

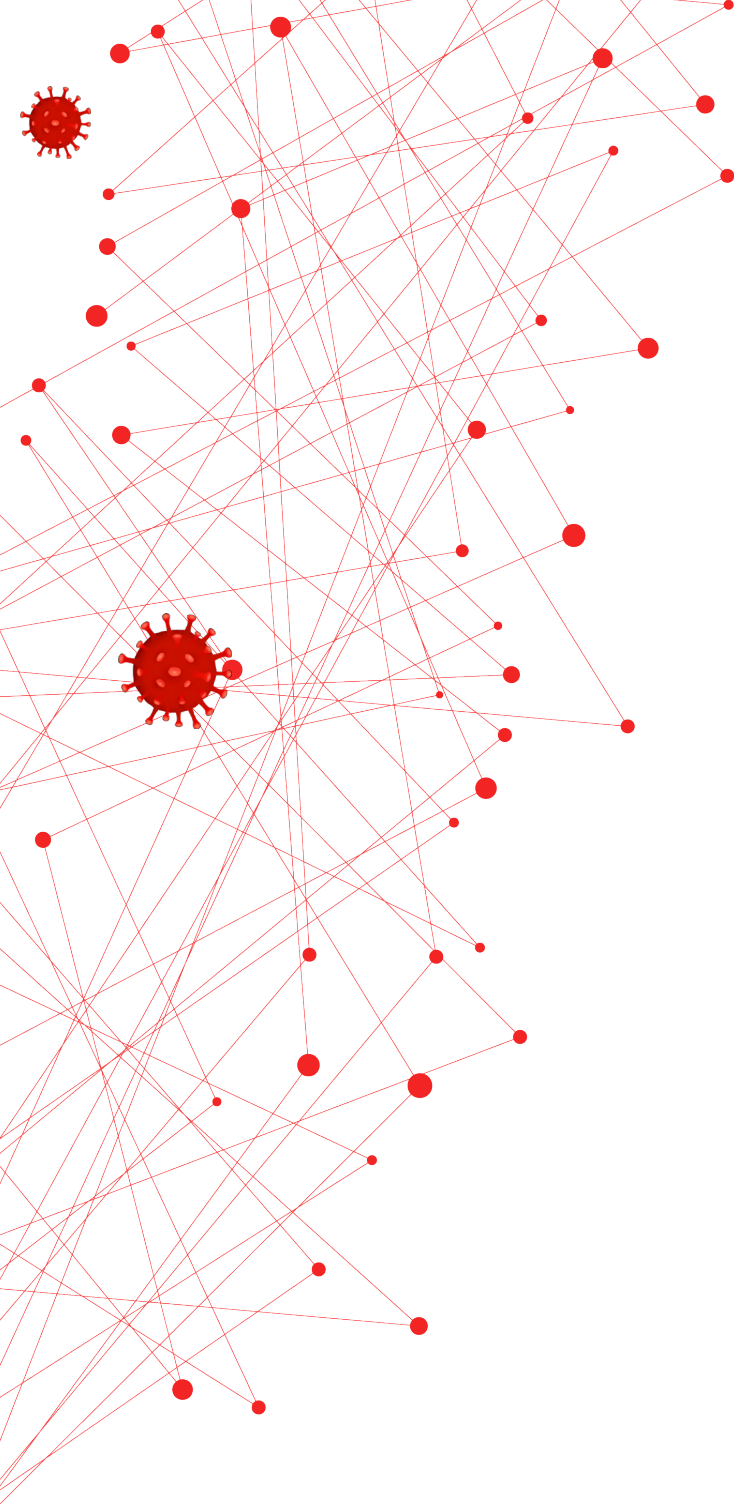


UPU | UNIVERSAL
POSTAL
UNION

UPU MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE 2021

**COVID-19 and the postal
sector – what has and
hasn't changed, and what
needs to change**

Tuesday, 10 August 2021
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (Rep.)



