



International Bureau

Weltpoststrasse 4
P.O. Box 312
3000 BERNE 15
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, 8 January 2020

Reference: 2150(DPRM.URS.REG)1001
Subject: Proposals for the 2020 Abidjan Congress

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to article 138 of the General Regulations, I wish to remind you of the rules relating to proposals for submission to the 2020 Abidjan Congress and of certain decisions taken in this connection by the Council of Administration (CA).

The 27th UPU Congress will take place from 10 to 28 August 2020 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (Rep.). Pursuant to article 29 of the UPU Constitution, the right to present proposals is reserved for member countries. A distinction is made between proposals of a general nature (resolutions, decisions, recommendations and formal opinions), and proposals to amend the Acts of the Union. The CA has approved the following principles, which all relevant parties are required to observe:

- Proposals should be limited to issues that are of real importance to the Union or the international postal service;
- Countries should refrain from presenting proposals aimed at settling unusual cases or problems that could be resolved through domestic legislation;
- Countries should likewise refrain from presenting proposals of a drafting nature which are not obviously useful.

Basic texts for the presentation of proposals

Proposals concerning the Acts of the Union should be presented as follows:

- Constitution: proposals should be based on the Constitution adopted at the Vienna Congress in 1964, as amended by its 10 Additional Protocols, the latest being that of the second Extraordinary Congress in 2018. This modified version appears in the publication "Decisions of the 2018 Addis Ababa Extraordinary Congress", and also in the UPU manual entitled "Constitution and General Regulations" (Blue Binder).
- General Regulations: proposals should be based on the General Regulations adopted at the Doha Congress in 2012, as amended by its two Additional Protocols, the latest being that of the second Extraordinary Congress in 2018. This modified version appears in the "Decisions of the 2018 Addis Ababa Extraordinary Congress", and also in the Blue Binder.
- Rules of Procedure of Congresses: proposals should be based on the current version of the Rules of Procedure of Congresses adopted at the second Extraordinary Congress in 2018. This modified version appears in the "Decisions of the 2018 Addis Ababa Extraordinary Congress", and also in the Blue Binder.

- Universal Postal Convention: proposals should be based on the Convention adopted at the Istanbul Congress in 2016, as amended by its two Additional Protocols, the latest being that of the third Extraordinary Congress in 2019. This modified version appears in the publication “Decisions of the 2019 Geneva Extraordinary Congress”.
- Postal Payment Services Agreement (PPSA): proposals should be based on the PPSA adopted at the Istanbul Congress in 2016. This version appears in the publication “Decisions of the 2016 Istanbul Congress” and is also reproduced in the Postal Payment Services Manual (Purple Binder).

These Acts are also available in various languages on the UPU website.

The process for submitting proposals to insert reservations in the final protocols to the Convention or the PPSA will be explained in a separate letter to be issued later.

Each proposal should be prepared on a separate sheet, and should follow the same format as the sample proposal provided in Annex 1.

Pursuant to article 138.3 of the General Regulations, each proposal liable to lead to significant work and costs for the Union is to be accompanied by an indication of its financial impact, and should also present the estimated outputs, deliverables, costs and funding. This information is to be prepared by the member country submitting the proposal in consultation with the International Bureau, so that the corresponding implementation can be appropriately planned.

To this end, the CA approved a programme and budget impact (PBI) statement form, which is to accompany all proposals of a general nature submitted to the 2020 Abidjan Congress. An example of this form is reproduced in Annex 2. All validated and completed PBI statement information submitted for proposals will then be included in a single Congress document.

However, in line with the principles outlined above, there is no need to submit a proposal with a PBI statement if the corresponding activity has already been covered in a work proposal submitted through one of the councils for the preparation of the Abidjan Business Plan. It is foreseen that the Abidjan Business Plan will be reviewed and approved as a package through one single proposal of a general nature, thus validating all the underlying work proposals.

Deadlines for submission of proposals by member countries

Acts to be revised by the 2020 Abidjan Congress

As the 2020 Abidjan Congress opens on 10 August 2020, the provisions of article 138.1 of the General Regulations are to be understood as follows:

- a Proposals that reach the International Bureau **by 10 February 2020** (at least six months before the opening of Congress) will be accepted.
- b No drafting proposals will be accepted **after 10 February 2020** (during the period of six months preceding the opening of Congress).
- c Proposals of substance that reach the International Bureau **between 11 February and 10 April 2020** (in the interval between six and four months before the opening of Congress) will not be accepted unless they are supported by at least two additional member countries.
- d Proposals of substance that reach the International Bureau **between 11 April and 10 June 2020** (in the interval between four and two months before the opening of Congress) will not be accepted unless they are supported by at least eight additional member countries; proposals that arrive after that time will no longer be accepted.
- e Declarations of support must reach the International Bureau within the same period as the proposals to which they refer.

