

**Agenda Item : 23**

Presentation by: **Republic of Nauru**

**Reservation of CA and POC seats for Pacific Island Countries**

1. Subject:	References/paragraphs
- to remind EC members that proposals are being advanced to the forthcoming 27 <sup>th</sup> UPU Postal Congress, which if adopted, would reserve one seat on each of the UPU’s Council of Administration (CA) and Postal Operations Council (POC) for the Pacific island countries.	§1.1
<b>2. Decisions expected:</b>	
- the APPU EC is asked to note again that these proposals, if adopted, would provide a voice for the small island nations of the Pacific in the workings of both the CA and POC;	§ 1.2 -1.3
- the EC is asked to note that these proposals, if adopted, would not take effect until elections for the CA and POC at the 28 <sup>th</sup> UPU Congress, now expected to be convened in 2025;	§1.4
- in the event that the proposals are adopted and a representative of the Pacific islands is not available to take up the reserved seat on either or both the CA and/or POC, then the seat(s) would revert to other Southern Asia/Oceania candidates; and	§1.5
- APPU members are invited to consider and support these proposals at the coming UPU Congress in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.	§2.1

**1. The need for the voice of the small islands to be heard**

1.1 The APPU EC has been advised at its meetings in 2019 and 2020 that these proposals would be advanced to the 27<sup>th</sup> UPU Congress. This was to have been held in August 2020 but, because of the prevailing COVID global pandemic, the Congress was postponed until August 2021.

1.2 The Pacific islands first joined the UPU commencing with Nauru in 1969, but in the 50 years since, no Pacific island member has been represented on the CA or POC. The Pacific island member countries are just seeking *‘fair and equitable representation’* and inclusion on these UPU bodies as the islands are facing unique challenges that will require urgent attention. They believe that their representation on these bodies could drive stronger integration, growth opportunities and better coordination across the Pacific region and between UPU member countries, strengthening the postal network and the Union.

1.3 The underlying reason for the advance of these proposals is that whilst the Pacific islands represent around 5% of the UPU membership, they have not been represented on the CA or POC and hence the voice of the small islands has been missing from the deliberations and recommendations of these UPU bodies. To date, the Pacific island countries have not played a significant role in the development of the UPU, its decisions, standards, policies and procedures. These countries have found a voice and recognise that the UPU and its members do need to understand the inherent difficulties and

support required to sustain a global postal network. The seat reserved on each body would represent 2.5% of the available seats.

1.4 The proposals presented by Nauru, call for the reservation of 1 seat for the Pacific islands on each of the UPU's CA and POC (in Group IV - Southern Asia/Oceania) by amendment of the UPU's General Regulations. The proposed amendments would not take effect until 2022 and therefore would not impact the elections at the forthcoming Congress. The proposals, if adopted, would provide for one seat to be reserved for a Pacific islands representative on each of these UPU bodies in elections to be held at the 28<sup>th</sup> UPU Congress, now expected to be convened in 2025.

1.5 Should the reservation of seats be adopted:

- it is intended that the seats be rotated amongst the Pacific island member countries; and
- in the event that a Pacific island representative is not available to take up the reserved seat for the CA and/or POC, then the seat(s) would become available to other members of Group IV - Southern Asia/Oceania, according to the principles adopted by the CA and POC concerning the assignment of their seats.<sup>1</sup>

## **2. Actions expected of APPU member countries**

2.1 APPU members are invited to consider and support these proposals.

2.2 Please be mindful that your position on these proposals may well influence the voting intentions of the Pacific island nations at the Abidjan Congress, including voting by the Pacific island countries for candidates within GROUP IV for the CA and POC.

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<sup>1</sup> See art 106 (CA) and art 112 (POC) of the UPU General Regulations