

Translation of circular note No. 284/V-PR of 13 May 2020 from the Vice-President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (Rep.) to UPU member countries, restricted unions and observers

Subject: Postponement of the 27th UPU Congress due to the coronavirus pandemic and commitment of Côte d'Ivoire to still hold the Congress in Abidjan

In common with all countries of the world, Côte d'Ivoire is currently dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Faced with this situation, it has already taken all the necessary measures to combat this pandemic, which has led, among other things, to the closing of borders and the postponement of all international events, to protect citizens' health and save lives.

In this context, it was not felt possible to maintain the originally planned dates of **10 to 28 August 2020** for the 27th Universal Postal Congress.

Consequently, in consultation with the UPU International Bureau and in accordance with the Union's General Regulations, it has been agreed to postpone the 27th UPU Congress until a later date, once the worldwide health situation linked to COVID-19 allows.

Côte d'Ivoire, **as the country selected** by the Istanbul Congress to host the 27th UPU Congress, wishes to restate unequivocally the commitment of its government to implement that decision of the world postal community. As such, it plans to continue with its preparations and discussions with the International Bureau with a view to proposing, on the basis of consultation and in accordance with the UPU General Regulations, new dates for the holding of this Abidjan Congress.

More so than ever, Africa, and Côte d'Ivoire in particular, remains committed to hosting the 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan – the second to be held on African soil since Egypt in 1934 – as soon as the worldwide pandemic situation allows.

The national organizing committee, led by H.E. the Vice-President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, remains mobilized and will continue to work closely with the UPU International Bureau to carry forward the preparations for the 27th UPU Congress.

Our solidarity in the face of this worldwide health challenge should serve to strengthen the universal postal community as never before. Côte d'Ivoire, as host country of the 27th UPU Congress, should continue to enjoy the support of all member countries so that it is able to make this important event a complete success, in the interest of the world postal community.

Let me close by restating the boundless desire of Côte d'Ivoire to host this Congress.

Yours faithfully,

[signed]

Daniel Kablan Duncan