



## **ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

### **REPORT – 6 SEPTEMBER 2026**

The Electoral Commission (hereinafter, the ELC), composed of Roberto Rivello (Chairman of the Constitutional Commission), Yolander Persaud (Chairwoman of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission) and Allen Priest (Chairman of the Verification Commission), met remotely, using online means and electronic communications, examined and discussed the following agenda items, and unanimously adopted the following decisions.

#### **COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS RELATED TO THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND FINAL LIST OF THE MEMBER FEDERATIONS ENTITLED TO VOTE (INCLUDING THE NAMES OF PRESIDENTS AND DELEGATES)**

Provisional lists of the suspended Member Federations and of the Member Federations entitled to vote were approved by the ELC, on 27 July 2026 and on 30 August 2026.

In accordance with the Electoral Rules (underlining added to certain passages and words deemed of greater relevance):

- 3.4 Member Federations exercise their right to vote through their FIDE Delegate, or through their President, if the name of a different FIDE Delegate has not been communicated or if the Member Federation has communicated that the President will exercise the right to vote in that election.
- 3.5 Presidents and delegates may only represent one Member Federation at a time and must, on the date of the meeting of the General Assembly, have either: - a citizenship or at least two years' residency of the country or territory they represent, or - at least one year experience as an office holder of this Member Federation, such as President, Deputy President, Vice President, General Secretary, main board member, director of the Member Federation. They must also be elected or appointed by the appropriate body of that Member Federation.
- 3.6 Sixty (60) days before elections, the FIDE Offices shall make public, on FIDE website, and sending them to all Member Federations, a list of Member Federations having right to vote and a separate list of suspended Member Federations, if any, together with the names of the Presidents and FIDE

Delegates, specifying who is deputed to exercise the right to vote. Until thirty (30) days before elections, each Member Federation can communicate any election or nomination of a different FIDE Delegate or President. Communications received after that date will not be taken into account for the purposes of the legitimacy to exercise the right the vote. Only in case of proven impossibility of the person entitled to exercise the right to vote, communicated no later than fifteen (15) days before the elections, the FIDE Delegate of a Member Federation may be replaced by the President of that Federation, or the President by the FIDE Delegate, and only if their names were already included in the above-mentioned list. Immediately after this deadline the Electoral Commission shall verify the lists, approving a final version of them that the FIDE Offices shall make public, on FIDE website, the latest twelve (12) days before elections, by 6.00 PM CET time.

- 3.8 In case of elections all complaints regarding the right to vote and its exercise must be brought before and shall be decided by the Electoral Commission.... All complaints must be addressed to the competent Commission, through the e-mail address office@fide.com, in writing. All complaints shall be submitted no later than 5 days from the date of publication of the contested list of persons entitled to exercise the right to vote, by 6.00 PM CET time. Complaints related to the participation of the FIDE Delegate in the President's place or vice versa may be submitted no later than 2 days from the date of publication of such a list, by 6.00 PM CET time. Complaints submitted after the deadline cannot be considered. All complaints shall be signed and expressly motivated. Complaints submitted by Member Federations shall be sent exclusively using their official email address, previously communicated to FIDE Offices.

The Electoral Commission has competence to verify compliance with the above-mentioned rules and to approve the final list of the Member Federations and their Delegates entitled to vote.

The Electoral Commission, exercising this competence, verifies if a given Member Federation or a given Delegate was sanctioned by the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission or suspended by the Council, but does not decide on complaints that exceed its competences.

Before and after the publication of the provisional lists, the Electoral Commission received requests for changes and complaints regarding some Member Federations.