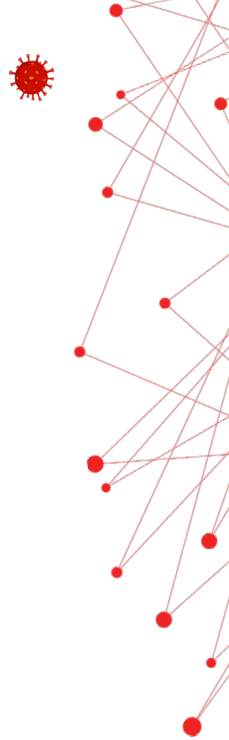
The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic shattered all global economic prospects: in addition to its tragic public health impact, the crisis has had devastating socio-economic consequences. Although governments, firms and citizens have adapted to the new reality, most macroeconomic aggregates have collapsed to unprecedented levels not seen since World War II. And although economic growth and trade are expected to rebound in 2021, there are still considerable risks ahead for the world economy.

While these trends will not necessarily limit the growth of e-commerce, they will change consumer behaviour, at least in the short term. As Internet connectivity continues to expand, the transformational impact of digitalization in all sectors will accelerate. Market players can thus expect to see an increase in services that are complementary to retail e-commerce, from payments to parcels and logistics.

With a global network of nearly 630,000 post offices, 5.2 million staff and physical infrastructure covering 192 countries, the postal sector is expected to play a role in this transformation, and to support the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, the sector also faces a number of long-term challenges that it will have to address in order to retain its role as a network to promote communication between inhabitants of the world.

On 10 August 2021, as leaders convene for the Abidjan Congress, the 27th in the UPU's 147-year history, a Ministerial Conference will be held. Structured in four panels, it will be a unique opportunity to take stock of the transformations brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to reflect on what has not changed and what needs to change in order to bring about a sustainable future.

Speakers at the conference will include ministers, chiefs of regulatory authorities, heads of intergovernmental agencies and other high-level representatives of organizations interested in the benefits that the postal sector can bring to societies and economies worldwide.



9.00–9.30

SPEAKERS

OPENING CEREMONY

Mr Bishar A. Hussein, Director General of
the UPU International Bureau

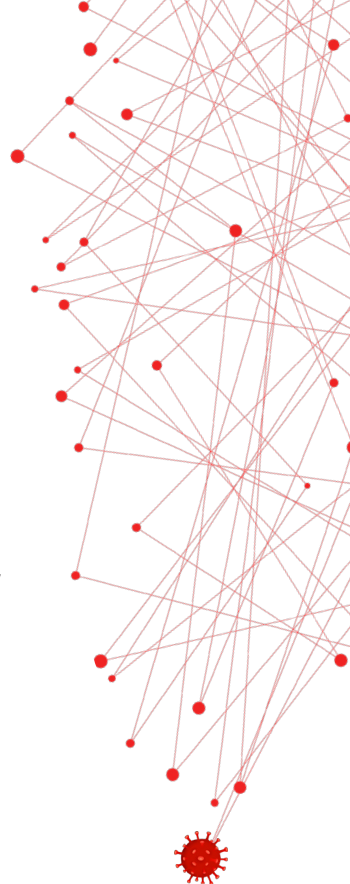
Mr Roger Félix Adom, Minister of the Digital
Economy, Telecommunications and Innovation,
Côte d'Ivoire (Rep.)

Mr Patrick Jerome Achi, Prime Minister,
Côte d'Ivoire

Mr Choguel Maïga, Prime Minister, Mali

9.30–9.45

GROUP PHOTOGRAPH





9.45–11.00

PANEL 1: WHAT HAS CHANGED IN THE WORLD SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19?

COVID-19 has caused major disruptions in global supply chains, with ramifications for the postal sector. Panellists will discuss the effect that the pandemic has had in their respective countries and which solutions were found to address the challenges they faced.

