



Association  
Internationale  
Des Echecs  
Francophones

## **General Assembly of AIDEF Batoumi, September 29, 2018**

### **Chairman's report and balance sheet for the 2016/2018 financial year.**

Hello everyone,

Welcome and thank you for your presence at this ordinary general assembly of AIDEF which, as you know, takes place every two years during the Olympiads. This is the only opportunity for all of us to meet.

I will first give you a chronological summary of the highlights of this exercise taking as a starting point the previous General Assembly of Baku in 2016 and then make an assessment.

#### **September 7, 2016: Baku (Azerbaijan)**

The AIDEF General Assembly was held on September 7th at the Fairmont Hotel Baku (Azerbaijan) as part of the 42nd Chess Olympics and the 87th FIDE Congress.

The chairman's report was approved by all members of the executive committee, unanimously, the accounts for the closed year were approved as well as the current list of AIDEF members, some points of the statutes were also clarified and modified.

Then followed the election of the members of the Steering Committee. 31 of the 35 voting members were present or represented and 29 participated in the vote. I was re-elected almost unanimously as was a new steering committee composed of 14 members for a new period of 4 years.

The assembly also unanimously adopted the official English translation of the International Francophone Chess Association by "Francophone Chess Association"

At the 87th FIDE congress, AIDEF submitted an official request to FIDE for the 5th edition of the International Encounters to be held in 2017 in sub-Saharan Africa.

Then, the "Qualification Commission" has decided to grant the individual championships of La Francophonie the same privileges in terms of standards and titles as those of the Commonwealth or Ibero-American championships.

#### **October 23 to 30, 2016: Menton (France)**

256 players from 24 different nationalities took part in the 4th International Francophone Chess Meetings, including 13 grand masters, 13 international masters and 7 Fide masters, breaking the records of the previous year in Montreal.

The deputy mayor of Menton Jean-Claude Guibal and many personalities made us the honor of their presence at the opening ceremonies and awards ceremony.

Some of the first chess boards were broadcast live on the site of the French Chess Federation.

Italian GMI representing the Aosta Valley Michele GODENA was crowned champion of La Francophonie 2017 and the Egyptian WGM Khaled MONA champion for the third time in a row. MF Raffaele DI PAOLO achieved an international master's norm.

The traditional closing dinner and held in the casino lounges of Menton in a friendly and festive atmosphere.

### **November 19, 2016: Monaco**

As part of the national holiday of Monaco which is celebrated on November 19th, I had the pleasure and the honor to receive the medal of sports. This distinction was given to me by Prince Albert II of Monaco with whom I had the opportunity to discuss chess and Francophonie.

### **December 6, 2016: Nice (France)**

At the invitation of the President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region Christian ESTROSI, I went on Tuesday, December 6 to the National Museum of Sport in Nice to officially sign the partnership agreement «THE REGION IS COMMITTED TO SPORT IN THE ALPES-MARITIMES»

### **December 10, 2016: Paris (France)**

I attended the general assembly of the French Chess Federation during which Mr. Bachar KOUATLY was elected new president on a score of more than 63% with a historic participation.

The next day, at my invitation, a luncheon was organized between us and our close collaborators in order to define the bases of a collaboration and a rapprochement between our federations.

This was followed by an official press release from the French Federation published on January 9, 2017:

"The president of the FFE, Mr. Bashar Kouatly underlines" the historical and historical role of France and wishes to reflect with AIDEF on initiatives to develop chess in disadvantaged regions of the French-speaking world.

This decision is welcomed by AIDEF and its President, Mr. Patrick Van Hoolandt who on behalf of AIDEF warmly congratulates Bachar Kouatly and wishes him to succeed fully in his new and difficult mission. Certainly this election will allow a rapprochement between the French Federation and the AIDEF and opens the door to a future collaboration of which all the French chess players will be the beneficiaries "

### **November 23, 2016: Monaco**

I represented The International Chess Federation (FIDE) during the march for peace and the opening ceremony of the 9th International Peace and Sport Forum. The theme of this forum was: Peace at stake: changing the world through sport.

