

Resolution C 7/2016

Classification of countries and territories for terminal dues and Quality of Service Fund (QSF) purposes for the 2018–2021 period

Congress,

Having adopted
the provisions of the Union's new terminal dues system,

Considering
that Congress resolution C 18/2008 approved the methodology for the classification of countries and territories for terminal dues and QSF purposes for the 2010–2013 period,

Considering also
that the 25th Congress (i) reiterated the position of the previous Congress that the need for preferential terminal dues rates decreases with the country-specific potential to self-finance postal development and increases with the country-specific difficulties in serving the postal territory and with the postal service level provided; (ii) noted that the gross national income per capita reflects the potential to self-finance postal development; and (iii) noted that the average costs per letter reflect the difficulties in serving the postal territory,

Recognizing
that Congress resolution C 77/2012 approved the update to the aforementioned methodology and its application for the 2014–2017 period,

Bearing in mind
that Congress resolution C 57/2012 instructed the Council of Administration to continue the process of gradually applying country-specific, cost-based principles for the remuneration of letter-post exchanges at the worldwide level, as well as to propose a timetable or a transition principle for the full application of target system provisions by all countries and territories, taking into account the possible impacts of the transition to the target system,

Noting
that Congress resolution C 77/2012 allowed the United Arab Emirates to apply the same terminal dues rates as countries in group 3 for the 2014–2017 period, with that country applying the provisions pertaining to countries in group 1.2 for the purposes of the QSF and the quality of service link to terminal dues.

Noting also
the Council of Administration decisions on requests for temporary downward classification in the 2014–2017 period lodged by the Maldives, Tunisia and Libya, as well as on the request by the Netherlands to separately classify the Caribbean part of the Netherlands,

Taking into account
that four sets of terminal dues provisions are applicable to the six groups of countries and territories (i.e. group 1, groups 1.2 and 2, group 3, and groups 4 and 5), with the only exception being that the level of QSF contributions paid to countries in group 4 differs from that paid to countries in group 5, recognizing the special needs of least developed countries for preferential treatment,

Bearing in mind also
that the request of a country to apply provisions other than those pertaining to the group in which it is classified falls under the provisions of Annex 1 concerning appeals,

Decides

- to update the grouping of countries for the 2018–2021 period by reducing the number of groups from six to four, in order to align the number of groups with the respective terminal dues provisions applicable thereto, except as pertains to the level of contributions to the QSF originally paid to countries in groups 4 and 5 in the 2014–2017 period;
- to approve the classification of countries and territories in the groups shown in Annex 2 for terminal dues and QSF purposes in the 2018–2021 period, in accordance with the relevant provisions specified in the Convention;
- to classify the Caribbean part of the Netherlands in the new group II (former groups 1.2 and 2), since it had not been classified by the 25th Congress;
- that least developed countries classified as such by the 25th Congress in the former group 5 (as of the date of adoption of Congress resolution C 77/2012) shall continue to benefit from higher QSF contributions than those received by other countries and territories classified in the new group IV,

Authorizes

the Council of Administration to:

- decide on the temporary downward reclassification of countries and territories owing to war or extremely severe economic crisis;
- decide on the classification of other countries and territories not originally classified by Congress;
- hear any appeals and issue decisions, following the process described in Annex 1,

Instructs

the International Bureau to:

- make technical assessments of appeals for temporary downward reclassification, owing to war or extremely severe economic crisis, or for the classification of countries and territories not classified by Congress, and report to the Council of Administration;
- implement Congress and Council of Administration decisions on issues concerning country classification;
- collect the relevant data from the countries and territories concerned for the technical assessment of their appeals,

Urges

member countries to:

- abide by the provisions related to their classification groups;
- provide the International Bureau with relevant data to enable the conduct of technical assessments of member country appeals.

Appeals on country classification for the terminal dues system in the 2018–2021 period

a Requests for reclassification owing to war or extremely severe economic conditions

1 A country in group IV, but not in the ECOSOC list of least developed countries (LDCs) as of the date of adoption of Congress resolution C 77/2012, may request a temporary downward reclassification owing to war or extremely severe economic conditions, in order to benefit from higher QSF contributions applicable to those LDCs. The request shall substantiate the reason given for the reclassification request and be documented with verifiable supporting data and information.

2 Such requests may be received and examined by any CA session and shall be sent to the International Bureau two months before the beginning of the relevant CA session.

3 The International Bureau shall perform technical analyses of requests received and make them available to CA members no later than two weeks in advance of the beginning of the relevant CA session.

4 The temporary downward reclassification decided by the CA shall be valid for a maximum of two years, with a possible extension after that period upon a new decision by the CA, but not beyond the end of the 2018–2021 period.

b Requests for classification

5 Any country or territory not classified by Congress, and therefore not listed in Annex 2, will have the possibility to request classification at any CA session.

