

3.4.1. Proposals of General Secretary.

Mr. Tabbane said that his idea was that the Statutes should include the elections to the Committees, as their regulations miss many details. He said that in these important Commissions, elections should be in General Assembly, to increase democracy and ensure all the Continents are represented. This is the reason he said that the members should be elected on the Continental level. The other point is the incompatibility to be in one Commission and to be in other function or office of FIDE. This is the criticism from other people that some individuals take many offices in FIDE, e.g. Mr. Gelfer who seems to be some kind of superman, and that others do not have the necessary qualities and cannot do the work. He said that the members should run for the elections and if a person is elected, he cannot be in another office or Commission.

He said that normally these proposals can be made to the General Assembly, but he thought that we needed a constructive discussion and to receive suggestions to improve this. He was open minded to any proposals.

He noticed that he had made a mistake in respect of CACDEC and did not include Europe in the continents but there is time before the General Assembly to correct the proposals.

Constitutional Committee should be modified into Constitutional Council which needed to control the elections and the validity of proxies, but every year we need to elect this Committee and we lose time with this. The Council could control the quality and validity of proxies as soon as they come to the Secretariat. This Council is not political, this is only to give advice about legality. This is because we receive many letters with questions on the legality, and these issues should be answered by this Council, not by Executive Director or General Secretary, It would raise the image of FIDE and avoid the situations where FIDE could be taken to court.

Mr. Tabbane said that somebody who is in Verification Commission cannot be in charge of finance when working in some other commissions.

Mr. Tabbane said that we should not have a player in the World Championship Committee that plays in the World Championship, for the period he is in this Committee or vice versa.

He also said that this World Championship Committee should be elected. The actual composition is criticised by people as other continents are not represented there, the composition was made by the Deputy President. The Chairman should be nominated by the President or elected.

He said he is open to all suggestions to improve all proposals.

Vice President Koya disagreed with General Secretary on personal criticisms against some persons. He said that Mr. Gelfer is doing a good job and he is going to many countries on instructions of the FIDE President in his many capacities. He said that if Mr. Gelfer fails in his duties, he should be dealt with in the same way as anyone else. There are differences of opinion, but we should go strictly on business matters.

Annex 3 is proposal of General Secretary N. Tabbane in respect of holding of General Assemblies.

Mr. Kutin said that we should not discuss any of these proposals, as this is just a waste of time as all these proposals have no sense.

Mr. Sand said that there are written answers to all of these proposals, so we should not go into the details. He proposed to reject all the proposals of the General Secretary in their entirety.

Mr. Mazouz said that there is absence of evaluation in this process, all norms are ignored. 11 Commissions and 20 Committees and Councils, all of them need reform, but why is it that the General Secretary chooses just these 5. The problem is that General Secretary instead of clarifying, proposes the methods to destruct and create chaos.

Mr. Mazouz said that there should be expertise, efficiency should be looked for and not the equal representation of all continents.

Mr. Mazouz said that sometimes even the General Assembly sovereignty is put into question, where the decisions should be taken by committees; and the independency of some committees are also in jeopardy.

Regarding Constitutional Council, there is a proposal with limitless task, and nothing can be decided or done without the control of this committee. What will happen if General Secretary is absent? The proposal is that the President is allowed to replace the General Secretary in that case.

The proposal brings interference into structures and paralysis can be expected from the proposals of the General Secretary.

Mr. Al Hitmi said that there are two major points, distribution of power within the organisation and clash of conflict within the FIDE work. If we think about why only Europeans are used in some Committees, then we should also look at the Presidential Board that is dominated by third world countries. He said that we have been chaired by Mr. Campomanes from Asia, which is a third world country as well. And the power is distributed geographically in many areas. We are not dominated by highly developed European countries.

