

## **Recommendation C 64/2012**

### **Initiatives for the study of sustainable development and development cooperation measures to make postal organizations more resistant to major disasters**

Congress,

Recalling

recommendation C 27/2008 entitled "Initiatives for the sustainable reduction of the negative environmental impact of the postal sector", and resolution C 34/2008 entitled "Work on sustainable development" adopted by the 2008 Congress in Geneva,

Underscoring

the need to promote sustainable development to prevent natural disasters linked to climate change, and to reduce the impact of postal activities on the global environment,

Understanding

that any actions to protect the environment will contribute significantly to not only reducing the risk of natural disasters, but also improving sustainable development, thus bringing about economic, environmental and social benefits,

Noting with satisfaction

the positive results of the work of the Joint CA/POC Committee 2 (Development and Cooperation) Sustainable Development Project Group in the areas of raising awareness and evaluating and mitigating the harmful impacts of postal activities on the environment, through the organization of a number of regional seminars and workshops during the 2008–2012 cycle,

Appreciating

the efforts made by the International Bureau in developing a number of projects and tools for member countries, including an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and a compendium of designated operators' best environmental practices,

Taking into account

resolution CA 2/2010 concerning the creation of a UPU Emergency and Solidarity Fund for countries affected by natural disasters and/or in special situations, and resolution CA 1/2011 concerning the rules for the administrative management of the Fund,

Considering

that a number of member countries and their citizens have been severely affected by natural disasters, including major earthquakes, typhoons, tsunamis, cyclones, floods, droughts, etc., which have caused widespread destruction and long-term interruption of postal services,

Recalling

the invaluable lessons learned by all UPU member countries from the Japan earthquake and tsunami on 11 March 2011, an unprecedented natural disaster that devastated the eastern part of the country,

Strongly convinced

of the undeniably important role that the postal services can play as a means of communication and settlement, particularly in the wake of major disasters such as the Japan earthquake,

Recognizing

that sound data is critical for the taking of precise and timely development and investment decisions,

Also considering  
the importance of maintaining and enhancing postal services in the face of energy shortages caused by disasters,

Further considering  
the importance of prevention and risk management activities and the need to ensure the continuity of postal operations in times of disasters,

*Recommends*

that the Council of Administration conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a UPU policy on risk reduction and management and emergency assistance activities to enable the International Bureau and Union member countries and their designated operators to take the following initiatives aimed at making postal organizations more resistant to disasters:

- promote and introduce more energy-efficient buildings and vehicle fleets to maximize postal service performance with a view to better managing and responding to energy shortages caused by disasters;
- provide assistance for the restoration of basic postal services in times of disasters;
- establish disaster management and infrastructure resilience and reconstruction plans;
- establish postal service contingency and business continuity plans and enhance risk management skills, building upon the experience of the Japan earthquake;
- evaluate and mitigate the impacts of postal activities on the environment;
- provide crisis management training to postal employees;
- closely monitor data losses, including on a small scale and for localized disasters.

(Proposal 56.Rev 2, Committee 8, 2nd meeting)