

# REPORT OF SOCIAL PROJECTS MEETING

## ISTANBUL 2012

Attendance Sheet

Social Chess Projects

1 September 2012, 15.00-19.00

Chairperson: FIDE Vice President, B. Marinello (USA)

Present: L. Leong (SIN), S. Gerasimova (RUS), T. Luther (GER), P. Zbigniew (POL), E. Celi (URU), T. Hongwei (CHN), D. Ratemo (KEN), C. Nyaberi (KEN), P. Chambule (MOZ), H. Rahma (BRN), Abdel Koder , M. Zourui (TUN), Z. Pilimon (POL), O. Boytsun (UKR), Y. Mazurenko (UKR), R. Barrera (ARG), M. Lorea (ARG), T. Sitale (BOT), G. Debessu , J. Juveria

The concept of Social Chess is not new, however for the first time FIDE hosted a meeting dedicated to Social Projects. Back in February 2012 the Presidential Board approved a proposal submitted by FIDE Vice President Beatriz Marinello.

Prior to starting the meeting, the sitting arrangement was changed into a round table since the Social issues are very diverse and inclusive. It was important to provide a setting that sends this message. The successful realisation of projects and ideas depends on the good will of people and federations that relate to the concept of using chess to improve society as a whole.

Everybody attending the meeting knew that they were making history by participating in the first meeting of the Social Chess Projects.

There is a lot of work to be done, many federations have already begun laying the ground work for these projects. The main areas included in the proposal approved by the Presidential Board in February 2012 were:

### Chess as a Powerful Tool for Prevention

1. Chess for Drugs Prevention
2. Chess and the Center for Disease Control
3. Prison Chess

## Chess for reducing the risk of Dementia, Alzheimer's and other Mental Illnesses

### Chess for Equality

1. Aiming to reduce the gender gap between girls/boys – women/men in chess
2. Using chess to reduce the Social and Economic gap for people in the world. There is some study that in India proving the link between chess and the ability for people to obtain higher levels of education and income.

Although these topics were approved as part of the proposal, it was a general consensus that Chess for Peace and Chess for Disabled are compatible to this topic.

Many good ideas were expressed at the meeting which added a lot of value to the work that needs to be done in the near future

At this point it is important to begin addressing the social aspects, developing guidelines for the federations and creating communication channels between the Social Chess Projects and the National Federations in order to have a solid foundation.

The participants in the meeting made a lot of good suggestions such as creating pilot projects, organizing a chess day for Social Chess with special ribbons for topics such as HIV prevention, awareness and even organizing tournaments on this special day.

A letter was given to FIDE Vice President Beatriz Marinello from heavily disabled chess players making a request to accommodate their needs.

Resulting from the meeting it can be seen that there is great interest in making the Social Chess Projects a meaningful body that supports FIDE's mission to popularize chess and reach out to other World and International organizations with similar goals to use chess as an effective social tool.



Beatriz Marinello  
FIDE Vice President