

## Sixth Additional Protocol to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union

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## Sixth Additional Protocol to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union

The plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries of the Universal Postal Union, met in Congress at Beijing, in view of article 30, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union concluded at Vienna on 10 July 1964, have adopted, subject to ratification, the following amendments to that Constitution.

### Article I (Article 22 amended) Acts of the Union

- 1 The Constitution shall be the basic Act of the Union. It shall contain the organic rules of the Union.
- 2 The General Regulations shall embody those provisions which ensure the application of the Constitution and the working of the Union. They shall be binding on all member countries.
- 3 The Universal Postal Convention, **the Letter Post Regulations and the Parcel Post Regulations** shall embody the rules applicable throughout the international postal service and the provisions concerning the letter-post **and postal parcels** services. These Acts shall be binding on all member countries.
- 4 The Agreements of the Union, and **their Regulations**, shall regulate the services other than those of the letter post **and postal parcels** between those member countries which are parties to them. They shall be binding on those countries only.
- 5 **The Regulations**, which shall contain the rules of application necessary for the implementation of the Convention and of the Agreements, shall be drawn up by the Postal Operations Council, bearing in mind the decisions taken by Congress.
- 6 The Final Protocols annexed to the Acts of the Union referred to in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 shall contain the reservations to those Acts.

### Article II (Article 25 amended) Signature, authentication, ratification and other forms of approval of the Acts of the Union

- 1 The Acts of the Union arising from the Congress shall be signed by the plenipotentiaries of the member countries.
- 2 **The Regulations** shall be authenticated by the Chairman and the Secretary-General of the Postal Operations Council.

3 The Constitution shall be ratified as soon as possible by the signatory countries.

4 Approval of the Acts of the Union other than the Constitution shall be governed by the constitutional regulations of each signatory country.

5 When a country does not ratify the Constitution or does not approve the other Acts which it has signed, the Constitution and other Acts shall be no less valid for the other countries that have ratified or approved them.

#### Article III

(Article 29 amended)

#### Presentation of proposals

1 The postal administration of a member country shall have the right to present, either to Congress or between Congresses, proposals concerning the Acts of the Union to which its country is a party.

2 However, proposals concerning the Constitution and the General Regulations may be submitted only to Congress.

**3 Moreover, proposals concerning the Regulations shall be submitted direct to the Postal Operations Council but must first be transmitted by the International Bureau to the postal administrations of all member countries.**

#### Article IV

#### Accession to the Additional Protocol and to the other Acts of the Union

1 Member countries which have not signed the present Protocol may accede to it at any time.

2 Member countries which are party to the Acts renewed by Congress but which have not signed them shall accede thereto as soon as possible.

3 Instruments of accession relating to the cases set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be sent to the Director-General of the International Bureau, who shall notify the Governments of the member countries of their deposit.

#### Article V

#### Entry into force and duration of the Additional Protocol to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union

This Additional Protocol shall come into force on **1 January 2001** and shall remain in force for an indefinite period.

In witness whereof the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries have drawn up this Additional Protocol, which shall have the same force and the same validity as if its provisions were inserted in the text of the Constitution itself, and they have signed it in a single original which shall be deposited with the Director-General of the International Bureau. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

Done at **Beijing, 15 September 1999.**