

CARIBBEAN POSTAL UNION

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS/DECISIONS OF THE 19TH CONFERENCE

OFFICIAL OPENING

The 19th Conference of the Caribbean Postal Union (CPU) was convened in Barbados from 27-30 June under the theme: *The Future Post: Standardization towards keeping Post relevant*. Eighteen countries were represented.

The Conference commenced with an Opening Ceremony with remarks by Mr Nigel Cobham, Postmaster General (Ag), Barbados; Mr Reynold Baldeosingh, Interim Secretary General, CPU; and Mr Bishar Hussein, Director General, UPU and the feature address by The Honourable Michael Lashley, Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs (Ag), Barbados.

PLENARY SESSIONS

There were five plenary sessions, a panel discussion, a workshop and a closed session which consisted of a financial statement, work plan and budget and elections of the Secretary General and Management Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS/DECISIONS OF CONFERENCE

Following are the recommendations/decisions of the 19th Conference of the CPU:

AGENDA ITEM 1: PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:

- After establishing that there was a quorum, Postmaster General, Mr Nigel Cobham of Barbados and Mr Guillermo Raymond, Director of Post Aruba were elected Chairman and Vice Chairman of the 19th Conference respectively.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2.1 The agenda was formally adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 3: REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE LAST CONFERENCE

The following reports were noted:

- 3.1 Management Board
- 3.2 Secretariat

Recommendations:

The Secretariat's report called for:

- 3.2.1 Revision of the Draft MOU between CCLEC and CPU.
- 3.2.2 Continued improvement of relations with CARICOM.
- 3.2.3 Follow-up on the meeting with the OECS Commission.
- 3.2.4 Review and revision of the MOU between CPU and the Postal Union of the America's Spain and Portugal
- 3.2.5 Conference to note that the Task Force has submitted a draft Constitution and Regulations for consideration and approval.
- 3.2.6 Conference to take note of the recommendations by PTC.
- 3.2.7 Conference to approve continuation of the Caribbean Postal Training Centre (CPTC) for human resources development during the new UPU Cycle (2017-2020).
- 3.2.8 Conference to review CPU's in-kind funding for the CPTC and examine the possibility of sourcing tri-partite funding.

3.2.9 The Secretariat to liaise with members in order to settle LIAT's unpaid invoices.

3.3 Universal Postal Union

Conference queried UPU's support for the security reviews in member countries and called for further support to enable this to happen.

3.4 CARICOM Secretariat

Recommendations:

3.4.1 The establishment of a group of PMGs to ensure quality assurance of the work in Haiti.

3.4.2 The Minister responsible for Post in Guyana to champion the work on behalf of the Council of Ministers and report back to CARICOM and to report to the Postal Council symposium.

3.5 Disaster Risk Management

Recommendations:

3.5.1 Since the DRM activity will continue to be an important UPU effort, leading up to the Istanbul Congress members were encouraged to become familiar with the proposals related to Disaster Risk Management including the CA proposal on continuing DRM activities at the UPU, found in Annex 20 of the Istanbul Draft Business Plan and Proposal 08 of a general nature from Japan, recommending further work in this area.

3.5.2 Member countries should take account of the DRM report in relation to how postal services can better respond to disasters and build resilience.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PANEL DISCUSSION

PARCEL AND ECOMMERCE OPPORTUNITIES

Recommendations:

4.1 Inter-island transport issues

- 4.1.1 Review service agreements with airlines and establish MOUs with airlines.
- 4.1.2 Explore all options – air, sea, cargo.
- 4.1.3 Engage local governments in accessing more reliable forms of inbound and outbound transportation.

4.2 Trade facilitation activities that affect Posts

- 4.2.1 Explore the potential for joint ventures with entities such as DHL and FedEx and open a Caribbean postal hub in Miami dedicated to ecommerce.
- 4.2.2 Approach entities such as Amazon and eBay, with assistance from the United States Postal Service, to broker deals for direct delivery via post.
- 4.2.3 Form strategic alliances with third party providers to:
 - Lower cost factors
 - Increase operational efficiencies
- 4.2.4 Lobby Ministers responsible for Posts to agree to quicken the necessary legislative reform.

4.3 Support for MSMEs to be E-ready

- 4.3.1 Bargain collectively with financial institutions to demonstrate how better economies of scale can facilitate the development of payment platforms.

- 4.3.2 Seek to position the postal system as a trusted, reliable and affordable business partner for MSMEs.
- 4.3.3 Postal services should embrace greater use of technology.
- 4.3.4 The development of more cost effective programmes for export services that encourage SMEs to use the postal infrastructure.
- 4.3.5 Posts to lobby Customs to connect digitally with postal services to speed packages through their system as well as to reduce the number of documents to be completed by SMEs.

AGENDA ITEM 5: WORKSHOP

THE IMPORTANCE AND BENEFITS OF SECURITY COMPLIANCE

5.1 Issues such as increased focus on security controls, improved services, the immediacy of screening for improved and faster delivery and increased revenue were put forward as possible benefits of introducing Electronic Advanced Data and the Customs Declaration System (CDS).

AGENDA ITEM 6: GENERAL DISCUSSION

TRANSFORMATION OF POSTS

Different models and approaches were shared.

