



## **“Chess for Recovering Better”**

**High-Level Virtual Event in Observance of World Chess Day**

**Date and Time: Monday, 20 July 2020, at 10:00-12:00 (EST)**

**VTC Platform: Zoom**

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

Globally, chess is recognized as a powerful tool for promoting the values of discipline, equality, respect for rules and mutual understanding. In 2019, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 74/22 under agenda items “Sport for development and peace” and “Culture of peace”, designating the 20th 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 and health, fostering solidarity and promoting cooperation, gender equality, inclusivity and peace. Throughout history, games and sports have helped humanity to survive times of crisis by reducing anxieties and improving mental health. While the coronavirus 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. Over the past few months, the overall interest in chess is reported to have doubled, with more players than ever coming together to participate in chess events that are being increasingly held through online platforms.

The meeting will mark the inaugural commemoration of the World Chess Day by providing a platform to discuss the unique capabilities leveraged by chess in supporting social cohesion, equality and inclusion, with a focus on COVID-19 response and recovery efforts for building back better.

#### **Participants**

Chess players, United Nations and governments officials, permanent missions to the UN, representatives of civil society, academia and other relevant stakeholders will be invited to attend and participate in the discussions. Invitations to this event, as well as the programme will be sent at a later stage.