

**Position Paper: Advocating Regional Views of the Asia-Pacific region at the Riyadh
Extraordinary Congress of UPU**

Introduction:

We, the members of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU), express our unwavering commitment to fostering cooperation, innovation, and equitable development within the global postal community. As we approach the 4th Extraordinary Congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in Riyadh, we recognize the significance of voicing our region's perspectives on the crucial matters of opening up the UPU and other urgent matters facing the global postal sector. This position paper outlines our collective views and requests the Secretary-General of APPU to present these views during the UPU Extraordinary Congress, reinforcing the importance of regional consensus.

Background:

The UPU assumes a pivotal function by facilitating international postal services and fostering global connectivity. Its foundation rests on the fundamental principle of upholding a unified single postal territory and freedom of transit for the reciprocal exchange of postal items.

The Asia-Pacific region is rich in diversity, spanning society, economy, and culture. This region plays a significant role in the postal domain, standing as the top contributor to global postal traffic. As e-commerce experiences a rapid boom, countries within the Asia-Pacific have emerged as pioneers in digital evolution, linking enterprises and buyers across extensive geographical spans.

As the realm of communication undergoes digitalization and traditional letter post items diminish, the UPU has encountered a decline in its global communication landscape role. Yet, as e-commerce flourishes and the avenue for expanded trade via postal services emerges, the UPU may be able to reclaim heightened relevance through the engagement of diverse postal sector participants, if done in a step-by-step manner informed by evidence and careful impact analysis. Embracing reform that creates benefits for all stakeholders – member countries, designated operators, the wider postal sector and citizens - is imperative to secure the UPU's enduring significance and efficacy within the continuously evolving postal landscape.

Regional Consensus:

Acknowledging the diverse challenges and opportunities faced by our region, the members of the APPU recognize the benefits of developing regional consensus and common ground on the matter of opening up the UPU. Our region's unique socio-economic, developmental, and geographical circumstances necessitate tailored approaches and collaborative solutions.

Key Principles:

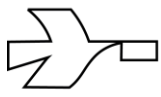
APPU member countries advocate for the following principles to guide the UPU's openness:

- i. Inclusivity: Ensure the active participation of all member countries, irrespective of size or economic status, in decision-making processes and policy formulation.
- ii. Transparency: Promote transparency in governance, operations, and communication to foster trust and accountability among member countries.
- iii. Flexibility: Encourage flexibility in adopting innovative postal solutions that address the evolving needs of our region, adopting optional solutions where possible.
- iv. Harmonised Benefits: Strive for the harmonised distribution of benefits arising from the UPU's activities, focusing on the socio-economic growth of all member countries, designated operators, businesses, and meeting the needs of citizens.
- v. Intergovernmental: The UPU should remain an intergovernmental body, and the participation of wider postal sector players should be subject to agreement by the relevant government.

Regional Views:

APPU member countries emphasize:

- the significance of the Asia-Pacific region in the global postal landscape and the socio-economic benefits of global postal services for citizens and businesses of the region.
- that the UPU shall remain an intergovernmental body that delivers a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of postal items between member countries and facilitates collaboration between postal stakeholders.
- the need to innovate to simplify, enhance or create products and services, aligning them with customer expectations and market conditions, specially to reap the benefits of cross-border e-commerce, while ensuring that these products and services are sustainable and competitive.
- the importance of accommodating diverse postal realities and fostering cooperation to achieve balanced global postal development, including for least developed countries and small island developing states.



- the possible unique opportunity for the UPU to facilitate collaboration between the wider postal sector players and designated operators to enhance the UPU's relevance to member countries and their citizens, guided by the principle of reciprocity and fairness.
- the need to maintain a financially sustainable global universal postal service for member countries.
- the value of global solutions to address the challenges facing the postal sector.
- the need to explore new opportunities for the UPU, such as facilitating global financial inclusion and digital services through collaboration between designated operators and wider postal financial sector players in accordance with the laws and regulations of member countries, or the provision of benchmarking, research and market trends to inform the operation of the global postal sector.
- the importance of diversified funding sources, which contribute to UPU's financial sustainability.
- the need for ongoing reform of the UPU in a step-by-step manner informed by impact assessment, feedback and active participation from all member countries.

The Executive Council of the APPU requests the Secretary-General of APPU to present these regional views in engagement with other restricted unions and member countries, and during the Riyadh Extraordinary Congress of UPU.

Conclusion:

As members of the APPU, we stand united in our commitment to advancing the interests of our region and contributing constructively to the global postal discourse. By requesting the Secretary-General to voice our views during the Riyadh Extraordinary Congress of UPU, we seek to shape a more inclusive, transparent, and equitable future for international postal cooperation.