SPEAKERS

Mr Darsanand Balgobin, Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, Mauritius

Hon. Marvin Gonzales, Minister of Public Utilities, Trinidad & Tobago

Mr Junsheng MA, Director General of State Post Bureau, China

Mr Paul Scully, Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Labour Markets and Minister for London, United Kingdom

H.E. Mr Ryota Takeda, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan

11.00–12.15

PANEL 2: WHAT HAS NOT CHANGED OVER THE PAST 2 YEARS?

In spite of the disruption that it caused, COVID-19 has not reversed certain macro-trends that had been emerging over the past few decades. Panellists will reflect on which areas have remained unchanged in the face of the pandemic, taking national, regional and global perspectives.

SPEAKERS

S.E. Ms Petra De Sutter, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Public Enterprises, Telecommunication and the Postal Services, Belgium

Mr Dmitriy Kim, Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation

Mr Wolfgang Küpper, Secretary General, OTIF

H.E. Ms Mayra Arevich Marin, Minister of Communications, Cuba



12.15–13.45

LUNCH BREAK

13.45–14.15

STATEMENTS FROM MINISTERS

Ministers in the audience will make statements on various topics outside the panel framework.

14.15–15.30

PANEL 3: WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

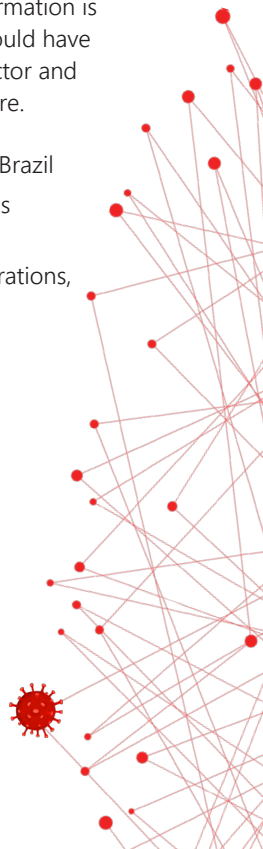
Among the areas that did not change in the face of the pandemic, there may be some elements whose transformation is long overdue. Panellists will consider which changes would have been desirable and should be pursued in the postal sector and beyond with a view to building a more prosperous future.

SPEAKERS

Mr Vitor Menezes, Vice Minister of Communications, Brazil

Mr Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General, World Customs Organization

Dr. Ismail, Vice Minister for Posts and Informatics Operations, Ministry of Communications and Informatics, Indonesia



15.30–16.45

PANEL 4: KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR UN AGENCIES AND FOR THE UPU IN PARTICULAR

As the world changes and as transformations are triggered in international supply chains and in the postal sector, UN agencies have a role to play in providing multilateral solutions to complex global challenges. Panellists will take stock of all previous analyses and discussions in order to provide guidance to the UN system and to the UPU in particular on the way forward.

SPEAKERS

Mr Bernard Maissen, Secretary of State, Director General of the Federal Office of Communications, Switzerland

Hon. Mr Faustine Engelbert Ndugulile, Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Tanzania

Hon. Ms Josephine Teo, Minister for Communications and Information & Second Minister for Home Affairs, Singapore

16.45–17.15

CLOSING CEREMONY

SPEAKERS

Mr Pascal Clivaz, Deputy Director General of the UPU International Bureau

Mr Bishar A. Hussein, Director General of the UPU International Bureau

Mr Roger Félix Adom, Minister of the Digital Economy, Telecommunications and Innovation, Côte d'Ivoire (Rep.)





BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS



Mr Roger Felix Adom, Minister of the Digital Economy, Telecommunications and Innovation, Côte d'Ivoire

Roger Félix Adom was born on 7 August 1966 in Paris, France, to Ivorian parents.

With an engineering degree from Centrale Nantes and an MBA from IAE Paris, he started his career as a consultant and by 1990 had become a project manager within Capgemini Group in Paris.