However, proposals to amend the Constitution or the General Regulations must reach the International Bureau **by 10 February 2020 at the latest**; any received with the required declarations of support during the period from 11 February to 10 June 2020 can be considered only if Congress so decides by a majority of two thirds of the countries represented at Congress (article 138.2 of General Regulations).

Amendments to proposals submitted by the Council of Administration or the Postal Operations Council are required to reach the International Bureau **by 10 June 2020 at the latest**. Beyond that date, member countries may present their amendments at Congress sessions (article 138bis.2 of General Regulations).

The above procedure applies to proposals of all kinds submitted to Congress, with the exception of those concerning the Rules of Procedure of Congresses or which constitute amendments to proposals already made (article 138.5 of General Regulations). In this connection, it should be recalled that under article 13.5 of the Rules of Procedure of Congresses, "the following shall be regarded as amendments: any proposal which, without altering the substance of the original proposal, involves a deletion from, addition to or revision of a part of the original proposal. No proposed change shall be regarded as an amendment if it is inconsistent with the meaning or intent of the original proposal. In case of doubt, Congress or the Committee shall decide the matter."

Acts to be revised by the Postal Operations Council

The Regulations of the Convention and the PPSA will be amended by the Postal Operations Council in the six months following Congress, in the light of the decisions taken by Congress (article 141 of General Regulations).

- a Proposals concerning the Regulations that are consequential to proposed amendments to the Convention or the Agreement are to be submitted to the International Bureau simultaneously with the Congress proposals to which they relate.
- b Other proposals concerning the Regulations are to be submitted to the International Bureau no later than two months prior to Congress, i.e. **by 10 June 2020 at the latest**. They may be submitted by a single member country without the support of other member countries.
- c Proposals concerning changes to the Regulations required as a result of Congress decisions that are submitted by member countries must reach the International Bureau no later than two months before the opening of the first POC session.

In the light of the above, I should be grateful if you would send to the International Bureau, as early as possible, proposals for amending the Acts of the Union and any other proposals such as resolutions, decisions, recommendations and formal opinions which you intend to submit to the Abidjan Congress. To speed up and facilitate the transmission of these proposals for submission to Congress, you are asked to send them, in Word format if possible, to congress.proposals@upu.int.

Paperless Congress

Union member countries and observers are also reminded that this is to be a paperless Congress following the measures taken to implement the organization's e-publication policy during the Doha cycle.

Accordingly, in order to implement the UPU e-publication policy, paper copies of documents for the 2020 Congress will not be distributed in Abidjan. For Congress documents, proposals and information notes, please visit the UPU website.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Bishar A. Hussein
Director General



27th CONGRESS

Convention – Proposal

20.2.1

Article X
Title of article

MEMBER COUNTRY

Amend the article as follows:

1 Member countries shall notify the International Bureau, within six months of the end of Congress, of the name and address of the governmental body responsible for overseeing postal affairs. Within six months of the end of Congress, member countries shall also provide the International Bureau with the name and address of the operator or operators officially designated to operate postal services and to fulfil the obligations arising from the Acts of the Union on their territory. Between Congresses, member countries shall notify the International Bureau of any changes in the governmental bodies as soon as possible, and Any changes with regard to the officially designated operators shall also be notified to the International Bureau as soon as possible, and preferably at least three months prior to the implementation of the change.

1bis When a member country officially designates a new operator, it shall indicate the scope of the postal services that the latter will provide under the Acts of the Union, as well as the operator's geographical coverage on its territory.

Reasons. – This provision sets a clear deadline from the end of Congress for member countries' notification of governmental and operational entities. However, it does not define a clear time frame for the notification of changes between Congresses. Member countries often notify the IB of changes with very short notice, causing problems for both the new designated operator and other designated operators in terms of all the necessary operational arrangements.

In some cases, the newly designated operator may be licensed to provide only some of the basic services stipulated in article 13 of the Convention, or to provide the postal services in a particular geographic region of the territory of that member country. In those cases, all such information should be communicated to all designated operators in a timely fashion via the International Bureau.

Part 3 – Costs and funding			
Costs			
<i>Staff</i>		<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
6 P		45,000 CHF	6 P + 45,000 CHF
12 G		50,000 CHF	12 G + 50,000 CHF
Funding			
<i>Regular budget</i>	<i>Voluntary funding</i>	<i>Sales of products and services</i>	<i>Total</i>
0 CHF	6 P + 12 G + 95,000 CHF	0 CHF	6 P + 12 G + 95,000 CHF
Further background information			
The work associated with this resolution would be financed entirely by voluntary funds provided by country XXX.			