

Mr Jack Hamande and Mr Matano Ndaro
Co-Chairs of the Taskforce on the Opening Up of the UPU to Wider Postal Sector Players
Universal Postal Union

29 May 2020

Dear Co-Chairs of the Taskforce on the Opening Up of the UPU to Wider Postal Sector Players,

Firstly, we would like to thank you for your hard work on this issue to date. We note it is an important matter for all UPU members and the future of the UPU.

The Asia-Pacific members of the taskforce on the opening up of the UPU to wider postal sector players (“regional taskforce members”) met virtually on 7 May 2020 to discuss the work of the taskforce, and the difficult situation all member countries and designated operators find themselves in due to COVID-19.

The purpose of this note is to inform you of some of the preliminary views of the regional taskforce members on the taskforce’s work and to **request a meeting of the regional taskforce members and the Co-Chairs in the week commencing 15 June 2020**. We propose the following agenda for our discussion:

- Updates from the Co-Chairs
- Discuss the purpose and results of the questionnaire
- Discuss what other work is needed to inform Congress proposals
- Clarify the work of the taskforce going forward
- Discuss the timeline of the future work and meetings of the taskforce

We would be grateful if you could please advise us as soon as possible if the date above and agenda is acceptable so that arrangements can be made regarding a teleconference meeting.

The regional taskforce members have the following high-level comments:

The questionnaire is a good starting point for categorising products and services, and considering membership options

Regional taskforce members agree on the importance of the work of opening up access to the UPU products and services for the future of the UPU, and core to this work are issues of collaboration and representation of wider sector players.

We agree that the questionnaire provides a useful framework for considering different types of product categories. However, it is not clear to regional taskforce members what types of proposals the results of the questionnaire will allow us to take to Congress.

The questionnaire also raises the issue of membership categories, and regional taskforce members noted the Consultative Committee is also considering this matter. We agree that reform options to extend and strengthen the membership base of the Consultative Committee are positive and should be addressed as a priority. It would be useful to understand the work which the Consultative Committee is currently undertaking and perhaps incorporate some of this into the broader work of this taskforce.

As a primary step, the taskforce needs to determine the overarching policy and principles for opening up access, to inform any proposals for Congress

Regional taskforce members believe that any proposals taken to Congress should include and be guided by overarching principles and objectives of what opening up of the UPU's products and services will aim to achieve in the short, medium and long term. Accordingly, we propose that principles and objectives are agreed by the taskforce before we seek agreement to particular products, services and membership options. We ask the Co-Chairs to advise the regional taskforce members when this work will commence.

Regional taskforce members consider that two types of proposals could be presented to Congress

1. If the taskforce agrees to open up selected products and services, we recommend that only the products that have unanimous agreement by the taskforce be recommended to Congress. These could be seen as "quick wins" and would not require too much further work.
2. All products, services and membership options not unanimously agreed by the taskforce should be included in a roadmap for continuing work in the next cycle. Regional taskforce members agreed that decisions be carefully considered, with adequate analysis of the impacts on governments, designated operators, and the UPU, and with consultation with wider sector players to assess what options of opening up would be most beneficial.

Regional taskforce members encourage additional meetings of the taskforce to develop the suite of proposals

Regional taskforce members also noted that if proposals are to be prepared and agreed by the taskforce prior to the Congress, as indicated in the timeline sent out by the Secretariat, it is likely that additional taskforce meetings would be necessary in order to consider the results of the survey and possible proposals in detail.

Kind Regards,

Rebecca Rush and Yutaka Kitagami

On behalf of Australia, Japan, China, Singapore and Vietnam

Cc: Mr Mutua Muthusi, Secretariat of the Taskforce