



Question 147:

Are the pursuits of the identified community enduring and sustainable?

Yes. The pursuits of the identified global chess community are demonstrably enduring and sustainable. Chess has persisted across centuries, cultures, political systems, technologies, and methods of participation. The organized international community has existed for more than a century through the International Chess Federation (FIDE), while chess itself has a documented history extending far earlier. The community's continuing vitality is demonstrated not only by its history, but also by recurring competitions, governance activities, educational initiatives, community programs, technological adaptation, and substantial documented activity during the two years preceding this application.

Longevity and Cultural Significance of Chess

Chess is among the world's oldest continuously practiced organized games. The United Nations describes chess as one of the most ancient intellectual and cultural games and traces recognizable predecessors of modern chess to the Indian subcontinent during the Gupta period, its transmission through Persia and the Silk Roads, written chess works by approximately 900 CE, and widespread play in Europe by approximately 1000 CE.¹

This history demonstrates that the pursuits defining the identified community are not dependent upon a particular institution, commercial enterprise, technology, or form of competition. The essential activity around which the community is organized has endured for many centuries and has repeatedly adapted to new societies and methods of participation.

The international institutional structure of the modern community is itself more than a century old. FIDE was founded in Paris on 20 July 1924. In 2024, FIDE celebrated its centenary through tournaments, exhibitions, community events, a global Chess Torch Relay, awards, educational activities, and other programs conducted in multiple countries.² The centenary was therefore not

¹ United Nations, [World Chess Day](#), describing chess as one of the world's most ancient intellectual and cultural games and discussing its historical development from early forms in India through Persia and Europe.

² International Chess Federation, *FIDE 100 Years*, documenting FIDE's 2024 centenary, including the Chess Torch Relay, commemorative events, awards, exhibitions, tournaments, and other activities conducted during the centenary year.

merely an institutional anniversary, but documented evidence of a community consciously recognizing and celebrating its history, continuity, and global identity.

Independent international recognition further demonstrates chess's cultural and social significance. In 2019, the United Nations General Assembly designated 20 July as World Chess Day, recognizing the role of chess in international cooperation and its potential to promote education, inclusion, tolerance, mutual understanding, and respect.³ The United Nations also emphasizes chess's accessibility across barriers of language, age, gender, physical ability, and social status.⁴

This recognition is particularly relevant to sustainability. The community is not sustained merely by professional tournaments or elite players. Chess functions simultaneously as competitive activity, recreation, education, cultural practice, intellectual pursuit, social activity, and international sport. These multiple forms of participation give the community numerous independent means of maintaining and renewing itself across generations.

Chess as an Enduring Contributor to Sustainable Development

The enduring character of the chess community is also reflected in international recognition of the broader social, educational, and cultural purposes served by chess. The United Nations has expressly identified sport, the arts, and physical activity as mechanisms capable of changing perceptions and behavior, overcoming social and political barriers, combating discrimination, reducing conflict, and contributing to education, sustainable development, peace, cooperation, solidarity, social inclusion, and health.⁵

Within that framework, the United Nations identifies chess as one of the world's most ancient intellectual and cultural games, combining elements of sport, scientific thinking, and art. It emphasizes that chess is affordable and inclusive, can be played virtually anywhere, and permits participation across differences in language, age, gender, physical ability, and social status.⁶

³ United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 74/22, [World Chess Day](#), Dec. 12, 2019, designating 20 July as World Chess Day and recognizing the role of chess in education, inclusion, tolerance, mutual understanding, and international cooperation.

⁴ United Nations, *World Chess Day*, supra note 1.

⁵ United Nations, *World Chess Day*, discussing the capacity of sport, the arts, and physical activity to contribute to education, sustainable development, peace, cooperation, solidarity, social inclusion, and health. See United Nations, *World Chess Day*, supra note 1.

⁶ Id., describing chess as one of the most ancient intellectual and cultural games, combining elements of sport, scientific thinking, and art, and noting its affordability, inclusiveness, and accessibility across barriers of language, age, gender, physical ability, and social status.

These characteristics help explain the community's exceptional geographic, cultural, and intergenerational durability.

The United Nations further recognizes chess as a global activity that promotes fairness, inclusion, mutual respect, tolerance, and understanding among peoples and nations.⁷ This recognition is significant to the sustainability of the identified community because it demonstrates that the pursuits of the chess community extend beyond competition. Chess also serves educational, cultural, developmental, recreational, and social purposes capable of engaging successive generations and diverse populations throughout the world.

