

Fédération Internationale des Échecs



World Chess Federation

Chess In Schools Commission

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CISC: 10-07

Caracas, June 15th 2010

H.E. Kirsan Iljumzhinov

FIDE President

Elista - Kalmikya.-

Dear President Iljumzhinov:

More than 30 years we has dedicated to our work for the development of chess at schools. Such work refers to those educative values in chess, that can be studied and developed from kindergarten to university in the different educative systems. Chess represents one of the most antique cultural element in history. It involves elements of arts, sports and scientific way of thinking.

Due to our believe about the values and its benefits, we assumed as part of our mission and interest to promote the chess as a noble cause in benefit of a better man and women in the society of the 21st century.

With this vision we consider the cause of the Chess as a **Universal Right** and an **Intangible Mankind's Cultural Heritage**.

That is the reason why in 1993 we submit a proposition before the International Chess Seminar in Schools, under the LXIV FIDE Congress that took place in the beautiful city of Curitiba, Brazil (1993), for which we asked for your support.

Chess as Intangible mankind's cultural heritage

"The historical chess development allows us to consider that this activity represented a bridge between east and west, noting that after a continental migration taking many centuries, its natural and original enchantment which has remained the same before the eyes of new generations.

We should recognize that chess is a collective work. Within the centuries, millions of men and women of different social status, race, political beliefs, and religious has become the wheels of such instrument of game, sports and cultural promotion.

Many of its followers consider that its study and systematic practice can develop a lot of skills and abilities as no other activity. Particularly, the work of chess masters who have experienced and suffered its conflicts as well as its emotions, its biggest happiness and defeats, everything in the same field, the intellectual field. Many of its works represent actual master pieces due to its beauty, harmony and synthesis of its high human component. Some others are indestructible works that seem to get stronger with time passing by.

All these values have been served through the chess to the service of the humanity, hundreds of remarkable thinkers and men like philosophers, Scientifics, composers, army people, politicians, common men and women have gone through the most universal game: chess.

We should conclude that chess has given humanity a message of intellectual grow, taking it to superior levels of knowledge, that provides at the same time lots of ways of never-ending emotions. Although, just few are the selected people who have perceive the hidden wonders and treasures in it.

In this sense, chess requires more promotion and protection, especially by the different governments all over the world because its values permit us to recognize in this game a praise way for the human spirit, in consequence it is part of our important planetary heritage. It is the time the bridge connecting east and west can be recognized, valued and promoted by men, no matter condition or nationality".

In accordance to the before mentioned arguments, we please the General Assembly of FIDE, taking place in the city of Khanty Mansyk, to discuss and consider to approve the following proposals:

1. Due to the pedagogical values and the relationship with the development of skills, chess can be considered as a Universal Right: all children in Earth have the right to know about the principles and characteristics of the chess.
2. Due to its long history and worldwide presence, chess can be recognized as **Intangible Mankind's Cultural Heritage** that is chess as the result of timeless creation of the human spirit.
3. Consider to include the before mentioned proposals in the handbook FIDE (Chapter 01- Status, principles, aims and revenues of FIDE).
4. To introduce the before mentioned proposals before the UNESCO for its formal acceptance, which implies UNESCO to declare and include chess as an intangible cultural element.

We consider that taking into account the conditions already described and to fulfill these actions would facilitate the process of recognizing and including chess as a right and part of the cultural heritage among the population. That would permit more followers of the chess to be incorporated to the sports discipline, allowing a more complex understanding of it and enrichment and diversification of the chess cultural influence.

President Ilyumzhinov, the movement related to chess in the world needs your support.

Gens Una Sumus.

Dr. Uvencio Blanco
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