In the last published list, the following are the names indicated as President and Delegate for these Member Federations:

| <b>Federation</b> | <b>President</b> | <b>Delegate</b>              |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Aruba             | Pesqueira, Jose  | Williams Pesqueira, Carol S. |

|                          |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Belize                   | Perez, Kenet Alejandro               | ---                        |
| Bermuda                  | Freeman, Nigel                       | Freeman, Nigel             |
| Central African Republic | Poudjoua Gamba, Abigaëlle Christiana | ---                        |
| Curacao                  | ---                                  | Da Silva de Goes, Riangelo |
| Ecuador                  | Delgado Jara, Felipe                 | ---                        |
| Eritrea                  | Kiflay Andemicael Seare              | ---                        |
| Gambia                   | Nyass, Ebrima                        | Jeng, Mass                 |
| Greece                   | Efstathopoulos, Efstathios           | Makropoulos, Georgios      |
| Pakistan                 | Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi               | Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi     |
| Peru                     | Ortega Choque, Jaime                 | Pimentel Mendoza, Victor   |
| Seychelles               | Hoareau, Benjamin                    | Hoareau, Benjamin          |
| Sri Lanka                | Seneviratne, Malinda                 | Seneviratne, Malinda       |
| Sudan                    | Omer Deab                            | Omer Deab                  |
| Turkey                   | Apaydin, Fethi                       | Fatih Uysal                |
| Vanuatu                  | Nompavos, Lesly                      | Hinton, Rik                |

### **Aruba**

In 2026, Ms. Beatriz Marinello submitted a complaint against Ms. Carol Williams Pesqueira, addressed to the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and to the Electoral Commission, concerning alleged potential discriminatory treatment during a chess event in Aruba. Ms. Marinello alleges that, while playing a casual game of blitz chess in the skittles room with a participant's trainer, Ms. Williams Pesqueira instructed her to leave on the ground that the room was reserved strictly for registered tournament players, despite non-player parents, coaches, and trainers being allowed to stay. Noting that Ms. Williams Pesqueira would be publicly affiliated with the rival Timur Turlov/Vishy Anand ticket while Marinello supports the Jan Henric Buettner/Malcolm Pein ticket, Marinello requests that FIDE investigate whether the facility rules were selectively and unequally applied due to political discrimination.

There is no evidence that this conduct, allegedly performed by Ms. Williams Pesqueira not as representative of her Federation but as organiser of an open tournament, was prompted by electoral reasons. In any event, it does not fall within the competence of the Electoral Commission and does not concern the right to vote of the Federation or its Delegate. Therefore, Ms. Williams Pesqueira is confirmed as the Aruba Federation's Delegate.

### **Belize**

On 24 August 2026, Mr. Reyhan Rosado informed the FIDE Management Board about a complaint submitted to the Belize Chess Federation regarding the validity of the

BCF election of 16 August 2026, insofar as it concerned the provision of four, and not two, “Counsellor positions”, indicating that he would provide further notice only upon any final determination.

This information does not concern the right to vote of the Belize Chess Federation, nor the position of its President, Mr. Kenet Alejandro Perez, who is confirmed as the Belize Federation’s Delegate.

### **Bermuda**

On 23 August 2026, Ms. Gail Widmer, US Virgin Islands Federation’s Delegate, addressed a complaint to the Electoral Commission against the recognition of Mr. Nigel Freeman as Bermuda Federation’s Delegate, affirming that “Mr. Freeman has neither a Bermuda passport nor a current residency permit. Mr. Freeman reportedly resides in Greece. For this reason, we urge the Commission to closely investigate Mr. Freeman’s credentials”.

This complaint was not supported by any evidence. Informed of this submission, the Bermuda Federation replied that Mr. Nigel Freeman is covered by both requirements of Article 3.5, since many years. Therefore, Mr. Nigel Freeman is confirmed as the Bermuda Federation’s Delegate.

### **Central African Republic**

On 29 July 2026, Mr. Jean Mexin Atazi Yeke, writing in his alleged capacity as President of the Executive Board of the Central African Chess Federation, submitted a formal objection and request for *interim* measures to the FIDE Electoral Commission, Ethics and Disciplinary Commission, and FIDE leadership, regarding the recognition by FIDE of Ms. Abigaëlle Christiana Poudjoua Gamba as the President of the Central African Chess Federation, asserting that she would no longer hold any legal or administrative authority following her removal at an Extraordinary General Assembly on 7 March 2026 and the subsequent election of a new Executive Board led by the same Mr. Atazi Yeke on 28 March 2026. His election would have been recognised by a ministerial order and a technical accreditation from Central African Republic government authorities.

