



UPU | UNIVERSAL
POSTAL
UNION

International Bureau

Weltpoststrasse 4
P.O. Box 312
3000 BERNE 15
SWITZERLAND

T +41 31 350 31 11
F +41 31 350 31 10
www.upu.int

To: Union member countries
Restricted unions (for information)
Regional project coordinators

Contact: Filomena Tchyombo
T +41 31 350 35 51
filomena.tchyombo@upu.int

Berne, 30 September 2019

Reference: 6681(DL.CRI)1129

Subject: Organization of design competition for the Abidjan model international reply coupon

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have pleasure in informing you that the International Bureau is organizing a competition to choose the design that will illustrate the Abidjan model of the international reply coupon (IRC), which will go on sale in 2021.

As you know, the current IRC (Istanbul model) will lose its exchange value on 31 December 2021 and will therefore need to be replaced. This means it is time to find a new design and, so as to involve all UPU member countries in this process, the Postal Operations Council has approved the idea of organizing an international competition.

The theme chosen for this design competition is "Preserve the ecosystem – Protect the climate".

Each country is invited to select a design or illustration at national level, and submit it to the International Bureau **by 15 June 2020 at the latest**. It is important that participating countries observe this deadline in order to give the International Bureau time to prepare the next phase of the competition, namely, selection of the best entry. I am therefore calling on all participating countries to make a special effort to meet this deadline, after which no entries can be accepted.

The heads of delegations of the UPU member countries present at the Abidjan Congress in 2020 will form the international jury responsible for selecting the design for the new international reply coupon.

The member country whose design is selected will receive, free of charge, 10,000 of the new international reply coupons, to be introduced in 2021.

/ Further information is provided in Annex 1, which contains the rules for this international design competition and the technical specifications for the designs to be submitted to the International Bureau. This information is also available in the section of the UPU website devoted to this competition: (www.upu.int/en/activites/international-reply-coupons/design-competition.html).

Fro/Pro

I would ask you to circulate this information among artists in your country, and to consider organizing a national competition to select the best design for submission to the Universal Postal Union.

I look forward to receiving an entry from an artist in your country.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

Bishar A. Hussein
Director General

Visas: Xxx

Internal copies: Xxx