The United Nations has additionally recognized opportunities for chess to contribute to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, including through strengthening education, advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and fostering inclusion, tolerance, mutual understanding, and respect.⁸ The continuing relevance of chess to these long-term international objectives provides additional independent evidence that the pursuits around which the community is organized are capable of remaining socially relevant and sustainable over time.

This broader role is reflected in the contemporary activities of the chess community. FIDE and its Member Federations maintain programs involving chess in education, youth development, women and girls, persons with disabilities, refugees, correctional institutions, social development, and other forms of community participation. These programs demonstrate that the institutional chess community continues to apply the longstanding activity of chess to contemporary social and educational objectives rather than relying exclusively upon traditional competitive structures.

Accordingly, the sustainability of the identified community rests on multiple mutually reinforcing foundations: competitive chess, institutional governance, education, culture, recreation, social development, technological innovation, and international cooperation. Even as individual forms of participation evolve, the underlying activity continues to provide purposes

⁷ Id., recognizing chess as a global game that promotes fairness, inclusion, and mutual respect and can contribute to tolerance and understanding among peoples and nations.

⁸ Id., recognizing opportunities for chess to contribute to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, including education, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, inclusion, tolerance, mutual understanding, and respect; see also United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, Sept. 25, 2015.

around which individuals and organizations can organize, interact, and sustain a recognizable global community.

Recurring and Scheduled Activities Demonstrating Continuity

The community's current activities demonstrate the same continuity reflected in its history. Major international competitions operate on established recurring cycles rather than as isolated events. The Chess Olympiad is conducted biennially, while FIDE's broader competition system includes recurring world championships, qualification events, women's competitions, youth and junior events, rapid and blitz championships, team competitions, continental championships, and national championships.

The two years preceding this application provide concrete evidence of that continuity. The 45th Chess Olympiad was conducted in Budapest in September 2024 as part of FIDE's centenary year, and FIDE's centenary Torch Relay traveled internationally before concluding in Budapest in connection with the Olympiad.⁹

Recurring community activity is also visible outside elite international competition. In July 2025, London ChessFest attracted more than 20,000 visitors, while the 2025 British Championship in Liverpool attracted a record entry approaching 1,400 players across its congress, including junior and senior championships.¹⁰ The following year, ChessFest returned to Trafalgar Square and was accompanied by additional scheduled events in Portishead, Hull, Liverpool, Coventry, and Lancaster, demonstrating continuity of a recurring public-facing chess program.¹¹

These recurring events are supported by equally recurring governance and administrative activity. FIDE's General Assembly, continental assemblies, Member Federation governance, ratings, titles, tournament registration, rules administration, commissions, development programs, and educational initiatives operate independently of any single championship or

⁹ International Chess Federation, [FIDE 100 Torch Relay](#) materials, documenting the international Torch Relay and its conclusion in Budapest in connection with the 45th Chess Olympiad.

¹⁰ Leonard Barden, [Chess: Rachel Reeves announces £1.5m fund as London ChessFest attracts 20,000 visitors](#), The Guardian, July 18, 2025, reporting attendance exceeding 20,000 at London ChessFest and a record entry approaching 1,400 participants for the British Championship congress.

¹¹ Leonard Barden, [ChessFest back in London as public get chance to take on grandmasters](#), The Guardian, July 3, 2026, describing the 2026 return of ChessFest to Trafalgar Square and additional scheduled ChessFest events in Portishead, Hull, Liverpool, Coventry, and Lancaster.

commercial platform. The result is an institutional infrastructure that continuously organizes and renews community activity.

Documented Activity During the Two Years Preceding Application

The 2024 FIDE centenary provides particularly strong evidence of recent community activity and continuity. The Chess Torch Relay began in New Delhi in February 2024 and was designed to cross continents before concluding in Budapest.¹² During the year, centenary events were conducted in countries including Ghana, Canada, Romania, Georgia, Colombia, Switzerland, and the United Arab Emirates, among others.¹³

The centenary activities intentionally reached beyond elite competition. FIDE described programs involving schoolchildren, refugees, people in prisons, charities, club players, and newcomers to chess.¹⁴ In Ghana, for example, centenary activities coincided with the African Individual Chess Championships and included a girls' chess tournament, teacher training, a Chess for Freedom program, and engagement with national sports and Olympic officials.¹⁵

On International Chess Day, 20 July 2024, the global community also established a Guinness World Record of more than 7.28 million chess games played within 24 hours across more than 350 events worldwide.¹⁶ That activity provides unusually concrete evidence of both geographic reach and active contemporary participation.