On 5 August 2026, Ms. Abigaëlle Poudjoua-Gamba, submitted a formal response to FIDE, rejecting the objection filed by “former President” Jean Mexin Atazi Yeke regarding the federation's leadership. Ms. Poudjoua-Gamba asserts that her executive board was legitimately elected by affiliated clubs and validated for a four-year mandate running through 31 March 2027, a *status* officially recognized by both FIDE and the Central African Ministry of Youth and Sports. She contends that the parallel elective assembly organized by Mr. Atazi Yeke was illegal because it was conducted with expelled clubs, rendering his board legally void and unstatutory. Furthermore, she accuses Mr. Atazi Yeke of improperly involving the current sports minister in political

interference, withholding federation equipment, and using falsified ministry documents to intimidate FIDE. Requesting the outright rejection of Mr. Atazi Yeke's objection as an attempt to create confusion ahead of the Samarkand Chess Olympiad, Ms. Poudjoua-Gamba reaffirms her board's adherence to FIDE statutes and announces that criminal legal proceedings for forgery, document falsification, and confiscation of materials will be launched against Mr. Atazi Yeke.

On 31 August 2026, Mr. Atazi Yeke, informed of the replay by Ms. Abigaëlle Poudjoua-Gamba, reiterated with the same words his initial complaint.

Ms. Abigaëlle Poudjoua-Gamba provided documentary evidence of her election as President of the “Fédération Centrafricaine des Échecs”, with documents validated by a governmental authority, as well as of the sanction of expulsion imposed on the Presidents of some clubs, who were then included among the participants, and elected to the board, in the different election held in May 2026. The documents submitted by Mr. Atazi Yeke seem also to provide evidence that his election as President of the same “Fédération Centrafricaine des Échecs” was validated by a governmental authority. However, Mr. Atazi Yeke has not demonstrated that the persons expelled from the Federation successfully appealed against this sanction or were readmitted. Therefore, there are doubts that the May 2026 elections were organised in accordance with the Federation statutes.

From a different point of view, it seems that there are two national Chess Federations competing to be recognised as the legitimate one. The FIDE Council could initiate proceedings under Article 13.7 of the FIDE Charter and is advised to do so, but it has not yet taken this initiative.

Therefore, Ms. Abigaëlle Poudjoua-Gamba is confirmed as the Central African Federation's Delegate.

### **Curacao**

On 18 August 2026, Paulus Cornelis Marié Berkenveld, acting as the presumptive FIDE Delegate for the Curaçao Federation (FEDAKO) and Vice President of the Olympic Committee Curaçao, submitted a complaint requesting the temporary suspension and reversal of the replacement of his name, as Delegate, with that of Mr. Riangelo Da Silva De Goes, and informing FIDE that he had also filed a complaint, for the same reasons, before the national judicial authorities. The Complainant asserts that, while he resigned as President of FEDAKO on 17 August 2026 due to internal governance issues, he explicitly retained his position as FIDE Delegate. He contends that his removal was unlawful because the Extraordinary General Meeting convened by the new Board to replace him would have violated Article 23(5) of the FEDAKO Statutes by failing to observe the mandatory 28-day notice period, and because the remaining incomplete board lacked statutory authority under Articles 9(2) and 9(3) to

appoint a new delegate or represent FEDAKO externally without a sitting President. On 25 August 2026, received on 28 August 2026, Wilkinson Law, on behalf of Mr. Berkenveld, submitted a complaint with the same content, detailing that parallel summary court proceedings were pending in Curaçao (Case CUR202602825), set for 27 August 2026.

