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Reference: 2102(DPRM.RESU)1086

Subject: Participation in the third Extraordinary Congress of the Universal Postal Union (Geneva 2019). Delegates' credentials. Advance submission to the International Bureau by 30 August 2019.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The invitation for Union member countries to participate in the third Extraordinary Congress in Geneva, Switzerland, was sent via circular letter No. 2000(DPRM.RESU)1074 of 13 June 2019. A copy of that invitation and the proposed Congress timetable are attached. With regard to the duration of the Extraordinary Congress, I would like to once more draw your attention to the fact that an additional half day on the morning of 26 September is being proposed in order to enable the formal approval and signing of any Additional Protocol to the Universal Postal Convention by member countries. Accordingly, Congress will be invited to approve the holding of the additional half day as part of the approval of the timetable and agenda of the meeting.

As you may be aware, the Extraordinary Congress will address important issues related to the remuneration of E format letter-post items. It is therefore essential that the greatest possible number of member countries be present or represented at the Extraordinary Congress, and that delegates have the opportunity to prepare themselves well.

Original credentials in due and proper form must be handed over to the secretariat of the Credentials Committee (Committee 1) at the opening of Congress. In order to facilitate the review of credentials at a meeting of such short duration, you are encouraged to present them as early as possible, **beginning on the first day of registration (23 September 2019).**

In this regard, I recommend that you read articles 2 and 3 of the Rules of Procedure of Congresses concerning credentials. These Rules of Procedure are to be found in the volume containing the decisions of the 2018 Addis Ababa Extraordinary Congress, and the text of articles 2 and 3 is attached to this letter (Annex 1). According to article 3.3 of the Rules of Procedure, delegates who are not in possession of credentials or who have not deposited their credentials may, provided their names have been communicated by their Government to the International Bureau, take part in the debates and vote from the moment they participate in the work of Congress. The same applies to those whose credentials are found to be not in order; such delegates will cease to be empowered to vote from the time Congress approves the last report of the Credentials Committee establishing that their credentials have not been received or are not in order until such time as the position is regularized. It is anticipated that the last report will be approved by Congress at its additional session proposed for the morning of 26 September 2019, before it proceeds to approval of the draft Acts.

You are also reminded that a member country may, pursuant to article 101.2 of the UPU General Regulations, arrange to be represented by the delegation of another member country, it being understood that a delegation may represent only one member country other than its own. In this case, the proxy of the member country arranging to be so represented must be in the same form as the credentials referred to above.

/ Please find enclosed two model credentials and two model proxies for your information.

Advance review of delegates' credentials

Owing to the short time frame of the Congress, it will be extremely difficult to regularize any deficiencies during the Congress session. Therefore, in order to ensure that all credentials are deposited in due and proper form, all member countries are requested to send the International Bureau an advance draft copy by e-mail to credentials@upu.int as soon as possible but **no later than 30 August 2019**, so that the International Bureau can review in advance the submitted documents and make an assessment before the opening of the Extraordinary Congress. Consequently, member countries whose credentials are not in order will have sufficient time to rectify them for the Congress.

Failure to provide such an advance draft copy of the credentials could result in the International Bureau's not being able to process the original in time at Congress itself in the case of irregularities.

By the same token, if your country wishes to be represented by proxy, a draft copy of the relevant proxy instrument should be sent to the International Bureau **no later than 30 August 2019** for a similar advance review.

/ To assist with the preparation of credentials in due and proper form, please consult the credentials checklist in Annex 2.

If you need further information about any specific points, please do not hesitate to contact the International Bureau.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Bishar A. Hussein
Director General