

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2025

Regional Position of the Asia-Pacific in the UPU Dubai Congress

Memorandum by the APPU Bureau

1. Subject Regional position of the Asia-Pacific in the 28 th Universal Postal Congress	References/Paragraphs §1-3, Annex 1
2. Decisions expected EC is invited to: - discuss the document - agree the draft position paper, with final wording to be drafted and agreed by APPU member countries not less than one month prior to the commencement of the UPU 28 th Congress	§1-3, Annex 1

1. Background

1.1 The Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU) held a unique position among the Restricted Unions of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) during the UPU Extraordinary Congress in Riyadh by presenting a regional position of the Asia-Pacific on opening the UPU to Wider Postal Sector Players. This regional position was finalized through discussions during the 2023 Executive Council meeting and subsequent online consultations. Australia and India led this work in 2023, with support from the APPU Bureau.

1.2 Recognizing the value of having a regional position on important postal sector issues, it is proposed that the Union continue efforts to develop regional positions in the future. The APPU member countries may consider discussing and agreeing on a regional position for the upcoming 28th Universal Postal Congress.

2. Regional Position in the 2025 UPU Congress

2.1 Australia and India presented initial options for a regional position for the 28th Universal Postal Congress at the 2024 APPU Executive Council. The work was led by Australia and India, with support from the Bureau.

2.2 Following the Executive Council, various platforms like the Regional Strategy Conference in Mongolia (September 2024), UPU High Level Leaders Forum in India (March 2025) and the APPU's Specialized Capacity Building Program in connection with the 28th Universal Postal Congress (May 2025) were utilized to collate the feedback from all the member countries and to further refine the positions.

2.3 Taking into consideration the 4 priority areas initially discussed during the 2024 EC meeting and the discussions in various platforms that followed, 3 priority areas have been identified:

- (i) Effective Regionalization of the UPU activities
- (ii) Enhancing the quality of postal services and reforming QSF for greater impact
- (iii) Strengthening Postal Financial Services

2.4 A summary of the types of ideas that could be presented under each topic is at Annex 1 for consideration at 2025 APPU EC.

3. Conclusion and next steps

3.1 The development of a regional position will allow the Asia-Pacific region to contribute its ideas and expertise to the Universal Postal Union at a time of pressing challenges and opportunities in the sector.

3.2 Through collaborative efforts led by the member countries, and supported by the APPU Bureau, the Union aims to ensure that our regional perspectives are well-represented and integrated into the UPU's strategic plans. The discussions during the 2025 Executive Council meeting will be pivotal in shaping these positions. The Union remains committed to presenting a united and strategic stance at the UPU Dubai Congress, reflecting the collective vision and priorities of the Asia-Pacific postal community.

3.3 Following the conclusion of the 2025 APPU EC, Australia and India will circulate the draft text of the regional position for APPU member country consideration and comments and will convene meetings as required to assist in finalizing the text.

Position Paper of the Asia-Pacific region in the 28th Universal Postal Congress – first draft to be adopted at the APPU 2025 Executive Council for further development, with agreement to the final text to be sought from APPU member countries at least one month prior to the commencement of the UPU 28th Congress.

Introduction

1. The Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU), as the regional voice of 32 member countries, will present this position at the 28th Universal Postal Congress to be held in Dubai in 2025. This paper will be agreed by consensus by the APPU member countries, and in doing so, will build upon the successful presentation of the regional perspective at the Riyadh Congress and reflect the evolving aspirations and collective priorities of the Asia-Pacific region.
2. In an era marked by rapid technological change, the evolving nature of postal services, rising commercial demands, climate urgency, and growing expectations for postal operators to deliver public services, it is essential that the UPU remains responsive to the specific needs and aspirations of each region. The Asia-Pacific region, home to both advanced and developing postal administrations, emphasizes the importance of regionalization, sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation in shaping the future postal sector.

Asia-Pacific Priorities for the Dubai Congress

A. Effective Regionalization of the UPU Activities

3. The Asia-Pacific region reaffirms the need for the UPU to deepen its regional focus through well-defined, adequately resourced, and accountable regional frameworks. Regionalization should not merely be administrative, but should involve:
 - Specific budgetary allocations for regional initiatives
 - Regional implementation of global strategies and programs
 - Stronger role for regional institutions like the Restricted Unions and the UPU Regional Offices in governance and execution
4. The region supports proposals to operationalize regional development plans through partnerships, measurable outcomes, and consistent monitoring, thereby making the UPU more inclusive and relevant.

B. Enhancing Quality of Postal Services and Reforming QSF for Greater Impact

5. The Asia-Pacific postal sector plays a critical role in enabling access to essential services. However, many countries — particularly LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS — continue to face challenges in maintaining service quality, modernizing infrastructure, and meeting evolving consumer expectations. At the same time, operators must strike a careful balance between cost coverage and affordability, recognizing the diversity in market maturity and postal capacity across the region.

6. The region calls upon the UPU to support service quality enhancement through targeted operational and financial measures, including reforms to the Quality of Service Fund (QSF), as outlined below:
 - Expand the scope of the QSF to include parcel and small packet volumes, ensuring the Fund reflects the evolving nature of global postal traffic and supports quality improvement across the entire postal network, not just letter post.
 - Modernize and digitalize delivery infrastructure, enabling more flexible, consumer-driven delivery options (e.g., parcel lockers) supported by digital platforms (e.g., mobile applications).
 - Strengthen dedicated QSF mechanisms, such as the Common Fund and the LDC Special Common Fund, to provide more agile, need-based, and regionally coordinated support for countries requiring structural upgrades or emergency interventions.
 - Enhance technical assistance, including improved guidance on accessing UPU development resources and aligning capacity-building support with national priorities and regional strategies.

C. Strengthening Postal Financial Services

7. Recognizing the postal network as a key enabler of financial inclusion, the region stresses the need to bolster postal financial services (PFS). In particular, the region seeks:
 - Support for product innovation and digital financial services
 - Knowledge sharing on successful regulatory and operational models
 - Facilitation of cross-border postal payment and remittance solutions
8. The Asia-Pacific supports continued UPU investment and collaboration in expanding the scope and impact of PFS, particularly in underserved communities.

Conclusion

9. The Asia-Pacific region stands united in its commitment to a modern, inclusive, and sustainable postal sector. With its diverse experiences and shared aspirations, the region urges the UPU and its member countries to advance a Congress agenda that delivers meaningful transformation.
10. The APPU and its member countries remain ready to engage actively with other regions and the UPU bodies in furthering the common objectives of equity, innovation, and resilience in the global postal system.