



**Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations**

**Invites you to the High-level Virtual Event in Observance of World Chess Day**

**“Chess for Recovering Better”**

**Date and Time: Monday, 20 July 2020, from 10:00am. to 12:00pm. (EST)**

**VTC Platform: Zoom**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85170875457?pwd=WWRhV1pqZXdRSDlOV2cud2xMRURBUT09>**

***Meeting ID: 851 7087 5457***

***Meeting Password: 039563***

In 2019, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 74/22 designating the 20<sup>th</sup> of July as World Chess Day. The resolution acknowledges the important opportunities offered by chess in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, such as strengthening education, promoting empowerment of women and girls, global cooperation and culture of peace through chess as an affordable and inclusive activity.

Throughout history, games and sports have helped humanity to survive times of crisis by reducing anxieties and improving mental health. While the COVID-19 outbreak has forced most gaming and sports activities to scale down, chess has demonstrated remarkable resilience, adaptability and a very strong convening power in time of pandemic, helping transcend national boundaries and bridge across the barriers of language, culture, gender, age, physical ability or other status.

Organized in the context of the inaugural observance of World Chess Day proclaimed by the UN General Assembly, the meeting will bring together world chess champions, representatives of governments, United Nations, International Chess Federation and other stakeholders to celebrate one of the most ancient and most popular games in history that promotes fairness, equality, mutual respect and understanding among nations.

## **Participants**

Chess players, United Nations and governments officials, permanent missions to the UN, representatives of civil society, academia and other relevant stakeholders are invited to attend and participate in the discussions.



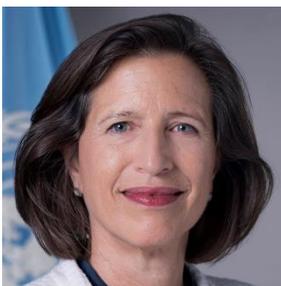
### **H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations**

H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan was appointed Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations in 2018. Before that, from 2017 to 2018 Ambassador Margaryan was his country's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations. With Government experience exceeding two decades, he has served his country in many capacities at Armenia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its diplomatic representations abroad.



### **Arkady Dvorkovich President of the International Chess Federation**

Arkady Dvorkovich is the President of the International Chess Federation since 2018. Previously, he was a member of the Russian government: he was appointed Scientific Director of the Economic Experts Group of the Ministry of Finance when he was just 22, and he went on to become Deputy Prime Minister between 2012 and 2018. He is also the Chairman of the Skolkovo Foundation, Russia's main hub for innovation.



### **Melissa Ruth Fleming Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications**

Melissa Fleming is the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications. From 2009 until August 2019, Ms. Fleming served UNHCR as Head of Global Communications and Spokesperson for the High Commissioner. Prior to UNHCR she served for 8 years as Spokesperson and Head of the Media and Outreach of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).



### **Viswanathan Anand Fifteenth World Champion**

In 1988, Viswanathan Anand became the first-ever Grandmaster from India. One of the best chess players in history, he is a five-time world champion in classical chess, having won three other

titles in rapid and blitz formats. Anand was the first recipient of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, established by the Indian government in 1991 as the highest sporting honor. At the age of 50, he is still an active player who competes at the highest level.



**Magnus Carlsen**  
**Reigning World Champion**

Magnus Carlsen is the reigning World Champion since 2013, with four titles on his record. The Norwegian star has topped the world rankings since he was 19 years old, and his peak classical rating of 2882 is the highest in history. He is one of the youngest-ever players to achieve the Grandmaster title, at 13 years.



**Hou Yifan**  
**Thirteenth Women's World Champion**

Hou Yifan is one of the youngest players to have achieved the title of Grandmaster, at 14 years and 6 months. She is also the youngest ever to win the Women's World Chess Championship, at age 16. With four championship titles under her belt, Hou Yifan remains today the number one female player in the world ranking. In 2017, Hou Yifan received the prestigious Rhodes scholarship to study at the University of Oxford.



**Levon Aronian**  
**Fourth highest-rated player in history**

Levon Aronian has been the leading Armenian player since he was a teenager. He became the World Youth Chess Champion (under 12) in 1994, and is unanimously regarded as one of the strongest players of the last two decades. In March 2014, he was ranked number two in the world with 2830 points in the rating list, making him the fourth highest-rated player in history.



**Vladimir Kramnik**  
**Fourteenth World Champion**

In 2000, Vladimir Kramnik was crowned Classical World Chess Champion. Six years later, he became the undisputed World Chess Champion. Having announced his retirement from classical chess competitions one year ago, Kramnik remains very much involved with chess, working on projects related to chess and education, and coaching some of the young prodigies of our time.

The event will be held in the form of an interactive panel discussion that will reflect on the transformative power of chess in fostering social cohesion, trust and solidarity, in support of the global response and recovery efforts for *building back better together*.

## **Chess for Recovering Better**

### **High-Level Virtual Event**

On the Occasion of the Inaugural Commemoration of the World Chess Day

**20 July 2020, from 10:00am. to 12:00pm. (EST)**

### **Annotated Programme**

- 10:05-10:20**      **Welcome remarks**
- H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan**, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the UN
- Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich**, President of FIDE
- 10:20 – 11:10**      **Panel discussion**
- Keynote address by Ms. Melissa Fleming**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations for Global Communications
- Mr. Viswanathan Anand**, 15<sup>th</sup> World Chess Champion
- Mr. Magnus Carlsen**, 16<sup>th</sup> World Chess Champion (tbc)
- Ms. Hou Yifan**, 13<sup>th</sup> Women's World Champion
- Mr. Levon Aronian**, Two-time World Cup winner, three-time Olympic Champion, 4<sup>th</sup> highest-rated player in history
- Mr. Vladimir Kramnik**, 14<sup>th</sup> World Chess Champion
- 11:10 – 11:30**      **Interventions by UN delegations and other stakeholders** (speakers are requested to indicate their interest to take the floor in the Chat box of the Zoom portal or by using the “raise hand” function)
- 11:30 – 12:00**      **Q&A session and closing remarks**