|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **UPU International Bureau**  Weltpoststrasse 4  3015 BERNE  SWITZERLAND  T +41 31 350 31 11  F +41 31 350 31 10  www.upu.int  Contact: Ms Susan Alexander  T +41 31 350 33 38  susan.alexander@upu.int |  | To: Union member countries  For information to:  Designated operators  Restricted unions |
|  | Berne, 27 May 2021 |

**Reference:** 2150(DPRM.URS)1061

**Subject: Update on the status of organization of the 27th UPU Congress**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you will be aware, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Bureau (IB) has kept Union member countries regularly updated on developments with the organization of the 27th Congress through a dedicated UPU Congress web page ([www.upu.int/en/Universal-Postal-Union/About-UPU/  
Bodies/Congress](http://www.upu.int/en/Universal-Postal-Union/About-UPU/Bodies/Congress)) and associated circular letters.

In particular, the IB has issued two circular letters, 2009(DIRCAB)1039 of 20 April 2020 and 2009(DIRCAB)1055 of 14 May 2020, specifically relating to the postponement of the Abidjan Congress.

The Council of Administration (CA) held an exceptional session on 26 and 27 October 2020, during which it decided, in the light of the current exceptional circumstances, to maintain Abidjan as the host city of the 27th Congress, and to endorse the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire’s request to reschedule the convening of this event for August 2021.

The CA also instructed the Director General of the IB to: i) continue monitoring the situation with the Ivoirian Government; and ii) prepare a report, to be presented at the April 2021 CA session (S9), on the legal, logistical, technological and other arrangements that would be required to host the 27th Congress, including the possi­bility of virtual representation, if it becomes evident by 30 June 2021 that it will no longer be possible to hold that Congress as currently planned (Exceptional CA decision 1/2020).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| / | At CA S9, the Ivoirian Government reaffirmed its commitment to hold the 27th Congress in Abidjan (copy of statement attached). |

Regarding the implementation of Exceptional CA decision 1/2020, the IB presented document CA 2021.1–Doc 12c on the legal, logistical, technological and other arrangements that would be required to host the 27th Congress with the possibility of remote representation.

At its April session, the CA thoroughly discussed a number of aspects that would need to be addressed in order to convene the 27th Congress and, in particular, the steps to be taken in order to allow for remote representation at Congress. These covered necessary adjustments to the Rules of Procedure of Congresses (RoPC), the conduct of Congress meetings and the Congress timetable in a context of remote representation, the delegate registration process, as well as other associated logistical and technological aspects. As a result of the discussions, the CA endorsed the submission of CA 2021.1–Doc 12c to the 27th Congress for its approval in accordance with article 28 of the RoPC, subject to whatever decision is ultimately taken by the CA by the 30 June deadline.

Rest assured that the International Bureau will continue to monitor the situation in coordination with the host country authorities and inform Union member countries accordingly, with a view to ensuring the success of the 27th UPU Congress.

Yours faithfully,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| (signed)  Bishar A. Hussein  Director General | Visas: Xxx  Internal copies: Xxx |