### **January 31 to February 6, 2017: Tunis, Hammamet, Mornag (Tunisia)**

The program of my visit to Tunisia: Visit of the headquarters and premises of the Tunisian federation, working session and meeting with the great master Oleg ROMANISHIN, new coach of the national team, official dinners in the presence of members of the government, sponsors and the new management team of the Tunisian Chess Federation, meeting at the Ministry of Youth and Sports in the presence of Minister Majdouline CHERNI and Secretary of State Mr. Imed JABRI, visit of hotels and gaming rooms in Hammamet in relation to the candidature of organization of the 5<sup>o</sup> RIDEF, launching of the first sessions of 10 days of training of the elite of Tunisian chess players lavished by Oleg ROMANISHIN, visit of the private primary school "Anas School" of the city of Mornag where young children are introduced to chess by our vice-president Mohamed Zouaoui.

These exchanges made it possible to strengthen the ties that already united the Tunisian chess federation

and AIDEF and open up new perspectives of collaboration within the French-speaking world of chess.

### **June 13 to 17, 2017: Paris (France)**

Messrs Mohamed Zouaoui and Bernard Labadie represented AIDEF at a meeting at TV5 Monde headquarters with Zina Berrahal, Maghreb marketing manager.

Very quickly, a vision of Francophonie came together, as well as a community of cultural and human values. Mrs. Zina BERRAHAL has detailed the "specifications" of TV5 Monde. A cooperation agreement was sealed in the following weeks. Illustrating this "Art de vivre" that TV5 Monde wishes to highlight as AIDEF, the 5th International Francophone Chess Meetings will therefore be an even greater media success than previous editions thanks to the broadcast of a 30-second clip on the channel and a presence in Hammamet of a film crew for the realization of a report.

I joined Mohamed and Bernard two days later for a working meeting at the headquarters of the OIF (International Organization of La Francophonie). We were warmly received by Madame Imma TOR FAUS, Office of the Secretary General. Having obviously read our file, she congratulates us from the outset for our diverse and sustained activities, as well as for the dynamism of our association. After an exchange of ideas and information, Mrs. Imma TOR FAUS proposes to relay it to the Secretary General Michaëlle JEAN and to Mr. Mahaman Lawan SERIBA, Director of the International Committee of the Games of La Francophonie.

After this visit and a follow-up letter, Mr. Jean-Louis ATANGANA AMOUGOU, Director of Cabinet of the Secretary General of the OIF informed us in writing of its agreement for the discussions aimed at leading to the integration of chess among the official disciplines of the Games of La Francophonie start and that the 5th International Meeting of French Chess will be held under the "High Patronage of the OIF"

This day ended pleasantly in the company of our long-time friend Bachar KOUATLY, President of the French Chess Federation. While sharing a dinner, ongoing projects and those on which we have common interests were discussed.

### **June 26th, 2017: Nice (France)**

In order to represent our sport that is Chess, at the invitation of Eric CIOTTI, President of the Department of Alpes Maritimes, I went to Nice on June 26th. launch of the 2017 sports caravan in the presence of Philippe MANASSERO, President of the Alpes-Maritimes Departmental Olympic and Sports Committee.

### **July 5-8, 2017: Geneva, Switzerland**

One of the cycles of the World Chess Championship was held in Geneva from July 6 to 15. The Geneva chess federation, its dynamic president Gilles MIRALLES and AIDEF naturally collaborated with the company AGON to organize the event.

The welcome cocktail and the opening ceremony that followed took place at the Four Seasons Hotel Bergues in the presence of the President of FIDE, many personalities and many guests of AIDEF and the Geneva Federation.

### **August 22, 2017: Haiti**

Our friend Jean LAMOTHE, President of the Haitian Chess Federation passed away.

The family of French chess is in mourning, the Haitian Chess Federation told us of the death of its president Mr Jean LAMOTHE occurred on Tuesday, August 22 at the age of 80 years in Cuba.

Ardent defender of the Francophonie, he supported our association and was still with us during the last general assembly in Baku, proudly waving the Haitian flag on the group photo and in the company of the president of AIDEF during the closing ceremony.

To all his family, his family, his friends and all Haitian chess players, AIDEF offers his sincere condolences.

### **August 12 to 19, 2017: Quebec (Canada)**

At the invitation of the Quebec Chess Federation, I took part in the 40th edition of the Quebec Open Championship which was held from August 12 to 19 at Laval University in Quebec City.