In 1997, Adom started at Ernst & Young, working as Director for French-speaking Africa to develop consulting activity in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (Rep.).

In July 2003, he joined Orange Côte d'Ivoire. He began as Director of Information Systems to then become Deputy Director General. In 2010, Adom was promoted to Orange France, based in Paris, as Director of Information Systems for Africa, the Middle East and Asia. In March 2017, Adom became Director of Information Technology at the African Development Bank in Abidjan.

It was during his time there that he came to the attention of Vivendi. In March 2020, he was appointed Director General of Vivendi Africa in Côte d'Ivoire. After a short time in that position, Adom joined the Ivorian government on 13 May 2020 as Minister of Public Sector Modernization and Innovation. On 6 April 2021, Adom was appointed Minister of Digital Economy, Telecommunications and Innovation as part of Prime Minister Patrick Achi's team.

Roger Félix Adom is married with five children. Since 2012, he has regularly competed in long-distance races in his free time (marathons, half-marathons, 20 km, 10 km).



Hon. Mr Darsanand Balgobin, Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, Mauritius

Deepak Balgobin was elected as a member of parliament for constituency No. 9 (Flacq/Bon Accueil) at the Mauritian general elections held on 7 November 2019. He is currently Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation.

Mr Balgobin holds an MBA from Anglia Ruskin University, UK, a BSc (Hons) in Tourism and Hospitality Management from the University of Technology, Mauritius, and a Diploma in Hotel Management from SHATEC, Singapore.

Prior to becoming Minister of ICT, he held key positions in various organisations in both the public and private sectors, including as Chairman of the Mauritius Housing Company and Director of the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council, and had a fruitful career in tourism and hospitality management as a director of human resources both locally and abroad.

As a young member of parliament, Deepak Balgobin is also a strong advocate for community awareness. Born in Mare la Chaux, he dedicates most of his time to his constituency, while being active in social and cultural activities, and he is committed to work for a better Mauritius.

The Minister is also a sports fan, in particular football. He speaks fluent Kreol Morisien, English, French, Hindi and Bhojpuri.





Hon. Marvin Gonzales, Minister of Public Utilities, Trinidad and Tobago

Marvin Gonzales was appointed as the Minister of Public Utilities of Trinidad and Tobago on 19 August 2020, bringing an outstanding record of public service to bear on his appointment.

An attorney by profession, Mr Gonzales worked in Trinidad and Tobago's Special Anti-Crime Unit, where he contributed to the development of new crime-fighting initiatives.

In 2009, as Director of Legal Services in the Ministry of Works and Transport, he was able to pioneer critical pieces of legislation and policies that resulted in a marked reduction in road fatalities. He was also instrumental in establishing Trinidad and Tobago's Demerit

Points and Red Light Camera Enforcement System.

As Minister of Public Utilities, Mr Gonzales is focused on transforming the utilities sector into a more reliable and efficient provider of services that will benefit the population and drive the country's continued development.



H.E. Mr Ma Junsheng, Director General of State Post Bureau, China (People's Rep.)

Ma Junsheng, born in 1961, has been Director General of China's State Post Bureau since 2006. He graduated from the Nanjing Post and Telecommunication Institute in 1981 and obtained MBA from Beijing University in 2000. He started his postal career in his early twenties.

With over 30 years' experience in the postal field, Mr Ma has made significant contributions to the promotion of the institutional reform and development of the postal sector in China, and during his terms has successfully guided the postal sector into one of the important modern service industries, pushing China's postal and express development to the global forefront.



Mr Paul Scully, Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets and Minister for London, United Kingdom

Paul Scully was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 13 February 2020. He is responsible for Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets, and is Minister for London.

Mr Scully has served as Member of Parliament for Sutton and Cheam since 2015. A member of the Conservative Party, he served as its Vice-Chairman for the London region from 2017 to 2019. He was born in Rugby, Warwickshire. He moved to London after graduating and ran a number of small businesses.



