

## Question 141:

*Do the organizing bodies demonstrate active and consistent efforts to engage and connect with the identified community and its members?*

Yes. FIDE demonstrates active and consistent efforts to engage, support, inform, and connect the identified community and its members. These efforts are continuing, global, and directed to the different constituencies that comprise the organized chess community, including Member Federations, continental bodies, players, organizers, officials, educators, clubs, and community partners.

**Governance and representative participation.** FIDE regularly convenes its General Assembly as the principal forum through which Member Federations participate in the governance of chess. For example, the 2025 FIDE Online General Assembly, held on December 14, 2025<sup>1</sup>, addressed membership matters, budget and audit issues, amendments to governing rules, electoral rules, and the FIDE competition calendar. Among other actions, the General Assembly approved the admission of three new Member Federations. FIDE published the meeting minutes, list of decisions, voting records, and related materials<sup>2</sup>. Each FIDE Continent is also required to convene a continental general assembly at least annually under Article 32.1(e) of the FIDE Charter<sup>3</sup>. These governance mechanisms provide regular opportunities for Member Federations and continental representatives to exchange information, identify priorities, and participate in decisions affecting the community.

**Financial and operational support.** FIDE provides structured financial and operational support to Member Federations and chess-development programs through its Planning and Development Commission and Development Fund. The Development Fund has operated through formal funding applications and published criteria since 2019. The most recent funding cycle opened in January 2026<sup>4</sup>. FIDE reported that, over the preceding six years, it had directed approximately €9.4 million

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<sup>1</sup> FIDE, 2025 FIDE Online General Assembly: Minutes, available through FIDE Official Documents at <https://www.fide.com/category/official-documents/minutes/>

<sup>2</sup> FIDE, 2025 FIDE General Assembly and 4th FIDE Council Meeting: Key Decisions, <https://www.fide.com/2025-fide-general-assembly-and-4th-fide-council-meeting-key-decisions/>

<sup>3</sup> FIDE, FIDE Charter, available through the FIDE Handbook at <https://handbook.fide.com/>

<sup>4</sup> FIDE, Building the Future of Chess Far from the Spotlight: How FIDE's Development Fund Is Shaping Chess Around the World, May 1, 2026, <https://www.fide.com/building-the-future-of-chess-far-from-the-spotlight-how-fides-development-fund-is-shaping-chess-around-the-world/>

toward grassroots chess development. Supported activities have included chess education, coaching, cognitive-development and inclusion programs, capacity building, arbiter training, event organization, equipment purchases, and travel and accommodation for players. Documented beneficiary initiatives have included *inter alia* chess equipment and club support in Liberia and Japan, programs for women and girls in Saint Lucia and Albania, and chess-education initiatives in Oman and Senegal.



Figure 1: [FIDE Development Fund](#)



Figure 2: [Improving Lives Through Chess](#):

FIDE also approved a 2026 development budget of €1.6 million, including €400,000 allocated specifically to national chess federations<sup>5</sup>. These programs demonstrate an established mechanism through which Member Federations may identify local needs, request support, and receive resources to develop chess within their respective countries and territories.

**Support for tournament organizers and players.** FIDE operates the Open Aid Project<sup>6</sup> to provide direct support to open tournaments around the world. The project was initially established during the COVID-19 pandemic to help tournaments remain operational and to support chess professionals. It has since developed into a recurring program supporting the international open-tournament circuit. For the 2026 program<sup>7</sup> organizers submitted formal applications, and FIDE selected events based on criteria including classical time control, tournament history and strength, geographic location, prize-fund structure, fair-play measures, and provisions for women, veterans,

<sup>5</sup> FIDE Planning and Development Commission, FIDE Announced €1.6 Million Development Fund for 2026; €400,000 Allocated to Empower National Chess Federations, June 27, 2026, <https://pdc.fide.com/2026/06/27/fide-announced-e1-6-million-development-fund-for-2026-allocates-e400000-to-empower-national-chess-federations/>

<sup>6</sup> FIDE, FIDE Open Aid Project Returns in 2026, May 4, 2026, <https://www.fide.com/fide-open-aid-project-returns-in-2026/>

<sup>7</sup> FIDE, FIDE Open Aid Project 2026: Selected Events Announced, May 29, 2026, <https://www.fide.com/fide-open-aid-project-2026-selected-events-announced/>

and players from developing countries. The selected events included tournaments in multiple countries and regions, illustrating that the program provides support across the global community.