At the opening ceremony, I was invited to speak. I gave a speech at which I presented the AIDEF, specified its objectives and insisted on the importance of the defense of the French language, especially in the field of chess.

I was also invited to participate in an advisory capacity at the general assembly of the Quebec federation held on the last day.

### **October 7 to 15, 2017: Antalya (Turkey)**

I represented AIDEF at the 88th FIDE congress, attended the work of various commissions and organized the meeting of AIDEF which appeared on the commission program.

### **September 27 to October 5, 2017: Yasmine Hammamet (Tunisia)**

Côte d'Ivoire and Tunisia were candidates for the organization of the fifth edition of the International Meeting of French Chess. After reviewing the files, the AIDEF Steering Committee voted for the choice of Yasmine Hammamet in Tunisia to 11 votes against 3. The Tunisian chess federation also celebrated its 60th anniversary.

The playing hall was located in the Congress Center, in the heart of the "Medina Mediterranea", a superb reconstruction of a traditional Arab city. It was an ideal playground, with its vast spaces with modern equipment.

Thanks to Mohamed Zouaoui who through his contacts allowed us to enter into a partnership with TV5 Monde. A 30-second commercial was aired 49 times during two weeks and during heavy viewing on TV5 Monde Europe and TV5 Monde Maghreb Orient.

These 5 ° RIDEF regrouped in 2017 the championships of classic games, blitz and rapids and a seminar of Fide trainer was also organized.

241 players from 21 different nationalities took part in the tournament of classic games. The Albanian GMI Erald Dervishi was crowned champion in 2017 and the women's WGM Nino Maisuradze. For the first time, a senior 50+ and veteran 65+ title was in play. The French GMI representing the Geneva federation Gilles Miralles and the Andorran MF Raul Garcia respectively won.

190 participants in the tournament of rapid games also won by the Albanian GMI Erald Dervishi and 168 at the blitz tournament whose winner was the French GMI Thal Abergel.

The Fide Trainer seminar was organized by the Tunisian GMI Slim Bouaziz on the sidelines of the competitions.

For the closing ceremony, the Tunisian federation had organized a colorful dinner show at the restaurant "Cherazade". MR. Tahar Batthik, President of the Tunisian Chess Federation, Mr. Geoffrey Borg, FIDE President and Chief Executive Officer and his Excellency Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, honored us with their presence. Justin Brou from Ivory Coast was acclaimed for performing on stage the song he composed for the occasion. Surely it was a very successful edition.

### **December 25, 2017: Europe-Chess**

AIDEF Christmas gift: as part of a partnership with Europe-Echecs, I negotiated the acquisition of a significant number of 2018 subscriptions of the online version of the magazine - subscription of worth 60 euros.

As of January 1, 2018, these subscriptions have been graciously distributed to all the federations affiliated to

AIDEF as well as to the members of its Steering Committee.

### **January 29, 2018: Internet**

Following my request, FIDE agreed to transfer our website and host it for free.

We still have to work on improving its presentation and are looking for one or more collaborators who would be willing to manage the publications and animate the site by creating new sections. Notice is sent to candidates who wish to support the development of our association.

### **March 5, 2018: Translations**

Bernard SOJKA, head of translations at AIDEF, has worked with his team on the important work of translating FIDE texts. These texts are available in pdf format on our website under "Translations".

Of these, the most important was the translation of the new FIDE chess rules that came into effect on January 1, 2018. I had some copies printed.

Bernard produced a pdf file containing the original text in English and translated into French. He also made a special version of the specific rules for visually impaired players and disabled players.

### **March 12 to 15, 2018: Paris (France)**

Several meetings were scheduled during this short trip to Paris with Mohamed Zouaoui and Bernard Labadie.

The first took place at the headquarters of the television channel TV5 Monde with Mrs. Zina BERRAHAL to take stock of the first collaboration between TV5 Monde and AIDEF at the 5th International Meeting of French Chess in Tunisia - a very positive assessment. In the perspective of another collaboration, we were then introduced to Mrs. Diane COUDERC and Clara ROUSSEAU, directors of the Europe department.

Then, with Mohamed Zouaoui, I went to the House of Tunisia in Paris to meet the president of the Tunisian Chess Federation Tahar Batikh. The situation of the chess in Tunisia, the elections to the FIDE, the assessment of the 5<sup>o</sup> RIDEF and the future possibilities of collaboration were the subjects evoked.