On 3 September 2026, the Electoral Commission received communication of the summary judgment delivered by the Court of First Instance of Curaçao (Case No. CUR202602825), which completely dismissed the claims brought by Mr. Berkenveld against the Federation. The judgment indicates that the dispute arose after FEDAKO convened an Extraordinary General Members' Meeting on 17 August 2026, where 20 of the 24 voting members present elected Treasurer Riangelo Da Silva De Goes over Berkenveld as the official FIDE Delegate, prompting FIDE to update its directory accordingly. Berkenveld sought interim injunctions to suspend the implementation of the EGM decision, thereby seeking to remain the official delegate for the upcoming September 2026 FIDE elections, arguing that the meeting was invalid because FEDAKO failed to observe the statutory 28-day notice period mandated under Article 23(5) of the association's articles of association. Although the Court agreed that a literal reading of the statutes suggests a 28-day notice requirement, it ruled that annulment of the decision in full proceedings was unlikely. The Court found that the statutory notice period is intended to give members time to prepare rather than to allow individual candidates to campaign, noting further that the vast majority of eligible voters attended without objection and overwhelmingly favoured Da Silva De Goes. Additionally, the Court highlighted that Berkenveld's concurrent candidacy for Vice-President of the Confederation of Chess for the Americas (CCA) had severely damaged the board's trust in him due to concerns over self-voting and conflict of interest, making it evident that strict adherence to notice rules would not have altered the election's outcome. Consequently, the Court rejected all requested provisional measures and ordered Berkenveld to pay litigation costs.

The competent national judge rejected the complaint submitted by Mr. Berkenveld and, in any case, the Electoral Commission has no competence on the internal matters of the Curaçao Federation (FEDAKO). Therefore, Mr. Da Silva de Goes, Riangelo is confirmed as the Curaçao Federation (FEDAKO) Delegate.

## **Ecuador**

On 28 June 2026, Mr. Jaime Hidalgo, acting as alleged President of the Ecuadorian Chess Federation (FEDA), formally submitted a complaint to the FIDE Constitutional Commission asserting that the organisation currently recognised by FIDE as representing Ecuador would lack domestic legal standing, and that its board's mandate expired on that same day, 28 June 2026, following final Ecuadorian judicial rulings

(Case No. 01U03-2023-27133). He furthermore alleged serious governance violations and financial improprieties under the FIDE Code of Ethics, specifically noting that official tournament registration fees were diverted into a personal bank account belonging to the challenged board's treasurer, María Enriqueta Velázquez. Subsequently, on 11 August 2026, Mr. Jaime Hidalgo issued a formal notice of further action, adding that FIDE's failure to resolve the status dispute had created immediate and potentially irreversible prejudice by allowing the unrecognised board to register players and claim travel subsidies for the upcoming Chess Olympiad. Finally, on 23 August 2026, in response to the FIDE Secretariat's request to send copies of the documents quoted in his complaint but not attached to it, and to specify whether there are two separate legal entities, one being the currently recognised FIDE member from Ecuador and the second being the one that he leads and that would allegedly be recognised at the national level, and whether the request raised in his complaint is that the second legal entity should be recognised as the FIDE member from Ecuador, he did not answer these questions, but indicated that he would have filed a formal criminal complaint with Ecuadorian judicial authorities against Dr. Juan Felipe Delgado Jara for identity theft and criminal impersonation, while accusing FIDE of improperly transferring funds directly to an unauthorized group that possesses no registered address, tax identification, or official bank accounts in Ecuador.

Mr. Delgado Jara, Felipe, President of the FIDE-recognized Ecuadorian Chess Federation, informed of the submitted complaint, asserting that his board was legitimately elected under the auspices of the Ecuadorian Olympic Committee, which continues to certify his presidency, attributing his federation's lack of Ministry of Sports registration to political interference, while firmly denying financial improprieties by clarifying that the registration fee collected by Treasurer María Enriqueta Velázquez was a standard operational fee used to fund players' international tournament registrations. Furthermore, he accused Hidalgo's faction of operational inactivity, lack of gender equity, and attempting to sabotage the national team selection process for the upcoming Chess Olympiad, concluding that the dispute would be an inadmissible political manoeuvre rather than a valid electoral complaint.

In a *memorandum* issued on 16 August 2026, Dr. Jorge Arias, acting as the appointed Observer for the Confederation of Chess for the Americas (CCA), noted that Hidalgo's complaint was aimed at requesting the withdrawal of recognition from Dr. Felipe Delgado's group on the grounds of expired board mandates, state court rulings, and alleged financial irregularities involving personal bank accounts held by Treasurer María Enriqueta Velázquez. He then highlighted counter-statements provided by Mr. Delgado and Ms. Velázquez, who defended their legitimacy, concluding that the FIDE Electoral Commission lacks competence to resolve the underlying representation dispute, reasoning under Articles 4.10, 9.3, 12.1, 13, and 28.2 of the FIDE Charter that

determining national federation legitimacy falls strictly within the domain of internal laws and the FIDE General Assembly.