6.1 Conference is to consider the transformation of Posts and be guided by the various models and approaches

AGENDA ITEM 8: UPU ISTANBUL CONGRESS

Recommendations:

8.1 Caribbean Preparations for Congress

- 8.1.1 Member countries should study all proposals carefully and become aware of the potential impact on the individual country and the region before voting.
- 8.1.2 Member countries should be aware of the politics of language and what lies beneath the words since changing one word can have a lot of implications.
- 8.1.3 Member countries need to be aware of the policies and principles behind proposals.
- 8.1.4 CARICOM should be approached for the technical support (e.g. legal, economic) needed for officers attending Congress and Council.
- 8.1.5 CPU should not commit to any reform or changes until these have been discussed and agreed by members.
- 8.1.6 Should the 26th Congress be convened in Istanbul, lobby Ministers to attend as their presence is critical.
- 8.1.7 Member countries should support each other's candidature and draw on each other's resources.
- 8.1.8 Member countries should commit to asking Ministers for permission to attend international meetings. Alternatively, the CPU should send a delegation to represent the region.
- 8.1.9 Caribbean governments should recognise the importance of the postal sector as having the potential to be strong and viable.
- 8.1.10 It was proposed that Congress be moved from Istanbul to another location or be postponed until 2017 because of security concerns.
- 8.1.11 In relation to the proposed reform of the UPU, the Director General appealed to Conference to read the proposal on UPU reform carefully and come to a consensus in line with their sovereignty.
- 8.1.12 Members were asked to note that the USA and the EU are also working on an alternative proposal for reform, based on the proposal from the UPU Ad Hoc Group.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – PROPOSALS

The Conference considered the following proposals:

9.1 Draft CPU Constitution and Detailed Regulations

Decision:

9.1.1 Members are to review the draft document and submit their comments to Mr David Pilkington of Great Britain by 31 August 2016.

9.2 CPU/CCLEC Revised Draft MOU

Decision:

9.2.1 Conference adopted the revised draft MOU.

9.3 Amendment to PUASP and CPU'S MOU

Decision:

9.3.1 The Secretariat should undertake the necessary actions to bring about a revised MOU between CPU and PUASP and indicate this to the members.

9.4 Document Management System

(Not discussed)

9.5 Financial Inclusion, International Financial System (IFS) and CPU's collaboration with the Organisation for the Harmonization of Business Law in the Caribbean (OHADAC)

Decision:

9.5.1 There should be support for IFS and it should be included in the Regional Development Plan.

9.6 The Future Post

Recommendations:

9.6.1 PMGs should advocate for Posts with support from Ministers and Permanent Secretaries.

9.6.2 Financial support should be sought via Quality of Service Fund (QSF), UPU and CPU.

9.6.3 Ensure support for the professional development of staff through secondments, attachments and participation in projects.

9.6.4 Draw on the resources available through CPU, UPU and the postal family.

9.6.5 Build partnerships and networks.

9.7 Capacity Building/CPTC

Decisions:

9.7.1 The Conference should formulate a proposal for the continuation of the CPTC.

9.7.2 CPU should support the continuation of CPTC by making available US\$15,000 over a 3 year period and consider increasing this amount should more funds become available, through a decision by the Management Board.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – CLOSED SESSION

CPU STRUCTURE

The Conference examined the following documents:

10.1 2015 Audited Financial Statements

Decisions:

10.1.1 The suggested increase in members' contributions to CPU by \$2,000 (\$5,000 - \$7,000) was deferred.

10.1.2 The 2015 Audited Financial Statements were endorsed.

10.2 CPU's 2017 Work Plan and Budget

Decision:

10.2.1 The work plan and budget were adopted.

10.3 Election of Candidates

10.3.1 Mr Wayne Smith, Postmaster General of Bermuda was elected Secretary General by secret ballot.

10.3.2 The following countries were elected to serve on the Management Board:

Barbados (host country), St. Lucia, Aruba, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, France and Great Britain.

AGENDA ITEM 11: REGIONAL ROUND TABLE

11.2 Terminal Dues System Proposal for the Istanbul Congress

Recommendations:

11.2.1 The impact of the changes in the Quality of Service Fund (QSF) should be studied since countries in Group 3 will no longer benefit from QSF payments.

11.2.2 Barbados asked to have its concern registered in relation to Groups 1, 2 and 3 countries being asked to top up the contributions from Group 1 countries to the QSF.

11.2.3 The proposed reclassification of countries by Congress should be carried out and Paul Schoorl of the UPU should be asked to conduct consultations on this issue.

11.2.4 There should be training in using the accounting system and the Trainpost system made more user friendly. NOTE: the Netherlands offered to assist member countries with training in 2017.

11.2.5 A change in the time limits should be proposed for submitting enquiries about registered mail towards a reduced response period.

11.2.6 Consideration should be given to discontinuing registered mail in favour of the EMS system.

11.2.7 Members to examine the impact of the change in contributions based on country group status in relation to SDRs and look for an alternative approach. Mr Schoorl would also discuss with his colleagues.

11.3 The Inland Land Rate System

11.3.1 The CPU should submit a proposal to the UPU Postal Technology Centre requesting that the temporary solution created for Barbados to be made available to CPU member countries with regards to the advice of arrival for home deliveries and local legal restrictions,

AGENDA ITEM 12: CONCLUSIONS

12.1 Summary of recommendations/Conclusions/Decisions of the 19th Conference

12.1.1 Conference approved the summary of recommendations, Conclusions and Decisions of the 19th Conference for presentation to the 3rd Meeting of the Caribbean Council of Ministers of Postal Affairs.

12.2 Date and Venue of the 20th Conference

Conference approved France's offer to host the 20th Conference either in Martinique or Guadeloupe in June or September 2017. France was reminded to note that September was the month for the meeting of the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain, and Portugal (PUASP).

12.3 Any Other Business

Conference recognized members and other partners for their contribution to the development of the CPU.

12.4 Closing

Having thanked Barbados for excellently hosting the Conference and delegates for successfully deliberating over the past four days, the 19th Conference of the Caribbean Postal Union was adjourned at 6.30pm on Thursday 30 June 2016.