



Proposal of a general nature

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Resolution

Management of the work of the Union – Further reform of the UPU

Congress,

Recalling
that since the 1989 Washington Congress, the UPU has been making efforts to keep its mission, structure and working methods constantly under review to adapt itself in the rapidly changing postal environment and to reflect the interest of its member countries and all players in the postal sector,

Noting
that the 1994 Seoul Congress put in place the current structure of the UPU, subsequently creating the Consultative Committee under the purview of the Council of Administration as a framework for effective dialogue between stakeholders at the 2004 Bucharest Congress,

Observing
that most member countries have undergone postal sector reform,

Reaffirming
the need to continue the Union reform process with a view to adapting to shifting requirements in a rapidly changing environment which affects the Union and its members, as stated in C 54/2004 of the Bucharest Congress,

Recognizing with appreciation
the work carried out by the Structure and Constituency of the Union Project Group and Committee 1 of the Council of Administration concerning the continuing reform of the Union,

Also recognizing
the work accomplished by the Acts of the Union Project Group to introduce greater precision in the Acts through the expanded use of definitions of the terms "member country" and "designated operator" in place of the term "postal administration",

Acknowledging
the need to further define and more clearly distinguish the proper role of these entities under the Acts and all players within the UPU, and to improve the structure and organization of the work of the Union in order to better address a variety of the Union's issues – governmental, legal and regulatory, economic, operational and technical which have become more and more complex,

Taking into consideration

the vision provided in the Nairobi Postal Strategy of the postal sector as an essential component of the global economy with the three-dimensional strategic direction of the UPU – whether in terms of the three aspects of interconnection, development and governance or of the three elements of the worldwide network – physical, electronic and financial,

Keeping in mind

that the UPU is an intergovernmental organization and one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system,

Instructs

the Council of Administration to establish a working group composed of 10 members of the Council of Administration, 10 members of the Postal Operations Council and the Chairman of the Consultative Committee, with fair regard to geographical representation and level of economic development, which will be responsible for:

- conducting a study on the impact of new market players in the postal sector on the UPU and its mission and activities;
- studying possible adjustments to the mission of the UPU contained in the preamble to the Constitution, including the practical impact, if any, on the UPU's status as a UN specialized agency;
- studying ways to better structure and improve the functioning of UPU bodies, with a view to facilitating implementation of the strategy, improve the efficiency of the decision-making processes and working methods of UPU bodies, and study how to make optimum use of resources;
- studying various issues relating to the organization and financing of UPU extrabudgetary activities;
- studying the role of the Restricted Unions in order to maximize existing synergies, thus improving global performance;
- reporting on the progress of work and presenting recommendations to the Council of Administration based on the results of the studies,

Also instructs

the Council of Administration:

- to establish the rules of procedure of the working group and designate its Chairman from among the CA members of the working group;
- to formulate proposals for reform, based on the working group's recommendation for submission to the 25th Congress,

Charges

the Postal Operations Council to designate its representatives for participating in the study on reform,

Encourages

member countries to participate actively in UPU reform activities by providing as much input and as many new ideas as possible, to enable the UPU to adapt to the rapidly changing and dynamic environment in order to respond effectively to the needs of its membership and maintain its leadership in postal services worldwide.

Reasons. – Any revision of the basic mission of the UPU – the statement which, in addition to article 1 of the Constitution, describes the purpose of the Union – is a serious undertaking. The 2004 Bucharest Congress adopted revisions to the UPU mission after years of work, debate and discussion by the High Level Group created by the 1999 Beijing Congress, an effort which included wide consultation among all UPU member countries and stakeholders. In their replies to a 2005 questionnaire issued by the CA Structure and Constituency of the Union Project Group, an overwhelming majority of UPU member countries expressed their satisfaction with the mission statement adopted by the Bucharest Congress, thus demonstrating that no change to the UPU mission was needed. At the 2008 sessions of the POC and CA, a proposal emerged that would substantially revise the UPU mission statement; this is proposal 10.0.1 put forward by the CA to Congress. At the 2008 POC and CA and subsequent regional meetings, several countries voiced reservations or outright opposition to this proposal. Clearly there is no consensus among UPU member countries on the text put forward in proposal 10.0.1 or even on the need for any change whatsoever in the UPU mission statement.

To ensure careful consideration of any possible revision to the UPU mission statement, it is critical that a full and thorough consultation of all UPU member countries be conducted under the auspices of the UPU. To achieve this purpose, this amendment proposes that the CA, as part of its further work on reform of the Union, should study the UPU mission statement over the coming Congress period, taking into account the views of all UPU member countries.