

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2023

Report on activities of the union – implementation of congress resolutions

(Document prepared by the APPU Bureau)

1. Subject	References/ Paragraphs
Informing the EC on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the practice of providing a status report on the implementation of Congress resolutions by member-countries - the adaptation of this practice to the six resolutions adopted by the 2022 APPU Bangkok Congress - the status of the six resolutions 	§ 1.1 § 1.3 § 2.1 (Table)
2. Decision expected The EC is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - note the practice of providing a status report on the implementation of Congress resolutions - note the status of implementation for the six resolutions adopted by the 2022 APPU Bangkok Congress 	§§ 1.1, 1.3 § 2.1 (table)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Article 104 paragraph 2 of the APPU General Regulations¹ states that the Bureau prepares a status report to the Executive Council on the implementation of Congress resolutions by member-countries.
- 1.2 Although not specified in Article 104, the understanding is that this is an annual process.
- 1.3 In the case of the six resolutions adopted by the 2022 APPU Bangkok Congress, while these are not specifically for member-countries to implement (i.e., they are assigned to the Union as a whole, or delegated to Working Groups), the Bureau considers it appropriate business practice to provide a relevant summary of action to date.
- 1.4 Appendix 1 sets out the six Congress resolutions.

2. Status of implementation

- 2.1 The table (see next page) sets out information on the status of the six resolutions.
- 2.2 There are no issues requiring any additional comment.

¹ Text of Article 104

1. Member-countries shall take such action considered appropriate to implement resolutions of the Congress and shall undertake to inform the Bureau from time to time of action so taken and progress to date.
2. The Bureau shall compile a status report of action taken by member-countries to implement resolutions of the Congress and shall provide the report to the Executive Council for its consideration.

No.	Type	Title	Assigned To	Status
C 1/2022	Resolution	Adoption of decisions and recommendations submitted to the 2022 APPU Congress	2022 Congress	N/A – related to 2022 Congress only. No further reporting will be done in Bangkok Cycle.
C 2/2022	Resolution	Continuation of the review of APPU governing documentation in the 2022-2026 cycle	EC and Reform WG	Update presented in EC 2023 Doc 13.3 and EC 2023 Doc 13.5.
C 3/2022	Decision	Observers to meetings of the Union	EC	There is a need to confirm what changes, if any, should be made to documentation regarding observers. Bureau to implement changes as required.
C 4/2022	Decision	Interim arrangement to accommodate the UPU 0.1-unit contribution class members	Bureau	Billing for 2024 contributions will reflect the interim arrangement. Ongoing arrangements to be considered as part of the joint sub-committee referenced below.
C 5/2022	Resolution	Nauru's arrears in contributions to the APPU	EC and Bureau	EC, through the Finance Committee and the Reform WG, is proposing to the 2023 EC that C 5/2022 and C 6/2022 be combined for action by a joint sub-committee on financial reform.
C 6/2022	Recommendation	Full review of the financial contributions system	EC	

Resolutions Adopted by 2022 APPU Bangkok Congress

Resolution C 1/2022

Adoption of decisions and recommendations submitted to the 2022 APPU Congress

Congress,

noting that the primary elements of the Union's governing documentation are the Constitution and General Regulations ("Acts of the Union"),

further noting the detailed review that commenced in the 2017-2022 cycle of all the Union's governing documentation and that Congress is being separately asked, in Congress proposal 02, to continue this review,

acknowledging that the review of governing documentation may include amendments to the Acts of the Union when the work is completed in the 2022-2026 cycle under the EC and a newly-constituted Reform Working Group,

recognising that the intention of the 2017-2022 Reform Working Group is to minimise the need to amend the Acts of the Union at the 2022 Congress,

being aware that the amendment of the Acts of the Union can create significant domestic issues for some members in the administration and processing of government approvals,

strongly encourages the 2022 Congress to look for a practical approach that adopts alternative methods of making changes to any current arrangements or conditions other than amending the Acts of the Union, and

notes that any matters dealt with by the 2022 Congress using an alternative to amending the Acts of the Union, will be fully considered at the 2026 Congress to ensure the complete legitimacy of the Acts of the Union.

