

Report of UPU CA Matters Working Group Meeting

The meeting of the working group on ‘UPU CA Matters’ was held on **25th June 2020**.

The meeting which was chaired by Mr. Hafiz SHAKIL Ahmed from Pakistan was attended by 17 members namely Australia, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Maldives, Mongolia, Nauru, New Zealand, Pakistan (Chair), Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Vietnam. The meeting was conducted online through video conference. The members of the UPU CA Matters working group are Pakistan (Chair), Australia, China, Iran, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

The Chair of the working group opened the meeting by welcoming all the members of the working group and the observers present during the meeting. He briefed the meeting regarding the sequence, content and format of the meeting.

The Chair gave the brief overview of the Items discussed in UPU CA session S7 and highlights of the CA meeting, which was followed by the presentation by China on *Reform of the UPU Contribution System* and presentation by Japan on *UPU Major Projects Funded by Japan to Combat Covid-19* and *CA Proposals Related to Legal Stability of the Acts of the Union*.

CA Meeting Agenda Points:

1. Report on the activities of the UPU POC.
2. Report on the activities of the Consultative Committee.
3. Report of the task force on the opening of the UPU to wider postal sector players.
4. Functioning of the CA up to Abidjan Congress.
5. Report on the preparations for 27th UPU Congress.
6. Congress Proposals.
7. Issues raised by Qatar regarding continuity of postal relations between Qatar and some other member countries.
8. Mail Exchange between Palestine and UPU member countries.
9. Organization of the first two CA sessions after the Abidjan Congress.
10. Presentation of the new UPU Website.

The Chair gave a brief overview on all the above agenda points. In addition he gave a concise presentation on the activities of the committees of CA such as *Committee 1* on Finance, Human Resources and Governance, *Committee 2* on Universal Service Obligation, Regulatory Affairs and Postal Regulation, *Committee 3* on Strategy and Postal Economy, *Committee 4* on Trade Facilitation, Financial Inclusion and E-Trade and *Committee 5* on Cooperation and Development.

Presentation by China on Reform of the System applied to Contributions by Union Member Countries:

The presenter gave an overview of the work undertaken for the Union's long term financial sustainability since the 26th Istanbul Congress in 2016, development during the 2018 second Extraordinary Congress at Adis Ababa to till date. They informed the meeting that from 2018 to 2020 a new task force has been formed which is chaired by Germany with 30 members and observers. The new task force members are Algeria, Argentina, Australia,, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep), France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep), Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America.

The presenter apprised the meeting about the current status of the two proposals; one is the UPU Tailored Proposal and the other one is the Converging Model, the similarities and differences between the two proposals have also been explained. He also informed the meeting that the next remote meeting of the task force will be held on July 28 for further deliberations.

After the presentation Japan clarified that the Japan's contribution will increase to 53 units from present contribution of 50 units. Indonesia sought clarification regarding Contribution Model to which China clarified satisfactorily.

Presentation by Japan on Current UPU Major Projects Funded by Japan to Combat COVID-19:

Japan apprised the meeting about the current UPU Projects Funded by Japan to Combat Covid 19 and the new initiatives by the Future Together Fund. The current UPU major projects funded by Japan are as follows:

1. **DRM** (Disaster Risk Management): Invitation for application for technical assistance;
2. **ESF** (Emergency and Solidarity Fund): Special support for countries who are affected by Covid 19;
3. **Utilization of the postal Network for social purposes.**

Japan talked about the new initiatives being taken by the **Future Together Fund** for the utilization of the postal networks for business and social purposes which includes the following:

1. Support for the establishment of new businesses by synergetically using cutting edge technologies and postal network;
2. Support to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) ranging from individuals, families to multiple employee businesses, which are reliant on the postal network to access major urban and rural markets;
3. E-commerce services offered by Designated Operators to support local artisans and entrepreneurs in the private sector, in order to leverage the vast physical network of such Designated Operators with its proximity to underserved areas in rural and remote communities;

4. Community initiatives that lead to realisations of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
5. Delivery of prescription medicines and collection of out of date medicines
6. Checking of elderly/ household citizens;
7. Bringing financial services to people with reduced mobility.

The Future Together Fund will also be utilized to make use of cutting edge technologies by designated operators such as Artificial Intelligence, drones, robotics, blockchain, “big data”, “Internet of things” and sensors.

After the comprehensive presentation by Japan, member countries thanked Japan for the initiatives taken to combat the epidemic. Iran thanked Pakistan, China and Japan for sharing the important and useful information. India wanted to know about the initiatives being planned to be taken for MSMEs in Future together fund to which Japan replied successfully.

Presentation by Japan on CA proposals to ensure the legal stability of the Acts of the Union:

Japan stated that the main purpose of the proposal is to speed up the approval process of the Universal postal Acts and to ensure the legal stability of the Acts of the Union, in particular by proposing that Acts of the Union such as convention become permanent, and also by introducing a simplified process whereby Union member countries would be legally bound by amendments to those acts.

Concluding Remarks:

The Chair closed the meeting after thanking all the members participated in the deliberations of the working group on *UPU CA Matters* and appreciated the effort made by Secretary General and APPU Bureau for organizing the online meeting successfully. Secretary General thanked and congratulated the Chair and all the participants for success of the working group meeting.