The next morning, meeting at the Windsor Opera Hotel and lunch with Bernard Labadie with the Moroccan international master and composer of recognized chess problems, Abdelaziz ONKOUD. Discussions focused on the situation of chess in Morocco, the upcoming RIDEFs in Albania as well as competitions on chess problems.

An important meeting was that of the meeting at the headquarters of the International Organization of La Francophonie with Mrs. Audrey DELACROIX, youth and sports advisor of Mrs. Michaëlle JEAN, Secretary General of the organization who devoted us more than an hour and a half of her time.

On the agenda: the 6th International Francophone Chess Meetings in Albania, the High Patronage of the International Organization of La Francophonie, the second edition of the Week of Chess and La Francophonie scheduled in Cannes in July, the living together through chess, the next summit of the Francophonie in Armenia in October 2018, the "Chess in Schools" program of FIDE, the projects for Africa, the Institute of the Francophonie for education and training in Dakar, the visa problems encountered by participants from many (mainly African) countries in sporting and cultural events organized by La Francophonie, the presence of chess as an official discipline during the next Games of La Francophonie and more generally, the rapprochement and strengthening collaboration between OIF and AIDEF.

I never miss the opportunity when I am in Paris, to visit his longtime friend Bachar Kouatly, current president of the French federation. After a playful start to the evening at the Edward VII theater, she continued with a pleasant and excellent dinner at the brewery Mont-Paris with Bertrand Guyard, timeline and journalist at Le Figaro.

Certainly this visit contributed to the strengthening of AIDEF's reputation and the strengthening of its international relations.

### **February 26 to 28, 2018: Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates)**

Responding to the invitation of the continental president for Asia, Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa, I went to Abu Dhabi to present the AIDEF to the team that was preparing to enter the election campaign for the presidency of FIDE.

### **April 10, 2018: Lyon (France)**

At the award ceremony and the closing ceremony of the Lyon International Open, I was invited to present the awards to the winners.

I was also invited to speak to introduce our association to the public.

My speech emphasized the importance of the French language and chess as tools to promote human values, intellectual, cooperation and exchanges specific to our discipline.

### **April 20 to 22, 2018: Durrës - Tirana (Albania)**

I went to Durrës and Tirana to prepare, in collaboration with Majlinda PILINCI (general secretary of the Albanian federation) and Erald DERVISHI (tournament director), the organization of the 6<sup>o</sup> RIDEF.

Durrës hosted this year the school world championship. I was invited, during the opening ceremony, to present to the many public present the AIDEF and the International Meetings of French Chess that the Albanian federation would organize in Tirana 4 months later.

The next day, I went to Tirana to visit the future playing hall in the National Museum of Albania's history as well as the rooms and equipment of Tirana International Hotel where players will be staying.

### **April 25 to May 1, 2018: Cutro (Calabria - Italy)**

The International Cutro Tournament takes place every year on the same dates in a small Calabrian village perched on the mountain. The municipality remembers the famous player "Giovanni Leonardo di Bona" who was born in 1542 and was considered at the time as the best player in the world. For the past 24 years, she has been organizing an important international open at the end of April and a re-enactment of period costumes during the summer.

In partnership with the organizers who, over the course of my participation - 16 I believe - have become friends, several players from AIDEF member countries have been invited and supported: a Greek, a French, a Belgian, a Moldavian two Monegasques, a Moroccan, a Tunisian, and an Ivorian were selected and took part in the "Magistral" tournament which had 20 participants.

Certainly the organizers will renew this partnership for 2019. If some of you are interested, let me know as soon as possible.

### **June 9 & 10, 2018: Djibouti**

Requested by the Djiboutian federation, I intervened with the FIDE so that they could be released and paid the amount of the subsidy planned for the organization of the zonal tournament 4,2 which until then remained uncertain.

I then went to Djibouti to represent FIDE and AIDEF for the zonal opening ceremony.

I was greeted warmly upon my arrival by President Mohamed Elmi Boulaleh and Secretary General Ahmed Hassan Abdillahi.

During my inaugural address, I congratulated the young Djiboutian federation for this initiative and its dynamism and wished all participants a good tournament, good games and excellent results!