On these bases, it seems that in Ecuador there are currently two associations that are fighting to be recognised as the legitimate one at the national level. The association whose current President is Mr. Delgado Jara, Felipe is the legal entity that FIDE has recognised as Member Federation. The FIDE Council could start a proceedings ex art. 13.7 of the FIDE Charter and is advised to do this, but until now it has not yet assumed this initiative. The Electoral Commission has no competence on this.

Therefore, Mr. Delgado Jara, Felipe is confirmed as the Ecuador Federation's President and Delegate.

### **Eritrea**

On 3 September 2026, the Eritrea Chess Federation communicated the name of Mr. Abdela Mohamed Yaedi as its new Delegate. However, all communications received less than 30 days before the FIDE General Assembly cannot be taken into account for the purposes of legitimacy to exercise the right to vote. Therefore, no changes can be authorised in the list of the Member Federations entitled to vote, and Mr. Kiflay Andemicael Seare is confirmed as Eritrea Federation's President and Delegate.

### **Gambia**

On the 2 August 2026, Mr. Lamin Jammeh, Treasurer of the Federation and FIDE instructor, submitted a complaint to FIDE, regarding an alleged unlawful cancellation of the Gambia Chess Federation Congress due to be held on 28 June 2026. The complainant indicates that Mass Jeng, Vice President of the Federation, arrived significantly late and halted the assembly after an agreement with Babucarr Secka, an alleged National Sports Council official, without consulting the executive body, regional delegates. He demanded the removal of Mr. Babucarr Secka from organising the upcoming elections, an independent audit of the federation's finances and equipment inventory, the establishment of an Independent Electoral Council to oversee voting, the presence of the NSC and the Gambia National Olympic Committee as official observers, and full funding of the reconvened Congress to compensate delegates for their disruption.

This complaint concerns internal matters of the Gambia Chess Federation, which do not fall under the competence of the Electoral Commission and do not in any way affect the voting rights of the Federation and its Delegate. Therefore, Mr. Jeng, Mass is confirmed as the Gambia Federation's Delegate.

### **Greece**

On the 3 September 2026, the Greek Chess Federation communicated that Mr. Georgios Makropoulos, Honorary President of their Federation and designated Delegate

for the forthcoming FIDE General Assembly, will unfortunately be unable to attend the Assembly and exercise the Federation's voting rights due to health reasons, and he will be replaced as Delegate by the President of their Federation, Prof. Efstathios Efstathopoulos. Health reasons constitute proven impossibility and the name of Mr. Efstathios Efstathopoulos was already included in the list.

Therefore, the change is authorised, and the list must be updated, indicating Mr. Efstathios Efstathopoulos also as Delegate of the Greek Federation.

## **Pakistan**

On the list approved by the Electoral Commission on 27 July 2026, Mr. Hanif Qureshi was indicated as President and Delegate.

On 3 August 2026, the FIDE Secretariat received a communication stating that “the elections of the Chess Federation of Pakistan were held on 7 May 2026 for a four-year term 2026-2030, and the elected office-bearers (Mr. Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi, President; Mr. Raja Muhammad Gauhar Iqbal, Secretary General) assumed charge on 4 June 2026”, as well as a communication by Mr. Muhammad Waqar Ahmed, Assistant Director, Government of Pakistan, Pakistan Sports Board, where it is indicated that “the recognised President and Secretary General of the Chess Federation of Pakistan are Mr. Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi, President; Mr. Raja Muhammad Gauhar Iqbal, Secretary General”, also clarifying that “no other person is recognised by Pakistan Sports Board as President or Secretary General of Chess Federation of Pakistan”.

On 9 August 2026, Mr. Hanif Qureshi filed a formal complaint with the FIDE Electoral Commission regarding an alleged unauthorized change to Pakistan's representation in the FIDE Directory on 4 August 2026., this change would have been unlawfully triggered by an election process organised by the Pakistan Sports Board, violating both Olympic principles of autonomy and FIDE regulations prohibiting governmental interference. The Complainant requests the Electoral Commission to reinstate Mr. Qureshi's status as the sole recognised Delegate of the Pakistan Federation.

