



**UPU 4<sup>th</sup>  
Extraordinary  
Congress - Riyadh**  
1 - 5 October, 2023



**13** CLIMATE  
ACTION



# Climate action by the postal sector

## How is the postal sector relevant to climate change?

Climate change poses significant risks to postal operations, including threats to the safety of workers, damage to physical infrastructure, and the disruption of supply chains. Upgrading to more climate-resilient postal networks is therefore emerging as an important strategy for maintaining the quality of core postal services.

On the other hand, the postal sector is well-positioned to support global climate action. As extreme weather events become more common, stakeholders are likely to increase their demands for low-emission postal services.

More broadly, the distribution and information networks managed by postal operators can be adapted to offer new climate services. These include building community resilience to extreme weather through early warning systems and helping other sectors to roll out electric vehicle infrastructure.

## What is the role of the UPU?

The UPU is taking a leading role in advancing climate action by the postal sector, aiming to tackle climate risks and seize climate-change-related opportunities. In line with the 2015 Paris Agreement and UN Sustainable Development Goal 13, the UPU has long recognized the urgent need for drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. UPU Resolution C 17, adopted at the 2021 Abidjan Congress, provided the UPU with a concrete mandate to identify feasible global emissions reduction targets and to support the knowledge sharing and capacity building necessary to ensure postal operators can both reduce their emissions and develop more climate-resilient operations. This led to the development of a comprehensive "green package" proposal, which will be presented and decided upon at the Riyadh Extraordinary Congress.

## The integrated "Green Package" proposal calls for

**Shifts in how the sector perceives climate action – opportunities not restrictions**

**An outward-looking perspective – other sectors, new partners, novel services**

**Ambition for transformative levels of external investment**

**Cooperation that benefits the whole sector**

**Climate projects that make business sense - relevance, efficiency, quality, revenue**

# Integrated "Green Package" for the Postal Sector

## Theme 1

### Feasible voluntary greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets

Tiered approach to implementing emission reduction targets that recognizes the different starting points and capacities of postal operators

Voluntary selection and change of tier by member countries

Global target of -85% emissions by 2050

Tier 1 target of -30% emissions by 2030

Capacity-building support focused on tier 2 and 3 postal operators

Regular emissions stock-taking and reporting

## Theme 2

### Enabling climate action – Mitigation, adaptation and climate finance

A new UPU Climate Facility would provide systemic institutional support to facilitate sector-wide climate action, build capacity, and gather required resources. Notably, it would become a recognized entity seeking external investments into climate action by the sector.

#### UPU Climate Facility

##### Climate finance

Matching the climate project proposals of postal operators with institutions seeking to finance large-scale climate action.

Supporting the development of new business models for climate services.

##### Climate knowledge hub

Fostering the postal community's capability to undertake an environmental transition through capacity building and technology transfer.

##### Secretariat services

Strengthening connections between postal operators and the broader climate community.

Seeking government policy support for space to innovate, and to access green budgets.

## Theme 3

### Sectoral pledges towards climate action

Voluntary **climate transparency pledges** would communicate entities' climate transformation strategies and intended actions, for example:

- ▶ Publishing individual scope 1 and 2 emissions reduction targets for 2030 and 2050
- ▶ Disclosing a roadmap for key climate activities
- ▶ Disclosing quantified results of climate actions
- ▶ Communicating "green revenue" business models
- ▶ Enhancing the climate policy and regulatory environment

The pledges can be adapted, signed, and published by Posts, governments, and wider postal sector players. This unified message would help improve the climate credibility of the sector, raising its profile and unlocking new funding streams.

## Theme 4

### Climate leadership for the wider postal sector

The opening up agenda of the UPU presents new opportunities to collaborate and share, creating synergies that will accelerate climate action by the broader sector through:

- ▶ Improving the climate performance of UPU products and services considered for wider access, based on a preceding climate screening exercise
- ▶ Reviewing any new climate products and services for their potential use by wider postal sector players
- ▶ Inviting wider postal sector players using UPU products and services to share any climate-relevant data that is generated as a result
- ▶ Inviting members of the UPU Consultative Committee to share and co-develop climate tools and to support broader UPU climate activities

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