**Chess in education and capacity building.** Through the FIDE Chess in Education Commission<sup>8</sup>, FIDE supports the introduction and development of chess in schools, teacher education, curriculum development, research, and cooperation among Member Federations,



Figure 3: [Open Aid Project](#)



Figure 4: [FIDE, Every Lesson Counts](#)

schools, educational institutions, and public authorities. FIDE and the International School Chess Federation designated 2026 as the Year of Chess in Education<sup>9</sup>, reflecting a coordinated effort to expand educational chess, strengthen teacher development, support national programs, and promote consistent standards across regions.<sup>10</sup>

FIDE also conducts recurring courses and training programs for teachers, lecturers, trainers, and other chess professionals. These activities provide community members with practical instruction, common methodologies, professional-development opportunities, and resources that can be implemented at the national and local levels<sup>11</sup>.

**Programs responding to particular community needs.** Through its Social Chess Commission and related programs, FIDE supports initiatives serving groups whose needs may not be addressed through elite competition alone. These initiatives include programs involving refugees, prisoners, older persons, persons with disabilities, persons with autism, and other underserved or

<sup>8</sup> FIDE Chess in Education Commission, <https://edu.fide.com/>

<sup>9</sup> FIDE, FIDE and ISCF Declare 2026 as the Year of Chess in Education, October 20, 2025, <https://www.fide.com/fide-and-iscf-declare-2026-as-the-year-of-chess-in-education/>

<sup>10</sup> FIDE, Every Lesson Counts: The Present and Future of Chess in Education, January 15, 2026, <https://www.fide.com/every-lesson-counts-the-present-and-future-of-chess-in-education/>

<sup>11</sup> FIDE Trainers' Commission, online seminars and training resources, <https://trainers.fide.com/trg-online-seminars/>

disadvantaged groups. The programs use chess to support education, inclusion, rehabilitation, social connection, and personal development.

One prominent example is Chess for Freedom<sup>12</sup>, a continuing initiative that brings together correctional institutions, prison administrations, policymakers, researchers, Member Federations, and chess organizers. The 2025 Intercontinental Online Chess Championship for Prisoners reportedly included 135 teams from 57 countries. FIDE is continuing the program in 2026<sup>13</sup> through continental



Figure 5: [Chess for Freedom 2026](#)

championships, workshops, and registration for the sixth Intercontinental Championship<sup>14</sup>. These activities demonstrate that FIDE identifies particular community needs and develops recurring programs to address them<sup>15</sup>.

**Information sharing, consultation, and professional exchange.** FIDE regularly organizes conferences, seminars, courses, commission meetings, and other forums through which community members exchange research, practical experience, implementation models, and best practices. For example, the FIDE Global Conference on Chess in Society and Education was held in Bhubaneswar, India, from January 14 through 16, 2026<sup>16</sup>. The conference brought together education leaders, researchers, social-impact practitioners, public-policy specialists, federation representatives, and chess organizers. Its program addressed teacher training, curriculum

<sup>12</sup> FIDE Chess for Freedom project, <https://chessforfreedom.fide.com/>

<sup>13</sup> FIDE, 6th Intercontinental Chess Championship for Prisoners and Chess for Freedom Conference: Registration Now Open, July 23, 2026, <https://www.fide.com/chess-for-freedom-2026-6th-intercontinental-chess-championship-for-prisoners-and-chess-for-freedom-conference-registration-now-open/>

<sup>14</sup> FIDE, Second Continental Online Chess Championships for Prisoners: Registration Now Open, March 4, 2026, <https://www.fide.com/second-continental-online-chess-championships-for-prisoners-registration-now-open/>

<sup>15</sup> FIDE Social Chess Commission, project list, <https://soc.fide.com/projects-list>

<sup>16</sup> FIDE, FIDE Global Conference on Chess in Society and Education Announced, December 19, 2025, <https://www.fide.com/fide-global-conference-on-chess-in-society-and-education-announced/>

development, social inclusion, research, national implementation models, and cooperation among chess organizations, educational institutions, and public authorities<sup>17</sup>.

These conferences and training programs provide more than one-way communication. They create recurring forums in which participants from different countries and community sectors present their work, discuss common challenges, exchange experience, and develop cooperative relationships.

**Competitions and community-building events.** Article 3 of the FIDE Charter<sup>18</sup> gives FIDE the rights to organize the Chess Olympiads and World Chess Championships in all their forms, including online competitions and recognized variations of traditional chess. FIDE maintains an extensive international competition calendar<sup>19</sup> that includes the Chess Olympiad, the World Chess Championship and Women's World Championship cycles, World Rapid and Blitz Championships, and world competitions for youth, juniors, seniors, amateurs, schools, universities, and teams.