H.E. Mr Ryota Takeda, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan

Born in Fukuoka Prefecture in Japan in 1968, Ryota Takeda is an energetic, multi-talented man who loves golf and music.

After graduating from Waseda University, he began his professional career in the political world to further develop his beloved country, Japan.

Elected as a member of the House of Representatives for the first time in 2003, he has been elected six times consecutively, earning the highest appreciation in his various positions, including Chairperson of the National Public Safety Commission, Minister for Administrative Reform, and Minister for Disaster Management.

As a statesman, promoting Japan's high-quality postal services and networks is one of his core commitments.

Appointed to his current position as Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications in 2020, he is responsible for postal and ICT-related policies, which Japan believes is a great synergy. He is firmly committed to the development of the UPU in the era of digitalization.





H.E. Ms Petra De Sutter, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Public Enterprises, Telecommunications and Postal Services, Belgium

Petra De Sutter was sworn in on 1 October 2020 as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Public Administration, Public Enterprises, Telecommunications and Post. In the latter role, her focus is on the postal challenges of sustainability, a level social playing field and digitalization.



Mr Dmitriy Kim, Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation

Dmitriy Kim was born on 13 September 1985 in Mytishchi, Moscow region.

In 2007 he graduated from Lomonosov Moscow State University with a master's degree in management.

From 2005 to 2012 he worked in various commercial organizations, including National Cable Networks.

From 2012 to 2019 he held various positions, from Department Director to Director for Corporate and Government Segments at

PJSC Rostelecom, the largest Russian provider of digital services and solutions, which is present in all market segments and covers millions of households, public and private organizations.

Since 2019, he has been Vice-President and Director of the Centre Macroregional Division of PJSC Rostelecom.

By government order of 11 May 2021, Mr Kim was appointed Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media, in which role he oversees the development of state policy in the field of communications.



**Mr Wolfgang Küpper, Secretary General,
Intergovernmental Organization for International
Carriage by Rail (OTIF)**

Wolfgang Küpper is a lawyer with over 28 years' professional experience, in particular as a solicitor, and then as a legal advisor in the German Federal Railways' legal service, and latterly in the German Federal Government.

Recently, as a Head of Division at the Ministry of Transport, he was responsible for all aspects of railway policy at national, European and international levels, and relations with the railway industry.

As Secretary General of OTIF, Mr Küpper is pressing for even swifter harmonization of railway law, and strongly believes that making

railways the foremost means of transport in the 21st century should be our common aim in the context of the urgent social issues of climate change, urbanization and demographic change.



**Ms Mayra Arevich Marín, Minister of
Communications of the Republic of Cuba**

Mayra Arevich Marín has served as the Minister of Communications of the Republic of Cuba since April 2021.

In 1994, as a founder of the Cuban Telecommunications Company (ETECSA), Marín was engaged as principal investor in charge of the digitalization process of west Havana.

She gradually took on various technical positions, such as Head of the Engineering Department, Head of the Telephone Exchange, Manager of the Metropolitan Network Management Centre, and Vice-President of ETECSA, coming to the attention of the nation's capital. From 2011 until April 2021, Marín served as

Chief Executive of ETECSA.

Under her direction, ETECSA promoted the development of ICT in the country, notably the massive roll-out of mobile telephony and data and Internet services for the population.

Marín has a master's degree in telematics from the Central University Marta Abreu of Las Villas, as well as various postgraduate diplomas in public policy administration.

She was awarded the Mario Muñoz Monroy Medal for 25 years of service in the communications sector.





Dr Ismail, Vice Minister for Posts and Informatics Operations, Indonesia

Dr Ismail has been serving in the Government of Republic of Indonesia for 27 years. Prior to his current role, he assumed leadership positions at the Directorate General of Posts and Telecommunications, the Indonesian Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre, and Indonesia's Telecommunication Regulation Authority.

