

Fourth Additional Protocol to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union

The plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries of the Universal Postal Union, met in Congress at Washington, in view of article 30, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union concluded at Vienna on 10 July 1964, have adopted, subject to ratification, the following amendments to that Constitution.

Article I
(Article 7 amended)
Monetary **unit**

The monetary unit used in the Acts of the Union shall be the accounting unit of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Article II
(Article 11 amended)
Accession or admission to the Union. Procedure

- 1 Any member of the United Nations may accede to the Union.
- 2 Any sovereign country which is not a member of the United Nations may apply for admission as a member country of the Union.
- 3 Accession or application for admission to the Union must entail a formal declaration of accession to the Constitution and to the obligatory Acts of the Union. It shall be **addressed by the Government of the country concerned to the Director-General of the International Bureau, who shall notify the accession or consult the member countries on the application for admission, as the case may be.**
- 4 A country which is not a member of the United Nations shall be deemed to be admitted as a member country if its application is approved by at least two thirds of the member countries of the Union. Member countries which have not replied within a period of four months shall be considered as having abstained.
- 5 Accession or admission to membership shall be notified by the **Director-General of the International Bureau** to the Governments of member countries. It shall take effect from the date of such notification.

Article III

(Article 12 amended)

Withdrawal from the Union. Procedure

1 Each member country may withdraw from the Union by notice of denunciation of the Constitution **given by** the Government of the **country concerned to the Director-General of the International Bureau** and by **him** to the Governments of member countries.

2 Withdrawal from the Union shall become effective one year after the day on which the notice of denunciation provided for in paragraph 1 is received by the **Director-General of the International Bureau**.

Article IV

(Article 21 amended)

Expenditure of the Union. Contributions of member countries

1 Each Congress shall fix the maximum amount which:
a the expenditure of the Union may reach annually;
b the expenditure relating to the organization of the next Congress may reach.

2 The maximum amount for expenditure referred to in paragraph 1 may be exceeded if circumstances so require, provided that the relevant provisions of the General Regulations are observed.

3 The expenses of the Union, including where applicable the expenditure envisaged in paragraph 2, shall be jointly borne by the member countries of the Union. For this purpose, each member country shall choose the contribution class in which it intends to be included. The contribution classes shall be laid down in the General Regulations.

4 In the case of accession or admission to the Union under article 11, **the** country concerned **shall freely choose** the contribution class into which **it wishes** to be placed for the purpose of apportioning the expenses of the Union.

Article V

(Article 22 amended)

Acts of the Union

1 The Constitution shall be the basic Act of the Union. It shall contain the organic rules of the Union.

2 The General Regulations shall embody those provisions which ensure the application of the Constitution and the working of the Union. They shall be binding on all member countries.

3 The Universal Postal Convention and its Detailed Regulations shall embody the rules applicable throughout the international postal service and the provisions concerning the letter-post services. These Acts shall be binding on all member countries.

4 The Agreements of the Union, and their Detailed Regulations, shall regulate the services other than those of the letter post between those member countries which are parties to them. They shall be binding on those countries only.

5 The Detailed Regulations, which contain the rules of application necessary for the implementation of the Convention and of the Agreements, shall be drawn up by the **Executive Council, bearing in mind the decisions taken by Congress**.

6 The Final Protocols annexed to the Acts of the Union referred to in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 shall contain the reservations to those Acts.

Article VI

(Article 23 amended)

Application of the Acts of the Union to territories for whose international relations a member country is responsible

1 Any country may declare at any time that its acceptance of the Acts of the Union includes all the territories for whose international relations it is responsible, or certain of them only.

2 The declaration provided for in paragraph 1 must be addressed to the **Director-General of the International Bureau**.

3 Any member country may at any time address to the **Director-General of the International Bureau** a notification of its intention to denounce the application of those Acts of the Union in respect of which it has made the declaration provided for in paragraph 1. Such notification shall take effect one year after the date of its receipt by the **Director-General of the International Bureau**.

4 The declarations and notifications provided for in paragraphs 1 and 3 shall be communicated to member countries by the **Director-General of the International Bureau**.

5 Paragraphs 1 to 4 shall not apply to territories having the status of a member of the Union and for whose international relations a member country is responsible.

Article VII

(Article 25 amended)

Signature, **authentication**, ratification and other forms of approval of the Acts of the Union

1 **The Acts of the Union arising from the Congress shall be signed by the plenipotentiaries of the member countries.**

2 **The Detailed Regulations shall be authenticated by the Chairman and the Secretary-General of the Executive Council.**

3 The Constitution shall be ratified as soon as possible by the signatory countries.

4 Approval of the Acts of the Union other than the Constitution shall be governed by the constitutional regulations of each signatory country.

5 When a country does not ratify the Constitution or does not approve the other Acts which it has signed, the Constitution and other Acts shall be no less valid for the other countries that have ratified or approved them.

Article VIII

(Article 26 amended)

Notification of ratifications and other forms of approval of the Acts of the Union

The instruments of ratification of the Constitution **and the Additional Protocols thereto** and, where appropriate, of approval of the other Acts of the Union shall be deposited as soon as possible with the **Director-General of the International Bureau** who shall notify the **Governments of the member countries** of their deposit.

Article IX

Notification of accession to the Additional Protocols to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union

From the entry into force of the Acts of the 1989 Washington Congress, instruments of accession to the 1969 Tokyo Additional Protocol, to the 1974 Lausanne second Additional Protocol and to the 1984 Hamburg third Additional Protocol shall be sent to the Director-General of the International Bureau who shall notify the Governments of the member countries of their deposit.

Article X

Accession to the Additional Protocol and to the other Acts of the Union

- 1 Member countries which have not signed the present Protocol may accede to it at any time.
- 2 Member countries which are party to the Acts renewed by Congress but which have not signed them shall accede thereto as soon as possible.
- 3 Instruments of accession relating to the cases set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be sent to the Director-General of the International Bureau, who shall notify the Governments of the member countries of their deposit.

Article XI

Entry into force and duration of the Additional Protocol to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union

This Additional Protocol shall come into force on 1 January 1991 and shall remain in force for an indefinite period.

In witness whereof the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries have drawn up this Additional Protocol, which shall have the same force and the same validity as if its provisions were inserted in the text of the Constitution itself, and they have signed it in a single original which shall be deposited with the Director-General of the International Bureau. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

Done at Washington, 14 December 1989

See signatures below.