FIDE Management Board assumed additional information and has indicated: that Mr. Yawar Hussain, Director General of the Pakistan Sports Board. confirmed the recognition of the newly elected President, Mr. Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi and his team and clarified that Mr. Hanif Qureshi would currently lead a private company called "Chess Federation Pakistan" that has no Pakistan Sports Board recognition; that, according to the Pakistan Chess Federation constitution, the “General Body members” hold constitutional authority and this body stressed unanimously that Mr. Hanif Qureshi has no legal standing as his term is over and affirmed full support for the newly elected President, while Mr. Hanif Qureshi intends to submit an appeal against this decision.

The Electoral Commission has no competence regarding these internal matters, and there is still no information about an appeal submitted by Mr. Hanif Qureshi to the competent national judicial authority.

Therefore, as already indicated in the last published list, Mr. Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi is confirmed as the Pakistan Federation's Delegate.

## **Peru**

On 30 August 2026, IA Hernán Olarte Bravo, acting as “Former President of the Working Group of the Peruvian Chess Federation”, notified FIDE of Resolution No. 09 issued on 27 August 2026 by the Twentieth Specialized Civil Court of the Superior Court of Justice of Lima in Case File 11059-2024-0-1801-JR-CI-20. The judicial ruling declared the lawsuit for the annulment of association agreements fully upheld, thereby completely nullifying both the 11 October 2024 electoral agreement and the entire electoral process convened by the Peruvian Chess Federation for the 2025–2028 term. Consequently, Mr. Olarte Bravo requested the Commission to assess the legal impact of the invalidation affecting the board led by Mr. Jaime Alfredo Ortega Choque and its appointed delegates, and to recommend the non-recognition of the Delegate, so as to prevent unauthorized international representation of Peruvian chess.

On 5 September 2026, Mr. Jaime Alfredo Ortega Choque, as President of the Peruvian Chess Federation, replied to this complaint, detailing the alleged current legal standing of the Board of Directors elected for the 2025–2028 term and explaining that, following the October 2024 election, the board was properly recorded in the Public Registries (SUNARP) and recognised by the Peruvian Institute of Sport (IPD), which subsequently dismissed an administrative challenge filed by Club Villarrica de Oropesa de Huancavelica. Regarding the recent court ruling, he acknowledged that the 20th Civil Court of Lima issued Resolution No. 09 on 27 August 2026 declaring the electoral assembly null, but emphasized that its legal counsel has filed an appeal challenging the ruling for defective reasoning, stressing that under Peruvian civil procedure, the filing of the appeal suspends the effect of the lower court's judgment and prevents it from becoming final, thereby ensuring that the Board of Directors remains fully valid, legitimate, and in effect pending a definitive judicial determination.

Internal matters of the Peruvian Chess Federation do not fall under the competence of the Electoral Commission that cannot evaluate the merits of the first instance decision by a national Tribunal, nor of the submitted appeal against the decision. Given that the decision of annulment of the 2024 elections of the Peruvian Chess Federation is not final and is under appeal, Mr. Pimentel Mendoza, Victor is confirmed as the Peruvian Federation's Delegate.

## **Seychelles**

In June 2026 the Constitutional Commission received copy of a communication allegedly sent by Mr. Steve Hoareau, “Director Competitive & Aquatic Sports - National Sports Council” of Seychelles, reporting that “the Seychelles Chess Association is no longer recognized as a Seychelles National Sport Federation/Association affiliated to the National Sports Council”.

The CC observed that the document was not signed, the competences of Mr. Steve Hoareau at the national level were not clear and in any case it was necessary to ascertain the position of the current President and Board of the Seychelles Chess Federation and to receive a more detailed report on the situation of this Chess Federation concerning compliance with the obligations listed in Article 11 of the FIDE Charter, therefore asked the FIDE Management Board to obtain additional information.