6 Such requests may be received and examined by any CA session. The two-month deadline specified above in § 2 shall equally apply.

7 The International Bureau's technical analysis of requests received shall be made available to CA members no later than two weeks in advance of the beginning of the relevant CA session.

8 The classification decided by the CA shall be valid for the whole period (2018–2021), but not beyond the end of that period.

Classification of countries and territories for terminal dues and Quality of Service Fund (QSF) purposes

Group I (formerly group 1.1) – List of countries and territories that were in the target system prior to 2010 and shall apply the target system during the period from 2018 to 2021, and that contribute to the QSF as provided for in article 28 of the Convention

<i>Countries and territories</i>	<i>Former group</i>
Australia	1.1
– Norfolk Island	1.1
Austria	1.1
Belgium	1.1
Canada	1.1
Denmark	1.1
– Faroe Islands	1.1
– Greenland	1.1
Finland (including the Åland Islands)	1.1
France	1.1
French Overseas Territories coming within the Union's jurisdiction by virtue of article 23 of the Constitution:	
– French Polynesia (including Clipperton Island)	1.1
– New Caledonia	1.1
– Wallis and Futuna Islands	1.1
Germany	1.1
Great Britain:	
– United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1.1
– Guernsey	1.1
– Isle of Man	1.1
– Jersey	1.1
Overseas Territories (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):	
– Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	1.1
– Gibraltar	1.1
– Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands	1.1
– Tristan da Cunha	1.1
Greece	1.1
Iceland	1.1
Ireland	1.1
Israel	1.1
Italy	1.1
Japan	1.1
Liechtenstein	1.1
Luxembourg	1.1
Monaco	1.1
Netherlands	1.1

<i>Countries and territories</i>	<i>Former group</i>
New Zealand (including the Ross Dependency)	1.1
Norway	1.1
Portugal	1.1
San Marino	1.1
Spain	1.1
Sweden	1.1
Switzerland	1.1
United States of America	1.1
Vatican	1.1

Group II (formerly groups 1.2 and 2) – List of countries and territories that joined the target system in 2010 (formerly group 1.2) and 2012 (formerly group 2) and shall apply the target terminal dues system during the period from 2018 to 2021, and that contribute to the QSF as provided for in article 28 of the Convention

<i>Countries and territories</i>	<i>Former group</i>
Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten	1.2 (Aruba), 2 (Curaçao and Sint Maarten), previously part of "Netherlands Antilles and Aruba"
Antigua and Barbuda	2
Bahamas	1.2
Bahrain (Kingdom)	2
Barbados	2
Brunei Darussalam	2
Croatia	2
Cyprus	2
Czech Rep.	2
Dominica	2
Estonia	2
Grenada	2
Hong Kong, China	1.2
Hungary	2
Korea (Rep.)	2
Kuwait	1.2
Latvia ¹	2
Macao, China	2
Malta	2

¹ Initially classified in group 3, Latvia voluntarily moved to group 2 in 2014 (IB circular 105/2013).

<i>Countries and territories</i>	<i>Former group</i>
Territory under Netherlands:	
– Dutch Caribbean (Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius) ²	1.1
Territory under New Zealand:	
– Cook Islands	2
Overseas Territories (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):	
– Anguilla	1.2
– Bermuda	1.2
– British Virgin Islands	1.2
– Cayman Islands	1.2
– Montserrat	2
– Turks and Caicos Islands	1.2
Poland	2
Qatar	1.2
Saint Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis	2
Saudi Arabia	2
Singapore	1.2
Slovakia	2
Slovenia	1.2
Trinidad and Tobago	2

Group III (formerly group 3) – List of countries and territories that joined the target system in 2016 and shall apply the target system during the period from 2018 to 2021, and that contribute to the QSF as provided for in article 28 of the Convention

<i>Countries and territories</i>	<i>Former group</i>
Argentina	3
Belarus	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3
Botswana	3
Brazil	3
Bulgaria (Rep.)	3
Chile	3
China (People's Rep.)	3
Costa Rica	3
Cuba	3
Fiji	3
Gabon	3
Jamaica	3
Kazakhstan	3
Lebanon	3
Lithuania	3
Malaysia	3
Mauritius	3

² Classification recommended by the 2015 CA.

