



Proposal of a general nature

OVERSEAS TERRITORIES OF GREAT BRITAIN

Resolution

Classification of countries and territories for terminal dues and Quality of Service Fund purposes

Congress,

Bearing in mind

the ongoing reform of the Universal Postal Union terminal dues system, which is intended to be country-specific and affordable, and must maintain the universal service obligation of affordable and accessible postal services for all persons,

Taking into account

the classification of countries, which defines member countries and territories as either target, new target or transition countries,

Considering

that the "one size fits all" approach to postal development indicators and the linked country classification will unavoidably result in an extremely limited number of results that might not be equitable,

Conscious

that the growing impact of globalization is resulting in many smaller member countries having to make rapid transitions from agricultural economies to service economies,

Aware

that rapid shifts from an agricultural economy to a service economy do not permit the timely but critical social and other infrastructural development for these member countries, or the training and development of their peoples to access the new economic mainstreams of these economies,

Noting

that globalization has seen a growing trend in multinational corporations relocating their operations to these newly established service economies, including the relocation of a highly paid but transient workforce who have the core competencies and skills to support these operations,

Acknowledging

that in these new markets there will, for the foreseeable future, be a multi-tiered economy which will skew the statistical data and criteria used to classify these member countries, specifically the GNI and GDP,

Pro

12.6.2008

Realizing

that these data will not accurately reflect the economic realities of the local populations of these member countries,

Observing

that any increases by local postal administrations in local tariffs have the potential to place these administrations in conflict with the universal service obligation of the Universal Postal Union for their local populations,

Instructs

the Council of Administration to develop and implement a process for submission of well argued and evidenced appeals to account for anomalies or inconsistencies in individual country classification cases.

Reasons. – The assumption embedded in the reclassification system is that all member countries have control of their postal tariffs and that these tariffs can readily be increased to reflect cost (or that tariffs are market-driven). This is not accurate as many member countries have no control over their tariffs.

The increased cost to the customer base of these postal administrations will likely result in a further reduction in the volume of mail handled by the postal administration and deterioration in the quality of service as a result of increased remailing and the use of extraterritorial offices of exchange (ETOE's).

Supported by. – Bahamas, Barbados, Denmark, Great Britain, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, Saint Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.