



**FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE AJEDREZ
CONFEDERACIÓN DE AJEDREZ PARA AMÉRICA**

Zempoala 415 Col. Narvarte
Deleg. Benito Juárez C.P. 03020 México, D.F.

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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
JANUARY-JUNE 2015**

Activities in this period have been excellent, we have covered the cycle of the World Championship Absolute with all our qualified players to the World Cup properly informed, The Zonals were held in Lima, Guayaquil and Asuncion, and the Continental Absolute in Uruguay was magnificently organized with a notable participation., A high quality South American U20 Absolute and Female was held in Barrancabermeja, Colombia and the CARIFTA in Barbados for the Caribbean Area.

The 2015 calendar of events is practically covered with only the Female Zonals 2.3 & 2.5 and the CAC U20 to determine in this meeting. With reference to the 2016 calendar, which is almost complete, only some federations have to ratify. I want to remind you of the importance in establishing the dates and cities for hosting events.

Technical upgrade has not been neglected, an organizers seminar was held in Curacao for the first time, another organizers seminar was held on the internet with substantial savings for our finances. In the second semester we have programmed technical seminars and the information shall be dispersed shortly.

On the topic of finance, I shall leave the details for our treasurer Eng, Allan Herbert even though I can state that they are healthy.

As per regulations, the 2015 Continental Board meeting with all its members and distinguished guest was held in March in Cali.

As the Continental President, I want to inform you that apart from the CB of CCA before mentioned, I met with executives of the Argentinian, Uruguayan,



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Paraguayan, Brazilian, Peruvian, Salvadorian, Mexican and Panamanian Federations.

and Trinidad & Tobago Federations, and I took part in the FIDE executive board meeting held in Chengdu, China in my capacity as member of the Presidential Board. Besides this, I had another meeting in Athens, Greece with the FIDE secretariat.

I must mention the meetings of DEV in Barbados of which I am a board member and the SPC to which I was invited by its Chairman, GM Darcy Lima.

Important recognition is given to the surety of reciprocity with the WOM, co-presided by WGM Martha Fierro, member of the FIDE presidential ticket, for the continuity of benefits to chess in the continent.

Without anything further to add in the political sphere, I would like to confirm all that was said in my previous report to highlight the importance of a united block in America and remind you all that those who supported a different FIDE candidate are not our enemies but only circumstantial adversaries. The meaning of opponent was expressed in my previous report.

Finally, I will like to once more thank all those who worked for the development and growth in America, the list of individuals would be too long to mention.

Jorge Vega
Continental President
Mexico City June 12, 2015



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**Minutes of the CCA General Assembly
Cali, Colombia - 2nd July 2015**

Participants: Jorge Vega – President (Gua-Usvi), Darcy Lima VP (Bra-Aru), Russell Smith – Gen Sec (Guy-Bah), Allan Herbert – Treasurer (Bar-Ber), Alfonso Naranjo - Board Member (BM), Fidel Gonzalez – BM (Ven), Georgios Makropoulos (Fide Deputy Pres), Beatriz Marinello – (Fide VP, Chi), Martha Fierro (Fide VP), Emilio Bastidas (Ecu), Jose Vivela (Sur-Aho), Marlon Kaslan, David Martin (TTO), Mauricio Castro (Crc-Pan), Erick Hernandez (Esa-Hon), Enrique Celi (Uru-Mex), Bernardo Roselli, Rosa Estela Mendoza, Pedro Dominguez (Dom-Hai), Victor Decoud (Par), Michael Khodarkovsky (Usa), Mario Petrucci (Arg), Javier Vergara (Col), Javier Monroy (Bol), Echegaray Carlos & Carlos Vaspuez.

The General Secretary opened the meeting by welcoming every one to the 2015 Continetal Assembly and a special welcome to FIDE DP Mr. Makropoulos for his presence. Immediately the floor was given to Mr. Makropoulos.

Makropoulos: Thanks to every one and Mr. Vega for the invitation to the assembly. I have been working with Jorge to solve continental problems, changing regulations of the continents while Europe thinks they are right but the rest of the world has a different reality.

