

Dear Israeli colleagues,

I share your concern regarding the situation that arose at this Olympiad.

If the delegates support my team in the upcoming presidential elections and I am elected President of FIDE, I will take the necessary steps to ensure that such a situation does not happen again.

Under my leadership, FIDE will establish a clear regulatory framework for cases in which a national team is objectively unable to participate in a particular round because of religious or other compelling national obligations.

Religious observance, including Yom Kippur, must be explicitly addressed within such a framework.

Following the elections, I will establish a working group with the participation of representatives of the Israel Chess Federation and other relevant experts.

The mandate of this working group will be clear: it must develop a practical and fair solution that allows a national team facing such circumstances to respect its legitimate religious or national obligations while preserving the possibility of full participation in FIDE Olympiads and other major FIDE tournaments.

The working group will be required to develop a solution. Its task will be to determine the appropriate sporting and regulatory mechanism, including, where necessary, adjustments to scheduling or other competition procedures, while preserving sporting fairness.

Any mechanism developed must be clear, transparent and equally applicable to all national federations. It must also include appropriate safeguards to ensure that it cannot be used to obtain a sporting advantage.

We should also study the relevant experience and regulations of FIFA, UEFA and other international sports organizations in dealing with scheduling conflicts arising from justified religious or national circumstances.

Once the working group has developed the appropriate mechanism, I will initiate the necessary amendments to the Olympiad Regulations and, where appropriate, to the regulations governing other major FIDE tournaments, so that the solution becomes part of FIDE's official regulatory framework.

For me, the principle is clear: legitimate religious observance must not force a national team to choose between respecting its obligations and participating fully in a FIDE Olympiad or other major FIDE tournament. FIDE must have a clear and fair solution in place to prevent such a situation from occurring again.

 **Timur Turlov**