



UPU International Bureau

Weltpoststrasse 4
3015 BERNE
SWITZERLAND

T +41 31 350 31 11
F +41 31 350 31 10
www.upu.int

Contact: Mr Bonseung Ku
T +41 31 350 35 24
bonseung.ku@upu.int

To:

- Union member countries
- Restricted unions
- Consultative Committee members

Berne, 9 February 2024

Reference: 0100(DPRM.PPRE.PRA)1017

Subject: UPU Postal Regulatory Forum on the Integrated Postal Reform and Development Plan and the Postal Reform Guide in view of technological and market changes.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Integrated Postal Reform and Development Plan (IPDP) provides a comprehensive strategy for postal sector reform. Targeting mainly governments in developing or least-developed countries, the IPDP and the Postal Reform Guide (PRG) aim to help member countries ensure the provision of accessible and affordable universal postal services, update postal sector regulatory frameworks, and redesign service networks for environmental, social and financial sustainability.

Given the evolving economic, market and regulatory changes in the postal and delivery market, as well as shifting customer, citizen and business expectations, the need to revise and update the current IPDP and PRG was recognized by the Council of Administration (CA), which approved a way forward for the review of the existing relevant documents and training materials on this subject to better support the objectives of the postal sector reform agenda.¹

Following approval by the CA in S4, the substantive work on the review of the IPDP and PRG commenced in December 2023 with the assistance of a contractor, the European University Institute (EUI). In accordance with the work timeline, draft project outcomes will be presented to CA Committee 2 at S5 for comments and input to feed into the project, which is expected to be finalized by mid-2024, with materials made available to field experts for the implementation of the new IPDP and PRG methodology as part of national projects.

In this context, the UPU International Bureau (IB) and the EUI are organizing the Postal Regulatory Forum on the review of the IPDP and the PRG, at which the EUI will present the outline of the future IPDP and PRG and share with participants the initial results of the ongoing work. The forum will also provide representatives of the governments, postal regulators and designated operators of UPU member countries, as well as of the restricted unions and other UPU stakeholders, with the opportunity to actively contribute to fleshing out the specific details of the future IPDP and PRG by giving feedback on the initial findings presented or by providing suggestions and ideas for the next phase of the work.

¹ For more information about the current IPDP and PRG, please see www.upu.int/en/Postal-Solutions/Capacity-Building/Development-Cooperation/Postal-Reform.

Building on the IPDP action plan approved by the CA in November 2023 (S4), the forum will review new ideas about postal regulatory reform through the modernized IPDP and open a dialogue between the postal community and the contractor that has been conducting the project with the IB.² Participants will learn first-hand about UPU postal sector reform activities and will be given the opportunity to contribute to defining the specific details and aspects of the IPDP and associated material, such as the PRG.

Registration for the UPU Postal Regulatory Forum

The UPU Postal Regulatory Forum will be in an active, hands-on workshop format, in which feedback will be solicited from postal regulatory experts and other stakeholders in relation to the ongoing review of the IPDP and PRG. Additionally, it will delve into selected topics of postal reform that warrant in-depth discussion and could enrich the outcome of the review. The agenda for the forum is provided in Annex 1.

The UPU Postal Regulatory Forum will be conducted online on **Wednesday, 28 February 2024, from 12.00 to 14.30 CET (UTC+1)**. Interpretation will be provided into English, French, Arabic, Russian and Spanish.

You are kindly invited to attend the UPU Postal Regulatory Forum. We ask that all participants register in advance at zoom.us/join with meeting ID: 868 7888 3307. Once registered, you will receive an e-mail containing information on how to join the meeting.

Should you have any questions about the workshop, please do not hesitate to address them to Mr Bonseung Ku, Associate Expert in the Policy and Regulatory Advisory Programme, whose contact details are provided at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully,



Siva Somasundram
Director, Policy, Regulation and Markets

² See CA C 2 2023.2–Doc 3.



UPU Postal Regulatory Forum – Integrated Postal Reform and Development Plan and Postal Reform Guide

Remote participation, 28 February 2024, 12.00 to 14.30 CET (UTC+1)

Agenda

| <i>Agenda item</i> | <i>Duration</i> |
|--|-----------------|
| 1 Opening remarks | 5 min |
| 2 Introduction: Review of the Integrated Postal Reform and Development Plan (IPDP) and Postal Reform Guide (PRG) | 10 min |
| 3 Presentation: General overview of revised IPDP and PRG | 15 min |
| a Overall direction of revision | – |
| b Overview of the responses to the online questionnaire | – |
| c Ideas for improvements to the previous version | – |
| 4 Feedback from participants and discussion | 30 min |
| 5 Selected topics and discussion | |
| <i>Topic 1 – Universal postal obligation: balancing scope and sustainability in the digital age</i> | |
| a Presentation | 15 min |
| b Discussion | 30 min |
| <i>Topic 2 – Expanding horizons: navigating the future of postal service diversification</i> | |
| a Presentation | 15 min |
| b Discussion | 30 min |
| 6 Closing remarks | – |

Berne, 9 January 2024