Dr Ismail was acknowledged as being one of the initiators of Palapa Ring, a pivotal project to connect all provinces and capital districts within a high-capacity national backbone network. Currently, he is focusing on how his country's government could drive the ICT ecosystem to allow Indonesia to harness full potential through

digital transformation, the digital economy, and industry 4.0.

In 2010, Dr Ismail obtained his doctorate degree in telecommunications engineering from the Bandung Institute of Technology. Previously, he graduated as a master in electrical engineering from the University of Indonesia in 1999.



Mr Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General, World Customs Organization (WCO)

Kunio Mikuriya has been Secretary General of the WCO since 1 January 2009. He provides leadership and executive management for the global customs community's priorities, including developing global customs instruments, standards and tools; securing and facilitating global trade; protecting revenue collection; building Customs-business partnerships; and delivering capacity building in support of customs reform and modernization. Prior to joining the WCO, he worked for Japan's Ministry of Finance for 25 years, where he occupied a variety of senior positions, giving him broad experience and knowledge in customs, trade, development, budget, and financial policies. In addition, he spent time as a Counsellor

at the Japanese Mission to the WTO in Geneva, and participated in the GATT Uruguay Round trade negotiations. Mr Mikuriya has a law degree from the University of Tokyo, and a PhD in international relations from the University of Kent, UK.



Mr Bernard Maissen, Secretary of State, Director General of the Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM), Switzerland

Bernard Maissen has been Director of OFCOM since 1 July 2020. Before that, he headed OFCOM's media department as Vice-Director for two years.

A speaker of Retho-Romansh, Mr Maissen studied German, history and journalism at the University of Fribourg, and then worked in various functions as a journalist and editor-in-chief. Before moving to OFCOM, he was editor-in-chief and member of the management of the Swiss Dispatch Agency for 12 years.

He spent several years on the Board of the international agency network MINDS International, was a member of the Programme Commission of the Swiss School of Journalism in Lucerne, and was a member of the Swiss Federal Media Commission from 2013 until joining OFCOM.



Hon. Dr Faustine Engelbert Ndugulile, Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Tanzania (United Rep.)

Faustine Ndugulile is a medical doctor specializing in public health and medical microbiology. Dr Ndugulile went into politics in 2010, and he remains a member of parliament for the Kigamboni constituency in Dar Es Salaam. Dr Ndugulile previously served as a Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender and the Elderly between 2017 and 2020.

With the establishment of a new Ministry of Communication and Information Technology in December 2020, Dr Ndugulile was appointed its first Minister. His ministry is tasked with overseeing digital transformation in Tanzania. In his short time at the new

ministry, Dr Ndugulile has overseen the transformation of the Tanzania Postal Corporation, revision of postal services policy and institution of better regulation of postal services in Tanzania. In addition, he has led the development of the five-year strategic plan, broadband and cybersecurity strategies. He has also championed innovation, promotion of startups and adoption of new ICT technologies.





Hon. Ms Josephine Teo, Minister for Communications and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs, Singapore

Ms Teo was appointed Minister for Communications and Information and Minister-in-Charge of Smart Nation and Cybersecurity on 15 May 2021. She is also a member of the National Jobs Council and the Future Economy Council, and has concurrently served as Second Minister for Home Affairs since May 2018.

Ms Teo was Minister for Manpower from May 2018 to May 2021. She previously served in the Prime Minister's Office and the Finance, Transport and Foreign Affairs ministries.

A member of Parliament since 2006, Ms Teo was formerly Chairman of the Government Parliamentary Committee for Education and Assistant Secretary General of the National Trades Union Congress. At the same time, she served as Chief Executive Officer of the not-for-profit organization Business China, a platform launched by then Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew and then Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, to strengthen Singapore's bicultural foundation.

An alumna of Dunman High School and Raffles Junior College, Ms Teo graduated from the National University of Singapore, winning several honours including the Rachel Meyer Book Prize as Best Woman Student. She obtained a Master of Science degree in Economics from the London School of Economics on a scholarship from the Economic Development Board.