Resolution C 2/2022

Continuation of the review of APPU governing documentation in the 2022-2026 cycle

Congress,

noting the programme of work to review the APPU governing documentation by the APPU / UPU Reform Working Group ("Reform WG") that commenced in the latter part of the 2017-2022 cycle,

being aware that it is more than 20 years since the Acts of the Union were reviewed as a concerted assignment,

noting that one of the objectives of the Reform WG review is for the APPU to operate on simple and clear governance lines, expressed as such in governing documentation, and which meets intergovernmental organisation standards,

being informed by the Reform WG that while steady progress has been made on the review, the range of issues and design of possible solutions is far greater than can be satisfactorily dealt with prior to the 2022 Congress,

being further informed that, from the work undertaken to date, the view of the Reform WG is that the Union's governing documentation will need significant input to ensure it is current, correct, consistent and supported, where appropriate, with background notes / annotations,

decides that the review of APPU governing documentation should continue into the 2022-2026 cycle for its completion under the EC and a newly-constituted Reform WG supported by the Bureau and, to the extent necessary, external assistance,

noting that the work of the Reform WG in the 2022-2026 cycle may bring forward amendments to the Constitution or General Regulations ("Acts of the Union") to the 2026 Congress,

further noting that the amendment of the Acts of the Union can create significant domestic issues for some members in the administration and processing of government approvals

encourages the EC and the Reform WG to adopt a practical approach to revisions of the Union's governing documentation that may arise from review activity, and

further encourages the EC and Reform WG in the 2022-2026 cycle to look for long-term solutions in the review work that minimise or eliminate the need to amend the Acts of the Union.

Decision C 3/2022

Observers to meetings of the Union

Congress,

recognizing the need to have a consistent and holistic view among members on the procedures for inviting observers to meetings of the Union, that are currently stipulated separately in the General Regulations, the Congress Rules of Procedure, and the EC Rules of Procedure,

reaffirming that the work carried out by the Sub-Group of the APPU Reform Working Group aims to streamline members' understanding on the relevant rules

bearing in mind that the legal stability of the existing rules is important and that the relevant texts regarding observers have functioned adequately over many years, albeit with some concerns expressed about consistency

welcoming members' willingness to establish a clear and common understanding on the relevant rules without creating new rules at the present time,

decides

based on a review of all existing rules and the variations between them, that the principles for inviting observers to meetings of the Union should be as follows:

1. Observers may be invited to attend meetings of the Union and take part in debates without the right to vote.
2. Observers include the following entities:
 - 2.1 the Universal Postal Union;

- 2.2 representatives of the United Nations or one of its other specialised agencies;
 - 2.3 any other international organization having an interest in the work of the Union;
 - 2.4 other restricted postal unions;
 - 2.5 postal administrations of member-countries of the Universal Postal Union categorised according to:
 - 2.5.1 being located in Asia and the Pacific, but not members of the APPU; or
 - 2.5.2 being ineligible for membership of the APPU,
 - 2.6 postal administrations of non-members of the Universal Postal Union; and
 - 2.7 postal administrations of non-self-governing territories and other areas in Asia and the Pacific.
3. Invitations must be approved by Congress or by the Executive Council. The approval requirement is support from the majority of members of the Union. Invitations shall include the capacity in which an observer is invited.
4. Invitations will generally be for one meeting only, although Congress or the Executive Council may issue a standing invitation, subject to the approval requirement in paragraph 3.
5. In the convening of meetings where observers are present, the Chair may, with the agreement of the meeting, declare the discussion of certain agenda items closed. In such cases, observers are not permitted to be present.
6. Observers may only be invited at the request of Congress or the Executive Council. Unless the host country of a meeting so wishes, the invitations will be sent by the Bureau.
7. In addition to the observers defined in paragraph 2 of this Article, Congress or the Executive Council may designate ad hoc observers to attend their meetings in accordance with their Rules of Procedure, when this is in the best interests of the Union.

Decision C 4/2022

Interim arrangement to accommodate the UPU 0.1-unit contribution class members

Congress,

noting the request from Nauru for a reduction in its contribution class to the expenses of the administrative section,

further noting that the request from Nauru arose from the creation by the UPU, at its 2018 Addis Ababa Extraordinary Congress, of a 0.1-unit contribution class for SIDS with a population of less than 200,000 people,

being aware that the new UPU contribution class of 0.1 units represented a 90% reduction for eligible UPU members and, as such, was tangible evidence of the UPU's intent to recognise the financial capacity issues of members with smaller economies,

noting, however, that the financial scale and contribution class systems of the UPU and APPU are vastly different to the point where valid mathematical comparisons between respective contribution class systems cannot be sustained,

acknowledging that a further relevant difference between the UPU and APPU contribution class systems is that the UPU has actively reviewed its structure to respond to member interests whereas the APPU has not undertaken a review since 1985,

