

UPU's partners in the fight against climate change

Who are the UPU's partners in combating climate change?

The UPU's main partners in combating climate change are the designated postal operators of its member countries; although they are part of the problem, they are, most importantly, part of the solution: they themselves can cut their greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the sector's footprint overall. They are in the front line of the battle against climate change; without them, nothing can be achieved.

As a UN agency, the UPU is also involved in the UN's major communication campaigns to combat climate change, promoting the "UNite to combat climate change" campaign and the "Seal The Deal" campaign, which seek to urge the negotiators in Copenhagen to sign a new global climate agreement. It also supports all the initiatives carried out by other UN agencies on this issue and takes part in meetings of the Chief Executives Board (CEB), which, among other things, encourages agencies to work towards climate neutrality.

But the UPU has gone even further, seeking the cooperation and expertise of a major partner, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in order to offer its member countries technical solutions. Back in 1999, the two organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) based on exchanges of information. They renewed their cooperation in 2008, signing a cooperation agreement based on mutual technical assistance, with the particular aim of combating climate change.

The UPU has also joined forces with its Restricted Unions; as well as being pilot bodies in this connection, they are a very powerful tool for awareness-raising and on-the-spot communication with their members.

For example, it is working with PostEurop, which has launched its own programme of greenhouse gas measures involving 25 volunteer countries from among its members. The UPU is also collaborating with its other Restricted Unions, in particular by organizing joint seminars on sustainable development and developing training in the method of calculation used to measure the carbon footprint and the action to be carried out to reduce it at regional level. Following PAFU (Africa) in 2007, the UPU will work with APPU (Asia) in 2009 and PUASP (Latin America) in 2010.