



## **Second postal prosperity zones (PPZ) round table**

Rabat, 14–15 November 2023

Director General of the Customs and Indirect Taxes Administration,

Deputy Director General of the UPU,

Chair of the UPU Consultative Committee,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first like to thank the Customs and Indirect Taxes Administration (ADII) on behalf of its Director General, Mr Amrani, for kindly agreeing to host this second postal prosperity zones (PPZ) round table and for the facilities it has made available to ensure the event's success.

I would also like to express my pride and joy to be here with you once again to continue our discussions on the PPZ project.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, the aim of the first round table on the PPZ project was to gauge an understanding of the concept and model proposed, including the roles and contributions expected of the various stakeholders in the supply chain. The first round table also provided an opportunity to get to grips with the operational model and the interactions between operators in the supply chain, commercial and financial procedures in respect of originators, and applicable customs procedures.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the remarkable work and efforts of the UPU Consultative Committee since the first round table.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With regard to Barid Al-Maghrib, allow me to remind you that the development of the parcels segment in general, and of e-commerce flows in particular, constitutes a real growth area in response to the ongoing decline in postal volumes.

Moreover, the interest in this regard is prevalent in the postal arena, as is testified by the significant number of Posts that have contacted us with a view to participating in this pilot project: the Posts of Côte d'Ivoire, Romania, Cambodia, Namibia, Kazakhstan and Madagascar to name but a few.

In response to this widespread interest, Barid Al-Maghrib has made significant investments under its four-year development plan to update its domestic platforms, including two postal customs clearance offices of exchange established in close proximity to Casablanca airport, one of which covers the letter post and parcels segments and the other the express segment.

Our future aim is to convert these two platforms into exchange and transit hubs for flows to other countries, particularly to Europe and Africa.

The integration of the PPZ project into our plan for developing cross-border flows will have the advantage of involving all stakeholders in the process, including customs services. Moreover, the customs administration is a major player in the project as it facilitates the exchange of the data needed for customs declaration purposes and ensures compliance with the applicable regulations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The concept underpinning the PPZ project represents a great opportunity to create synergies with postal operators, free zones and Customs, as well as with other stakeholders in the supply chain.

I would like to emphasize that we are talking here about an opportunity that is conducive to building an ecosystem for e-commerce flows and putting into place complementary international postal infrastructure to enhance the capacities of the existing global postal network.

We feel that significant progress has been made to date, particularly in terms of the UPU resolutions on opening up the postal sector to private players adopted by the fourth Extraordinary Congress that took place in Riyadh last month, and of the conclusions of the two reports that will be presented during our meeting today.

Before closing, I would like to emphasize that for the project to be implemented successfully, all the stakeholders in attendance need to harness their efforts by carrying out a live pilot to validate the PPZ concept in the field. We are firmly committed to combining our efforts with those of other contributing parties in order to successfully complete this pilot and develop a global operational model able to meet the needs of e-commerce integrators.

We eagerly look forward to the discussions, conclusions and recommendations of this second round table to address these concerns.

May our workshop achieve the success it deserves. Thank you for your attention.