

# DIS Meeting

February 3, 2023

Hotel Crowne Plaza/Belgrade, Serbia

*In attendance were: DIS Chair, GM Thomas Luther (Germany), Secretary Nikolaos Kalesis (Greece), Kema Goryaeva, Councillor Dora Martinez (USA), Councillor James Infiesto (Philippines), Member Serpil Turgay Seckin (Turkey), Member Handenur Sahin who is playing on Board 1 for Team Turkey, Member Natasha Morales Santos (Puerto Rico) who is also playing in Team FIDE, Member Dominique Dervieux (France), Member Rahman Mallick Masudur (Bangladesh), Phillip K Gardner (England), Member Piotr Dukaczewski (Poland), Member Tapiwa Gora, Member Andrei Gurbanov, Ewa Kamierczak.*

Some of the players that are participating in the event also joined the meeting to listen in and contribute comments and feedback.

## Agenda of the meeting

### 1) Welcome to our new members

DIS Commission has 11 new members, 7 of them were present and presented new approaches and ideas related to chess players with disabilities.

### 2) The 1st FIDE Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities (Belgrade, Serbia)

The most important and prestigious event of the DIS Commission. Members discussed the developments, organization details, players experience, made suggestions and comments related to the event. Upon conclusion, some changes were proposed for future Chess Olympiads for People with Disabilities.

The DIS will take in to consideration all proposals and new regulations, in accordance with FIDE laws. DIS will take into consideration the needs that different disabilities present and will do this in the best possible way. With the organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> Olympiad for PwD, comes the opportunity to learn from the event and consider DIS member proposals for improvements.

The discussion moved on to improving the structure and cooperation with FIDE Member Countries and the registration of their National Teams for the Olympiad.

To facilitate the process for future Olympiads, it is necessary for every National Chess Federation to appoint an officer that can be a point of contact and provide support specifically for chess players with disabilities and register their Team in cooperation with any local chess organizations for chess players with disabilities.

DIS needs to further educate and properly inform all people involved in the Olympiad for PwD (National Federations, Host Country, Arbiters, Volunteers, Trainers and Organizers)

### **3) Plans and Actions for 2023**

DIS is planning to Organize the Individual World Championship for PwD in August 2023 in Poland

The Polish Chess federation submitted the bid and we are in the final stage of confirmation from FIDE

For 2023, DIS is planning to organize the Workshop “Equal Opportunities” and “Sensitivity Seminars”.

The latter, is a new idea introduced by DIS member James Infiesto, who offered to volunteer and assist. In sharing his experience with these types of seminars in his country, he provides a valuable contribution to the DIS Commission. The Sensitivity Seminar would focus talks and lectures on various disabilities, all in one venue. The goal of this seminar is to improve understanding and interaction between chess players with different disabilities — a chance to better understand the needs of others when attending events like the Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities.

DIS will work for the preparation of the workshop and the seminars. We hope to secure funding to proceed.

### **4) Any other topic from our members**

We had the pleasure to listen to all of our members. Their many requests and proposals are noted.

The experience of the 1<sup>st</sup> Olympiad for PwD and the continuous support of FIDE is very important for all chess players with disabilities.

We want to do our part in helping provide better conditions and equal opportunities in chess for players with disabilities. We are on the right track but, there is still a long road ahead of us. The Olympiad for PwD, when organized every 2 years, will be our event to connect, inform, celebrate and educate the chess world on the needs of chess players with disabilities

Nikos Kalesis  
DIS Secretary