Mr. Steve Hoareau sent an official, signed version of the same above mentioned communication, initially addressed, in January 2026, to Mr. Benjamin Hoareau, President of the Seychelles Chess Federation recognised by FIDE, informing him that the association was no longer recognised as a national sports federation affiliated with the National Sports Council, that the Council would have no longer provided services or financial assistance (noting that the association's last request for funding dates back to 30 November 2018), and outlining the administrative and compliance documents required, such as audited financial reports, meeting minutes, and certificates of continuation from the Registrar, should the association seek re-affiliation in the future.

On 14 July 2026, Mr. Benjamin Hoareau, addressed an official response to FIDE, to refute allegations surrounding its status and contest communications sent to FIDE by National Sports Council, indicating that regular financial support and institutional recognition have continued, including during recent meetings with National Sports Council CEO Mario Pragrassen in June 2026. Furthermore, the Seychelles Chess Federation denounced a deliberate campaign by non-member Robert Stravens (associated with the unaffiliated Victoria Chess Club) to undermine the federation's authority through unauthorized engagements with FIDE and National Sports Council officials, disruption of the Seychelles Chess Federation's Annual General Meeting, interference with school programs, and improper financial offers to FIDE Arbiter Bernardette Contoret and executive members, reaffirming the legitimacy of the Seychelles Chess Federation as the sole recognised governing body for chess in Seychelles.

Jointly to this response Mr. Benjamin Hoareau sent various documents, among them a communication sent by FIDE Arbiter Ms. Bernardette Contoret to the Seychelles Chess Federation, informing the Federation that in May 2026 she received text messages from Robert Stravens and Samuel Nalletamby inquiring about her arbitration fees and offering financial reimbursement to officiate upcoming tournaments organized by the

Victoria Chess Club (VCC). Contoret stated that she immediately escalated the messages to SCF Secretary Dericka Arrisol and Chairman Benjamin Hoareau, emphasizing that because VCC is not affiliated with the SCF and lacks the requisite FIDE criteria to host national-level events, she cannot arbitrate their competitions.

On the 24 July 2026 Mr. Robert Stravens, acting on behalf of himself and the Victoria Chess Club, submitted a complaint to the Constitutional Commission, challenging the status and compliance of the Seychelles Chess Federation under Part II of the FIDE Charter. Mr. Stravens argues that under Article 9.1 of the FIDE Charter, a member federation must maintain continuing principal authority over chess activities in its country, which the Seychelles Chess Federation would have lost following the National Sports Council's decision to formally withdraw national recognition. Supported by an annex of witness statements and documents, the submission alleged severe governance irregularities within the Seychelles Chess Federation, including the absence of valid elections since many years, unvouched financial transactions involving private bank accounts, non-compliance notices from the Registrar of Associations, and unauthorized representations in the FIDE Directory.

On 4 September 2026, the Seychelles Chess Federation sent a “certificate of good standing”, a document issued on 17 August 2026 by the “Registrar of Associations” of the Republic of Seychelles, which certifies, under the Associations Act 2022 and with validity until August 2027, that the Seychelles Chess Federation is regularly registered, is up to date with all payable fees, is not undergoing winding-up or dissolution, faces no pending registry removal proceedings, and is not known by the Registrar to be in contravention of the Act.

There are conflicting declarations concerning the situation of the Seychelles Chess Federation; in any event, the Electoral Commission has no competence over proceedings under Article 13 of the FIDE Charter.

Therefore, Mr. Hoareau, Benjamin is confirmed as the Seychelles Federation's President and Delegate

### **Sri Lanka**

Initially, the name of Mr. Malinda Seneviratne was indicated only as President of the Federation, but following a communication correctly received on 24 August 2026, his name was already correctly indicated also as Delegate in the last published list. This therefore simply needs to be confirmed: Mr. Malinda Seneviratne is the Delegate of the Sri Lanka Federation.

### **Sudan**

There was an initial delay in the updating of the FIDE website, but the name of Mr. Omer Deab was already correctly indicated in the last published list, and it simply needs

to be confirmed that Mr. Omer Deab is the President and Delegate of the Sudan Federation.