### **June 21 to 24, 2018: Geneva, Switzerland**

In 2016, the Geneva Chess Federation was the organizer of the blitz and rapid championships of the Francophonie. The following years, the formula was taken over by its president Gilles Miralles and became the championship of rapids and blitz Geneva.

To support and encourage this initiative I personally participated in the tournament and spoke a few words at the awards ceremony.

My visit to Geneva also allowed me to honor the personal invitation addressed to me by Prince Karim Aga Khan, spiritual leader of the Ismailis and Imam philanthropist.

Discreet despite her youth spent in the international jet-set, alongside her stepmother, Hollywood actress Rita Hayworth, Prince Karim Aga Khan is a committed and recognized patron whose work is focused on the third world.

During the dinner that consolidated our friendship, we had the opportunity to discuss different topics. Surely we will meet again.

### **25th to 30th June 2018: Dakar & Nouakchott (Senegal & Mauritania)**

In collaboration with Geoffrey Borg, Director General of FIDE, we organized two Fide Trainer seminars in French-speaking regions.

The first took place in Dakar, Senegal and brought together 28 Senegalese, Ivorian, Gambian, Togolese and Gabonese participants and the second in Nouakchott, Mauritania with the participation of 17 Mauritanian candidates.

My mission was to assist Geoffrey in his training work by translating his presentation when it was needed and adding some of my personal experiences.

In each of these countries the welcome was warm and all the participants thanked the trainers who worked completely voluntarily to help the local chess development.

Other seminars of the same type are planned in other countries in the coming months.

### **July 7 to 15: Cannes (France)**

In partnership with Cannes-Échecs, the Stanislas Institute, FIDE and FFE, we organized the second edition of the week of Chess and Francophonie. The first took place in Geneva in 2016.

In this week's program: an international conference, a "Chess in Schools" seminar and the 2018 blitz and rapids championships of La Francophonie.

The theme chosen and developed during the conference was: "chess, a tool to change the structure of the brain and the person". The speakers who spoke were the psychologist from Geneva Mrs. Myriam Noël-Winderling, the president of the French Federation of Chess Mr. Bachar Kouatly, the president of the FIDE commission "Chess on Schools" Mr. Kevin O'Connell, international grand master Mr. Gilles Miralles and myself.

Place for the competition for the end of the program: an afternoon dedicated to the 11 rounds of the championship of blitz games and then the next two days to the 13 rounds of the championship of rapid games. More than 10,000 euros in prizes were distributed for these two tournaments, including many prizes per category.

In the face of strong opposition from Grand Masters Christian Bauer, Jean-Marc Degraeve, Manuel Apicella, Igor Efimov, Nenad Sulava and Jean-Luc Chabanon, it was an impressive doubling of the Frenchman Maxime Lagarde, who won both tournaments .

Despite the importance of distributed prizes, only 63 players took part in the blitz and 69 in the rapids. We had expected more than double but we could not predict that France would arrive in the final of the football world cup.

This final took place on the same weekend as our tournaments, which assured us financially very penalized in terms of the amount of registrations.

Those who nevertheless came to Cannes to fight in front of the chessboard did not miss anything because - last minute initiative - they were able to follow on the giant screen, in the beautiful cinema hall of Stanislas High School the victory of the team of France.

### **July 16 to 29, 2018: Longueuil, Quebec**

I responded positively to the invitation of the Quebec Federation of Chess and went to Longueuil, where this year's Quebec Open Championship was taking place. Longueuil, a welcoming university town, is located on the other side of the St. Lawrence River opposite Montreal

A presentation of the AIDEF and its purpose, a presentation on the situation of the French language and Francophones in the world, a small history of chess, the benefits on the body and mind generated by the practice of failures in different areas formed the essence of my speech at the opening ceremony.

As a member, I also attended the general assembly of the Quebec Chess Federation chaired by Mr. Bernard Labadie.

Certainly this fourth visit to Quebec in five years is a testament to the close friendship and collaboration that our two federations have.

### **August 25 to September 1, 2018: Tirana (Albania)**

As luck would have it, three of our International Meetings took place during this 2-year exercise.

The last one has just taken place in Albania and they are quite surprised by this choice in relation to the Francophonie but the links between the French language and the Albanians, although unknown, are real: Albania is a member of the International Organization of the Francophonie since 1999 and made in 1991 French one of the required second languages in all schools.