She is married and has three grown-up children. She enjoys creating memorable experiences for family and friends.





Mr Pascal Clivaz, Deputy Director General, UPU International Bureau

Pascal Clivaz has served as Deputy Director General of the UPU International Bureau since January 2013. He was elected in 2012 at the 25th UPU Congress in Doha, and re-elected in 2016 at the 26th Congress in Istanbul.

He joined the UPU International Bureau in 2005 as Director of Finance and Strategic Planning.

A law graduate, Pascal Clivaz has held numerous roles in both private and public organizations, as well as at the European Commission in Brussels.

He began his postal career at Swiss Post, where he was responsible for finance and strategy, and subsequently Director of International Affairs. He led the Swiss delegation at the UPU Council of Administration and Postal Operations Council sessions between 2000 and 2004.



Mr Bishar A. Hussein, Director General, UPU International Bureau

Mr Bishar A. Hussein has been Director General of the UPU International Bureau since 1 January 2013, and has vast experience in UPU matters. Mr Hussein, who was re-elected for a second mandate as Director General in 2016, is credited with spearheading the transformation of the UPU, and the postal industry in general, through his reform agenda and support for innovation.

Before his election to his current position, Mr Hussein chaired various bodies and events, in particular the UPU Council of Administration from 2008 to 2012; the 24th UPU Congress, held in Geneva in 2008; and the 2010 UPU Strategy Conference in Nairobi.

Mr Hussein began his postal career in 1984 when he joined the Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation. He later became the first Postmaster General of the Postal Corporation of Kenya in 1999. In that capacity, he led its turnaround from a loss-making organization to a profitable and self-sustaining postal enterprise.

For a six-year period beginning in 2002, Mr Hussein served as Kenya's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, covering the Gulf Region.





Mr Bonney Tunya, BBC Africa

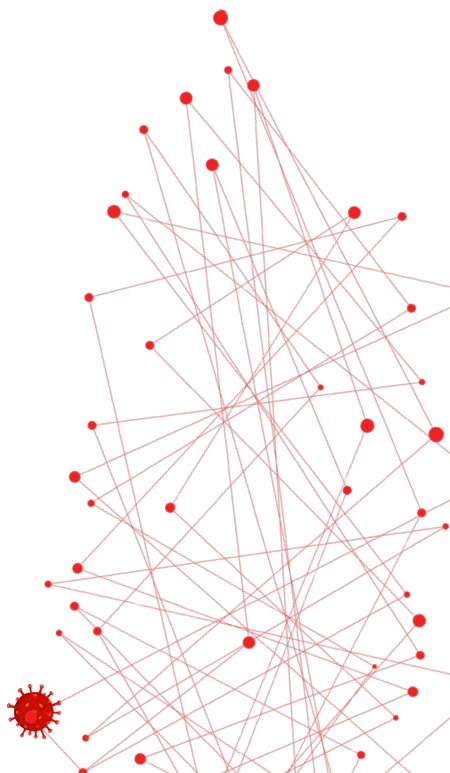
Bonney Tunya is a Co-Production Editor for BBC Africa. He looks after partnerships between the BBC and local television networks in Kenya.

Prior to this role, Bonney was BBC Africa's Senior Broadcast Journalist for business.

Before joining the BBC, Bonney worked as CNBC Africa's East Africa newsreader. As a journalist with a wealth of multimedia experience across Africa, Bonney has moderated high-level debates and interviewed eight presidents and various other heads of state and of government.

A proven communications professional, Bonney has media-trained top industry leaders. He has also contributed to the Forbes Africa magazine. In his early career, Bonney worked as the business and general newsreader for the Kenya Television Network (KTN).

Bonney studied journalism at the United States International University Africa in Kenya, and is an alumnus of the Reuters News Foundation, the Global Short Film Project and the African Media Initiative.







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