FIDE congress, and the elections.

Zeina Mina, the director of the International Committee of the Jeux de La Francophonie received me at the headquarters of the International Organization of La Francophonie in the company of Bachar Kouatly, a FIDE representative. The International Committee of the Jeux de La Francophonie has given us its agreement to organize chess activities during the "IX^e Jeux de La Francophonie", for promotional purposes and as a peripheral sporting activity.

I also went to our Crédit du Nord bank branch to settle some administrative formalities, and withdraw the 12,000 euros that were given to the winners of the 8th RIDEF in Casablanca.

In addition, I made a round trip to Belgium where I met the president of the Royal Belgian Chess Federation, Geert Bailleul.

- **June 4 & 5, 2022 – 2nd Francophone Online Team Chess Championship**

Some changes have been made to the tournament rules compared to the ones in 2021: the 2 online team tournaments (Cup + Championship) have been merged into one.

This implies that participants could enter two teams in the tournament; with a special prize being awarded to the team whose ELO, average does not exceed 1850.

The rest remained the same: the participation is free, the team of 4 should include a female, includes eleven rounds at the rate of 15 min + 5 sec spread over a weekend via the Tornelo platform, and it is always supervised by the team of referees led by Laurent Freyd.

33 teams from 22 different countries were at the start of this competition, and Quebec won the title for the second time in a row, having won all of its matches this year. We extend our

congratulations to Captain Richard Bérubé and to the President of the Quebec Federation Eric Bopala.

In board order, the team consisted of GM Sambuev Bator 10.5 / 11, IM Rodrigue-Lemieux Shawnn 9 / 11, IM Chiku-Ratte Olivier-Kenta 11 / 11, WGM Ouellet Maili-Jade 11 / 11

Second place goes to Egypt and Canada completes the podium.

The Quebec federation, the players, and the team captain will each receive a commemorative trophy. The four players who participated in the competition will receive a personal invitation, including travel, accommodation, and participation, to the 2023 RIDEF.

It is Moldova who, by finishing 6th in the general classification, won the special prize for the team, whose average ELO did not exceed 1850. Four players who were part of the competition will receive a personal invitation, including accommodation and participation, to the 2023 RIDEFs.

All participating teams received an official diploma. The awarding of the prizes and trophies will take place face-to-face during the closing ceremony of RIDEF 2023.

We would like to thank Andreaa Novrotescu for providing the live broadcast of the games on her Twitch channel and Europe-Echecs.

We already look forward to seeing you next year for the third edition! This year's conditions were good but we will have to choose better dates, possibly May rather than June, and provide the tournament with distinct prizes. We will think about it and work on it. Any suggestions will be welcome.

- **June 14 to July 4, 2022, FIDE Arbiter's Training Course**

As part of the 8th Rencontres Internationales des Echecs Francophones in Casablanca, AIDEF organized a FIDE arbiter's training course in French, lasting 30 hours including the final exam.

This training took place in 2 stages: the first was an online phase with 5 sessions of 3 hours, from June 14 to 28. The second was the face-to-face phase, from July 1 to 4 at the ONOMO hotel in Casablanca, with 3 -4 hour sessions, and a final exam lasting 4 hours. Participants had to have at least a national referee license.

The International Arbiter Laurent FREYD, president of the FIDE Arbiter's Commission, assisted by the International Arbiter Zoheir SLAMI, provided high-level training.

These coaches taught the trainees useful knowledge about their job as referees in FIDE homologated tournaments, for example, the rules of the game, the Swiss system, the tiebreakers, the Elo ranking, the FIDE titles, the regulations for the arbiters, competitions, and fair play, the manipulation of chess clocks and the study of technical terms in English.

At the launch of the seminar, a distinguished guest joined the ZOOM group: FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich welcomed the participants and congratulated the creators on this initiative.

22 participants from Djibouti, Niger, Switzerland, and Morocco attended the training: six of them obtained more than 80% of the points, passed the final exam, and obtained a norm for the title of FIDE Arbiter.

- **July 1 to 10, 2022 – 8th Rencontres Internationales des Echecs Francophones**

Without a doubt, the 8th RIDEF is the main event organized by AIDEF this year.

The last edition dates back to 2019 in Paris. Again, because of Covid19, we were forced to cancel the 2020 edition scheduled in Djerba and postponed it until July 2022, while the 2021 edition was scheduled for the end of December in Casablanca.

Finally, 125 players participated in the championship of the classic game, and 98 in the blitz championship, representing 24 different countries.

At first, we had nearly 175 registered players, but the removal of the PCR test requirement shortly before the start of the tournament, and the extreme cost of plane tickets during this summer discouraged more than one person.

Despite this, according to the unanimous opinion of the participants, it was an exceptional edition in many respects:

- The playing and accommodation conditions at the ONOMO hotel were excellent.
- 12,000 euros were distributed in prizes.
- Mentioned early, the training seminar for FIDE arbiters was organized by Laurent FREYD
- The participants were invited to the opening of the "Beauty of Chess" exhibition at the Gallery of the Media Library of the Hassan II Mosque Foundation. The exhibition remained open to the public until July 20.
- Three excursions were programmed this year: a visit to the Habous district and the Palace that receives the headquarters of the Region of Casablanca, a visit to the Medina of Casablanca, a visit to the new city with a short detour to the club of chess, and the guided tour to the splendid Hassan II Mosque.
- The Grand Master Victor BOLOGAN led simulms to the Casablanca Olympic Committee against 20 players. He did not concede a single half point!
- The award ceremony for the classic tournament was performed at the Mohamed Zefzaf Cultural Complex. A cocktail dinner and a fantastic « Chess Opera » concert presented by musicians from the Fondation des Cultures du Monde « Come to my Home » followed it.
- A sumptuous traditional Moroccan closing gala dinner was organized on the 27th floor of the 5* Kenzi Palace Casablanca hotel.

