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UNION

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To:

- Union member countries
- Restricted unions
- Consultative Committee members

Berne, 23 June 2023

Reference: 0100(DPRM.PPRE.PRA)1088

Subject: Workshop on review of integrated postal reform and development plans and the Postal Reform Guide

Dear Sir/Madam,

In order to establish a comprehensive postal reform strategy, in line with a decision of the 2004 Bucharest Congress, the UPU International Bureau (IB) launched the integrated postal reform and development plan (IPDP) concept in 2005. IPDPs are designed to provide countries with a general strategy for reforming the postal sector with the involvement of all stakeholders (e.g. the government body responsible for setting public policy on postal matters, the regulator, designated operators, trade unions, private operators, etc.) from the outset.

IPDPs and the Postal Reform Guide are mainly targeted at the governments of member countries, especially in the developing or least developed countries. One of their main aims is to ensure that the state obligation to provide universal postal services is met. Further important aims include implementing or updating countries' postal sector regulatory framework and reconstructing or redesigning the existing service network and infrastructure to ensure that it is environmentally and/or socially and financially sustainable.

At its last meeting in May 2023, the UPU Council of Administration (CA) decided on the next phase of the work on the review of IPDPs and the Postal Reform Guide, with a view to revising the existing documents and training materials to better support the objectives of the postal reform agenda, taking into account member countries' current needs.

I am pleased to announce that, in line with the decision taken by the CA at its 2023.1 session, the IB is holding an online workshop to address various issues related to postal modernization and regulatory reform. The aim of the workshop is to provide member countries with a comprehensive and informed view of postal modernization and regulatory reform, by sharing best practices in terms of regional experiences and developments in postal reform and the implications of these learnings on the future development of the UPU toolkit and initiatives. In doing so, it aims to further improve the regulatory advisory support provided to UPU member countries on postal regulatory reform.

/ As you will see from the agenda in Annex 1, the workshop will be held online and will take place over two days, as follows:

- Tuesday, 11 July 2023, from 12.00 to 15.00 CEST (UTC+2)
- Wednesday, 12 July 2023, from 12.00 to 15.00 CEST

On the first day, the workshop will discuss the existing postal reform toolkit and initiatives, and learn from different regions' experiences with the implementation of postal reform projects. Day two will see a discussion on the needs and expectations surrounding postal regulatory reform, which will inform the next phase in the development of the UPU postal reform tools.

Interpretation into English, French, Arabic, Russian and Spanish will be provided on both days of the workshop.

You are kindly invited to attend this online workshop. We ask that all participants register in advance via [up-int.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqdu-tqTopHtVos6cg418hbZuJS-tD2zCF](https://int.zoom.us/join/9101234567890). Once registered, you will receive an e-mail containing information on how to join the meeting.

We look forward to your active participation in the workshop.

Should you have any questions about the workshop, please do not hesitate to address them to Mr Seunghoon Jeon, Associate Expert in the Policy and Regulatory Advisory Programme, whose contact details are provided at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Masahiko Metoki
Director General