

Social Action Commission
Meeting Minutes
Batumi, Georgia
30th September 2018, 15.00-17.00

Chairperson: Beatriz Marinello (USA)

General Secretary: Robert Katende (UGA)

Present: S. Sloan (USA), C. Meyer (USA), G. Wastell (AUS), M.N. Viang (CMR), G. Oen (USA), R. Jones (PNG), P. Klerides (CYP), T. Rich (USA), S. Ronde (USA), D. Chen (TPE), N. Kalesis (SOL), A. Alkont (KUW), A. Zaheer (AFG), G.J. Bendana (NCA), E. Posumbetov (CFR), M. Turpanov (KGZ), T. Hongwei (CHN)

Agenda:

1. Opening
2. Presentation from Carol Meyer (USA)
3. Presentation from Social Action Commission Chairperson, Beatriz Marinello
4. Comments and Reactions
5. Coffee Break
6. Presentation from General Secretary
7. Comments and Reactions
8. Closing

Min. 1. Opening:

The meeting was opened by the Social Action Commission Chairperson, Beatriz Marinello at 15:02 and she welcomed people for turning up for the meeting. She also introduced the Commission lead team and members. She gave a brief history of the Commission and asserted that it was now six years since it was established in Turkey 2012. She added that a lot of work has been done in using Chess for Social Development and that a lot more is yet to be done.

Min.2. Presentation from Carol Meyer (USA)

The Chairperson invited Carol Meyer from USA to make a presentation of how they have used chess to bridge social gaps in New York between Girls [Women] and Boys [Men]. Consideration was given and Carol was invited to speak first due to a conflict in her schedule. Carol explained they have a conducive free space for the girls to engage in chess and share on how to bridge the big gaps that exist between girls and boys. She showed a video where the girls were testifying about their experiences to play in tournaments dominated by boys to the meeting that they invite elite women chess players.

And how they have been able to overcome that fear and intimidation created because of this big gap.

Min.3. Presentation from Chairperson:

The chairperson then gave a presentation through projection of images and content of the social development work performed in the field this past year. A PDF attachment of the Social Action Commission Booklet is attached to this report. She also shared reports on the progress with the chess program for Seniors in Argentina. Knowing that chess helps greatly on the effects of Alzheimer; a disease so common in the elderly, this has helped create space for social interactions and sharing of experiences.

The Chairperson added that, despite a very small budget provided by FIDE, a lot has been achieved through collaboration with National Federations and other entities that use chess as a tool for social development. She added that support has yet to reach refugee camps simply because of limited resources, but the possibilities of chess for social development in refugee camps are there.

In most parts of Africa, education is not free and through the Social Action Commission, we have managed to secure and mobilize some scholarships for some children from very poor backgrounds and the children supported thus far are doing extremely well in academics as well as improving with their chess knowledge. To continue with this chess education, earlier this year (2018), Beatriz conducted a special training program for the girls in the chess program in Gulu, Uganda - a training program given to a center full to capacity with the girls in chess. The girls were delighted to welcome Beatriz back to Uganda.

Education is a key component with training for teachers and support team a huge priority. We have managed to launch and teach chess to teachers as well as the children in Nepal, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Botswana, Kenya, Cameroon and Uganda. This has included working with the indigenous people in some of these countries. The Social Action Commission has connections in four continents, in the Americas through the coordination of Beatriz Marinello, in Africa (five countries) through the coordination and work of Robert Katende and Beatriz Marinello, in Europe through the coordination of Paris Klerides. Since the launch of the Social Action Commission, there are four pilot programs that did extremely well: Uganda, France, USA and Chile with continued support in some of the countries and some special projects and events in others.

Min.4. Coffee Break:

There was a coffee break for 10 minutes

Min.5. Presentation from General Secretary:

Robert Katende made a presentation with some images projected on the screen for the work in the last one and half years. He shared the work and the missions done with

Chairperson, Beatriz Marinello, in Africa, particularly in Botswana and Uganda, in addition to others he has done in Kenya and some remote areas in Uganda. He has distributed chess materials especially chess sets.

He coordinated and gave chess materials to the Chess Programs for Social Development in Botswana which are run by Coach Jeremiah. He has also given out chess materials to the remote villages where Chess for Social Development programs are being established. He also gave a report on the differently-abled (Disabled) chess programs established both in Uganda and Kenya to bridge the social gap between the handicapped and the abled-bodied. He informed the meeting that there are meetings going on with the Japanese embassy in Uganda to support chess for social development programs. Some developments are already underway for Wheaton College to send undergraduate students for social development to intern with the Chess for Social Development programs.

Min.6. Comments and reactions:

One member commended the work done by the Social Action Commission and added that it is greatly improving the image of FIDE in the world. That even sponsors prefer to support social development work and with this kind of work focusing on Social Development through Chess should be able to draw in funders/sponsors.

Hongwei Tian from China shared about the chess ripples being built in China that have greatly helped to socially engage all youths at different levels.

Rupert Jones, shared an interview story that was captured during this World Olympiad about the doctors who are playing for their countries and while back at home they spend most of the time attending to bomb casualties. Chess has enabled their countries to give them leave so that they would be able to compete at the World Chess Olympiad.