further acknowledging that the APPU will propose a major review of its financial contributions system at the 2022 Bangkok Congress and that this review will, in part, examine financial capacity aspects of the membership with a view to bringing forward proposals at the 2026 APPU Congress,

recalling that, in the scenario where a member's UPU class is no longer explicitly included in Article 116 of the General Regulations, members may be required by Article 13 of the Constitution to pay the nearest prescribed APPU contribution class, being 1 unit in the present situation, until such time as the General Regulations are amended,

agreeing that, in the interests of proper management of its financial contributions system, the APPU should make an interim arrangement, as decided by the 2021 EC, that ensures UPU 0.1-unit contribution class members continue to be included in the financial contributions structure of the APPU,

further agreeing that the need to create an interim arrangement for the UPU 0.1-unit contribution class members is an opportunity to reflect the spirit of the UPU's consideration of its members with smaller economies as defined by the 2018 UPU Addis Ababa Extraordinary Congress,

Decides

1. that the existing minimum contribution defined in Article 116 of the General Regulations (i.e., 1 unit) should be assigned to the UPU 0.1-unit contribution class members;
2. that, bearing in mind the inclusivity of the APPU, members other than the UPU 0.1-unit contribution class members will voluntarily make up for the half of the contributions assigned to the UPU 0.1-unit contribution class members in a collective manner where additional/voluntary contributions will be allocated in proportion to their usual contributions defined in Article 116 of the General Regulations;
3. that, as a consequence, each of the 0.1-unit contribution class has to assume only the remaining half of the assigned units (i.e., 0.5 units);
4. that those interim arrangements become effective on 1 January 2024 for the apportionment of the administrative section budget for 2024 and remain effective until the corresponding amendment to Article 116 of the General Regulations will be made in the future; and
5. that this arrangement is not intended to create a precedent or bind any future Congress in similar circumstances.

Requests

the Bureau to make the necessary arrangements to implement the Decision in proposal 04 Rev 1

Resolution C 5/2022

Nauru's arrears in contributions to the APPU

Congress,

noting the request from Nauru for the waiving of its historical debt to the APPU totalling US\$10,100 covering the period 2013, 2015-2018,

noting that the APPU does not have any provisions to deal with the waiving of, reduction in the payment for, or release from debts,

being aware that at its 2021 Abidjan Congress the UPU approved procedures for the reduction in the payments required and release from debt in certain circumstances and under specific conditions for application,

agreeing that there are strong grounds for the APPU to follow the lead of the UPU in reducing debts by providing members with payment schemes to enable their release from debt but also recognising, at the same time, that the Nauru debt situations in the UPU and APPU are not identical,

confirming, nevertheless, that despite the difference between the debt situations (UPU v APPU), the underlying problem facing Nauru is one and the same in terms of capacity to account for prior years,

acknowledging that since 2019 Nauru has been a committed participant in the Union's work and has paid all contributions for that year and onwards,

recognising, however, that any decision taken by the 2022 Congress in this matter cannot limit the ability of the 2022-2026 EC to take current and new factors into consideration in arriving at a final proposal for releasing Nauru from its historical debt,

decides to adopt the considerations set out in Congress 2022 Doc 24.7 Rev 1 (paragraph 9.2) for the 2022-2026 EC to follow in its review of the arrears in contributions,

requests the EC, in conjunction with the Bureau, to undertake the necessary work for the completion of this matter and for it to be brought to the 2026 APPU Congress in an appropriate Resolution.

Recommendation C 6/2022

Full review of the financial contributions system

Congress,

noting that the current systems of financial contributions to the activities of the Union were established as single-purpose funds for administrative activities (1962), training activities (1975), and special activities (1998),

further noting that the Union provides value and benefits to individual members as well as to the 32 members as a network operation,

being aware of the likelihood that, over time, benefit has shifted from individual members to membership, as a whole, through initiatives aimed at regional quality and efficiency,

recognising that the current income and expenditure allocation is based mainly on historic lines as opposed to the value and benefits gained by members from the various Union activities,

understanding that the shift in value and benefits from Union activities could mean that income and expenditure are no longer appropriately matched

acknowledging also that changes in the UPU financial contributions system have broken the link that existed between the UPU and APPU financial contributions systems with the consequence that the APPU system will need to be reviewed so it can re-establish a relevant base,

recommends that the EC undertakes a full review of the financial contributions system to:

- (i) ensure costs and benefits are accurately aligned for the main Union activities
- (ii) identify how best to apportion current income from members across activities in a fair and equitable manner
- (iii) report to the 2026 Congress with proposals that reflect the outcome of the work undertaken.