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<sup>17</sup> FIDE, FIDE Global Conference on Chess in Society and Education Opens in Bhubaneswar, January 14, 2026, <https://www.fide.com/fide-global-conference-on-chess-in-society-and-education-opens-in-bhubaneswar/>

<sup>18</sup> FIDE, FIDE Charter, Article 3, available through the FIDE Handbook at <https://handbook.fide.com/>

<sup>19</sup> FIDE Championship Calendar, <https://calendar.fide.com/>

Continental bodies and Member Federations likewise organize continental, national, regional, and local competitions within the FIDE structure.

These events do more than determine competitive results. They repeatedly bring together players, coaches, trainers, arbiters, tournament directors, Member Federation representatives, organizers, sponsors, media, educators, and other community participants. The Chess Olympiad is particularly

|        | World FIDE Events                                                                                                | Continental and Affiliated Events                                                          | World Top Events                                                                                                                  |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        |                                                                                                                  | 30 Jul - 30 Jul / (HKG)                                                                    |                                                                                                                                   |
| August | <b>FIDE World Amateur Rapid Chess Championship 2026</b><br>01 Aug - 08 Aug / Abuja (NGR)                         | <b>24th ASEAN+ Age Group Chess Championships 2026</b><br>07 Aug - 17 Aug / Singapore (SGP) | <b>53rd International Dortmund Chess Days - Sparkassen Chess Trophy</b><br>01 Aug - 09 Aug / Dortmund (GER)                       |
|        | <b>FIDE World Amateur Blitz Chess Championship 2026</b><br>01 Aug - 08 Aug / Abuja (NGR)                         | <b>Asian Juniors &amp; Girls Chess Championship 2026</b><br>16 Aug - 26 Aug / Mumbai (IND) | <b>Cairns Cup 2026</b><br>08 Aug - 21 Aug / Saint Louis (USA)                                                                     |
|        | <b>FIDE World University Team Chess Championship 2026 - OTB Finals</b><br>03 Aug - 10 Aug / Almaty (KAZ)         | <b>10th Eastern Asia Youth Chess Championship 2026</b><br>20 Aug - 30 Aug / Hainan (CHN)   | <b>Sinquefield Cup 2026</b><br>08 Aug - 12 Aug / Saint Louis, Missouri (USA)                                                      |
|        | <b>FIDE ISCF World Schools Team Championship, American Continental Stage</b><br>11 Aug - 16 Aug / San Jose (CRC) | <b>African Junior Chess Championship 2026</b><br>23 Aug - 01 Sep / (BDI)                   | <b>24* Torneo Internazionale di scacchi di Spilimbergo</b><br>09 Aug - 15 Aug / Spilimbergo (ITA)                                 |
|        |                                                                                                                  | <b>African Junior Rapid Chess Championship 2026</b><br>28 Aug - 28 Aug / (BDI)             | <b>Kanizsa Open - International Chess Tournament and Hungarian Individual Championship</b><br>15 Aug - 23 Aug / Nagykanizsa (HUN) |
|        |                                                                                                                  | <b>African Junior Blitz Chess Championship 2026</b><br>28 Aug - 28 Aug / (BDI)             | <b>62nd International Akiba Rubinstein Chess Festival - GM Round Robin Tournament</b><br>15 Aug - 23 Aug / Polanica-Zdroj (POL)   |
|        |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                            | <b>Open Internacional de Sants - Ciutat de Barcelona *</b><br>21 Aug - 30 Aug / Barcelona (ESP)                                   |

Figure 6: *FIDE Competition Calendar* for August 2026.

significant because it brings together representative teams from FIDE's Member Federations. World, continental, youth, scholastic, amateur, and professional competitions create additional recurring points of contact among the different segments of the community.

Taken together, these activities demonstrate more than occasional or passive contact with the identified community. FIDE and the other organizing bodies maintain continuing mechanisms for representative governance, financial assistance, tournament support, education, professional training, social inclusion, information sharing, consultation, and international competition. Through these mechanisms, the organizing bodies regularly solicit participation, receive input from community members, respond to identified needs, distribute resources and information, and create opportunities for members from different countries and segments of the global chess community to interact and collaborate. Accordingly, the evidence demonstrates active, consistent, and sustained engagement with the identified community and its members.