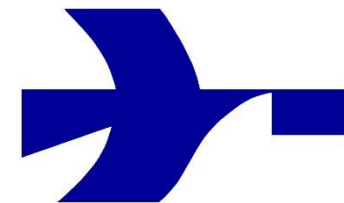


27th Universal Postal Union Congress

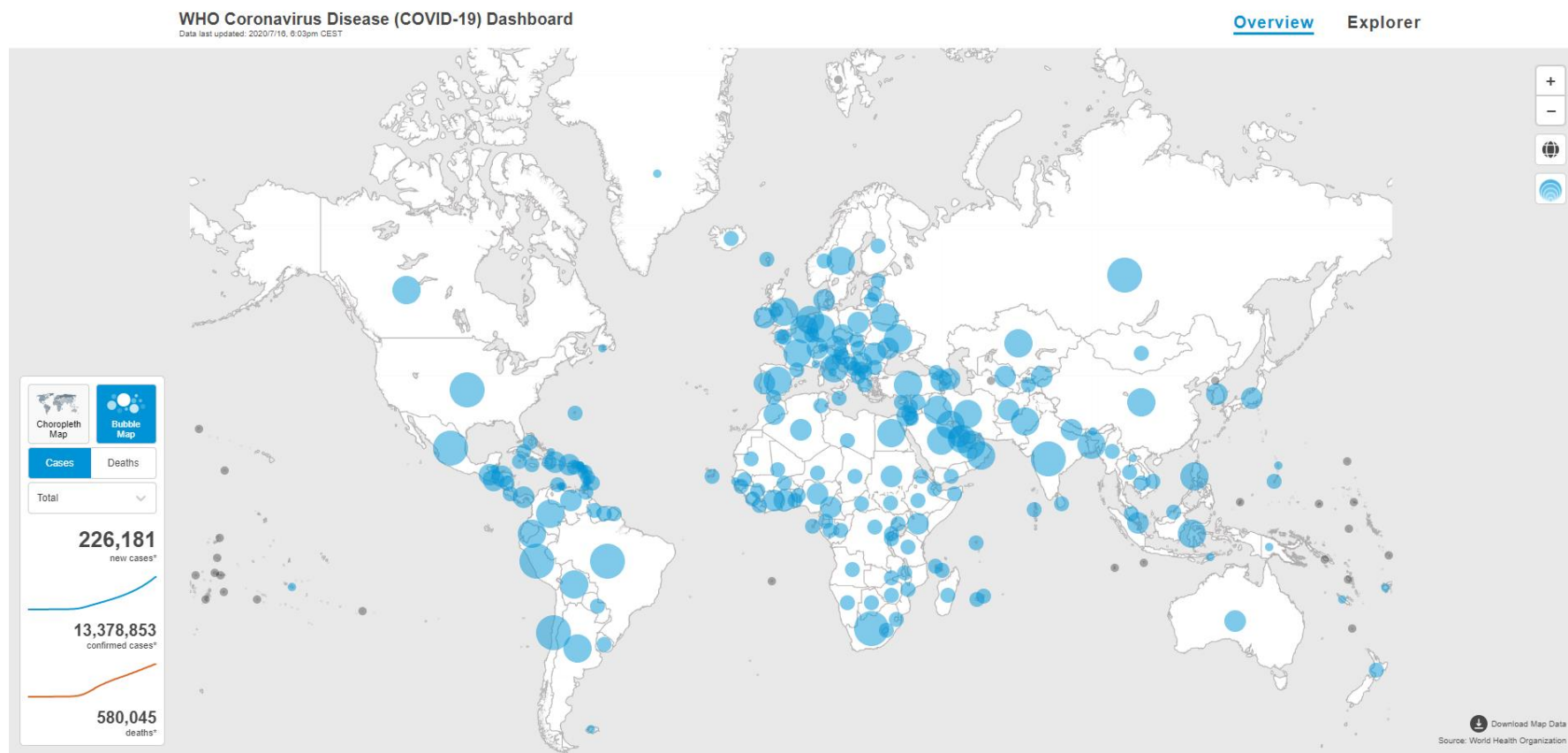
Postponement

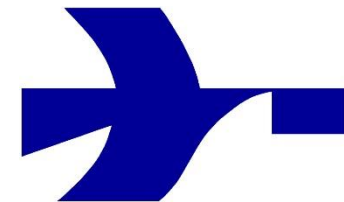
**ASIAN-PACIFIC POSTAL UNION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
22 July 2020 , Online Session**



Background context

The 27th Universal Postal Congress was scheduled to take place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 10 to 28 August 2020.
But then





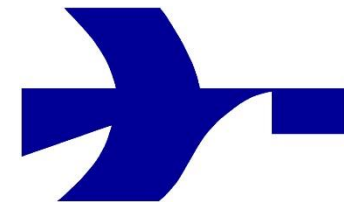
Background context

Following a letter from the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire Minister of Digital Economy and Post, Mr Mamadou Sanogo, on **20 April** UPU Director General Mr Bishar Hussein wrote to all countries.