Mr. Al Hitmi said that there is culture in chess and he could name many Presidents of local Federations who are also players or arbiters. This is common in the chess world. It is very good to have an active Grandmaster and I am honored to sit at the same table with Mr. Azmaiparashvili. He said the proposals are inappropriate. He said that we should take into consideration our chess culture and the distribution, which is fairly done.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili concurred with Mr. Sand and said that regarding the World Championship Committee, he felt as a FIDE employee in this business. We have had no complaint from any chess player about the work of our World Championship Committee so far which speaks for itself. If he had done something in the regulations in favour of myself, the world would know this the next day. He said that he is working with the Committee members in order to develop chess in other continents, to give more places to them in the World Championship. He said that we shall take a decision and see who really knows the work.

Mr. Selivanov said that there is conflict of interests, and Mr. Azmaiparashvili cannot be an Arbiter or a member of the Appeals Committee. But for the organisation of the events, the ones who want to work and know how to work should do the work. He supported the proposal of Mr. Sand to reject the proposals in entirety and not to waste the time on this issue any more.

Mr. Makropoulos reminded to the Board that World Champions are members in the FIDE Executive Boards and we want these people to be with us and say their own opinions. By having GM Azmaiparashvili we improved the communication with the players, we improved our work. It is clear that the General Secretary does not know what our Committee is doing. He said that in case there is a problem with WCC, there should be great flexibility among the members.

In order to emphasise the potential problems that we might have in case the World Championship Committee shall follow the pattern proposed by the General Secretary, Mr. Makropoulos referred to the time of the crisis with the Ponomarev-Kasparov match when a lot of officials were making their own separate statements. At that period, the President called him to give specific instructions that only the President or his Deputy are to express FIDE official position in their statements about all the issues relating to the World Championship. Mr. Makropoulos said that we can have the opinions of the delegates from all the continents, but the Committee has to be very small and flexible.

Regarding all other proposals, Mr. Makropoulos said that all these proposals want to take power from the President, create chaos and have only one strong Committee, where Mr. Tabbane wants to be the Chairman. Why did Mr. Tabbane choose these Committees, as he targeting the Committees and people who are key and active people?

Everybody in the Board has problems with the General Secretary, besides the problem in the Arab Union and the Libyan Chess Federation.

Mr. Makropoulos seconded the proposal of Mr. Sand.

Mr. Tabbane asked how you all know better than him of his intentions. He asked why Mr. Makropoulos said that Mr. Tabbane wants to be the Chairman of the Constitutional Committee; for him it is not sure whether he is going to be in FIDE or not. He said that you believe that he has ambition in FIDE, but this is only your assumption. But for Mr. Tabbane, he is General Secretary, also he is in the Committee for copyright and Constitutional Committee. So the proposal applies even to him. He said it is not true that he is trying to minimize the powers of the President. He said that the members in the Verification, Ethics or Constitutional Committee are already elected. He said that in Bled the elections in CACDEC were not done in the right way.

Mr. Tabbane said that to Mr. Al Hitmi the distribution in this Board is very large, but this is because Mr. Al Hitmi and Mr. Vega are from the Continents. He said that only Mr. Vega is from the Americas. It was noted that Mr. Doyle of the United States was nominated by the President to increase the participation of this Continent.

Mr. Tabbane said that there is discrimination in CACDEC membership. He welcomed all help and he said he intended to present these proposals to the General Assembly and there he will see the results.

Mr. Vega said that he is here to support the President on behalf of Americas. He said that a lot of proposals by the General Secretary are not a challenge to the President, in his opinion. He said that to have Grandmaster Azmaiparashvili is very good because he can translate and interpret the position of the professional players. To be or not to be is not the issue here. Mr. Vega said that he is not against the work of the Commissions, but against having 1 or 2 people in all the Commissions, and there are other people who are capable to work in these Commissions. He said he understands that we should choose the most capable people who are at hand, but he does not see an attack on the President, as every member of the Board has a right to propose. He said that it is not good for the Board's prestige to avoid such discussions.

The results of the vote of the proposal to reject all the proposals of Mr. Tabbane are as follows: rejection- 10, abstentions –3.