We may have to use ideas that may not work in Europe but may work well in other continents.

Every thing possible is being done to keep the unity in FIDE. There is excellent work that Jorge and his colleagues are doing in America.

The one who represents this continent in FIDE is Jorge, all other FIDE executive board members from the continent are to represent the global ideals of FIDE, when I am elected in FIDE I am not elected for Europe/America, I have to work for all. So Beatriz, Martha Fierro, Allan from DEV including Nigel Freeman Exec director also falls in that bracket. If we break this principle then we will have problems, this does not mean we do not want direct communications with the federations, I will be very happy during the two days I am here if any one wants to speak with me, I will be very happy to discuss any problem with you.

Kirsan is not a president waiting for elections to ask federations if they need something, we don't have a black list with people who did not vote for Kirsan, he is here to help all federations, he is helping with moneys from his pockets, what ever you need, please do not feel embaraced to speak with me so I can inform Kirsan with a better report.

Vergara: In the name of the Colombian chess federation I will like to thank all for their presence, including representatives of FIDE Mr. Makropoulos.



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Kirsan was here and we appreciate you are here to cooperate with us and an honor us with your presence, I wish you all a very good stay, when ever you return to Colombia your are welcome.

We wish the event was perfect, but please accept our apologies for any inconveniences, Any defaults will be corrected for the next occasion, have a good day and thank you.

Presentation of president's reports.

Vega: Again welcome to all, normally my reports are very short, but as you can see this one is very large, I have had to analyse the past and the foreseeable future.

The world is in a financial crisis, specifically with the drop in oil prices, consequently the budgets of nations have been cut, ofcourse the fall in oil prices has hit very hard in Russia, and the ruble has lost value, as a consequence this will affect the events in FIDE because many of the events are held in the Russian Republics, or in countries that produce oil.

The CCA has a good financial base, we have covered practically all our calender for 2014, the calender for 2016 is full, basically only one event is pending, we can take care of our programs without problems, the budget in the Dev Com has been cut from \$400,000 to \$200,000.

Following on the words of Mr. Macropoulos, I am going to insist that we preserve the unity in America at all cost, we must make a differentiation between adversary and enemy, adversaries are those who in principle had a

different position to the American block with reference to the candidacy of Kirsan, they deserve all our respect, but they have stop being adversaries after the elections, they deserve our respect, we must have an open relationship that must be respected. Enemies are those who try to sabotage the unity in America, speading rumors, lies and any sorts of untruths, basically it is based on personal ambitions, those are the ones we have to combat and are the enemies, America is powerful due to the unity it commands, we can say that the American block guaranties 24/26 votes at elections, if this disappears we will then be considered as in other continents where different groups supports the same candidate for president, but lacks unity.

In general, I will like to thank the extraordinary work of the members of the continental board, that has simplified my job, we have a general secretary who is an example of work who some times is the one who pressures me with work, Mr. Allan Herbert carries all the accounts and basically I do not have to do any thing, and of course I must thank all the help from my deputy president GM Darcy who practically many times has simplified my job in the continent, and has the capacity to lead America when I am not available.



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On 2018 I am sure we will have two candidates for fide president, at this time I can not try to give names, but we must be prepared for such an event, again I will like to request we keep the unity at any cost.

Erick: Good morning to all, I have heard the discourse of the president and I must mention something I find trascendental which is about the persons who are trying to destabilize the unity in America, I will like to ask the president, to whom is he referring too.

Vega: It does not worth it to throw wood to the fire, it is not necessary to divuldge the persons name lets give them time to reflect before any further damage is done.

Dominguez: Above all, welcome Mr. Makropoulos, your presence is a demonstration to the value and support from FIDE. As I heard you, it would seem like it was yesterday as you touch on several aspects, the first time I meet Mr. Vega was in the Dominican Republic, he gave us the good and best possible support for the good of chess, subsequently I went to a tournament in Trinidad & Tobago that I liked very much called Umada Cup, Umada means friendship, and I believe that word reflects the American continent in its meaning, even thow we are very different we have some thing in common, we think in the good for chess, its interesting that our CCA meetings at Olympiads last very short times, we already have a focus on a common objective benefits to chess, there are no arguments or fights, and we treat one another like brothers and friends, that unity must be maintain by all means, because it gives us strength internally and our position in FIDE.

