



FIDE General Assembly  
Members of the FIDE Executive  
Committee  
FIDE Presidential Council  
FIDE Secretariat

The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Chess Federation are deeply concerned over the plans of FIDE General Assembly on September 21-22, 2024 in Budapest, Hungary to consider restoring the rights of the national chess federations of the Russian Federation and Republic of Belarus as full members of FIDE and allowing their representatives back to the international chess community.

The Russian Federation has been waging a hybrid war against Ukraine for more than a decade, culminating in a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, which continues to this day and has become the bloodiest war in Europe since World War II.

Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale military aggression, the Ukrainian sports community has lost more than 500 athletes and coaches, including 21 chess players, and two more are missing.

More than 500 sports infrastructure facilities have been destroyed or damaged, including 15 Olympic, Paralympic and Deaflympic training bases.

We would like to emphasize once again that Russian and Belarusian sports communities are an instrument of Russian and Belarusian state policies. The athletes with Russian and Belarusian citizenship have no place in the international sports movement, as there is no place for countries that wage aggressive imperialistic wars among peaceful nations. Allowing them back would mean legitimizing wars their nations wage.

We insist that the national teams of neither the Russian Federation nor Republic of Belarus have the right to participate in international competitions under the auspices of FIDE, and their chess players have the right to participate in FIDE tournaments only in a neutral status in accordance with the IOC recommendations.

As long as Russian troops, with the support of the Belarusian government conduct their brutal war against the Ukrainian people, the ban on participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in any international competitions must be upheld.

We call on FIDE to maintain the suspension of athletes from the russian federation and republic of belarus from participating in any international competition.

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and Sports of Ukraine

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