"I regret to inform you that, due to the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Universal Postal Union and its partner, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, have decided to postpone the 27th Universal Postal Congress which was to be held from 10-28 August in Abidjan.

We will continue monitoring the situation in coordination with the Ivorian authorities, and will propose appropriate dates once it is felt that the Congress can be held safely. Naturally, the health and safety of delegates, participants and citizens of the host country will be given priority when selecting new dates."

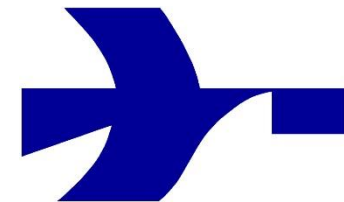
On **14 May**, Mr Daniel Kablan Duncan, Vice-President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, reiterated to UPU member countries that the 27th Congress is delayed and reaffirmed the commitment of the Côte d'Ivoire Government to organize the Congress.



Key role of Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire is continuing with its preparations and is in discussion with the International Bureau about when the Abidjan Congress can be held.





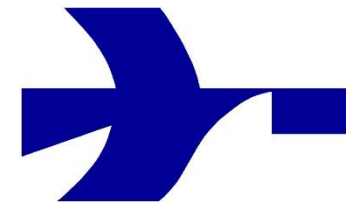
What does the delay mean for member country preparations?

- **Submitting proposals for the revision of the Acts**

- At the moment, deadlines remain the same as for the original Congress dates (10 June was the last deadline for submission of member country proposals).
- However, the International Bureau has noted that “it is possible that further extensions may be considered in terms of the final deadlines for amending existing proposals and/or submitting new proposals, once the new dates for Congress are set, so as to help member countries continue with their substantive preparations for the Congress.”

- **Presenting candidacies for the CA and POC**

- As early as possible, and not later than one week before the election date based on the Congress timetable (which will be published once the new Congress dates are confirmed).



Difficulties and concerns: No possible solution is perfect

Health

- Concerns around protecting the health and wellbeing of all delegates, especially as many countries still dealing with Covid-19.

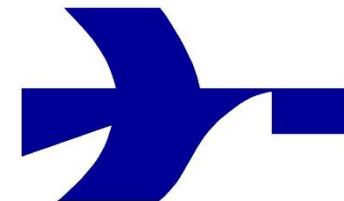
Quorum and preparation

- Restrictions on international travel due to Covid-19 could impact on reaching quorum and having adequate representation from all regions.
- Ensuring the right people (experts) are able to attend meetings given the complex subject matter of many UPU proposals.
- Potential impacts on country preparations (i.e delegate accreditation)
- Financial concerns for countries to attend multiple Congresses/meetings.
- Is remote participation and voting possible?

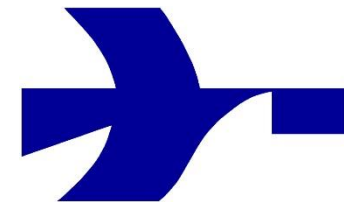
Key decisions need to be taken for the Abidjan cycle

- Impacts on progressing key administrative and operational issues for the next cycle such as: budget, elections, Abidjan Strategy and business plan.

Options



- **Full Congress this year in Abidjan?**
- **Limited Congress this year (and if so, what topics to be considered) in Geneva and an Extraordinary Congress in Abidjan in 2021?**
- **Full Congress in 2021 in Abidjan?**
- **Others ???**

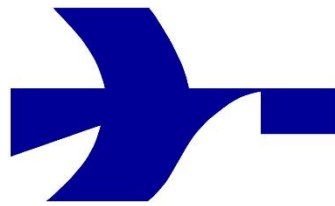


Next steps: Extraordinary meeting of the Council of Administration

- On 6 July, the Council of Administration (CA) Chair, Mr Hakan Gülten, wrote to the International Bureau seeking an Extraordinary CA meeting in August, following letters requesting a meeting from more than 1/3 of the CA membership to set up an Extraordinary CA meeting to discuss the matter.
- Discussions between the CA Chair and the International Bureau on the timing, scope of the meeting and the package of proposals for this meeting are ongoing. A range of technical, logistical and legal issues need to be resolved before the meeting is convened.

The current Asia-Pacific regional CA members are: Australia, China (People's Rep.), Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep.), Japan, Korea (Rep.), Malaysia, Pakistan, Vietnam.

Discussion and questions



I welcome your questions or comments.