I will like to propose and read that we submit to a vote the following:

“Those presents in the leadership of chess in America express our willingness to keep us united as is now, with the objective to continue to develop chess in our continent, with a spirit of service and fellowship always in the common well being of our sport”.

It was unanimously approved by the floor.

The general secretary declared a change in the agenda, the treasurer will present his report tomorrow to the assembly. The calender of events will be left for this evening. Three points remains, electoral, events and financial regulations.

Resumption:

Vega: all by now know that FIDE changed the electoral regulations in 2014, we need to adapt to the new rules, but not necessarily in such a complicated manner. I think it is not necessary such a strict revision of proxies as in FIDE, and the dead line does not have to be so rigorous, but we must modify the election of the tickets where it is composed by 7 members.

We must nominate the tickets by 5 presidents. This is the only immediate change I proposed. Mrs. Marienelo asked for copies of the existing regulations and a draft of the



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changes requested. To which the Gen Sec explained that it was a minor change and no need to print all the regulations.

Makropoulos confirmed that since it is a minor change then there is no need for this. The issue is the great difference is in the rules for recognizing the proxies; I will like you to study FIDE regulations for the proxy.

A question was asked; if it is necessary for the endorsement by the federations of the nominees, Makropoulos confirmed it was not necessary. Any 5 presidents of federations and the ticket must be endorsed 3 months prior to the election of the continental ticket.

Vega will like to conclude; we approve the endorsement of 5 presidents, we will study the issue of the proxies before Baku, and the electoral regulations should be ready by then.

Marinelo requested the agenda for Baku and all regulations should be circulated 3 months in advance of the assembly in Baku 2016.

It was approved that 5 presidents of federations shall nominate the ticket for the Continent of America.

Dominguez: with reference to organization of events, we must become a little more English for improvement. We must become stricter and improve with some regulations. Russell and I have been conversing with some good ideas on how to improve it.

Petrucci indicated the problem is too complex to just try to be Americanized with so many different cultures and ways of life in the continent.

Marinelo agrees to the differences, obviously local organizers must do some things their way, but there are other issues that are common and we must professionalize, she believes we should base our changes on professional marketing. They did this in the USA.

Darcy explained besides this, we must consider the reality of chess as compared with football. Our game is better from an educational & social point of view. We should develop on these pillars.

There are good and bad things in professionalizing the events, we must be careful with the changes to be made.

Russell: I agree with the point of view of the speakers, but we can't stay in generalities, we need to address the problems of the individual tournaments, be it regional or continental or zonals.

I think we must now address the problems at the panamericans with possible solutions such as the closing of registrations two days before the beginning of the event, the blitz



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and classic, if players can purchase airline tickets two months in advance, why can't we register and pay for our players in advance.

We should not have so many defaults in the first round, we should not start the first round so late. Penalties should be enforced for those who register and pay late with higher fees, or simply give them a zero point bye to help avoid these problems. Pairings should be done minimum hours before play.

Dominguez: Proposes we make a non-mandatory organizers booklet with guidelines and recommendations for holding tournament.

Mauricio/Darcy: Modify the regulations before Baku, for approval in Baku and enter into force by 2017 January 01

The Assembly agreed that we accept this time table.

Mauricio: proposes CCA get continental corporate sponsorship for all the feds of the continent., taking into account the numbers of people that partake in all the CCA events in the continent.

Vergara explained the risk of having master sponsors when in any country there can be a local sponsor willing to sponsor 10 times the value for that particular event in that particular country.

Financial Regulations:

Allan: Does not propose any changes to the financial regulations. He mentioned that the promotional events does not attract sufficient income for the organisers due to low entry fees.

Events:

Russell: We move on to Events allocation confirmation and bids.

