

**Seventy-fourth session**

Agenda items 11 and 15

Sport for development and peace: building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal**Culture of peace****Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
on 12 December 2019***[without reference to a Main Committee (A/74/L.24 and A/74/L.24/Add.1)]***74/22. World Chess Day***The General Assembly,*

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ as well as the purpose of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of advancing, through the educational, scientific and cultural relations of the peoples of the world, the objectives of international peace and of the common welfare of humankind,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that “a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind”,

Recognizing that sports, the arts and physical activity have the power to change perceptions, prejudices and behaviours, as well as to inspire people, break down racial and political barriers, combat discrimination and defuse conflict, as reflected in the political declaration adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit in 2018,²

Recognizing also the valuable contribution of such activities in promoting education, sustainable development, peace, cooperation, solidarity, social inclusion and health at the local, regional and international levels,

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² Resolution 73/1.



Recalling article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,³ outlining a child's right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities, and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",⁴ stressing the promotion of physical, mental and emotional health through play and sports,

Recalling also articles 1 and 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁵ in which States parties recognized the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport, and recognizing that the active involvement of persons with disabilities in such activities contributes to the full and equal realization of their human rights, as well as respect for their inherent dignity,

Recalling further its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries,

Recognizing the important role of chess as an affordable and inclusive activity, which can be exercised anywhere and played by all, across the barriers of language, age, gender, physical ability or social status,

Noting that chess is one of the most ancient, intellectual and cultural games, with a combination of sport, scientific thinking and elements of art,

Acknowledging that chess is a global game, which promotes fairness, inclusion and mutual respect, and noting in this regard that it can contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding among peoples and nations,

Recalling the mission and role of the International Olympic Committee, as set out in the Olympic Charter, in placing sport at the service of humankind and in promoting a peaceful society and healthy lifestyles by associating sport with culture and education and safeguarding human dignity without any discrimination whatsoever, and welcoming the partnerships that the Committee has established with many organizations of the United Nations system, including the International Forum on Sport, Peace and Development, organized jointly with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace,

Recognizing the important role of the World Chess Federation in supporting international cooperation for chess activity and aiming to improve friendly harmony among all peoples of the world, and noting in this regard the recognition of the World Chess Federation by the International Olympic Committee as an International Sports Federation,

Recalling the political declaration⁶ and outcome⁷ adopted at the five-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action⁸ and the commitments made therein to ensure equal opportunities for women and girls in recreational and sports activities, as well as in participation in athletics and physical activities at the national, regional and international levels, such as access, training, competition, remuneration and prizes, and stressing in this regard the need to promote the

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁴ Resolution S-27/2, annex.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁶ Resolution S-23/2, annex.

⁷ Resolution S-23/3, annex.

⁸ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

advancement of women and girls in chess activities, in particular by supporting the higher participation of women and girls in chess events,

Acknowledging the important opportunities offered by chess in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁹ and the Sustainable Development Goals, including, inter alia, in strengthening education, realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and fostering inclusion, tolerance, mutual understanding and respect,

1. *Decides* to designate 20 July as World Chess Day;
2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, individuals and other relevant stakeholders, to observe World Chess Day in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, and to disseminate the advantages of chess, including through educational and public awareness-raising activities;
3. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to facilitate the observance of World Chess Day in collaboration with other relevant organizations, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#);
4. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders for appropriate observance.

*45th plenary meeting
12 December 2019*

⁹ Resolution [70/1](#).