¹² International Chess Federation, [Launch of Chess Torch Relay](#), Feb. 2024, describing the launch of the centenary relay in New Delhi and its planned international route culminating in Budapest.

¹³ International Chess Federation, [FIDE 100 Years Anniversary – News](#), documenting 2024 centenary events and Torch Relay activities in multiple countries. See also International Chess Federation, *FIDE Torch Relay Reaches Africa*; *FIDE100 Torch Relay Celebrated in Canada*; and *FIDE Celebrates Centenary in Tbilisi with Chess Legends*.

¹⁴ International Chess Federation, [100 Days for 100 Years of FIDE, and a Guinness World Record!](#), Apr. 11, 2024, describing centenary programs directed toward existing and new chess participants, including schoolchildren, refugees, people in prisons, charities, club players, and newcomers to chess.

¹⁵ International Chess Federation, [FIDE Torch Relay Reaches Africa](#), *supra* note 9, describing activities in Ghana including the African Individual Chess Championships, a girls' tournament, teacher training, Chess for Freedom activities, and engagement with national sports and Olympic officials.

¹⁶ United Nations, [World Chess Day](#), *supra* note 1, reporting that more than 7.28 million chess games were played during more than 350 events worldwide on 20 July 2024, establishing a Guinness World Record.

Education and Development Demonstrate Intergenerational Sustainability

The community also maintains structured programs directed toward developing future generations of participants. FIDE's Chess in Education Commission continues to operate programs involving schools, educators, teacher training, educational resources, and international initiatives. FIDE designated 2026 as the Year of Chess in Education and has used that framework to promote school programs, educational participation, and training activities internationally.¹⁷

Recent 2026 activities include programs highlighting chess in schools and online training initiatives for educators.¹⁸ These activities demonstrate deliberate institutional investment in introducing chess to new generations and embedding participation in educational structures rather than merely maintaining an existing population of competitive players.

The sustainability of the community is therefore intergenerational as well as institutional. Schools, clubs, youth competitions, teacher programs, national federations, coaches, trainers, and educational initiatives continually introduce new participants to chess and provide pathways for continued involvement.

Adaptability Reinforces the Community's Enduring Character

The community's history also demonstrates a capacity to adapt without losing its underlying identity. Chess has moved from local clubs and correspondence play to international tournaments, computerized databases, Internet play, streaming, digital broadcasting, educational technology, and new competition formats. These developments have changed how members participate in chess without changing the underlying activity, shared rules, institutions, competitions, or community identity.

That adaptability is visible in the coexistence of longstanding institutions with new methods of participation. Traditional over-the-board events such as the Chess Olympiad, national championships, and club competitions continue alongside online play, digital content, software, databases, streaming, educational technology, and other contemporary forms of participation.

¹⁷ [International Chess Federation, Chess in Education Commission](#), materials concerning the 2026 FIDE Year of Chess in Education and school-based chess initiatives.

¹⁸ Id.; see also International Chess Federation, Chess in Education Commission, 2026 materials describing school participation and educator-training initiatives conducted as part of the Year of Chess in Education.

This adaptability is evidence of sustainability rather than fragmentation. The means through which members interact with the community may change, but the underlying activity, institutions, shared rules, competitions, and community identity remain recognizable and continuous.

Enduring Community Identity

The evidence from the two years preceding this application is consistent with a much longer historical record. The 2024 FIDE centenary explicitly celebrated a century of organized international chess; World Chess Day provides recurring international recognition of chess's cultural and social significance; the Olympiad and championship systems continue; national and local competitions continue; public chess festivals attract substantial participation; and educational programs are directed toward future generations.

The community's pursuits are therefore both enduring and sustainable. They are sustained by longstanding institutions, recurring competitions and activities, national and local organizational structures, educational programs, cultural significance, intergenerational participation, technological adaptability, and the continuing relevance of chess to broader objectives involving education, inclusion, equality, international cooperation, and sustainable development. The evidence demonstrates not simply that chess has survived for centuries, but that the purposes around which the chess community organises continue to find new applications and relevance as society evolves. The chess application does not seek to create or sustain this community. Rather, the proposed TLD is intended to provide a trusted namespace for a community that has already demonstrated, over generations and across profound technological and societal change, its capacity to sustain and renew itself. The five-year periodic review mechanism in the .chess Community Registration Policy further ensures that governance of the namespace can evolve with that enduring community rather than becoming tied to any particular technology, platform, commercial relationship, or period in the community's development.