2015: Female Zonal 2.3 confirmed in El Salvador

2015 Zonal 2.5 Female in Paraguay was suspended but will be decided upon soon by the Zone president.

Marinelo ask when is the meeting to decide Zonals, she was informed the Zone Presidents decides.

2015: 19 – 30 August CAC U20 and Panam Senior Confirmed by Venezuela

2015: South American Youth Festival Bolivia Confirmed December 2 - 7

2015: Continental Female Mexico does not have a date it will be confirmed tonight.

2015: Panam Team: Two options, Peru and Dominican Republic, both withdrawn, the best placed team from Tromso Olympiad will represent the continent.

2015: Panam University, will await for Peru confirmation; arrives tomorrow

2015: CA Nicaragua confirmed in July

2015: Panam Scholastic Costa Rica December



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2015: CAC Festival Trinidad & Tobago Confirmed 13-19 August

2015 Panam Amateur Bolivia 19 – 24 August

2015 Caricom Team Guyana Cancelled

2015 CA Team Nicaragua confirmed 27 – 31 July

2016

2016: Panam Festival Uruguay 24 – 31 July

2016: Panam Scholastic Cartagena, Colombia 6 – 12 October

2016: South American Youth Festival 6 -12 December Santiago or Vina del Mar, Chile

2016: Panam Amateur Peru – Costa Rica, if Peru withdraw Ecuador & Argentina interested

2016: Subzonal 2.3.5 confirmed Barbados. Fide removed the award of IM title from Subzonals for players who score 2/3

2016 South American U20 Surinam confirmed

2016: Continental Absolute El Salvador confirmed 27 May – 6 June

2016: CAC Festival Venezuela

2016 Panam Female Mexico confirmed

2016 Carifta: Virgin Islands confirmed Easter

2016 Panam U20 Colombia – Mexico

2016 Panam University Honduras

2016 Panam Senior Bolivia

2016 CAC U20 El Salvador August

2017

2017 CAC U20 Barbados July confirmed

2017 Panam Festival Venezuela – Costa Rica to be decided tomorrow

2017 CAC Festival Nicaragua

2017 Continental Classic, Rapid & Blitz confirmed Colombia

2017 Panam Senior Colombia

2017 Panam Scholastic El Salvador April - Nicaragua

2017 South American Festival Paraguay

2017 World Youth Festival Brazil 21 – 31 August

2017 World Youth Festival Uruguay 16 – 26 September

2017 Panam Amateur Trinidad & Tobago, Costa Rica & Ecuador to be decided tomorrow.

2017 South American U20 Ecuador confirmed

2017 Panam Female Ecuador

2017 Carifta Surinam confirmed

2017 Panam U20 El Salvador

2017 Panam University Mexico

2017 Panam Team pending regulations

3 July 2015 Meeting Continuation

Fidel: Thank Colombia as host and all Feds for the trust given to Venezuela for the Panam Festival, but they will like to withdraw in a collaborative effort to support Costa Rica to host

the Panam Festival in light of their developmental plan and at the same time keeping the philosophy of unity in America.



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Venezuela will wait and looks forward to host this event in the future with better conditions, but we will retain the second option.

Mauricio: Thanked Fidel for the collaboration; he will like now to withdraw his bids for the Panamerican Amateur. And thank everyone as the future host of the Panam Festival 2017.

Panam Amateur 2016: Costa Rica withdrew; If Peru withdraws the second option is Argentina and third option Ecuador.

Panam Amateur 2017: Two bidders, Trinidad & Tobago & Ecuador are bidding.

David: Having T&T been obligated to give up the events of 2015 and 2016 we believe that we should be given the opportunity to host one tournament in 2017.

Emilio: We find it more important for us to host the Panam Amateur rather than the Panam Female, we have a huge base U2000 rating and that's the main reason they will like to host this event. They propose to surrender the Panam Female in favor of the Amateur.

Allan recommends we come back to the assembly of 2016 with firm offers from TTO & ECU for consideration.

Celi: We have been bidding by affinity and not knowing all the conditions for a vote.

