

REBUILDING THE INTERNATIONAL POSTAL SYSTEM IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

BY

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MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

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Honourable Chairman of the 27th UPU Congress

Honourable Director General of the UPU

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to congratulate and extend our utmost appreciation to the Government of Cote D'Ivoire for hosting this 27th UPU Congress.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Director General of the UPU for galvanizing all postal sector stakeholders to participate here.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malaysia is committed in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with our UPU and UN systems to build a sustainable future and foster social advancement and human well-being.

In addressing the Covid-19 pandemic, the Malaysian government takes a balanced approach between two main components: living, live, and secondly, livelihood.

For livelihood, it involves, among others, economic activities that forms part of the global chain. We call these activities essential services. One of them is the postal and courier services.

The national postal system as well as its brace postmen and post women front liners have been working tirelessly to provide essential delivery services to our citizens and businesses, delivering much needed vaccines as well as connecting hospitals and labs throughout our country on top of other delivery needs for the ever-blooming e-commerce industry nationwide.

We must build on this momentum in the post-pandemic world with an even **bolder vision** to attract interest and investments into our sector – to build a sustainable international postal exchange which will facilitate a 21st century letter and parcel delivery eco-system; with the UPU as the global orchestrator toward creating this unique and ambitious goal. Malaysia applauds the work of the UPU in developing the **Abidjan Postal Strategy** which will chart the direction and the future of the UPU in the next four years.

Looking ahead, in congruence with ubiquitous digital economy initiatives worldwide, we must harness the power of **data, Artificial Intelligence and Innovation** to institutionalize **digitally-empowered postal system** within the global realm. The strength of the UPU lies in its ability to build a truly integrated platform for a post-pandemic digital economy, particularly in areas such as cross-border e-Commerce and the integration of micro, small and medium enterprises into the global postal supply chains.

UPU's relevance in this new global digital economy should be expanded through a "platformisation" strategy with clear international postal policies, regulations, standards and intelligence; to successfully rebuild the international postal system which will not only strengthen the UPU family but opening new opportunities for all. Having endured revolutionary progress during the pandemic era, post-pandemic would avail plethora of positive opportunities for Postal Services to be more relevant than ever.

Since becoming a member of the Universal postal Union in 1958, Malaysia has played an active role for a tenure of three (3) terms respectively in both the Council of Administration (CA) and the Postal Operations Council (POC), accumulating a total of 18 years as office bearers, as well as other key working committees, notably on Finance, Human Resources and Governance – this is a testament to our commitment to advancing the mandate and work of the UPU.

Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to actively support the UPU's goals and objectives, and to serve our UPU family in the next four years through both the CA and the POC. I therefore, would like to take this opportunity to announce on behalf of the Government of Malaysia our candidature for the Council of Administration (CA) and Postal Operation Council (POC). In this regard, Malaysia humbly asks for your support.

Last but not least, I wish all delegates every success in implementing the decisions of the Congress and together we shape the future of the Post.

Thank you.