Min. 7. Closing:

The meeting was adjourned at 17:00



SOCIAL ACTION COMMISSION CHESS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Social Action Commission



The FIDE Social Action Commission 'SAC' is dedicated to using chess, as a tool for social development. The Social Action Commission advocates for the use of chess as:

- An equalizer for gender, social and economic development.
- For life skills, ethics, good character development and empowerment.
- A tool to reach out to children-at-risk including those in impoverished communities and refugee camps.
- To work with organizations that aim to combat problems connected to memory loss and aging.

Mission



The FIDE Social Action Commission created and supports programs that have a positive impact on many lives. Using chess as a platform to empower teachers in communities, as well as providing support that will help children to develop life skills and promote positive social development we are helping make a difference. In addition to the 'Smart Girl Chess Programs', which is a program created by Beatriz Marinello, to support girls in chess all over the world, we have also organized seminars that empower the teachers, social workers and players within these communities so that they may support and create programs for children-at-risk.





The key is to create programs, training and opportunities that empower the people that are using chess as a tool for social development within their bases, whether they are teachers, instructors, and/or social workers.





‘Smart Girl Chess Program’

The program aims to become a neutralizer for the cultural beliefs that have always marginalized women. Some of the girls in the communities we have supported would never have expected to participate in programs that would make a difference in their lives -- and now Chess has provided this opportunity!

Our Chair, Beatriz Marinello, was able to find sponsorship for some of the youth in the ‘Smart Girl Chess Programs’. These young girls come from extreme poverty conditions and with the support of these sponsors they have been given scholarships and are now enrolled in boarding school for formal education.





Chess is an
amazing game
and tool - with
the power to
transform lives.

‘Smart Girl Chess Program’



More than one hundred girls were initiated to chess in France from January to September of 2018 and several clubs are ready to continue this project that the Social Action Commission Chair, Beatriz Marinello has initiated.

With the support of the French Chess Federation, Jocelyne Wolfangel, National Girls and Women Program Director in France, is managing this amazing program.



More than 100 girls start chess in France with the support of the French Federation and the Social Action Commission.





In Botswana chess in education is blooming. During a visit to Botswana for a FIDE Trainers Seminar, the Social Action Commission Chair, Beatriz Marinello and General Secretary, Robert Katende were welcomed by FIDE Arbiter/Trainer, Jeremiah Dikgang and attended a wonderful event held at a local school. A special thanks to the President of the Botswana Chess Federation, Mothokomedi Thabano and the members of the board for their warm hospitality.



Providing access to FIDE Seminars is a key component to empowering chess promoters and players so they acquire expertise to build chess in their countries.





In Nepal, during the first chess tournament held for children in 'group homes', our Chair, Beatriz Marinello, met with the Minister of Sports and discussed the collaborative efforts being made to reach out to the children in 'group homes'. Organizing tournaments such as these gives the children an opportunity to participate in events that are normally closed to them.

Chile was one of the first countries to gain support with a pilot, 'Smart Girl Chess Program'. A special thanks to Mariela Cortes for her amazing work and efforts. We also want to thank the Chilean Chess Federation for their encouragement.



Intergeneration: Children and Seniors



The FIDE Social Action Commission seeks to strengthen the social fabric of communities and create opportunities for encounter through chess, that can strengthen the dialogue between generations.



A 501 (c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Not all people will be affected by Alzheimer's or Dementia. However, 100% of people will be affected by brain aging. Learning and playing chess and engaging in other cognitively challenging activities may help with the prevention of cognitive deterioration. Chess provides brain fitness!



What is a Teacher?

The Social Action Commission co-organizes a Conference on Social and Educational Chess in conjunction with the Cordoba Chess Federation, the Cordoba University and Social Action Commission Member IM Guillermo Soppe.



What is a Teacher? At the Conference on Social and Educational Chess, participants attended a lecture by 'world renowned' New York chess coach, David MacEnulty whose life and work inspired the movie, "Knights of the South Bronx".





‘SAC’ Chair, Beatriz Marinello with the Minister of Women Empowerment and the Family, Marie Therese Abena Ondo and President of the Cameroon Chess Federation Michel Nguele Viang during a visit to Cameroon.



Gabriella Johnson teaching at the Valkyries Chess Club in Trinidad and Tobago. The Executive of Valkyries Chess Club is very excited about this new venture to further develop chess among girls in Trinidad and Tobago. “This program is fully aligned to the man-date and scope of the Social Action Commission

and we look forward to their support in delivery of a much needed and successful intervention.”

ExpoChess under the leadership of Jose Manuel Sierra and the support of Leontxo García, Juan Antonio Montero, GM Judith Polgar and prominent Spanish women chess players have taken on an important role in advocating for gender equality in chess.



Program 'Chess Children of the World' which now includes 16 countries and is organized by ExpoChess in collaboration with the Social Action Commission.



Members



Chairperson
Marinello, Beatriz



Secretary
Katende, Robert



Councillor
Tian, Hongwei



Councillor
Bendana-Guerrero,
Guy Dr.



Councillor
Klerides, Paris



Member
Halman, Irvin



Member
Jones, Rupert



Member
Viang, Michel Nguele



Member
Basti, Johanna

Members



Member
Ibrahima, Konate



Member
Asefi, Zaheeruddeen



Member
Murphy, Margaret



Member
Soppe, Guillermo



Member
Larrachea Formas, Dorita





FIDE Social Action Commission

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