Russell: Ofcourse this is due to submissions & voting on the spot.

The assembly agreed that full proposals should be sent to CCA before the next executive board meeting. Before December 31 they shall present full proposal to the executive board which shall be presented before to the next assembly.

Presentation of Financial Report:

Allan: Last year was very good, our registrations increased by \$40,000.00 due to Panam Youth and the Continental.

Fide also increased the development grant to the continent by \$45,000.00 euros or double it. We had a surplus of \$100,000. Our expenditure decreased by \$10,000.00 due to many not taking up the travel grants.

This year Fide has cut the DEV by 50%. However due to the previous surplus we can use it this year. Possibly next year we may see an increase in the budget from FIDE for DEV.

There was also a decrease in travel and the office of the president and the general secretary. It is significant to see an increase in debits by the feds to CCA. It is not easy to transfer funds in some Feds.

We have feds owing 40% of CCA debt.

Our net income was \$94,000. Our reserve as of today is \$201,000



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Fide invested in a tournament registration system for Tromso, and Makropoulos will find out if we can use this system. For some feds its less costly to pay with credit cards.

Budget 2015: Projecting a little surplus, I will try to have a balance budget.
I will like to congratulate Mauricio and Bernardo for the achievement in obtaining the GM title with help from the CCA travel grant.

Kodakowski offered a similar software made by some friends that is being developed in the USA for registration of tournaments and transfers of payments, it should be cheaper and avoid interbank conflicts.

Questioned if there are any fees that will be charged by CCA for the licensing of players by Fide.

Allan will ask Markropoulos about this issue.
The assembly approved the Treasurer's Report and discharged him of further obligations.

Other matters:

Petrucci: At the end of an event we should have a format and evaluate all tournaments held in CCA for further consideration for improvement.

Mauricio: reference to DEV, will like to see a modification of the scale for classifying feds in the DEV. Using 20 players instead of 10 players for the evaluation to define levels in DEV. This should avoid distortions in the criteria for selection.

Allan: The Fide rating office is doing an analysis, I can report about it after Abu Dabi.

Fidel: Proposes we all write our NOC requesting the inclusion of Chess in the regional multidisciplinary games. There are social guarantees when you are backed by your government.

He extended to all an invitation to the Panamerican Seniors and CAC events in Margarita during month of august 2015.

Roselli: His subject is CiS, he was nominated by Mr. Vega to be part of the committee. I have asked for the appointment of a representative of each federation to our committee. They are preparing a book with all the experiences in America.

Celi: Believes we shall never form part of the Olympic Games because of the interest of the present members in not dividing the finances.

Petrucci: we should ask at every opportunity when regional games are being held, the incorporation of chess in the games.

Russell: In the TTO scene, I observed in the NOC in the Caribbean difficulties for none Olympic sports to get much help, it is very attractive now for them having the rights to



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satellite coverage of the Olympic games in the Caribbean, they may not want to divide that income stream with none Olympic sports.

I can also perceive from conversations in the Ministry of Sports that they recognize that issue and are now more willing to deal more directly with the Federations outside the NOC core providing more help to these sports.

Allan explained what was the Carifta Games. All disciplines are not held in the same county. Barbados Chess Fed receives 80% of its finances from its NOC. The next Panam Multidisciplinary games are in Peru where there is a great possibility of getting chess included in the games. We should work towards this.

Javier: Bolivia will always be part of the American family, what I will like to request is that chess be included in ODESUR games in Cochabamba 2018. A requirement that is necessary for the organizers is that the CCA pronounce its desire to be included in the games.

Our federation is in a better financial position with FIDE & CCA compared to when I assumed the responsibilities of the Bolivian Fed. Each country belonging to the group should send the letter. Bolivia to send a draft letter for the petition

Vega: Once more thank every one for their cooperation and the meeting was closed.

Russell Smith
Secretary General – CCA

REPORT 2014

It is appropriate at the end of the year I present a report on the state of our activities and also make projections for the future while analysing different aspects in sports, economics and politics, measure different difficulties we faced in the past year and also those projected for the future with the view to prevent any anomaly that may affect us.

