



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
(governmental authorities)

For information to:

Designated operators

Restricted unions

Contact: Mr Siva Somasundram
T +41 31 350 32 01
siva.somasundram@upu.int

Berne, 3 August 2020

Reference: 3100(DPRM.CA.SEC)1080

Subject: Member communications regarding the holding of an exceptional Council of Administration session

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government of the host country of the 27th Congress, Côte d'Ivoire (Rep.), has announced the postponement of the Congress from its originally scheduled dates of 10 to 28 August 2020. Nonetheless, Côte d'Ivoire has since reiterated its continued ability and willingness to host the 27th Congress once the health situation permits, and has asked UPU member countries for more time to monitor the pandemic.

Since the postponement announcement, several Council of Administration (CA) members have requested the convening of an exceptional session of the CA, under article 12.2 of the CA Rules of Procedure, to discuss the postponement and other urgent matters of importance to the Union.

I can now inform you that the International Bureau (IB) is in receipt of valid requests from 18 CA members (listed in Annex 1) for the holding of an exceptional session of the CA. Accordingly, the requirement set forth in article 12.2 has been fully satisfied.

Consultations with CA members

Article 108.2 of the UPU General Regulations provides that the CA "shall meet twice a year, or additionally on an exceptional basis, at Union headquarters, in accordance with the relevant procedures set forth in its Rules of Procedure". In other words, only physical meetings of the CA may be organized, as the current UPU legal framework does not allow for the holding of virtual sessions of the CA.

However, given the current pandemic, a number of CA members and observers may face difficulties in sending their representatives to a physical meeting in Berne. Bearing this in mind, in line with the requirement contained in article 17.2 of the CA Rules of Procedure, the CA Chair has initiated consultations with the other CA members on the question of principle as to whether CA members wish to allow the possibility of virtual representation at this exceptional session of the CA.

Prior to the holding of an exceptional CA session with virtual representation, CA members will also need to agree on: i) the principles that would govern the session; and ii) the exceptional suspension and/or amendment of a number of provisions of the CA Rules of Procedure. These matters are also the subject of the consultations of the CA Chair.

The documentation relating to the consultation can be found at <https://www.upu.int/en/Universal-Postal-Union/About-UPU/Bodies/Congress>.

Submissions for the exceptional CA session

CA members and other Union member countries will continue to have the opportunity to exercise their right to submit proposals in line with article 14.3.2 of the CA Rules of Procedure (i.e. to submit questions in the form of a CA document to be considered at that exceptional session, provided that such proposals are notified to the Secretary General at least six weeks before the opening of the session). This will not only help to ensure that CA members and observers have sufficient notice of, and time to prepare appropriately for, the matters to be discussed, but will also minimize the risk of impromptu agenda items being presented at short notice or from the floor.

Date of the exceptional CA session

The exact dates of the exceptional CA session will be set as soon as the CA Chair's consultation is concluded.

Bearing in mind the above considerations, the IB will continue to keep Union member countries regularly apprised of the developments concerning this exceptional session of the CA.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

Bishar A. Hussein
Director General