

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2025

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### Organization and Structure of the 2026 APPU Congress

#### Memorandum by the APPU Bureau

<b>1. Subject</b>  Informing EC on the Organization and Structure of the 14 <sup>th</sup> APPU Congress in 2026.	<b>References/Paragraphs</b>  § 1-17
<b>2. Decisions expected</b>  The EC is invited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>note</b> the information contained in this document</li> <li>- <b>approve</b> the proposed next steps</li> </ul>	§ 1-17 § 1-17

#### Background

1. The Congress is the supreme organ of the Union and comprises representatives of member countries. The General Regulations of the APPU state that the Congress shall be convened no later than two years after each Universal Postal Congress to revise the Acts of the Union, if necessary, and to deliberate on other postal matters of interest to member countries. The 14th APPU Congress is scheduled to be held in 2026.
2. The organization and structure of the APPU Congress are defined in the Rules of Procedure of Congress. In matters not explicitly addressed therein, general guidance may be drawn from the Rules of Procedure of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress. Accordingly, relevant best practices from recent and upcoming UPU Congresses have been studied, and the following is proposed regarding the structure and organization of the 14th APPU Congress.

#### Dates and Venue

3. As of the date of this document, no member country has formally volunteered to host the 14th APPU Congress. Further details regarding the host, venue, and proposed timelines are contained in APPU EC 2025 Document 29.

#### Mode of Conduct of the Congress

4. The 13th APPU Congress was successfully conducted in a hybrid format. Building on that experience, the APPU Bureau has since developed further technical capacities to support virtual participation and online coordination. In line with international best practices—including those of the UPU—it is proposed that the 14th APPU Congress also be conducted in a hybrid format, following similar Rules of Procedure as adopted during the 13th Congress.

5. The APPU Bureau will prepare the necessary draft amendments to the Rules of Procedure of Congress to facilitate the hybrid conduct of the meeting, which will be presented at the opening plenary of the 14th APPU Congress.

#### **Chairpersonship/ Vice-chairpersonship in the Congress**

6. As per the Rules of Procedure of the APPU Congress, the first plenary session—presided over by the Chair of the Executive Council—shall elect the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Congress. If the elected Chair is unable to fulfil the role, the Vice-Chair shall act as a replacement.
7. In accordance with established practice, the host country traditionally assumes the Chairpersonship of the Congress. If the Bureau is required to host the 14th Congress, the Chair will be elected during the opening plenary session. Should this scenario arise, the Bureau will prepare detailed notes for consideration by the Congress, subject to the Executive Council's endorsement.
8. To promote greater inclusivity, it is proposed that an additional Vice-Chairpersonship be created and specifically reserved for representation from the Pacific Small Island Developing States. If agreeable to the 2025 Executive Council, the Bureau will prepare a corresponding proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure of Congress for consideration at the 14th Congress.

#### **Participation in the Congress**

9. Article 5 of the Rules of Procedure of Congress outlines provisions regarding the participation of observers. Additional guidance regarding eligible observer categories is provided in the General Regulations of the APPU.
10. In line with these provisions and established practice, the Bureau will circulate a provisional list of proposed observers to member countries four months prior to the Congress for review and comment.

#### **Committees of the 14<sup>th</sup> APPU Congress**

11. Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Congress stipulates that the business of Congress is generally dealt with at plenary sessions. However, if necessary, Congress may create Committees to carry out its work. In addition, the meeting of the Governing Board of the College is also held in conjunction with the Congress.

12. Taking note of the Committee formation in the upcoming UPU Dubai Congress and studying it from the APPU context, the following committees are proposed for the upcoming APPU Congress:
  - a. Committee 1: Credentials
  - b. Committee 2: Finance
  - c. Committee 3: General Policy and Management of the work of the Union
  - d. Committee 4: Postal Financial Services
  - e. Committee 5: Drafting
13. Each Committee will be chaired or co-chaired by APPU member countries, with appointments to be confirmed during the 14th APPU Congress upon the proposal of the Congress Chair, in accordance with Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure.
14. The Bureau will liaise with the Congress Chair and interested member countries in advance to facilitate the nomination and endorsement of Chairs and Co-Chairs for the above Committees.

#### **Submission of reports to the 14<sup>th</sup> APPU Congress**

15. Article 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Congress mentions that when a Committee or Working Group has concluded work, its Chair shall make and present a report to the plenary session for approval.
16. Accordingly, the Chairs/ Co-chairs of the Working Groups will present to the Congress the summaries of activities conducted in the cycle. The Chairs/ Co-chairs of the Committees of Congress will present interim updates and submit final proposals or decisions for adoption by the plenary.

#### **Recommendation**

17. The 2025 Executive Council is invited to take note of the proposed structure and organization of the 14th APPU Congress and to provide comments or additional suggestions as appropriate. Subject to its endorsement, the Bureau will proceed with preparations accordingly.