Sport

Sport was highlighted by the continued number of successes accomplished in CCA in the past; our calendar of events was carried out with the only exception being the Pan American University Championship. The participation in the promotional regional events for the early age groups has increased; this augurs well and guarantees the consolidation of the regional youth tournaments adding new international titles just as is done by the Sub Zonals in Zone 2.3.

Distinction for special commendations to the CBX for organizing the Continental Absolute Championships and FENAMAC for the Pan American Youth organized in Mexico with an impressive massive participation, both events were very well organized.

We must mention the extra calendar events where cycles have expired in 2014, which were directly sponsored by FIDE President Mr. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov; Caribbean/UMADA, Latin and Bolivarian Cups and also the Central American Team Championships. They were all brilliant.

Closely related to sport is the improvement and technical knowledge imparted to our administrators, in this programme we count on the invaluable assistance from the FIDE Developmental Commission presided by Mr. Allan Herbert who maintains his annual programme for arbiters, trainers and organizers. We must acknowledge that the Developmental Commission works closely with the Continents proportionally providing finances from FIDE for the execution of these projects with the Continents' presidents. This distinguishes it from the other commissions in FIDE that centralize their operations.

Female Chess has maintained its development as in previous years, the Continental Championship was well organized by FADA, the Pan American Female by FECODAZ and Central American & Caribbean held the Zone 2.3 Championships. It is satisfying to see the number of Females that participate in the open absolute invitational organized directly by the federations getting top positions in these events.

Economy

The Finances of the CCA continued the trend of past years. The Pan American Festival and Continentals are the financial backbone of the CCA. In the years when there are no strong events our finances go into the red, but this deficit is covered by the surplus in the strong years. The 2014 Budget was characterized by this due to the 2013 Continental Absolute with below average participation in Bolivia and a less than expected participation in the Pan American Festival. Even so the income from this year has put the balance sheet back in the black.

Also it is noted that the FIDE 2014 budget was the largest in its history, the DEV budget went to €400,000 of which 25% corresponds to America. This permitted us to keep our plan to assist players from developing federations to participate in CCA events, conclude programs for capacity building Seminars and support events in some federations.

President Ilyumzhinov carried out his promise to sponsor the UMADA/Caribbean, Latin and Bolivarian Cups and the Central American Team Championships for the period 2010-14 investing USD100.000.00 from his own pocket and guaranteeing the success of these events until 2014.

Politic

2014 was an election year as we all know, Mr. Ilyumzhinov aspired to be re-elected FIDE president. His opponent was Ex-World Champion Garry Kasparov who proved to be a formidable opponent. The final result, 110 to 61 votes, can give a false impression of the difficult and hard battle whereby it was difficult to tell who would win the election.

As in previous elections, America being the continent with the least number of federations, was the cornerstone of Ilyumzhinov's victory, handing him the highest number of votes per continent followed by Europe, Asia and Africa. Victory always gives a sense of satisfaction that compensates for the doubts or the sufferings during the campaign. It was demonstrated that the attacks by some of the members from the Kasparov camp lacked veracity and were ignorant to the reality of America. In the end they were embarrassed, but we must recognize Mr. Kasparov never attacked America's position, but the attacks came from second and third less significant parties.

With reference to other successes, we saw the promotion of WGM Martha Fierro to the presidential ticket as progress for America. Her working energy, charm and personal grace guarantees the support for chess in our continent.

Makropoulos demonstrated his abilities in the election campaign on behalf of the secondary office holders to the point where no one from the opposition was elected, even though there were many of America's federations that were resentful of the manner in which it was carried out.

In reference to the internal elections of the FIDE America/CCA the results demonstrated the acceptance of the job done since 2002. The presentation of only one ticket, without opposition and not seen in the other continents, was proof of the present stable directorate. On the ticket was a combination of experience and new blood. Added to this there was no opposition to the four members of the continent elected by consensus to the FIDE executive board.