### **Turkey**

On 4 September 2026, the Turkish Chess Federation communicated that its General Assembly will be held on 10 September 2026, with a single candidate for the presidency, Dr. Enes Efendioğlu, and asked that his name be inserted both as new President and as Delegate for their Federation. After the communication of the above-mentioned assembly, the name of the new President can be inserted on the FIDE website as legitimate President; however, all communications received less than 30 days before the FIDE General Assembly cannot be taken into account for the purposes of legitimacy to exercise the right to vote and for the correspondent list.

Therefore, no changes can be authorised in the list of the Member Federations entitled to vote, and Mr. Fatih Uysal is confirmed as the Turkish Federation's Delegate.

### **Vanuatu**

On 15 July 2026, Mr. Avinash Nand, writing on behalf of “concerned members, parents, players, and stakeholders” of the Vanuatu Chess Federation, submitted a “notification of governance concerns” to the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Commission. The complaint details alleged persistent institutional deficiencies within the Vanuatu Chess Federation, including operating for roughly four years without a constitutional Annual General Meeting, failing to hold democratic elections or present audited financial reports, exhibiting non-transparent selection processes for the 2026 Chess Olympiad team, and removing General Secretary Jeremy Ellison, as well as seeing subsequent resignations and rejections of team spots, after he advocated for governance reform. Highlighting an official roundtable meeting convened by the Ministry of Youth, Justice and Community Services of Vanuatu on 16 July 2026 to resolve these issues, the submission requests that FIDE “take note of the situation”, encourage the Vanuatu Chess Federation to hold an urgent assembly, and consider allowing the outcome of the government-facilitated mediation to be reflected in the final 2026 Olympiad delegation registration without preventing Vanuatu from competing.

In the following days the same Mr. Avinash Nand sent updated communications, on the 16 July 2026 informing FIDE that Ministry officials would have confirmed that the Federation must urgently convene a general assembly, also attaching a formal petition from former General Secretary Jeremy Ellison requesting an independent review of his removal; on 23 July 2026, he submitted a formal complaint to FIDE, summarising the alleged persistent constitutional breaches, financial opacity, arbitrary selection processes, and non-compliance with Ministry directives, while requesting an independent review; on 29 July 2026, he provided a further follow-up noting that despite a draft Constitution proposed by “VASANOC President” Antoine Boudier and

additional concerns raised by Jeremy Ellison, the Federation would continue to delay the general assembly; finally, on 2 August 2026, he reported that a second player rejected selection for the 2026 Chess Olympiad over transparency concerns and the appointment of an unqualified Women's Team Captain, asking FIDE to conduct merit-based selections of the Teams for Chess Olympiads under threat of FIDE disciplinary measures.

In the same days FIDE received some communications concerning sanctions decided by the Vanuatu Federation against Mr. Jeremy Ellison, former General Secretary of that Federation: an exchange on 27 and 29 July 2026 between the Vanuatu Federation Secretary Mr Rik Hinton and Jeremy Ellison, where Mr. Hinton confirmed that the Executive Committee expelled Mr. Ellison under Clause 7 of the Constitution on 3 July 2026, removing him from the board and the Olympiad team, rejecting his proposal for a new selection tournament as disruptive, and demanding the surrender of all federation property by 29 July. In response on 29 July 2026, Mr. Ellison rejected these demands, asserting that his removal without due process was legally void, maintaining that he holds federation assets solely as a fiduciary custodian. On 30 July 2026, Mr. Ellison submitted a complaint to FIDE, arguing that the expired board lacked statutory authority to alter directory records or team selections, and requested FIDE to declare his removal void.

These requests and complaints concern internal matters of the Vanuatu Chess Federation, which appear to stem from and focus on the selection criteria for the teams registered to participate in the Samarkand Olympiad. They do not fall under the competence of the Electoral Commission and do not in any way affect the voting rights of the Federation and its Delegate.

Therefore, Mr. Hinton, Rik is confirmed as the Vanuatu Federation's Delegate.

Following these decisions, the Electoral Commission approves the final lists of the suspended Member Federations and of the Member Federations entitled to vote and their Delegates, with only one change compared to the last published lists: indicating Mr. Efstathios Efstathopoulos as Delegate of the Greek Federation. All notes relating to pending complaints and requests must also be removed from the final lists.

6 September 2026

The Electoral Commission