Just like during the 7th RIDEF in Paris, a large FIDE delegation was present in Casablanca. Our relations with FIDE have always been excellent. They give us financial support each year to help

us achieve what we envision. We extend our gratitude to them!

Arkady Dvorkovich and his assistant Konstantin Kiselev, Bachar Kouatly, Dana Reizniece-Ozola, Zhu Chen, Victor Bologan, and Laurent Freyd visited us.

AIDEF also thanks our partner Mr. Driss ALAOUI, President of the Fondation des Cultures du Monde, without whom nothing of the mentioned would be possible, as well as the Organizing Committee and the team of arbiters led by Zoheir Slami.

Let us not forget the Mundiapolis University of Casablanca, the President Professor Mohammed Barkaoui, and especially Zoubida Benmessaoud who ensured the design and management of the website created for the event.

Now on to the results:

We extend our congratulations to the young French International Master Loïc TRAVADON, who brilliantly won the 2021 Francophonie championship of classic and blitz games representing the IDF league and managed to beat many Grand Masters. Certainly, a brilliant career awaits him.

Tatiana DORNBUSCH, representing Monaco, finished in fifth place and won the women's title, the Luxembourg International Master Fred Berend the Senior title, and the Moroccan Skalli Taoufik that of Veteran.

The podium of the classic championship: 1. IM Loïc TRAVADON (France) 7/9, 2. GM Adham FAWZY (Egypt) 7/9, 3. GM Jean-Pierre LEROUX (France) 7/9

The podium of the blitz championship: 1. IM Loïc TRAVADON (France) 9.5/11, 2. GM Adham FAWZY (Egypt) 8.5/11, 3. GM Gabriel FLOM (France) 8.5/11

We also had the pleasure of welcoming the president of the Tunisian Chess Federation. Mr. Nabil DOGHRI wanted to be present to announce himself during the award ceremony that Tunisia will be hosting for the next Rencontres Internationales des Echecs Francophones.

We are waiting for all of you at the end of this year in Yasmine Hammamet for the 9th Rencontres Internationales des Echecs Francophones, the titles for 2022 will be at stake.

Review of the exercise:

- During this exercise, we had the pleasure of welcoming 6 new members from Benin, Seychelles, Niger, Equatorial Guinea, Croatia, and the French association "Mat ton Handicap". We currently have 52 members from 46 countries.
- In terms of finances, the situation has improved significantly. You can see this by reading the income statement and the financial statement. Our treasurer Roland Akhrass will present his report to you if you wish. I remind you that my mandate is voluntary; I take part of the operating costs of the association at my expense. (Internet, telephone, travel, etc.)
- Despite a difficult context linked to the conditions and restrictions imposed by the fight against the pandemic, we managed to maintain a high level of activity during these two

years.

- The development of online chess is one of the most important reasons for these statistics. We designed new individual and team competitions via Lichess and Tornelo, broadcasted games of our tournaments via the Europe-Echecs website, and used ZOOM as a tool for supervision of competitions, our meetings and trainings.
- We have also considerably increased our presence on social media. Our Facebook page currently has 5,900 subscribers. Our group has 8,100 members. Daily I publish information related to international chess news, announcements of tournaments, and activities of our members, the ones I am aware of. I also posted a photo album titled "Art in all its forms in chess. It has nearly 5,000 documents, and about 20 new photographs are uploaded weekly.
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.2089478214650076&type=3>
- Many projects are underway for the next two years, but we are going to place particular emphasis on training. We have already planned a 15-hour online seminar for the training of school monitors from September 16 to 18th. A closed tournament with Woman Grand Master norm is also being prepared. All online competitions will be renewed in 2023 and redesigned to make them more interesting to the public. As for RIDEFs and other face-to-face tournaments, we will address the subject under point 8 of our agenda.
- What is already certain is that the 9th Rencontres Internationales des Echecs Francophones will take place from December 16th to 25th in Yasmine Hammamet in Tunisia. The dates will be defined and confirmed shortly, and we expect many of you to be there, because you are all welcome.

You are aware that I am also a candidate for the vice-presidency of FIDE, and I wish to put my skills and my achievements for more than fifty years in the field of chess at the service of FIDE and integrate into the organization of management

My candidacy is personal, I am not part of any "ticket", my wish is to collaborate and work actively with the new president who will be elected whoever he is. I wish to bring him my voluntary contribution in order to help him to accomplish his role and his mission in the respect of the fundamental principles of FIDE. My action will be to promote chess activities in all their forms, raising the level of chess culture and improving knowledge of the game on a sporting, scientific, creative, educational, and cultural basis among all nations of the world. .

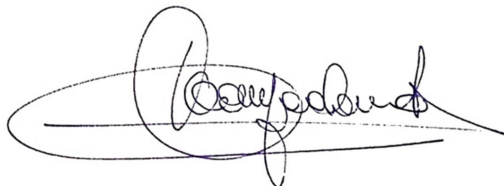
Through chess, I will commit myself to the education of young people through sport and culture, the promotion of women in all activities, the spirit of fair play, the inclusion of disabled or less able-bodied people, and the social and professional future of players, good governance in all organizations.

I will also work for the respect of the fundamental rights of FIDE, namely the equality of the rights of its members, the internationally recognized human rights, the rejection of all forms of discrimination, the equality of access to chess and tournaments to all genders, countries, areas, and continents.

Integrating the Management Committee of FIDE will certainly allow me to be able to act more efficiently to promote the interests of AIDEF and its members.

I ask all the presidents and delegates presenting here to support my candidacy by voting for me on 7 August.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Van Hoolandt', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Patrick VAN HOOLANDT, Président