In the five Zones of America, the selection of the presidents was by consensus, ratification of the incumbents for Zones 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.5 and a minor change in 2.4. This demonstrates the confidence and empathy felt by the federations.

I personally feel very honoured to have lead this campaign and at the same time, I am proud of the results. It is a great satisfaction to have lead a group that shows love for the hard work

that was done without personal interest or ambitions, but we must not be carried away by a rush of adrenaline and now think about the future, the 2014 election belongs to the past.

The Federations that preferred Mr. Kasparov as the candidate are not our enemies, they were only opponents and this spirit must prevail above all.

The Future

Subsequent to the report on the past we are now obligated to analyse the three fundamental pillars before mentioned.

Economy

It is important to note that contrary to the policies of other continents, the CCA does not charge annual membership fees to the national federations and our financial regulations has the lowest registration fees for players to participate in tournaments. This policy will be maintained even though it may condition some action plans in the future. It is proven that this economic policy favours the member federations and its players.

From a global point of view the scenario is not very optimistic. We face an economic crisis generated by the fall in the price of oil together with the difficulties facing Russia. The fall in oil prices will affect the budgets of oil producing countries and adjustments will be made. The majority of the venues of important events in FIDE are in oil producing countries so it should not surprise us that there will be cut backs which will affect FIDE income.

The economic situation in Russia is also of concern due to the devaluation of the Rouble by 50%. We all know that many of FIDE main events are held in the Russian Federation especially the Grand Prix and the reduction or cancellation of this will affect FIDE income.

If, to all of this, we add that in 2015 there will be no Olympiad or World Cup when FIDE shall not receive the fee for these events, it is expected that the cutbacks will impact on the budgets of the commissions and therefore on their work plans. Surely the decrease in the DEV will affect America, because as I explained, this Commission works directly with the Continents, contrary to the others.

The CCA is financially autonomous and can survive by its own means. We must acknowledge that the global crisis affects all countries, and as our federations depend mostly on government subventions, we know the first to be affected by cutbacks is sport.

We also have to contemplate on the continuation of the events directly financed by Mr. Iljumzhinov. Although he has indicated he will continue to support its continuity, we are not sure if the previous statement can be maintained due to 'force majeure'.

At no time do I feel pessimistic about the future, because the CCA is financially healthy and can resist any harsh situation, we simply have to be prepared in case it happens.

Politic

The coming years shall be necessarily of permanent political endeavours. The electoral struggle of the 2006 elections created political blocks that have endured through time. Each one with its legitimate rights will try to fulfil its objectives. America is one of the blocks so we must work towards our objectives. The previous assemblies have been democratic and a

fountain of ideas. We must continue this path by strengthening the work with the national federations. The project America must grow and strengthen in the next 4 years. Working agreements with other blocks must be explored while our activities are enhanced.

Thinking about the future, no one can imagine the outcome of the FIDE 2018 elections and even less who will aspire to the FIDE presidency. Personally I am convinced that at least two candidates will aspire, but it is yet too early to suggest names.

The strength and respect that America enjoys is due to the systematic approach as a block of 26 votes for the president that we support, this characteristic must not be lost.

On a broader scale at the presidential campaigns in FIDE, the Americas strength comes from the unity of its federations who share a common purpose. This is different to the other continents whereby groups of federations exist under different leaders even though they agree to support a particular presidential candidate. This weakens their negotiating strength in the interest of their area.

This has never happened in America but it does not mean it cannot do so in the future. As such we must be prepared to avoid it. If the present administration observes there is a massive rejection in its mandate, it must move aside for the continuation of the existing unity. Under no pretext should it try to stay in power. Equally, if it is determined that there is a birth of division fed by personal interest or power, it must be fought with vigour.

I must make it clear, I am not referring to the federations who prefer a presidential candidate different to ours, they deserve respect based on democratic principles, but it is an internal division as is previously explained; it is always preferable to have an open opposition than an internal ally who divides.

Taking from the experience in the 2014 election, America must be able to propose to the FIDE Presidency a candidate that it supports, as an elected Vice-president chosen by the majority of federations affiliated and in the same vain the executives of the commissions that we choose to preside in.

