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To: The ministers of Posts and telecommunications and the designated operators of the following UPU member countries:

- Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands (Saba and St Eustatius), Nicaragua, Overseas Territories (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and Virgin Islands, Panama (Rep.), Paraguay, Peru, Saint Christopher (St Kitts) and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela

The Caribbean Postal Union and the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal

The UPU regional project coordinators for the Caribbean and Latin America regions

Berne, 26 February 2016

Reference: 7900(DCDEV.PARFISD)1021

Subject: Zika virus awareness campaign in the Caribbean and Latin America regions

Dear Sir/Madam,

On 1 February 2016, the World Health Organization declared the spread of the Zika virus a "public health emergency of international concern".

While investigation continues into possible modes of Zika transmission, the WHO has stated there is no reason at this point to suspect that transmission is possible through the handling of mail.

Nevertheless, as we know that the postal sector can play a valuable role in spreading public health messages, I am today inviting you to join a new campaign aimed at raising awareness of ways to reduce the

risk of transmission of the Zika virus. I am convinced that Posts can make a difference and help to halt the spread of the virus by bringing the prevention message to their employees and the general public.

To this end, and in line with the mandate given by its 25th Congress, the UPU, in cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization, has prepared campaign materials for display in post offices and other workplaces. Wherever possible, I also urge you to print and distribute the leaflets to your customers, at home or to their post office boxes, and to publish them on your website and in newsletters.

The five posters are available in various formats in English, Spanish and Portuguese, and will soon also be available in French. All the posters can be downloaded from the UPU's website (www.upu.int/en/activities/sustainable-development/social-and-societal/about-social-and-societal.html), or can be sent to each participating operator in hard-copy or electronic versions. If you wish to request campaign materials, please contact the UPU's sustainable development expert (Ms Anne-Claire Blet; bletac@upu.int; +41 31 350 35 17), who will provide you with the materials in the required language.

In the face of this public health emergency, I am calling on you to once again demonstrate the relevance of the postal network as a development and communication infrastructure. I look forward to working with you to make the campaign a success.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Hussein', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bishar A. Hussein
Director General