In addition, the French presence in the media is significant: Albania has joined Agence francophone for higher education and research which works for the development of the "Francophonie scientifique" at the University of French-speaking networks, the International Association of Mayors and Heads of Partially or Fully Francophone Capitals and Metropolises, the Agence de la presse francophone and the Francophone Business Forum.

This 2018 edition has kept all its promises: the conviviality appreciated by the regulars, the sightseeing, the sunny weather, the splendid playroom of the Albanian National Historical Museum, the quality of accommodation at the Tirana International Hotel in the heart of the The touristic and historical center of the city, the professionalism of the organizers and the referees, the quality and the diversity of the participants as well as the important media coverage made that this edition will remain an excellent memory for the 132 players from the 21 countries which have there took part.

Multiculturalism worked very well, not only did the participants fight the chessboard, but they also shared good moments throughout the week to develop friendships and brotherhood between chess players. Most of the participants discovered a country they did not know and were pleasantly surprised by the cultural richness, the pleasant environment and the warm welcome they received.

As for the winners, the Greek GMI Dimitrios Mastrovasilis wins the title of champion of the Francophonie 2018 and for women, the French WGM Nino Maisuradze retains her title acquired in 2017 in Tunisia. The title of Senior is won for the second year in a row by the GMI Gilles Miralles and the Albanian MF Zeqir Sula becomes the new Veteran Champion.

Note also that these 6 ° RIDEF allowed the Albanian player Llambi Pasko to achieve his 3rd Master International standard and obtain the title!

The closing dinner offered by the Albanian Olympic Committee took place at the Plaza 5 \* hotel and was animated by excellent musicians. Our friend Justin Brou us for the occasion again composed and played a

new song.

### **15 & 16 September 2018: Paris & Nice (France)**

During this busy weekend, I met successively the 2 main candidates for the presidency of the International Chess Federation, Messrs Arkady Dvorkovich and Georgios Makropoulos.

The first meeting with the Russian candidate Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich took place on Saturday, September 15 in Paris, in the lounges of The Westin Hotel, along with the president of the French Chess Federation Mr. Bachar KOUATLY.

The next day, Sunday, September 16, in Nice this time, a dinner was organized at the Palais de la Méditerranée with the Greek candidate Georgios Makropoulos in the presence of the FIDE treasurer Mr. Adrian Siegel and the president of the Monaco Chess Federation Mr. Jean-Michel Rapaire.

Candidate programs, relations with the Monegasque federation, the development of chess in French-speaking countries, collaborative projects with AIDEF, the world championship cycle and the future of FIDE were the key topics.

It is no secret that by conviction I support the candidacy of the Greek candidate, but I do it strictly personal, it is only my commitment and not the AIDEF which, unlike other associations, will remain neutral and will not give any voting instructions.

AIDEF wishes the candidates good luck and hopes that this election will take place in a democratic spirit and respect the representatives of the different federations, so that FIDE can ensure its financial and political independence for the future.

## **Balance sheet**

As you have seen, these two years were well attended and have significantly increased the reputation and recognition of our association by national and international bodies.

Our relations with the International Organization of the Francophonie are at their beginning but we have already obtained their high patronage for the last two RIDEF. We intend to develop them and ultimately ensure that chess becomes an official discipline of the Games of La Francophonie that take place every four years.

When I took over the presidency at the end of 2012, we were 9 members, today we are 43! During this exercise we welcomed four new members: Greece, Qatar, Kosovo and Cape Verde, which shows the growing interest we are attracting.

Our major event, the "International Meeting of French Chess", has become an expected annual global event. Its notoriety, the recognition by the OIF and the broad echo relayed by the international press make it easier now to find private and institutional sponsors ready to subsidize and finance the important cost of the organization of this event.

I would like to thank especially those who have worked for the organization of these last three editions, the Chessboard Mentonnais in 2016, the Tunisian Chess Federation in 2017, the Albanian Federation in 2018.

I would also like to thank all the members of the Steering Committee who, throughout these two years, helped and supported me in the management and administration of our association.

Thanks again to all of you for your presence and let's not forget our motto "Gens Una Sumus"

Patrick VAN HOOLANDT, President