<i>Countries and territories</i>	<i>Former group</i>
Mexico	3
Montenegro	3
Nauru	3
Territory under New Zealand:	
– Niue	3
Oman	3
Panama (Rep.)	3
Romania	3
Russian Federation	3
Saint Lucia	3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3
Serbia	3
Seychelles	3
South Africa	3
Suriname	3
Thailand	3
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3
Turkey	3
Ukraine	3
Uruguay	3
United Arab Emirates (UAE) ³	1.2
Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep.)	3

Group IV (formerly groups 4 and 5) – List of countries and territories that apply the transition terminal dues system during the period from 2018 to 2021 and that benefit from the QSF as provided for in article 28 of the Convention

<i>Countries and territories</i>	<i>Former group</i>
Albania	4
Algeria	4
Afghanistan ⁴	5
Angola ⁴	5
Armenia	4
Azerbaijan	4
Bangladesh ⁴	5
Belize	4
Benin ⁴	5
Bhutan ⁴	5
Bolivia	4

³ The Doha Congress classified the United Arab Emirates in group 1.2 for the purposes of the QSF and the terminal dues link to quality of service, but allowed that country to apply the same terminal dues rates as countries classified in group 3 for the 2014–2017 period.

⁴ LDCs classified in former group 5 as of the date of adoption of Congress resolution C 77/2012 shall continue to benefit from higher QSF contributions than those received by other countries and territories classified in the new group IV.

<i>Countries and territories</i>	<i>Former group</i>
Burkina Faso ⁵	5
Burundi ⁵	5
Cambodia ⁵	5
Cameroon	4
Cape Verde	4
Central African Rep. ⁵	5
Chad	5
Colombia	4
Comoros ⁵	5
Congo (Rep.)	4
Côte d'Ivoire (Rep.)	4
Dem People's Rep. of Korea	4
Dem. Rep. of the Congo ⁵	5
Djibouti ⁵	5
Dominican Republic	4
Ecuador	4
Egypt	4
El Salvador	4
Equatorial Guinea ⁵	5
Eritrea ⁵	5
Ethiopia ⁵	5
Gambia ⁵	5
Georgia	4
Ghana	4
Guatemala	4
Guinea ⁵	5
Guinea-Bissau ⁵	5
Guyana	4
Haiti ⁵	5
Honduras (Rep.)	4
India	4
Indonesia	4
Iran (Islamic Rep.)	4
Iraq	4
Jordan	4
Kenya	4
Kiribati ⁵	5
Kyrgyzstan	4
Lao People's Dem. Rep. ⁵	5
Lesotho ⁵	5
Liberia ⁵	5

⁵ LDCs classified in former group 5 as of the date of adoption of Congress resolution C 77/2012 shall continue to benefit from higher QSF contributions than those received by other countries and territories classified in the new group IV.

<i>Countries and territories</i>	<i>Former group</i>
Libya ⁶	3
Madagascar ⁷	5
Malawi ⁷	5
Maldives ⁶	3
Mali ⁷	5
Mauritania ⁷	5
Moldova	4
Mongolia	4
Morocco	4
Mozambique ⁷	5
Myanmar ⁷	5
Namibia	4
Nepal ⁷	5
Nicaragua	4
Niger ⁷	5
Nigeria	4
Overseas Territories (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):	
– Ascension	4
– St Helena	4
Pakistan	4
Palestine ⁷	5
Papua New Guinea	4
Paraguay	4
Peru	4
Philippines	4
Rwanda ⁷	5
Samoa ⁷	5
Sao Tome and Principe ⁷	5
Senegal ⁷	5
Sierra Leone ⁷	5
Solomon Islands ⁷	5
Somalia ⁷	5
South Sudan ⁷	5
Sri Lanka	4
Sudan ⁷	5
Swaziland	4
Syrian Arab Rep.	4
Tajikistan	4
Tanzania (United Rep.) ⁷	5

⁶ These countries appealed against their classification and were reclassified from former group 3 to former group 4 by the CA in 2013 (Tunisia and the Maldives) and in 2015 (Libya) up to 2017.

⁷ LDCs classified in former group 5 as of the date of adoption of Congress resolution C 77/2012 shall continue to benefit from higher QSF contributions than those received by other countries and territories classified in the new group IV.

<i>Countries and territories</i>	<i>Former group</i>
Territory under New Zealand:	
– Tokelau	4
Territory under United States of America:	
– Samoa	4
Timor-Leste (Dem. Rep.) ⁸	5
Togo ⁸	5
Tonga (including Niuafu'ou)	4
Tunisia ⁹	3
Turkmenistan	4
Tuvalu ⁸	5
Uganda ⁸	5
Uzbekistan	4
Vanuatu ⁸	5
Viet Nam	4
Yemen ⁸	5
Zambia ⁸	5
Zimbabwe	4

⁸ LDCs classified in former group 5 as of the date of adoption of Congress resolution C 77/2012 shall continue to benefit from higher QSF contributions than those received by other countries and territories classified in the new group IV.

⁹ These countries appealed against their classification and were reclassified from former group 3 to former group 4 by the CA in 2013 (Tunisia and the Maldives) and in 2015 (Libya) up to 2017.