Another matter to address is aligning CCA electoral regulations with that of FIDE. The proposal of one ticket must be endorsed by five national federations.

Sports

Sport is intimately involved with finance. It is the reason why some times in some subjects both are mixed.

Firstly, we must address the issues affecting the federations during the months of January to July while they are declared “inoperative” by FIDE due to late payments of fees. This creates a bad feeling within the members. The federations must make the necessary reserves in their budgets to avoid this situation knowing well that during these months FIDE will demand late payments.

The federations must also be alert to the charges FIDE can make related to updates of licences for titles (Arbiters, Trainers & Organizers) in the event the federations did not charge for the said licences. In these cases the federations should announce on their webpages that those interested should pay it directly to FIDE. They should give all the account details where the individual can make the payment and indicate that the federations are not responsible for the transaction and it will not let it be charged to its account.

An issue which we have previously explained but to which we should all be aware is the possible suffering that can be felt if the national budgets are affected by the world economic slowdown. Sport will be affected we must take this into account and consider what may happen if FIDE has to drastically reduce the DEV and CIS budgets.

To end the comments on the sports-finance relations, we must analyse what will happen to the Youth & Cadet events especially in Zone 2.3 where the present regulations make it non-viable to host a quantity of official players and delegates/coaches covering meals and accommodation by the organizing federation. This makes it practically impossible to sustain. These events were established by CCA as promotional. The massive participation of officials, not compensated by extra players, places the continuance of the events in danger and this will impact as a disincentive to promotion and development. We may have to possibly study the modification of the financial regulations for these events and update them the best as possible.

In relation to the different technical seminars previously planned by the CCA in conjunction with the DEV, the budgeted amounts assigned will be used for implementation due to the importance of the technical improvement. With the view to optimize the resources we will continue to give seminars via the Internet. We were the pioneers in the implementation of arbiter seminars online and actually we have a Spanish platform for dictating international organizers seminars. The CCA is working on a similar platform in Spanish and English for trainers which we hope will be ready this year.

In case there is a need to have a seminar in person, preference will be given to lecturers from the Continent with the objective to lower transport cost. The CCA will contract the lecturers directly. This does not impede the acceptance of seminars organized by AC, TGR and EVE when they are paid for by their respective commissions and not by the CCA.

The commissioner in CIS MI Bernardo Roselli will be given the best possible cooperation by the CCA in his endeavours.

The CCA maintains a magnificent relationship with WOM presided by Vice-president WGM Martha Fierro, a member of the FIDE presidential ticket. CCA will maintain the close relationship and support the endeavours of WGM Fierro in America.

An important task we have ahead is to revise and modify our regulations for tournaments which have become obsolete over time; many of them do not match the modifications made by FIDE.

With reference to the calendar of events there is some advancement. At this time the 2015 calendar is full, and the 2016 is similar. We should have fixed dates for tournaments to enable early and best promotion of the events. I know this is difficult because budgets depend on

governments besides being subject to changes in the dates for FIDE events. Notwithstanding, we should try to anticipate the dates as early as possible.

The CCA electronic webpage has for several years been the best webpage in Spanish, thanks to the dedication and hard work of webmaster IA Santiago Garcia. Even during his long illness that made movement difficult, he maintained a high level during his personal difficulties. I would like to recognize his work and ask the members of the CB to send congratulations and best wishes for early recuperation.

Conclusion

I will like to express my satisfaction for the job well done which would have been impossible without the support of the CB, the Zone Presidents, and the National Federations. The accomplishment belongs to all.

Without the financial resources of Europe or Asia, America has maintained an impressive sport and administration level.

Politically, up to the 2014 elections we have remained a solid block that has won the respect it deserves. As indicated before we must keep this unity at all cost as this has been fundamental in our development.

We must not rest on our laurels nor let the excitement control us. The challenge ahead to advance is hard and the road is long.

Rest assured that with unity we will continue the good work.

Jorge Vega

Continental President